

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
MARCH 5, 2008 – 3:00 P.M.  
SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**

Present: F. Proto, Chairman, N. Shinagawa, M. Robertson, C. Chock, T. Randall (arrived 3:17 p.m.)  
Staff: P. Carey, Department of Social Services; S. Martel-Moore, Deputy County Administrator; N. Zahler, Youth Services; L. Holmes, Office for the Aging; R. DeLuca, Mental Health; A. Cole, S. Connors, S. Allinger, M. Titterington, B. Grinnell Crosby, L. Cameron, Health Department; S. Whicher, County Administrator; L. Dillon, Tompkins County Action; K. Fuller, Deputy Clerk  
Guests: Bill Hawley, Lifelong; Tim Ashmore, Ithaca Journal

**Call to Order**

Chairman Proto called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

**Approval of the Minutes of February 6, 2008**

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Ms. Chock, and unanimously approved by voice vote by members present, to accept the minutes of February 6, 2008. MINUTES APPROVED.

**Chair's Report**

Mr. Proto inquired if there were any questions regarding the resolution passed at the Legislature. Ms. Chock asked for additional information regarding the funding stream for special education from the state, county, and schools. Mr. Proto requested the members receive copies of the portion of the 2006 minutes that would provide background on the topic.

**2008 Committee Goals**

Mr. Proto said at this time the Committee reviewed the draft 2008 goals.

Mr. Randall arrived at 3:17 p.m.

Following discussion it was MOVED by Mr. Shinagawa, seconded by Ms. Chock, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members, to adopt the 2008 goals as amended. (A copy of the Goals are on file with the approved minutes).

**Appointment to MR/DD Subcommittee**

It was MOVED by Mr. Randall, seconded by Mr. Shinagawa, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members, to recommend appointment of Lisa Maurer to the MR/DD Subcommittee, Community Representative, for a term to expire December 31, 2010. APPOINTMENT APPROVED.

**Health Department**

**RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZING ESTABLISHMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF  
COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM FEES FOR 2008 - HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT**

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Shinagawa, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature. A brief discussion occurred and it was noted the fees are for community water systems such as mobile home parks, some apartment buildings, municipalities, etc. Ms. Chock inquired if there was a need to consider the fees a hardship to owners of the systems; she was informed that as outlined in the explanatory memo, the fee is the same as 2007 and consideration was made for the smaller system owner's ability to pay. The Committee was provided historical information on the litigation and recent billing for the water system fee.

A voice vote on the motion resulted as follow: Ayes – 5; Noes –0. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, Tompkins County has received a decision regarding the Community System Water Fees from the State of New York, Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Judicial Department, and

WHEREAS, the adopted fees for 2008 (which have not been billed) would not be sustained because of this ruling, and

WHEREAS, it is fair and desirable to collect some fee for the services provided, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Tompkins County Board of Health, Health and Human Services and Budget and Capital Committee, That the Tompkins County Health Department implement a fee of one hundred and thirty dollars (\$130.00) for the year 2008 for each Community Water System.

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II - 20**

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Explanation:

Reference: Memorandum and Order November 29, 2007, State of New York, Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Judicial Department # 502852.

Community water system (CWS) operating fees for 2008 adopted by the Board of Health in 2007 were based on the population served by the water system. The New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division ruled that fees may not be based on population; therefore, the 2008 CWS fees must be revisited.

The Division of Environmental Health is proposing that the Board of Health adopt a flat fee of \$130 for these systems for 2008. This is the same fee assessed in 2007. Our recommendation considered that:

- Due to the pending court decision, these facilities were invoiced late for their 2007 fees. They were billed \$130 for their 2007 fees in December 2007.
- Community Water Systems will be receiving an additional bill from the Health Department in 2008. Many community water systems are required to conduct radiological sampling this year and recently received a bill from Environmental Health for \$250 to cover the cost of the analyses. This is the first time that these systems have been required to collect these samples. For most systems, radiological sampling will not be required again for 9 years.
- The small water systems (serving populations with less than 50 population) make up 65% of the Community Water Systems and have the smallest financial basis for paying the fees. It would be an economic hardship to impose a large increase in fees on the small systems.
- The additional revenue generated by a small increase does not seem warranted given the compressed billing schedule for 2007 and 2008 fees and the \$250 fee for radiological sampling.
- Increases in fees will be considered for 2009.

**RESOLUTION NO. – APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND – TERMINAL PAY – HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Ms. Chock, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature.

WHEREAS, the Health Department had a Senior Clerk resign effective January 25, 2008, and  
WHEREAS, the Fiscal Policy of Tompkins County allows for terminal pay from the Contingent  
Fund, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and Budget and Capital  
Committees, That the Director of Finance is hereby authorized and directed to make the following budget  
appropriation:

FROM:	A1990.54440	Contingent Fund	\$1,053
TO:	A4016.51000518	Senior Clerk	\$ 763
	A4016.58800	Fringes	\$ 290

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20**

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Conclusions and Recommendations from the Task Force on Preschool Special Education

Ms. Allinger reviewed the report, which was completed as a result of Governor Spitzer's  
Temporary Task Force on Preschool Special Education, with appointees representing a broad group of  
key stakeholders throughout the State. The Task Force developed four primary recommendations and  
five secondary recommendations. Ms. Allinger focused on the four primary recommendations outlined  
within the report which included enhancing knowledge and skills of all parties when a child is  
transitioning between Early Intervention and preschool, encourage the development of Universal Pre-  
kindergarten to include three- and four-year old children, shifting the preschool decision-making and  
service delivery process to school districts as they have the Federal and State responsibility by the year  
2013, and establish a new rate-setting methodology to promote greater predictability and improved  
timeliness. She noted that in order to complete some of the primary recommendations amendments to  
the State Education regulations would be required, additional space would be required to carry out  
recommendations, and modifications of the State Education Department computer programs for  
accounting purposes would need to occur. With regard to the transition of decision-making and service  
delivery piece, a recommendation was made to revise the funding for counties beginning with a cap on  
county costs beginning summer 2008.

Ms. Allinger said that county associations are proponents to move forward and accept the  
recommendations. Mr. Jasinsky, Director of Early Childhood Program at Ithaca City School District and  
member of the Task Force, reported at a BOCES District Superintendents meeting on the  
recommendations of the report. Ms. Allinger it has been suggested to the BOCES District  
Superintendents that schools take over the evaluation piece this summer; superintendents have informed  
the State Education Department they would not do it, and that they would not accept another unfunded  
mandate. Ms. Allinger said it does need to move forward from the counties to the school districts, but  
does not know how long it will be before it occurs.

Visiting Nurse Service of Ithaca and Tompkins County – Update

Ms. Connors reported on the increased caseload for nursing services. She noted that previously  
the annual caseload was 512 and currently is 600. In January 2008, 66 new clients were added bringing  
the total number of clients to 150 at the present time. The Visiting Nurse Service (VNS) has been active  
at the present time and has 36 clients and is not able to accept any new referrals.

Executive Session

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Randall, and unanimously approved by voice  
vote, to enter into an executive session to discuss contractual issues.

An executive session took place between 4:02 p.m. and 4:16 p.m. when the Committee returned  
to open session on motion.

### Introduction

Ms. Cole introduced her intern, Meredith Titterington, who is assisting in a variety of divisions within the Health Department.

### Office for the Aging

#### New Space for Office for the Aging

Ms. Holmes provided an overview of the discussions occurring between the Office for the Aging and Lifelong regarding co-location on property owned by Lifelong. She noted the benefits of working together since they both serve the same clientele in their separate areas. The Lifelong Board has created a space committee that is chaired by former Legislator Dan Winch. Meetings have taken place with Ms. Holmes, Mr. Whicher, and Mr. Marx to discuss the co-location. It was explained that funding for the project could be bonding with the County holding title until the project is paid, with the County paying for the capital cost associated with the square footage the Office for the Aging in the building. Lifelong is having discussions with Federal and State representatives to seek funding, including Dan Lamb of Hinchey's office, and will be meeting with Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton as well. In addition, a capital fund raising effort will take place by Lifelong. It is hoped that the project can move forward with an occupancy date of 2009. Lifelong developed a Request for Proposals and had two responses, which are in the review process. Ms. Holmes said the department would be looking for approval to move forward with a conceptual design.

Mr. Hawley said the suggestion of co-location began approximately two years ago. This project would require demolition of the building at 121 West Court Street, with new construction taking place. He noted there are no programs operated within this building, which is presently used as administrative office space.

Mr. Whicher said there are different models that the County could look at as examples of how the co-location project could be undertaken. He spoke of how part of the 20-year capital project planning allowed for smaller projects to be undertaken, and this would be a suitable project. He also informed the Committee that there is a need to complete work on the Old Library building as well. Mr. Proto said he is pleased to see that some of the previous work of the Space Needs and Location Committee is being utilized for projects such as this. Mr. Hawley said that his Board has approved looking into the project.

Mr. Shinagawa was excused at this time.

Further discussion occurred and it was noted that at the present time discussions of the potential project are continuing with the understanding that a Memorandum of Understanding would be required to clarify each party's responsibilities.

#### Trends in the Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) Program and Foodnet Meal Program

Ms. Holmes reviewed the written information provided on the PERS and Foodnet programs. It indicated a 36 percent increase for PERS and 37 percent increase for Foodnet over a four-year period. She reported that as a result of funding from United Way and the Triad Foundation the department has hired a Nutrition Outreach Coordinator. In addition, the Office for the Aging hired a half-time PERS employee, Susan Motheral, who began in February, with the personnel expenses covered entirely through the program revenue. Ms. Holmes will continue to review the program need as demands increase.

Ms. Holmes reported there would be a six-week educational program entitled Powerful Tools for Caregivers Classes, held in two separate sessions and locations. This is possible due to a grant provided by Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York.

Ms. Holmes spoke of the correspondence to Legislators inviting participation in Foodnet deliveries in the near future to provide more information on this program.

#### Berger Commission Update

Ms. Holmes reported that no further information has been received from the State Department of Health regarding the Lakeside Nursing Home application for reconfiguration. She has called Mark Kissinger at the State Department of Health but has not yet had a return call from him. Ms. Holmes said the State has recognized that the Berger Commission decision would leave Tompkins County with an inadequate number of beds. With regard to the bid by The Village at South Pointe Assisted Living Program for the Medicaid assisted living program, Ms. Holmes reported that they have been before the Town of Ithaca Board to discuss two potential sites; at this time they have not received support from the Town and are exploring other locations.

Mr. Proto spoke of Guthrie's purchase of St. Joseph's Hospital and the potential enhancement of the Corning Hospital. He asked if there is any knowledge how this is being done in light of the Berger Commission recommendations. Ms. Carey explained it is due to the services being offered are different than what was undertaken at the time of the Berger decision.

#### Youth Services

##### Fifth Year Renewal Grant Request

Ms. Zahler reported her department has submitted the progress report, work plan, and budget for the fifth year of the grant for the Drug-Free Communities Support Grant. This grant will be for the period of October 1, 2008, through the end of September 2009, for work that is undertaken mainly in the Ithaca City School District. She noted that it is anticipated the grant will be approved since it is the last year of the five-year period and the information gained on underage drinking has proven to be valuable. The Community Coalition for Healthy Youth may reapply again at the end of the grant for another five-year grant.

##### Media Release Request

Mr. Proto suggested Ms. Zahler contact Ms. Lynch, Public Information Officer, to produce a media release regarding the Tompkins County Coalition for Healthy Youth recognition at the national conference being held in Washington. Tompkins County represents the Northeast region of the country and will have a presentation display of the work completed locally.

##### Learning Web Grant

Ms. Zahler announced that the Learning Web has received a Federal grant of \$192,000 per year for five years to assist with the Transition Individual Living Program. More information will be provided at the April 2008 meeting.

#### Social Services

**RESOLUTION NO.            - AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF LOCAL FUNDS AND CONTRACTUAL AUTHORITY FOR THE 'RURAL RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM' FROM THE YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO THE SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WITH AN ASSOCIATED BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR THE LATTER**

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Randall, to recommend approval of the following resolution to the full Legislature. Ms. Zahler said that by transferring the funds to the Department of Social Services it leverages 65 percent State aid for the program that provides early intervention and prevention services to avoid having a youth in PINS, in the juvenile justice system, or the child welfare system. In response to a question it was noted that in the event the funds are reduced the program would be reviewed to decide whether to continue or reduce services.

A voice vote on the motion resulted as follows: Ayes – 4; Noes – 0; Excused – 1 (Shinagawa).  
**RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**

WHEREAS, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County provides youth development programming to 150 middle school-aged youth in Newfield and Enfield to reduce their need for foster care and/or juvenile justice services, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Family and Children’s Services has approved the Department of Social Services’ application for this Rural Risk Reduction program to receive a COPS (Community Optional Preventive Services) designation, qualifying it for Federal and enhanced State reimbursement as a Preventive Services Program of the local Department of Social Services, and

WHEREAS, the county legislature had previously approved one-hundred percent local funding for this program through the Youth Services Department’s budget in 2008, and

WHEREAS, transferring local funding and contractual authority for this program from the Youth Services Department to the Department of Social Services will allow for those local funds to be leveraged and the program expanded at no increase to local cost, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and the Budget and Capital Committees, That the Department of Social Services is authorized to enter into a contract worth \$81,828 to pay for the Rural Risk Reduction program from April through December,

RESOLVED, further, That the Youth Services Department shall redirect \$28,640 of the local funds in its 2008 budget for the Primary School Support Program to re-pay Social Services for the local cost of the program for the last three quarters of the calendar year,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance is authorized to make the following adjustments to the Social Services 2008 budget:

2008 Appropriation:	6070.54400	Purchase of Services	\$81,828
2008 Revenue:	6070.41894	Social Services Charges	\$28,640
	6070.43670	State Reimbursement	\$53,188

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20**

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**RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF LOCAL FUNDS AND CONTRACTUAL AUTHORITY FOR THE BRIDGES PROGRAM FOR YOUTH FROM THE YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO THE SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AND AN ASSOCIATED BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR THE LATTER**

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Randall, to recommend approval of the following resolution to the full Legislature.

Ms. Zahler said that as in the previous resolution, by transferring funds to the Department of Social Services it provides additional funding for crisis work with youth. This resolution expands the services and allows for ten-week aggression training in various communities.

*Mr. Proto requested updates on the program’s outcomes.* Ms. Carey said the Committee would be provided regular updates.

A voice vote on the motion resulted as follows: Ayes – 4; Noes – 0; Excused – 1 (Shinagawa).  
**RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**

WHEREAS, through its Bridges program, Berkshire Farms provides Anger Management Training and crisis management support to help prevent 150 youth per year from acting aggressively and/or running away from home, thereby reducing or eliminating their need for foster care and/or juvenile justice services, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Family and Children’s Services has approved the Department of Social Services’ application for the Bridges program to receive a COPS (Community Optional Preventive Services) designation, qualifying it for Federal and enhanced State reimbursement as a Preventive Services Program of the local Department of Social Services, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature had previously approved one-hundred percent local funding for this program through the Youth Services Department’s budget in 2008, and

WHEREAS, transferring local funding and contractual authority for this program from the Youth Services Department to the Department of Social Services will allow for those local funds to be leveraged and the program expanded at no increase to local cost, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and Budget and Capital Committees, That the Department of Social Services is authorized to enter into a contract worth \$48,000 to pay for the Rural Risk Reduction program from April through December,

RESOLVED, further, That the Youth Services Department shall redirect \$16,800 of the local funds in its 2008 budget for the Primary School Support Program to re-pay Social Services for the local cost of the program for the last three quarters of the calendar year,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance is authorized to make the following adjustments to the Social Services 2008 budget:

2008 Appropriation:	6070.54400	Purchase of Services	\$48,000
2008 Revenue:	6070.41894	Social Services Charges	\$16,800
	6070.43670	State Reimbursement	\$31,200

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20**

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**Explanation:** This resolution reflects the continuing efforts of the Youth Services Department and the Department of Social Services to cooperate to maintain or, as in this case, to increase the community’s preventive services for youth delivery system without increasing net local cost. This approach has been in use for the past several years with respect to agreements with both Tompkins Community Action and the Advocacy Center. The Youth Services Department and the Department of Social Services agree that the former will continue to provide program monitoring for this program and that the two departments will continue to cooperate in all ways that are needed to insure its success.

Budget Transfer

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Randall, to approve the following budget transfer. Ms. Carey indicated these positions provide the department the resources to complete work as well as provide transition into permanent positions within the County.

A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes –4; Noes – 0; Excused – 1 (Shinagawa). **TRANSFER APPROVED.**

Social Services

Revenue Acct	Title	Amt	Approp Acct	Title(s)
6010.51000798	Salary – Life Skills Coordinator	\$ 44,483	6010.54442	Professional Services
6010.54442	Professional Services	\$109,200	6010.51000	Salary – Project Assistants

Health and Human Services Committee Minutes  
March 5, 2008

Explanation: Through the RFP process conducted late last year the Department of Social Services has contracted with the Learning Web to outsource administration of much of its Independent Living program. This transfers the funds previously approved to pay the salary of the Life Skills Coordinator, which is now and will remain vacant, to a line from which that contract can be paid. For the past several years the Department of Social Services has used Project Assistant slots assigned to the Personnel Department as a long-term strategy to promote diversity among its staff. This arrangement (through which DSS would later reimburse Personnel for its salary costs) worked, but was cumbersome. As a consequence, the annual position changes resolution passed by the Legislature at the end of 2007 created project assistant slots at DSS. This transfer moves the money from the line from which the Personnel Department would have been paid to a salary line, since the slots will now be paid directly from the Social Services payroll.

**Adjournment**

On motion the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Karen Fuller, Deputy Clerk*