

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
JULY 18, 2007 – 3:00 P.M.  
SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**

Present: N. Shinagawa, Chair, M. Robertson, M. Sigler, Vice Chair (arrived 3:17), M. Koplinka-Loehr F. Proto  
Staff: B. Crosby, S. Connors, F. Croteau, L. Cameron, S. Allinger, Health Department; N. Zahler, J. Johnson, Youth Services, L. Holmes, Office for the Aging; P. Carey, Department of Social Services; K. Schlather, N. Burston, Human Services Coalition; S. Whicher, County Administrator; S. Martel-Moore, Human Rights Commission, M. Lynch, Public Information Officer; K. Fuller, Deputy Clerk  
Guest: L. Jackier, C. Cook, Drop-In Center; D. Frongillo, Recreation Partnership

**Call to Order**

Chair Shinagawa called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**Additions to the Agenda**

By unanimous vote of members present, the following items were added to the agenda:

- Office for the Aging – Budget Adjustments
- Youth Services – Transfer
- Youth Services - Appointment

**Deletions to the Agenda**

The minutes of June 6, 2007, were tabled until August 1, 2007.

Mr. Shinagawa noted the item for Catholic Charities will be tabled until August 1, 2007.

**Health Department**

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

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to recommend approval of the following resolution to the full Legislature. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, the Health Department Sr. Public Health Engineer resigned effective May 4, 2007, and

WHEREAS, the Health Department had a Sr. Account Clerk Typist retire effective April 27, 2007, 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	\$ 28,798
TO:	A4090.51000240	Sr. Public Health Engineer	\$ 17,625

A4090.58800	Fringes	\$ 6,874
A4016.51000529	Sr. Account Clerk Typist	\$ 3,093
A4016.58800	Fringes	\$ 1,206

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20**

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Fringe Benefit Clarification

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr inquired how the centralization of fringe benefits would affect future contingent fund resolutions for terminal pay. Mr. Whicher said starting in 2008 the resolutions would not include the fringe benefit amount.

Introduction of Environmental Health Director

Ms. Grinnell-Crosby introduced Liz Cameron who will fill the position of Environmental Health Director. Ms. Cameron, who previously had worked for the County in the Engineering Division, said she was pleased to return to the County and looked forward to providing service.

2008 Budget Discussion

Ms. Grinnell-Crosby reported the preliminary budget was presented to the Board of Health at its July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. She noted there are modifications almost daily as a result of updated information related to services and reimbursements, however, she believes the overall outlook for the department in 2008 will be favorable.

With regard to over-target requests Ms. Grinnell-Crosby provided the following information, noting that they too are shifting as updated information is received:

- Occupational Health and Safety Program – at this time it is anticipated that twenty percent of the cost for the position will be requested. This figure is less than what was indicated in previous meetings as a result of absorbing the Administrative Assistant’s time into the department’s base budget. The amount was \$11,533 including fringe costs; this will be adjusted to reflect the elimination of fringe from the department’s budget.
- Division of Community Health, Special Care Needs, Environmental Health – at this time it is expected that a request will be made to cover the cost of two vehicles for each division. The department is reviewing information to determine if it would be beneficial to have ½ of the purchases hybrid vehicles that could be utilized in a manner that would provide the best cost savings, etc. Ms. Robertson spoke of the Ithaca Carshare group’s recent determination that the insurance questions have been resolved and therefore she would like to see the County seriously review and determine how the Carshare vehicles might be utilized by the County. Mr. Whicher indicated the information regarding the hybrids and the possibility of car-sharing has been referred to the Sustainability Group. He noted that it might be difficult to share the vehicles within this department as they are assigned to individuals. Mr. Whicher said several departments are looking at the possibility of hybrid purchases; he stressed the importance of verifying that it will reduce the carbon footprint which will require hybrids to be used in positions that have high-mileage. Mr. Whicher believes the interest in hybrid purchase will lead to a discussion of possibly setting up a special budget line to assist with their purchase, limiting the amount spent annually. Ms. Grinnell-Crosby said the final number of vehicles could be reduced as more detailed information on the departmental budget is finalized.
- Children with Special Care Needs – a request may be made for a full-time nurse, bringing the total nursing staff up to six positions. In addition, a request may be made to increase the Keyboard Specialist from half-time to full-time, which may be covered in the base budget, and a

Family and Children's Outreach Worker from eighty-percent to full-time to assist with current case loads that may also be covered within the base budget.

- Environmental Health Division – a request for a seasonal Public Health Sanitarian (approximately 90 days) to assist the division during peak times; cost would be approximately \$13,600 to \$13,700 plus fringe. This would be an OTR as it is a new request.

Ms. Crosby noted that with regard to mandates substantial local-share increases are anticipated in the Preschool Program of approximately \$1.7 million, and the Early Intervention portion increase of \$417,000, bringing the total to over \$2 million in the two mandate programs.

Mr. Sigler arrived at this time.

In response to Ms. Robertson, Mr. Whicher noted that a preliminary review of the rates at the Racker Center occurred and it appears that it will be possible to discuss long-term fees with them at this time. Presently, there has been an expansion and modifications of programs combined with the fact that individual clients are receiving multiple services. Since services are provided on an individual basis it is difficult to provide a long-term projection.

Mr. Proto spoke of having met with the Governor's Deputy Secretary for Health who said there is a task force created to review various items. He reported that the conversation indicated that following the report from this task force in November 2007 it is believed new rates will be set. Mr. Proto also spoke of school districts determining required services for youth. Mr. Whicher said the County has to pay the bill for the school districts without any say in the decision making process, it is the schools that determine appropriate early intervention services and additional services reduce the school district expense for these services. Although Ms. Allinger reviews cases for the County, there is no ability to deny services. Mr. Proto then spoke of previous concerns that the County pays an annual fee and clients were not making appointments. Ms. Allinger explained attendance to related service appointments is a requirement, this year's contract also requires verification of services. The Francisca Racker Center costs are approximately \$31,000 per child, the school district cost based on 2003 rates is \$16,000 per child. In addition, it was noted that if the County does not have required services, children may be transported elsewhere, such as OCM BOCES, or SUNY Binghamton; this increases transportation costs.

Ms. Grinnell-Crosby reported that the Physical Therapist position and well permitting position that had been a one-time request has been included in the base budget for 2008. Mr. Sigler asked if the well permitting program was a pilot program. Ms. Grinnell-Crosby indicated it was for the first year for the start up of the new Public Health Sanitary Code. It was noted that if a question regarding the positions associated with the program could be brought up during expanded budget discussions. Ms. Cameron said the public hearings on the amended sanitary code would take place in September, with notification to the State, businesses, and appropriate individuals occurring in the same manner as previously undertaken by the division.

Mr. Proto asked whether the Health and Safety Coordinator position could be funded with the fringe funds to be saved by pooling this budget line. Mr. Whicher indicated he does not wish to fund anything not associated with fringe benefits from that budget line. He would prefer to have it funded within the Health Department.

### **Budget Adjustments**

The Committee reviewed budget adjustments, no action was necessary.

### **Advisory Board Appointments**

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members, to recommend approval of the following advisory board appointments to the full Legislature:

Youth Services Board

Allen Jilo – Youth at Large – term to expire December 31, 2008

Community Mental Health Services Board

Gregory Eells – term to expire December 31, 2007

Personal Emergency Response Service Advisory Board

Tina Champion – At Large – term to expire December 31, 2008

Youth Services

Recreation Partnership Agreement

**RESOLUTION NO. – ADOPTION OF THE 2008–2012 INTERMUNICIPAL RECREATION PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

It was MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Ms. Robertson.

Ms. Zahler introduced Mr. Frongillo, Chair of the Recreation Partnership Board. She then provided a brief history of the Recreation Partnership's creation and services to the present time. Ms. Zahler reported that the document before the Committee had been reviewed by the members and is in the process of being approved by the various municipalities with the hope of having the majority provide feedback by the July 31, 2007, meeting.

Mr. Frongillo said the members had worked through the previous agreement and determined areas to be amended that would strengthen the document. The agreement calls for the same funding arrangements as previous agreements (1/4 County, 1/4 City of Ithaca, 1/4 Town of Ithaca, 1/4 remaining partners), however it also has moved toward contracting services with the Ithaca Youth Bureau (IYB) to provide an understanding of the one-time payment for a specific number of programs to be provided. The agreement clarifies that no item will be budgeted for on the presumption of revenues from fundraisers; funds received in one year may be used the next year. In addition, if a program coordinator is hired, the agreement indicates specific duties to be met.

Ms. Zahler also reported an additional amendment to the original agreement is that it continues the in-kind support from the County through the Youth Services department by Ms. Johnson and Ms. Zahler, with specific duties outlined. In addition, the language within the agreement provides more flexibility with regard to required notice by a municipality if it desires to no longer participate. At this time the following municipalities have agreed to remain in the Recreation Partnership: Enfield conditionally approved the agreement; Ulysses (with specific qualifications in their acceptance); Town of Ithaca; City of Ithaca; and Danby. Mr. Proto spoke of the lengthy process to finalize the agreement due to the number of members within the Partnership. Mr. Frongillo noted the goal is to have the final document in hand for the August 10 meeting of the Recreation Partnership.

Mr. Frongillo said the eleven members of the Recreation Partnership make up the largest intermunicipal group in New York State and serves as a model to other communities. He noted that the County's participation in the partnership serves as the anchor, the other municipal partners, particularly the smaller municipalities are concerned of what would happen to programs if the County did not participate.

Ms. Zahler said that although Newfield did not initially adopt the resolution to extend the agreement for 2007, they since have chosen to participate and the local Parent-Teacher Association covered one-half the membership fee and the Town paid the other half. At this time by the Town of Newfield has not indicated whether they wish to continue as a Recreation Partnership member in 2008.

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr said he would like to see the County provide ample notice of leaving the partnership by decreasing annually from paying one-quarter of the expenses the first year to zero by the end of the agreement. He said the County involvement was to provide a bridge until the partnership had stable funding and he does not believe it is a County role to provide direct services of this kind; he would like the County representatives to share this with the Recreation Partnership

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Mr. Sigler, to amend Page 2, line 10 of the agreement as follows: the County agrees to pay the 2007 full amount in 2008, three-quarters of the total in the second year (2009), and decreasing this amount by twenty-five percent of the 2007 full amount each subsequent year, with the fifth year being the final payment.

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr felt the other language would not require any changes, and that this recommendation honors the clause regarding leaving the partnership. Mr. Sigler said he agrees with Mr. Koplinka-Loehr's comments. Mr. Proto spoke of the County Comprehensive Plan's desire to build relationships with municipalities and increase the youth remaining in their present areas. He shared information on Governor Spitzer coming to Cortland in September to address this desire. Mr. Proto believes that of the County is attempting to build collaborations it should be noted this works and is looked at as a model. Mr. Koplinka-Loehr said the reason he proposed the methodical scale-down is to avoid an annual review at budget time. He believes this would provide adequate time for the partners to be prepared and that the Partnership would be stronger. Mr. Shinagawa felt that the content of the discussion needs to be relayed to the Recreation Partnership, however, he does not feel the amendment should occur at this time. Ms. Robertson disagreed with Mr. Koplinka-Loehr's amendment. She said, for example, it could cause Dryden to pull out of the Partnership. If that occurred, it would create a hardship for Dryden residents attending Ithaca Schools as they would not be served. Ms. Robertson believes that the amount of County funding provided leverages a large benefit. She will not support the amendment.

Ms. Zahler said the County became involved in the Recreation Partnership as a pilot program; upon the success it was then agreed to fund for a three-year period and subsequently another five-year program. She believed some former members of the Legislature had viewed the funding as temporary, which was why it was made a target item to show the continued support. She would encourage members to view the County's support in the same manner as with Tompkins Cortland Community College; that it is not fully under County control but benefits many.

Mr. Frongillo said that if the County were not to stay in the Recreation Partnership he does not know that the other municipalities could realistically make up the \$43,000, particularly the smaller ones. He said amending fees did not sufficiently cover the costs of the program. Mr. Frongillo said the municipalities are looking to the County for leadership for the program, particularly the municipalities who do not have resources to offer services. He believes the Recreation Partnership would collapse without the support of the County.

Mr. Sigler said he believes this year is the only one the debate should occur, that a decision to join should end discussions for the term of the agreement. He said if the County did not join it would be an additional \$4,000 per municipality and he believes it is possible for them to take it over. Ms. Johnson said for some towns each \$1,500 is an additional one percent to the tax levy.

Ms. Robertson said the County funds many non-mandated programs, e.g. Sheriff, Human Rights Commission, and Health Department. She feels it is appropriate to support the Recreation Partnership.

A voice vote on the motion resulted as follows: Ayes – 2 (Legislators Koplinka-Loehr and Sigler); Noes – 3 (Legislators Proto, Robertson, and Shinagawa). MOTION FAILED.

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr indicated he had raised concerns at the meeting in May and that he would have preferred to have the sense of the Committee passed along at that time.

A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 3 (Legislators Proto, Robertson, and Shinagawa); Noes – 2 (Legislators Koplinka-Loehr and Sigler). RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, the County of Tompkins is currently a member of the Intermunicipal Recreation Partnership, and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Partnership has been an excellent model of intermunicipal collaboration which enables the Towns of Caroline, Danby, Dryden, Enfield, Groton, Ithaca, Newfield, and Ulysses, the Village of Lansing, the City of Ithaca, and Tompkins County to jointly plan, finance, and share a more diverse set of high-quality recreation programs than any single municipality could offer on its own to over 2,700 youth per year, and

WHEREAS, the current Intermunicipal Recreation Partnership Agreement will end December 31, 2007, and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Partnership Board, comprised of representatives from participating municipalities wishing to continue this innovative partnership, has reviewed the current agreement and voted on June 7, 2007, to adopt the updated Agreement for the period of January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2012, and

WHEREAS, municipalities in the Recreation Partnership value Tompkins County's commitment to building collaborative intermunicipal solutions to meeting needs of youth, and Tompkins County's contribution is essential in enabling smaller municipalities to participate affordably, and

WHEREAS, the Agreement must be approved by the elected board of each participating municipality to take effect, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the 2008-2012 Intermunicipal Recreation Partnership Agreement is approved,

RESOLVED, further, That in approving the Agreement, the County of Tompkins agrees to abide by its terms and conditions,

RESOLVED, further, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Recreation Partnership Board in care of Tompkins County Youth Services Department at 320 West State Street, Ithaca, New York 14850.

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

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### Budget Concerns for 2008

Ms. Zahler provided members of the Committee with the Youth Services Board Resource Allocation Recommendations for 2008. She highlighted the following areas of the document:

- Although agencies were permitted to make the requests based upon the beginning of a three-year cycle, over \$70,000 was denied to assist in holding down County expenses.
- A three percent cost of living increase was requested by the Youth Services Board for 2008.
- A new request was made in the amount of \$22,400 for a .5 FTE position in the Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth – Bridges for Youth and Families Program to assist with outreach to middle schools, facilitate ART groups and provide direct services to youth and provide backup to enable the Coordinator to provide after-hours crises services as needed. This is not a new position for Berkshire but is a new request for County funding.
- The Youth Services Board was concerned that in adopting the two percent levy the department was requested to reduce an additional \$18,000 from target. Ms. Zahler is concerned since over

the past years the department has lost approximately \$100,000 in target funding. This reduction will be at 18 percent in 2008 from five years ago. In addition, agency cuts, municipal request cuts, staffing, etc.

- Rollover funding includes grant funds received to be spent in the upcoming year. It is not anticipated to have ongoing revenue from grants in the future. At this time the requested \$18,000 reduction has not been defined within the budget.
- The \$38,000 for the Countywide Youth Needs Survey is to cover the cost of a nationally known normed survey and some staff time, it is not a TILOR.
- The Recreation Partnership target is \$54,000 and has a potential of a three-percent increase. It was noted that at this time there is no commitment to hire a coordinator for the Recreation Partnership

National Recognition for our Community Coalition for Healthy Youth

Ms. Zahler reported the Community Coalition received a call suggesting that the coalition is one of approximately thirty nationwide agencies making progress and will be highlighted on the web or in written form.

*Ms. Robertson requested members receive a copy of the breakdown of municipal participation in the Recreation Partnership.*

**Office for the Aging**

**RESOLUTION NO.                    - ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING FOR THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM IN ORDER TO ENTER INTO A SUBCONTRACT WITH GADABOUT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC.**

It was MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to recommend approval of the following resolution to the full Legislature. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Office for the Aging has been offered a grant from the New York State Office for the Aging for senior transportation in the amount of \$10,000 and

WHEREAS, Gadabout Transportation Services, Inc., provides transportation for seniors in Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, rising fuel prices have put pressure on the financial resources of Gadabout, and

WHEREAS, the funding will allow Gadabout to partially offset the increase in fuel prices, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the County hereby accepts this grant of \$10,000,

RESOLVED, further, That the Finance Director is authorized to make the following adjustments to his books:

REVENUE:	A6777.43803	State Revenue	\$10,000
APPROPRIATION:	A6777.54491	Subcontracts	\$10,000

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE 11-20**

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**RESOLUTION NO.                    - ACCEPTANCE OF LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES GRANT FOR PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEMS MACHINES - TOMPKINS COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING (COFA)**

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to recommend approval of the following resolution to the full Legislature. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, Tompkins County Office for the Aging (COFA) administers a Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) to help seniors and disabled County residents remain safely in independent living, and

WHEREAS, the number of individuals needing and seeking such machines continues to rise, and

WHEREAS, COFA has been awarded a Legislative Initiatives Grant in the amount of \$10,000 was received from Senator George Winner's office to purchase approximately sixty (60) machines, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on the recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the County hereby accepts this grant of \$10,000

RESOLVED, further, that the Finance Director is authorized to make the following adjustments to his books:

REVENUE:	A6777.43803	State Revenue	\$10,000
APPROPRIATION:	A6777.52219	PERS UNITS	\$10,000

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

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Budget Adjustments

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Mr. Sigler, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to recommend approval of the following budget adjustments to the full Legislature.

<u>Revenue Acct</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amt</u>	<u>Approp Acct</u>	<u>Title(s)</u>
6780.43803	State Revenue	\$10,408	6780.54491	Subcontracts
6777.43803	State Revenue	\$11,934	6780.54491	Subcontracts

Explanation: State cost of living adjustment in EISEP for recruitment and retention of home health aides; Revenue increase for CSE.

Human Services Coalition - Drop-In Center

**RESOLUTION NO. - APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND – DROP IN CHILDREN'S CENTER**

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

Ms. Jackier reported that since her last report to the Committee, a significant reduction of MSA accredited reimbursements has occurred which has a serious impact on the Center. The State agency will not approve the reaccreditation, causing a lapse at the end of April. This meant that starting May 1, 2007, the reimbursement was at a lower rate. In the event the Center does not receive a contingency request funding for \$50,000 the agency would be forced to close. She said that if the agency receives the request it will allow them to remain open this year, however, it will require a restructuring of fees that could include limiting the number of low-income spots in order to produce the necessary revenue to continue operations.

Ms. Cook, Chair of the Drop-In Center Board of Directors, said the Center has gone through a variety of cycles, including the expansion, however, as a result of a series of circumstances are in the present financial crises. She indicated that the situation could require a rate increase as well as possibly

having to reduce or eliminate the lower-rate level fee scale, and perhaps other measures. Ms. Cook said that the budget and fees without the reduction due to the accreditation worked for the base budget. Ms. Cook said the Board capacity to fund raise is limited due to the lack of a full compliment of Board members. She believes that the minimum fundraising effort of \$25,000 appears to be attainable, but is not certain if additional fundraising efforts would produce more.

Ms. Jackier spoke of having \$11,000 in vendor checks on hold as well as the need to meet payroll. Although she is attempting to extend the line of credit it would depend a great deal on the ability to receive the contingent fund request. She indicated that if the center has to close she would like to provide notice to the families utilizing their services.

Ms. Carey said the major issue to note is that the State Office of Family and Children's Services did not approve the accreditation process the Center has been working through. She said this situation would be devastating to any agency or program within the County, particularly since the State office is not being helpful in the situation. Ms. Carey said her department could make a commitment in 2008 to possibly utilize Flexible Funds for Family and Children's Services to provide financial assistance to the program as it is an important service for many of her clientele. She will work closely with the Drop In Center to assist in the accreditation process.

Mr. Whicher said that the Drop-In Center had requested additional funding last year and had not received it. At this time it is clear that the funds requested are necessary. Mr. Whicher said the County has invested money into the Center, however due to the financial structure imbalance, it has assisted in the present situation. He had recommended the previous funding to expand the center due to the high demand for childcare, particularly for the working poor. He supports the request for the funds and also recommends a more comprehensive review of day care within the County take place.

Ms. Schlather said she believes the Center should receive assistance due to the critical need of day care availability for the 84 children served at the present time. She does believe there is the need for a larger discussion of the day care situation, particularly for moderate-and low-income levels. She said there are two items driving the present financial shortfall: (1) the delayed opening of the Center due to the expansion and additional expenses without revenue for a period of time, which has produced a portion of the deficit, and (2) the nature of day care is such that a balance is hard to maintain, having several slots empty for even a short period of time creates imbalance. Ms. Schlather said the Human Services Coalition Review Committee has always been supportive of the program and recommends any assistance the County is willing to provide.

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr asked for clarification of finances and if there is the possibility of the Center being provided a loan to cover the present gap. Ms. Jackier said presently, there is a \$53,000 outstanding loan from AFCU and a \$20,000 with the IURA toward the expansion and is not in the normal operating budget. She noted that the amount received in fees has surpassed the projected budget and the salary projections are within the projection as well; the difficulties they are experiencing is a \$25,000 deficit from 2005, and the \$72,000 fund raising commitment for 2007 has not been met. Mr. Koplinka-Loehr said the description of the situation needs to be clarified and all stakeholders review the situation.

Mr. Sigler said he would support the resolution in order to bring it to the full Legislature, however, he is not certain he will support it when it comes before them. While he does not want to have 84 families lose childcare he is not certain how the County can sustain the Drop-In Center. He believes it may pass at this time, however the matter will come up during budget deliberations.

Mr. Proto indicated he had requested two years budgeting information, which he was provided in the documents handed out. He then said that he feels the role of the Human Services Coalition is a planning role and believes there should be a comprehensive look at day care in Tompkins County. He

would like to see the HSC to begin to determine the first steps to identify the pieces to be put together to develop a plan. In response to Mr. Proto's question of how the base budget for next year would be handled Ms. Schlather explained the \$50,000 for 2008 would be an over target request.

Mr. Shinagawa indicated the resolution will also be discussed at the Budget and Capital Committee. *A request was made that detailed budget information be provided to the Budget and Capital Committee.*

A voice vote on the motion resulted as follows: Ayes – 3 (Legislators Shinagawa, Robertson, and Sigler); Noes – 2 (Legislators Koplinka-Loehr and Proto). **RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr indicated if the monies could be provided as a loan he could support the request. Mr. Whicher did not know if that is possible and will look into the matter. Mr. Proto then asked if \$50,000 was provided in advance for 2008, Mr. Whicher said it has not.

Ms. Robertson said this is a large issue and it is necessary to find funding for centers; she said if it fails there could be situations where the children are not properly cared for to allow the parents to work. Ms. Robertson expressed gratitude to Ms. Jackier for all her work at the Center. She then said that Cornell University recently planned to operate a day care center and originally had indicated a specific number of lower income slots in the program. Upon actual financial calculations they determined they could not have as many spots in order to maintain financial stability. In addition, Ms. Robertson spoke of the concern of the higher-paying clients transferring children to the new Cornell University day care program that will have the potential of reducing revenue for the Drop-In Center as well. She truly believes that the day care needs are a community issue.

Mr. Proto indicated that he would like to have more information to review to determine where the deficit began, and feels that this is the sort of thing that he would like to see HSC assist with.

WHEREAS the Drop-in Children's Center has been serving the childcare needs of Tompkins County residents for more than 30 years being a consistent resource for low and moderate income residents, and

WHEREAS the necessity for safe, affordable child care is an integral part of a strong, healthy economy, and

WHEREAS The Drop-in Children's Center is not only a full-time day care facility, but is also the only center where parents can drop off their children for child care with a minimum of notice and for short periods, offering residents the flexibility to keep appointments, interview for jobs and take care of other immediate needs, and

WHEREAS the lack of affordable child care was ranked as the number one personal issue in the household survey of the Compass II Report and was ranked in the top five issues by all respondents, and

WHEREAS the Drop-in Children's Center provides a bridge for the working poor for transitioning from Public Support and need childcare in order to work, and

WHEREAS the Drop-in Children's Center will need \$50,000 in 2007 to meet a shortfall in anticipated revenues, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and Budget and Capital Committees, That Tompkins County Legislature approves the following request and the Director of Finance is hereby authorized to make the following budget appropriation:

FROM:	A1990.54440	Contingent Fund	\$50,000
TO:	A6305.54400	Human Service Agencies	\$50,000

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

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### Adjournment

Health and Human Services Committee Minutes  
July 18, 2007

On motion the meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Karen Fuller, Deputy Clerk*