

HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Held in Room 318
Putnam County Office Building
Carmel, New York 10512

(Chairman Oliverio, Legislators Othmer & Tamagna)

Tuesday

November 15 , 2012

6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Oliverio. Legislator Othmer lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Othmer and Tamagna and Chairman Oliverio were present.

#3) Approval of Minutes – from 9/12/12

The Minutes were approved as submitted.

#4) Update/New Clinic/155 Main Street/Brewster/Loretta Molinari/Lillian Jones of visiting Nurse Services

Ms. Jones stated she is with the American Cancer Society, and that it was decided that the “Open Door Facility” seemed to be the best fit for Putnam County. Ms. Jones and Ms. Molinari are very excited about this new facility. Approximately 2 to 3 years ago, both she and Loretta Molinari were both co-chairs of an access to Healthcare Coalition for Westchester and Putnam Counties. During that process, they did hold a series of Public Hearings on the issues to the access to Healthcare both in Westchester and Putnam Counties. In Putnam County the resounding call was for making sure that we had a federally qualified Healthcare Facility in Putnam, as these people needed access to care that they didn’t have. If the people had no insurance, or they were under insured, they needed a place to go. As a result of that Committee hearing which both Legislators Tamagna and Oliverio supported, they formed a coalition just for Putnam County which was called the Putnam County Taskforce. They had come before the Legislature, and talked about putting a coalition in place. The “Open Door Facility” seemed to be the best fit for Putnam County and they were very lucky in that they were able to buy out a practice of a physician who was already in practice, which eliminated any site requirements and additional permits. The 6th of December will be the official opening of the facility.

Ms. Molinari stated that the “Open Door Facility” is a “Federally Qualified Health Center”. Putnam Hospital Center has provided a lot of support for this Health Center as well. They had avoided calling the facility a Clinic, as that name has negative connotations attached to it. Health Centers work with our most vulnerable population, and many of us are among them.

The affordable Care Act is well underway now and it is not going to go away. This is the kind of initiative that we all need to be concerned about, as keeping our population healthy is very important. There is a sliding scale for payment which is very fair and discounted, as well as special pharmacy rates, and services that can be added as we go along.

County Executive Odell expressed the importance of coverage for everyone, and stated this location will be added to our Transit Route.

County Executive Odell mentioned that the County now has Pro-Act, for help with pharmacy expenses. There was a card sent to everyone in the community.

Chairman Oliverio stated that this is so very important, and now there is a place for people to go to get medical attention, who do not have coverage.

Legislator Tamagna stated that he is glad that this new facility is now open to the public, as it is long overdue. This is a perfect reward after his eighteen years serving with this Legislature.

Ms. Molinari went on to stated that she is still very much involved in Emergency Preparedness, and with this last crisis that just occurred, Hurricane Sandy, Loretta was very proud of her Nurses who never faltered throughout the entire crisis. They will also be moving into Dutchess County sometime next year.

Chairman Oliverio thanked Ms. Molinari and Ms. Jones for coming this evening and addressing the Committee.

#5) Memorialization/Public Assistance Integrity Act/Commissioner of Social Services/Michael Piazza

Commissioner Piazza stated that the Funding has now come down from the State, and they will RFP it which they have not done in the past. The county wants to make sure that people that bid on the licensed supported housing, know that the people that they are being asked to place are very difficult. Just this evening, a person who was in section 8 is about to be thrown out of section 8 because they broke the law and will be tried as section 8. They will wind up on DSS doorstep..

#6) Update/Pre-School Transportation Program/Commissioner of Health Dr. Beals

This item has been tabled as Dr. Beals was not able to attend this meeting for December, and will be added on to the next Health Committee Agenda.

#7) Correspondence:

a) **Health Department/Putnam County Humane Society/Health Department**
This item was tabled

b) **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Report/FYI**
Duly Noted

c) **Household Hazardous Waste Clean-Up Day Summary Report/FYI**
Duly Noted

#8) Discussion/Litigation/Affiliated Home Care of Putnam

Legislator Tamagna made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. to discuss a Litigation matter. Seconded by Chairman Oliverio. All in favor.

At 7:25 PM the Committee returned from Executive Session. There was no action taken.

#9) Other Business

There was no other Business to discuss

#10) Adjournment

Being no further business to discuss, Chairman Oliverio made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Legislator Tamagna.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:
Claire E. Muller
Administrative Assistant