

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

February 5, 2008

Committee Members

In Attendance: Lois Bronz, Chair, William Burton, Judy Myers, Kenneth Jenkins, Vito Pinto, Jose Alvarado and Bernice Spreckman.

In Attendance: CEO: Bill Randolph; Health: Dr. Joshua Lipsman BOL: Neal Rentz, Rick Pezzullo, Joanne Sold, Keith Eversly and Melanie Montalto; Visitors

Items Discussed: Dr. Joshua Lipsman, Commissioner of the Department of Health, gave an update on the Department.

Minutes

Chairwoman Bronz called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

Chairwoman Bronz asked the Commissioner about the Children with Special needs program. Dr. Lipsman stated that there are concerns in terms of funding with the proposed State budget. He stated that the County can save \$3 million if the Governor's proposal is approved. Dr. Lipsman suggested that the Committee speak further to his First Deputy Commissioner, Patsy Yang, who is an expert on Children with Special Needs.

Chairwoman Bronz asked Commissioner Lipsman to update the Committee on the HIV/AIDS prevention program that the Board funded in 2007.

Commissioner Lipsman stated that Westchester remains the county with the highest number of HIV/AIDS cases in the state outside of New York City. He said the educational/prevention program is called "Everyone has a reason to get an HIV test." The program has two components, the first being a promotional campaign. This includes bus posters, postcards, flyers, ads in papers and giveaways with the hotline number on them, all encouraging people to get tested. The bus posters will be posted until April of 2009.

The second component was a grant to two neighborhood health centers to increase their rapid HIV testing. So far they have an increase of 750 tests. The Health Department also hired a part time worker who goes to health fairs and community events to provide testing. There have been approximately 800 tests conducted at community events that would not have had testing prior. No positives have been found so far. He provided the demographics of those who have been tested.

Commissioner Lipsman stated that they are going to continue with the campaign and make appropriate changes based on review of the program in 2007.

Commissioner Lipsman stated that there is introduced state legislation that would make it easier for doctors to order HIV tests just like any other blood test, so that the test would be available during a regular doctor's visit. The Committee agreed to look into this legislation and encourage the Board to support it.

Commissioner Lipsman recommended that the Committee speak to Dr. Grant Mitchell, Commissioner of the Department of Community Mental Health, and Tom Meier, Director of the STOP DWI office, when discussing DXM legislation, which is on the Committee's agenda.

Moved by Legislator Pinto and seconded by Legislator Burton the minutes of the January 22, 2008 Community Services meeting were approved 7-0.

Moved by Legislator Pinto and seconded by Legislator Myers the Committee on Community Services adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

A complete audio recording of the meeting is available for review upon request.