

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MAY 26, 2009

Members

In Attendance: Lois Bronz, Chair, Ken Jenkins, Vito Pinto, Judy Myers, Bernice Spreckman, Bill Burton.

In Attendance: CEO: Bill Randolph Health: Patsy Yang, Renee Recchia BOL: Mary Jackson, and Melanie Montalto Guests: Allison Lake, Scott Moskowitz, Alfreda Williams.

Items Discussed: The Health Department provided an update on Early Intervention and a new wellness program with County hospitals.

Minutes

Chairwoman Bronz called the Community Services Committee meeting to order at 3:30 P.M.

First Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Health, Patsy Yang, and Deputy Commissioner Renee Recchia, spoke to the Committee about the Early Intervention Program. Ms. Yang stated that there has been no change in the funding distribution between the County and the State. For the first time in 2008 the equal share of funding was adjusted, and the County now pays 51% and the State pays 49% of the government share of Early Intervention Programs for children with special needs. She stated that this rate will remain the same in new budget, despite efforts that have been made to change it by several proposals.

Legislator Jenkins asked if there are other changes coming in State funding for public health. Ms. Yang said that we live in perpetual anxiety that something will be cut, but so far proposed cuts have been restored to the budget. There is no change to state funding in either direction.

The Deputy Commissioners discussed the new Community Wellness Partnership between the County Health Department and the County hospitals which is designed to help avoid and prevent disease. The State Health Department is requiring that local health departments coordinate these efforts, and to keep in line with their prevention agenda toward making New York the healthiest state. The top 10 priority list for this agenda is on file and available for review. The county hospitals and the Health Department met and voted on their focus items for this program, they are reducing sodium and increasing physical activity and nutrition. The Department and the hospitals will use existing resources to come up with a plan to implement these goals. Once these plans are underway, they will work more intensely with faith based programs, girl/boy scouts, statewide and county wide health organizations to help get more residents involved in these programs.

Ms. Yang also stated that a grant has been received by the Planning Department, which is in part going to be used to map out walk-ability to fruits and vegetables, fast food restaurants, their vicinity to schools which can be used later by municipalities for rezoning and nutrition improvement plans.

Moved by Legislator Pinto and seconded by Legislator Spreckman the Committee on Community Services adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

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