

**LEGISLATION COMMITTEE &
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
APRIL 14, 2008**

Legislation

Committee Members

In Attendance:

Ken Jenkins, Judy Myers, Jim Maisano, Marty Rogowsky, John Nonna, Peter Harckham, Thomas Abinanti, George Oros.

Community Services

Committee Members

In Attendance:

Judy Myers, Ken Jenkins, Jose Alvarado, Vito Pinto, Bernice Spreckman, Thomas Abinanti

In Attendance:

CEO: Bill Randolph Law: Liz Cipollo, Mary Lynn Nicolas-Brewster, Justin Adin DCMH: Grant Mitchell STOP DWI: Tom Meier BOL: Alicia Maxey-Greene, Katie Delgado, Harry Spreckman, Keith Eversly, Joanne Sold, Rick Pezzullo, Steve Bass & Melanie Montalto; Visitors: Antoinette Biordi, Alan P, Patricia Brodhagen, Mandy Hagan, Candice Ferrette

Items Discussed:

Restricting the sale of over the counter medications containing DXM to minors.

Minutes

Legislator Jenkins called the Legislation Committee meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

Legislator Myers called the Community Services Committee meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

Moved by Legislator Harckham and seconded by Legislator Nonna B7, B27-B30, B32, B34, B35, B37-B43 appointments were approved with a vote of 6-0.

Legislator Myers introduced the subject of prohibiting Dextromethorphan to minors under the age of 18 years old.

Dr. Grant Mitchell, Commissioner of the Department of Community Mental Health stated that 5-9% of teens report using cough medicines containing DXM to in order to get high in Westchester. Dr. Mitchell discussed the growing problem of teenagers abusing cough medicine, the affects DXM has on the body when taken in high doses, and the lack of parental knowledge, which he states is a large part of the problem. A copy of Dr. Mitchell's testimony is on file and available for review.

Tom Meier, Director of the STOP DWI office for Westchester County, discussed the need for the law prohibiting minors under the age eighteen. He stated that this is the key to preventing a growing problem.

Mandy Hagan, of the Consumer Healthcare Products Association, spoke to the Committees about the laws that were passed in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. She stated that the CHPA would support legislation that followed Nassau County in prohibiting the sale below eighteen, but would not support a law like Suffolk's which prohibits DXM sales up to age nineteen. She stated that they CHPA is pushing for national legislation as well.

Patricia Brodhagen, Vice President of the New York State Food Industry Alliance stated that the Alliance would be in support of the law at the age of eighteen as long as enough time was allotted for pharmacies and supermarkets to update their computers and retrain staff in order to comply with the law.

The Committee requested further information regarding enforcement and the quantity of DXM that is needed in order to obtain a high, what dosage is considered a health concern, if there are other drugs that have the same effects that are in over the counter medicines, and if banning the sale to minors is necessary or if limiting the quantity purchased is sufficient.

Moved by Legislator Harckham and seconded by Legislator Nonna the Committee on Legislation adjourned at 2:39.

Moved by Legislator Pinto and seconded by Legislator Spreckman the Committee on Community Services adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

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