

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, EFFICIENCY & SAVINGS

Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 11:00 am

MEETING MINUTES

GOES Committee Members Present: Hon. Michael B. Kaplowitz, Chair; Legislators Alfreda Williams, Judy Myers, Bill Burton, Bernice Spreckman, Ken Jenkins.

In Attendance: BOL: T. Bernard; CEO: G. Oros, K. Delgado; OTHERS: B. Strauss (LWVW & CBAC), K. Schatzel (LWVW).

With a quorum present, the GOES Committee was called to order at 11:10 am.

ITEM(S) FOR DISCUSSION:

- **REVIEW OF PROPOSED COMMITTEE BLUEPRINTS**

The Committee members reviewed the proposed Blueprints (attached), and on the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Burton, they were approved 5-0.

- **CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF 2010 STATE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE**

On the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator A. Williams, the committee recessed to the call of the chair.

At 2:40pm, Chair Kaplowitz called the Committee back to order to discuss Early Intervention (EI) with Acting Health Commissioner Patsy Yang. Chair Kaplowitz stated that Commissioner Yang is a noted expert and respected resource and advocate on this topic. He also noted Assemblywoman Paulin's commendable work on this issue as well.

Commissioner Yang noted that one of the problems is that regarding EI, which is 0 – 3 years old, the County can exercise judgment in picking a provider from a state-approved list, however, with Pre-K, which is ages 3 – 5 years, the school district picks the provider and the County just pays the bill. For that we cannot bill commercial insurance, only Medicaid (which is very limited). For example, the County bills out approximately \$10 million annually for EI, but only receives between \$700,000 - \$800,000.

Ultimately, according to Commissioner Yang, the County should be out of this process completely – fiscally, programmatically and operationally. She is supportive of the Governor's bill to support the closure of commercial insurance loopholes in these areas.

A summary chart (below) comparing the Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education programs was provided by Commissioner Yang.

	EI	PRE K
Ages (years) served	0-3	3-5
Lead State Agency	Health	Education
Decision Maker	County	School Districts
1 ST Instance Payer	County	County
Insurance	Medicaid & Commercial	Limited Medicaid
State Aid for Services	49%	59.5%
SY 09/10 Budget	45,944,277	82,046,881
SY 09/10 cost/child	6,841	18,788
SY 09/10 number children	6,716	4,367
Legislative Remedy	Commercial Insurance Mandate	Cap & Phase Out County Participation

Chair Kaplowitz, the Committee members and the CE's Chief of Staff George Oros, all agreed this item would be on the "top priority" list of the 2010 NYS Joint Legislative Package (Part 'A'), along with the request for Electronic Court Appearance for Prisoners.

Chair Kaplowitz also indicated that he would like to invite representatives from the MTA, as well as the County's Board of Elections Commissioners into a future Committee meeting(s).

There was no further business before the Committee.

On the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Burton, the GOES Committee adjourned at 4:00 pm.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
2010-11 Legislative Term XVI
COMMITTEE BLUEPRINT

Standing COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, EFFICIENCY & SAVINGS

HONORABLE MICHAEL B. KAPLOWITZ, Committee Chair

Honorable Ken Jenkins, Chair

*Westchester County Board of Legislators
(The Chair of the Board serves on every committee)*

Members: **Honorable Bernice Spreckman**
Honorable Judy Myers
Honorable John Nonna
Honorable Lyndon Williams
Honorable William Burton
Honorable Alfreda Williams

MISSION: The Government Operations, Efficiency & Savings Committee is the taxpayer's watchdog over Westchester County Government, its municipalities and other intergovernmental partners. The Committee on Government

Operations, Efficiency & Savings (GOES) will provide oversight on a number of County projects, issues and initiatives. This committee will head the Board's efforts on these fronts:

- Tax fairness
- County government efficiencies
- Shared Services
- Consolidation
- Mandate relief

This role will handle County government restructured, Business Advisory Council, Collaborative Assessment, Charter modifications and will coordinate the efforts with the County Association, Business Council and the Municipal Officials Association. This role will involve having public hearings throughout the County, working with our local and State officials, legislators, school districts and lobbyists.

TOPIC AREAS:

Tax Fairness:

- *For Shared Gain, Must Share the Pain
- *Collaborative Effort with Other Taxing Entities

County Government Efficiencies:

- *Doing More with Less
- *Reassessing Staffing Needs
- *Combine Departmental Administrative Services
- *Revisit Spending on Non-Mandated Programs

Shared Services:

- *Tax Reduction, Not Tax Shifting
- *Promote Available Services to Municipalities & School Districts That Would Reduce the Taxpayers Overall Tax Bill – Not Just the County Portion

Consolidation:

- *Explore Proposed County Government Consolidation Plan, Which Would Investigate Streamlining Mechanisms as a Way of Achieving Efficiencies in Response to Citizen Demands for Services and Cost-Savings
- * Review of *Westchester 2000*

POSSIBLE OUTPUTS:

- *Lower Taxes
- *More Efficient Government
- *Streamlined Services
- *State Mandate Relief
- *Assist Local Municipalities
- *Serve as an Example for Other Governmental Entities

MISCELLANEOUS GOALS:

- *At Least Two (2) Field Committee Meetings Each Year to Reach Out and Gather Input From Local Residents
- *On-going Interactive Dialogue with Executive Branch, County Departments and Good Government Advocacy Groups
- *Joint Meetings with Affiliated County Entities (e.g. Municipal Officials, State Delegation, MTA, School Boards)
- *Monitor State and Federal Budgetary Initiatives/Legislation
- *Monitor Local Municipal & School Budgetary Initiatives

TARGET DATES:

March *Meeting with MTA

April *At Least One (1) Field Meeting

May *Meeting with Attorney General's Office

July *Meeting with County Departments

September *Meeting with Municipal Officials & School Districts

October *Appropriate Review of County Proposed 2011 Capital Budget

December *Appropriate Review of County Proposed 2011 Operating Budget