

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

**(Chairman Oliverio, Legislators DiCarlo & Scuccimarra)**

**Tuesday**

**July 9, 2013**

**5:30 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Chairman Oliverio who requested Legislator DiCarlo lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators DiCarlo, Scuccimarra and Chairman Oliverio were present.

**Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – April 9, 2013**  
**April 26, 2013**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Item #4 - ProAct Prescription Drug Discount Card/Update/Terrence O'Neill**

ProAct Representative, Mr. Terrence O'Neill, stated that the ProAct Prescription Drug Program has been working since February of 2012. At the end of 2012, over 4700 prescriptions had been filled with an average savings of 55%, which equates to just under \$52 of total savings per prescription filled. He stated that there have already been 3,125 prescriptions filled in the first six months of 2013. The percentage savings has jumped up to 60% in only six months' time for 2013. He stated that residents are averaging 521 prescriptions filled per month in 2013 compared to 428 per month in 2012. He stated that if those numbers stay accurate along those levels, they are anticipating that residents will fill over 6,000 prescriptions by the end of the 2013.

Mr. O'Neill continued and stated that there is a Dental Program that is administered by Health Economics Group. He stated that the representative from that group was unable to attend. Mr. O'Neill stated that dental coverage is extremely expensive and right now 48% of residents within New York State have no form of dental coverage. He stated that studies have shown that there is a direct correlation between oral health and overall health. Health Economics Group offers residents an opportunity to save money at participating dental offices. He provided the Committee with a list of 44 participating dental providers in Putnam County.

Legislator DiCarlo made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Mr. O'Neill stated that there is a fee associated with the program; \$36.50 for a single person per year and \$52.00 family per year. He stated that residents who are participating are seeing an average savings of 30% – 40%; therefore, what they are paying to gain access to the dental network is recuperated after utilizing a participating dentist once. Mr. O'Neill further provided information on how residents can enroll via the Health Economics Group website.

Chairman Oliverio requested that Mr. O'Neill have the representative for this program attend the August Health Committee meeting to discuss price comparisons.

Mr. O'Neill stated that he would.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that many people, after they retire, do not receive dental coverage. He believed this was a big issue.

#### **Item #5 - Pre-K Early Intervention Transportation/Update/Vincent Tamagna**

Chairman Oliverio stated that this item would be tabled until Mr. Vincent Tamagna of the Planning Department receives updated information from the School Superintendents once they meet.

#### **Item #6 - Putnam County Health Department/Discussion/Commissioner Beals a) Tobacco Ban for Pharmacies/Discussion**

Chairman Oliverio stated that a ruling was received from our Legal Department which seems to agree with Commissioner of Health, Dr. Beals' recommendation. However, he would like to be able to review the information provided and requested that discussion continue during the August Health Committee meeting.

#### **b) Medication Take Back Lock Boxes/Discussion**

Chairman Oliverio stated that Legislator Scuccimarra brought forward this issue. There was a concern on the western side of the County, especially in Putnam Valley and Philipstown, that access to the Medicine Take Back Days are difficult for individuals to participate when it takes place on the eastern side of the County.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that although the response was huge with respect to people participating in the Medicine Take Back Days, she believed there was medicine that still gets flushed down the toilet, thrown in the garbage and other medication that sits in the medicine cabinet where people can get a hold of it. She stated that our water is getting polluted with these pharmaceuticals; which is a big issue. She questioned if it was possible to have Medication Take Lock Boxes. She stated that Mary Rice in the Health Department mentioned that there may be funding for these lock boxes.

Senior Investigator Martin stated that there are concerns by law enforcement with respect to these lock boxes. He stated that even in a controlled environment during the last Medicine Take Back Day at Putnam Hospital there was an officer who was pricked with a needle. Having lock boxes available to the public would be an uncontrolled environment. Anything could be put in the boxes such as; needles, poison or something contaminated. The International Association of Police Officers, the association that handles evidence and property, put out an article about the concerns and liability associated with lock boxes. He stated that the Sheriff's Department works together with the Health Department and he stated that another Medicine Take Back Day will take

place in September at the American Legion in Cold Spring. He stated that there will be another one taking place in November.

Dr. Beals stated that it is definitely possible to rotate the locations in the County with respect to holding Medicine Take Back Days. He validated Legislator Scuccimarra's concerns regarding misuse of medicines and the impact of our environment and health when medicines are getting into our waters. He stated that there is also the issue of law enforcement with respect to how the medicine is returned.

Inspector General, Terry Intry, stated that in conversations with Legislator Scuccimarra, she questioned if it was possible to have a doctor in the Cold Spring area take it upon himself to have a lock box placed in their office.

Dr. Beals stated that free standing unregulated boxes are very uncommon. They will put them in some municipalities within a law enforcement office. There are some CDC grant monies available for a location in Cold Spring.

Inspector General Intry stated that there may need to be a time frame to consider. The drop off could only take place when the facility is manned.

Deputy Commissioner of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau, Joseph DeMarzo, stated that there were over 300 people that came to the Medicine Take Back Day at Putnam Hospital. He stated that he could get the numbers of how many of those people were from the Putnam Valley area. He suggested that an Educational Campaign be done on how to properly dispose unused medicine.

Investigator Martin stated that medicine can be dropped off seven days a week between 9:00 am – 10:00 pm at the Sheriff's Department. An ID Investigator is available at these times to handle these drop offs appropriately.

Dr. Beals stated that he believed that having a lock box available for the public somewhere in the County would eliminate the need to hold three Medicine Take Back Day events and it would eliminate the need for people to stock pile unused medicines while waiting for the event to take place. They would be able to dispose of their unused medicines immediately.

Inspector General Intry believed that education and awareness through the Health Department was paramount. He believed that after it is run past Sheriff Smith, it may be possible to include in the education piece of the public awareness that they can drop off unused medicine at the Sheriff's office.

Director of Consumer Affairs, Jean Marie Noel, stated that she noticed a sign by Jefferson Valley that stated: Yorktown Police Prescription Take Back 24/7. She stated that with respect to education and outreach, it may be possible through the NYS Pharmaceutical Licensing Board, to ask for their cooperation when Pharmacies dispense prescriptions to include information for the consumer and how to dispose of unused medicine properly.

Chairman Oliverio requested that a memo be sent to Sheriff Donald B. Smith, requesting that he consider the idea, that when the Health Department brings education and awareness to the public about the proper procedure of disposing unused medicine, the Health Department be allowed to include that these unused medicines can be dropped off at the Sheriff's Department between the hours of 9:00 am – 10:00 pm.

Mr. DeMarzo stated that when this was researched three years ago, part of the attraction of this was that it was all done anonymously. He stated that you may not get the turn out that you may think you will get at the Police Stations. He stated that when his department collects the medicines, it is given to the Pharmacies. His department does not track who gives them the medicines. They even suggest that on prescription medications the individual black out their name. He asked that this be kept in mind as we move forward.

Inspector General Intry stated that if the Sheriff gives the OK on this, it would not negate the fact that we would still need to have the Medicine Take Back Days.

Investigator Martin stated that the numbers have increased each year. He stated that over 900 pounds of medication was turned in this year.

Legislator Gross stated that he wanted to supply the Legislature with some legal documents related to the Federal Regulations on banning of Tobacco Products.

Chairman Oliverio agreed and stated that it would be discussed again at the next Health Meeting.

**Item #7 - Memorialization/Supporting the Prevention of Introduction and Movement of Aquatic Invasive Species and Urging the State to Adopt Laws that Support Local Governments in Preventing Introduction and Movement of Aquatic Invasive Species**

Legislator DiCarlo made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

**Item # 8 - Other Business**

**a) Approval/Fund Transfer (13T138)/Health Department/Health Education Temporary**

Legislator Scuccimarra made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; seconded by Legislator DiCarlo. All in favor.

There being no further business; at 5:52 P.M., Legislator DiCarlo made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.