

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN THE  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 318  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members: Chairman Oliverio, Legislators LoBue and Scuccimarra**

**Monday**

**October 6, 2014**

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

**Item #3 –2015 Budget Review**

Chairman Oliverio stated he has reviewed the 2015 Putnam County Budget and he would like to discuss one (1) additional item. He questioned if any Legislators or Department Heads had an item to discuss.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (“NAMI”) Vice President Ed Murphy stated he has some additional information regarding Mental Illnesses.

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

NAMI Vice President Murphy stated he is on the Mental Health Association Board in Putnam County and he is Chair of the Community Services Board in Putnam County. He stated NAMI President Lorraine Bushnell came before the Health, Social, Educational and Environmental Committee (“Committee”) discuss Crisis Intervention Training (“CIT”). He stated approximately 30% of individuals with a serious mental illness are also diagnosed with a drug or alcohol problem. He stated the County Executive’s “War on Addiction” is a worthy effort in Putnam County’s social responsibility; however CIT Training is another element of the County’s social responsibility. He stated the CIT Training will educate law enforcement on how to approach an individual with a Mental Illness and will assist in redirecting an individual with a Mental Illness from the Criminal Justice System to the Mental Health System. He stated CIT Training is an investment. He stated it is expected the County will receive an additional \$23,000 next year to train the trainers in CIT. He stated the additional money should not solely go towards law enforcement overtime. He stated he requests for the Committee to include funding for the CIT Training in the 2015 County Budget.

Chairman Oliverio stated he did respond to the request to fund the CIT Training. He stated he sent a letter to the Sheriff’s Department and to the Department of Social Services requesting for both Departments contribute \$25,000 towards the CIT Training. He stated he received a joint correspondence from Putnam County Sheriff Smith and Commissioner of Social Services Michael Piazza that stated both departments are working on a program.

Commissioner Piazza stated the funding is to assist in training all the law enforcement agencies and first responders in the County. He stated it is his understanding that NAMI Vice President Murphy is requesting for the funding not be used solely to cover for the law enforcement overtime.

NAMI Vice President Murphy stated Commissioner Piazza is correct.

Chairman Oliverio questioned Putnam County Sheriff's Chief Gerald Schramek how many Sheriff Deputies would be able to be trained with \$50,000.

Chief Schramek stated that is a challenging question to answer because there are different pay grades for the Sheriff Deputies. He stated any training will be beneficial for the Sheriff's Department.

NAMI Vice President Murphy stated he understands not everyone will be able to be trained. However it would be great to begin some CIT Training in the County.

Chairman Oliverio stated he agrees with NAMI Vice President Murphy that any training would be beneficial. He stated the County is experiencing an unanticipated excess around \$2.5 million in Sales Tax. He stated requesting an additional \$50,000 is money well spent and would like to move that forward for consideration.

Legislator LoBue thanked NAMI Vice President Murphy for his comments. She stated \$50,000 is a lot of money to request to start a program, especially without a template for training. She stated she would approve \$25,000 with a stipulation that there be a program in place that can be tracked.

NAMI Vice President Murphy stated the funding requested is being used for the initial set up of a template for the CIT Training Program.

Chairman Oliverio stated the excess in Sales Tax is not included in the 2015 County Budget. Therefore there is money that can be used to fund programs such as the proposed.

Legislator Albano stated he supports the Legislature approving the additional funding for the CIT Training. He stated the CIT Training is imperative and it can save the County money in the future.

Chairman Oliverio stated this matter is important especially with the County Executive's "War on Addiction". He stated this matter goes hand in hand with the County Executive's mission.

Legislator Nacerino stated the CIT Training supports the County Executive's mission.

Legislator Gross and Legislator Tartaro both supported funding the CIT Training.

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to approve \$50,000 for CIT Training; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Commissioner Piazza stated he wanted to clarify there will be some training going on with the initial set up money.

NAMI President Bushnell stated she was upset that the issue of Mental Illness was not mentioned at the 2015 Tentative County Budget Presentation.

Chairman Oliverio stated the concept of Mental Health and Mental Illness is incorporated in the various agencies within Putnam County. He stated the money in the County Budget also goes to fund many mental health providers in the County.

Commissioner Piazza stated the County funds a total of approximately \$1 million to the mental health services in the County.

Legislator LoBue stated it is her understanding that NAMI President Bushnell would have liked to have had the Mental Health Issue specifically mentioned in the 2015 Tentative Budget Presentation; by not mentioning this matter specifically was shortsided.

Commissioner Piazza stated the Mental Health Issue was inadvertently mentioned in the 2015 Tentative Budget Presentation by discussing drug abuse. The County Executive has also taken a strong initiative in discussing the issues of depression and suicide prevention.

Chairman Oliverio stated Peers Influence Peers President Frank Reale came before the Committee in September to request an additional \$15,000 to establish a Peers Influence Peers Program on the eastern side of the County (*10029000-54647, pg.83*). This addition would provide an opportunity for children to meet without traveling a great distance. He stated he believes that a \$15,000 request is reasonable and it is a program worth funding.

Legislator Nacerino stated she supports the additional \$15,000 to fund the Peers Influence Peers program.

Chairman Oliverio stated granting the additional funds will not affect the 2015 Putnam County Budget.

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to fund an additional \$15,000 for the Peers Influence Peers program; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Chairman Oliverio stated he received additional information from Office of Senior Resources Director Patricia Sheehy requesting a change in the 2015 Putnam County Budget. He stated Director Sheehy is requesting for a \$2,300 increase in her miscellaneous item in her budget (*10677300-54989, pg. 129*).

Legislator LoBue questioned what the additional funding would be used for.

Director Sheehy stated the additional funding would be used for the Senior Recreation Program that takes place in May. She stated there is also a \$1,000 being used as a stipend for the transportation volunteers.

Legislator LoBue stated the Transportation Department is going to be funded around \$65,000 in the 2015 County Budget.

Chairman Oliverio stated the \$65,000 would go towards fuel and the maintenance of the vehicles. He stated he believes it is money well spent.

Legislator LoBue stated that is not the issue. She stated she believed everything would be classified and come out of the 2015 Budget in one place.

Chairman Oliverio stated the money that Director Sheehy is requesting would be used as compensation for the volunteer drivers.

Director Sheehy stated this additional request was initially supposed to be included in her budget. However, there was an error in the MUNIS System.

Chairman Oliverio stated all together the additional funding request comes to \$2,300.

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to approve the additional request of \$2,300 for the Office of Senior Resources; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Legislator Albano questioned about the parenthesis found on page 101. He questioned for clarification regarding what is an expense and what is revenue.

Commissioner of Finance Bill Carlin stated the parenthesis designates revenue.

**Item #4- Other Business- None**

**Item #5 – Adjournment**

**There being no further business, at 5:50 p.m. Chairman Oliverio made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.**

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Lisa Sommers.