

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

Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Addonizio & Nacerino

**Wednesday September 22, 2021
(Immediately Following the Physical Services Meeting at 6:15PM)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 P.M. by Chairwoman Sayegh who requested that Legislator Addonizio lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Addonizio and Chairwoman Sayegh were present. Legislator Nacerino was absent. Chairwoman Sayegh stated Legislator Jonke would sit on the Committee tonight.

Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – July 21, 2021 & August 25, 2021 Meetings

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 - Discussion/Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub/Executive Director Danielle Pack McCarthy

Chairwoman Sayegh stated that this was requested by Legislator Montgomery, and it is an important part of Putnam County.

Legislator Montgomery stated she is happy to have Executive Director Pack McCarthy here tonight. She stated she has been wanting to spotlight the great work of the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub (Hub). She stated in 2017 the Philipstown community was devastated by the opioid epidemic. She stated the Philipstown Cares Coalition had many initiatives which she and Executive Director Pack McCarthy were involved with, as well as many residents. She stated many residents were upset with the lack of resources. She stated she was on the Town Board at the time, and they created a position called Drug Resource Coordinator, for which they hired Executive Director Pack McCarthy. She stated they developed more community involvement and the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub. She stated they have done amazing work.

Executive Director Pack McCarthy stated whenever she presents the work of the Hub, she highlights the progressive thinking of the Philipstown Town Board. She stated the Hub has served over 200 community members. She stated she is grateful to be here tonight. She stated the crux of what the Hub does is its Care Coordination Program. She stated the resources available at the State and County level were not reaching the residents. She stated the Hub has benefitted from a local approach. She stated the Hub met with families and individuals who were struggling. She stated there is a large mental health aspect when dealing with addiction. She stated she is focusing on raising awareness of prevention in the schools. She stated the Hub opened in September of 2019. She stated people needed help more than ever during the

pandemic. She explained some of the safety measures the Hub took during COVID. She noted they sometimes refer people to CoveCare for treatment.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she appreciates the information and Executive Director Pack McCarthy made many great points. She stated it is great to have community level organizations that are familiar with the demographics. She noted the importance in focusing on cooccurring disorders with mental health and addiction.

Executive Director Pack McCarthy stated it is rare that mental health and addiction are not linked.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if the Hub has applied for grant funding.

Executive Director Pack McCarthy stated they have and have received some funding.

Legislator Addonizio noted that she was instrumental in bringing the Hope Not Handcuffs Program to Putnam County. She questioned how the progress has been in Philipstown.

Executive Director Pack McCarthy stated they have a good working relationship with the Village of Cold Spring Police Department as well as the Sheriff's Department, who handle that aspect.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if the Hub helps find rehab facilities.

Executive Director Pack McCarthy stated yes, they check on the availability. She stated they do the work in finding a spot, instead of leaving it up to someone who is already struggling.

Legislator Jonke thanked Executive Director Pack McCarthy for the work that she does. He questioned if the Hub only serves the Cold Spring and Philipstown area.

Executive Director Pack McCarthy stated that is all they serve, though they do not turn anyone away from their Narcan trainings. She stated they have a small staff and wants to maintain quality work.

Legislator Jonke stated he understands and thanked Executive Director Pack McCarthy again for her hard work.

Executive Director Pack McCarthy clarified that if someone needs assistance in another town, they are directed to a place who can assist.

Legislator Montgomery spoke about the success of the Hub and its local approach. She noted that she and Executive Director Pack McCarthy met with the community stakeholders to help raise awareness about the Hub as a safe place.

Executive Director Pack McCarthy stated one of their biggest goals is destigmatizing mental health issues.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated the Hub does amazing work. She stated she loves local non-profits. She stated parents are sometimes afraid to reach out for help and the Hub provides a beacon of hope.

Executive Director Pack McCarthy stated there is a lot of potential for the Hub. She stated unfortunately they are too small to apply for certain State grants.

Chairwoman Sayegh encouraged Executive Director Pack McCarthy to apply for that funding because she believes the Hub can receive it.

Legislator Montgomery noted that potentially the Opioid Litigation Settlement funds could be available in the future.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated it is definitely worth a phone call to the State Representatives of Philipstown.

Legislator Montgomery noted that the County has supported similar non-profits in the past. She stated she hopes that the County will support the Hub in the future.

Chairwoman Sayegh thanked Executive Director Pack McCarthy for the information this evening.

Item #5 - Approval/Budgetary Amendment 21A078/Youth Bureau/Reflecting the NYS Office of Children and Family Services 2021 Funding Allocations

Youth Bureau Executive Director Janeen Cunningham stated the funding will be going towards existing programs, such as Youth Court. She stated these funds are additional revenue from the State.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 21A078; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Item #6 - Other Business - None

Item #7 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:32 P.M. Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.