

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 23, 2005

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Appointment Review

John DeFazio - Chair; Committee of the Whole

I. Call To Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM*

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Shawn Fox, Executive Assistant

Summary: *Invited Guests Present: Kathy McKenzie, Deputy County Manager, represented Ms. Flynn.*

Council Staff in attendance: Joe Catanese, John Mascio, and Jared Barker

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Chair John DeFazio, and Brenda Frazier

Absent: Joan Cleary, Dave Fawcett, Ron Francis, Vince Gastgeb, C.L. Jabbour, Edward Kress, Chuck Martoni, Rich Nerone, Doug Price, Jan Rea, William Robinson, and Eileen Watt

III Approval of Minutes

2221-05 Motion to approve the Minutes of November 2, 2005 Appointment Review Committee Meeting.

Action: **A motion was made by Frazier, seconded by Chair DeFazio, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Agenda Items

2172-05 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Dr. Susan Gove to serve as a Member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Board for a term to expire three years from the approval date of this appointment.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Dr. Gove provided the committee with a summary of her background and qualifications. She indicated that she has been involved in education since the beginning of her career and that she could provide the board with information from non-profits. She said she intends to be an ambassador for the board.*

Action: **A motion was made by Frazier, seconded by Chair DeFazio, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

2173-05 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Linda Ehrlich to serve as a Member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Board for a term to expire three years from the approval date of this appointment.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Ehrlich provided the committee with a summary of her background and qualifications. She said she that her field is in early education and would bring to the board someone who has interacted with children and families. She said she believed that it is important to maintain the integrity of families. She also said that she has served with many support groups.*

Action: A motion was made by Frazier, seconded by Chair DeFazio, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

2178-05 Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Dr. Karen Plavan to serve as a Member of the Drug and Alcohol Planning Council for a term to expire on May 8, 2008.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: Dr. Plavan provided the committee with a summary of her background and qualifications. She said that Human Services Director Marc Cherna asked her if she would serve another term on the board because the board needed people like her. She said that she has been very active on the board. The Chair asked her if they provide the same type services as Gateway Rehabilitation Center. Dr. Plavan said that they do basically the same thing. Ms. Frazier asked her what she felt was her biggest accomplishment as a member of the board. Dr. Plavan said that in addition to helping people, she successfully got involved in a drive to maintain state funding for the board.

Action: A motion was made by Frazier, seconded by Chair DeFazio, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

2179-05 Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Kenneth Walker to serve as a Member of the Drug and Alcohol Planning Council for a term to expire on May 8, 2008.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: Mr. Walker provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications. He said that he has served successfully on the board for three years and that he does a lot of intervention and counseling. Ms. Frazier asked him what he thought was one of his biggest accomplishments. He said that he successfully fought for restoration of funding and pushed for insurance companies to provide a full seven days of detoxification.

Action: A motion was made by Frazier, seconded by Chair DeFazio, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

2181-05 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Laura Zinski to serve as a Member of the Community Services Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2007.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: Ms. Zinski provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications. She said that her experience with the Mon-Valley Initiative could bring valuable connections to the communities involved. She said that she would first learn about the board and then relay to them some of the needs of the communities.

Action: A motion was made by Frazier, seconded by Chair DeFazio, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

2182-05 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Zetta Murphy to serve as a Member of the Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Council for a term to expire three years from the approval date of this appointment.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Murphy provided the committee with a summary of her background and qualifications. She said that she has been attending meetings to familiarize herself with the board. She said she has personal experience with mental health issues and that she works part time at a psychiatric clinic. She said that she feels that she can be a true advocate.*

Action: **A motion was made by Frazier, seconded by Chair DeFazio, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

2183-05

Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Dr. Heidi Feldman to serve as a Member of the Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Council for a term to expire on July 31, 2008.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Dr. Feldman provided the committee with a summary of her background and qualifications. She said that being a pediatrician at Childrens Hospital has provided her insight into various issues that the board faces. Ms. Frazier asked her to tell the committee what she thought she has brought to the board. Dr. Feldman said she feels she brought creativity and diversity of services.*

Action: **A motion was made by Frazier, seconded by Chair DeFazio, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

2184-05

Appointment - Approving the appointment of Eva Bednar to serve as a Member of the Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Council for a term to expire three years from the approval date of this appointment.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Bednar provided the committee with a summary of her background and qualifications. She said that having a family member affected with mental illness provides her first hand knowledge of the devastation this can bring to a family. She said she is an advocate and wants to make Allegheny County the premiere county in the field of mental health. She said that she would like to see some type of employment plan provided to those that leave the hospital. She said that the board should try to find jobs for these people.*

Action: **A motion was made by Frazier, seconded by Chair DeFazio, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

2216-05

Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Jerry Speer to serve as a Member of the Property Assessment Appeals & Review Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2008.

Sponsors: Rich Fitzgerald

Summary: *Mr. Speer provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications. He said that in the interest of continuity he would like to continue to serve. Ms. Frazier and the Chair both indicated that they felt he was doing a good job.*

Action: **A motion was made by Frazier, seconded by Chair DeFazio, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion Topic:

Appointment of Phillis LaRue Daniel Lavelle to serve as Council's appointee to the Property Assessment Appeals & Review Board.

Summary: *Ms. Frazier said that she recommends Ms. Lavelle as Council's appointment to the Board. She said that she is concerned that there has not been much diversity at this level. She said that she did not want diversity at the expense of quality, and that Ms. Lavelle would be a quality appointment.*

Ms. Lavelle provided the committee with a summary of her background and qualifications. She said that her many years experience in real estate would prove to be an asset to the board. Mr. Speer spoke highly of her and said that the board is always looking for people that have valuation experience such as hers, and that other members of the board are excited about the possibility of her serving.

Ms. Frazier said that she would introduce legislation at the December 6, 2005 Regular Meeting recommending her appointment to the board.

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM*