

# Allegheny County Council

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## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

## Committee on Budget and Finance

*Paul Klein, Chair; Patrick Catena, Samuel DeMarco, Nick Futules, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Charles Martoni, Sue Means and John Palmiere, Members.*

## I. Call to Order

*The meeting was called to order at 4:01.*

### Invited Guests:

**William D. McKain, CPA, County Manager or Designee**

**Mary C. Soroka, County Budget Director or Designee**

*Mr. McKain was present from the Office of the County Manager.*

*Ms. Soroka and Berbekic were present from the Department of Budget & Finance.*

*Mr. Barker, Mr. Szymanski and Ms. Roka were present from the Office of County Council.*

## II. Roll Call

**Members Present:** 4 - Sam DeMarco ,Paul Klein,Bob Macey andSue Means

**Members Absent:** 4 - Nick Futules,Ed Kress,Chuck Martoni andJohn Palmiere

**Members** 2 - Patrick Catena andDeWitt Walton

**Non-Members:**

## III. Approval of Minutes

[9995-17](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting held on November 30, 2016.

**A motion was made by Means, seconded by Macey, that this matter be Passed.  
The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

## IV. Agenda Items

### Resolutions

[9991-17](#)

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2017 (Submission #01-17).

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Szymanski provided a brief overview of the grants that had been submitted for approval.*

*Mr. McKain noted that one of the grants is in the amount of \$1 million from the Commonwealth to the Department of Human Services to be used to expand contacts with care providers that had been selected by the Commonwealth in order to provide enhanced care for individuals suffering from opioid addiction.*

*In response to a question from Mr. Macey, Mr. McKain noted that the administrative cost of the enhanced services would be absorbed by the County because DHS has existing infrastructure to handle the additional revenue and administrative workload, so all of the grant revenue would go to the care provided to participants.*

*In response to questions from the Chair, Ms. Soroka and Mr. McKain discussed the*

*timeline on which the services could be provided and the modification of contracts to accommodate the additional services.*

*In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain agreed to provide additional information regarding the duration of care, and noted that this is currently anticipated to be a one time revenue source.*

*The Chair provided some historical context regarding Gateway Rehabilitation, which is one of the care providers that have been identified by the Commonwealth.*

*In response to a question from Mr. Catena, Mr. McKain agreed to provide information regarding the methodology employed to identify candidates for the services to be provided.*

*Mr. DeMarco noted that he had attended sessions with the University of Pittsburgh, former U.S. Attorney Hickton, and others and that the most significant takeaway was that there is no one size fits all treatment methodology that works for all individuals. As a result, he expressed belief that additional revenue to combat the opioid epidemic is a desirable thing, so long as it is spent wisely.*

*Mr. Macey noted that the County is responsible for making the effort, but that the ultimate result of any rehabilitation program is largely dependent upon the individual participating.*

*Mr. McKain indicated that he has a high level of confidence in Mr. Cherna's ability to administer the program effectively.*

*Mr. McKain provided an overview of the \$50,000 grant from the Commonwealth to the Kane Centers in order to purchase technology that will allow six residents of the Glen-Hazel center to improve staff response time for particularly at-risk residents. Mr. McKain noted that there may be maintenance costs going forward, but that he regards that as an acceptable cost given the potential benefit.*

*In response to questions from Ms. Means, Ms. Soroka noted that the concept is a wristband that will allow individuals who wear it to call for assistance from staff regardless of their location within the facility and Mr. McKain noted that the Kane facility at which the devices would be used is already secured, so it would be unnecessary to incorporate a GPS tracking function in the devices.*

*In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain discussed the bidding requirements for various tiers of contract values.*

*In response to a question from Mr. Catena, Ms. Soroka noted that the Glen Hazel facility was chosen because this is a pilot project, and the Glen Hazel facility is the best suited in terms of resident characteristics and needs.*

*In response to a question from Mr. Macey regarding the \$150,000 grant from PCCD for technolog for targeted crime prevention, Mr. McKain discussed the importance of data for driving decisionmaking and highlighted the expansion of the County's efforts to provide data to all police departments working within the County. Mr. McKain indicated that the two additional analysts to be hired with the grant revenue would be utilized to review the existing data in an effort to identify trends in violent crime to guide resource allocation.*

*Mr. Walton and Mr. McKain discussed the history of using statistical data in allocating*

*law enforcement resources.*

*Mr. Walton expressed support for the concept as a means of aiding law enforcement.*

*In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain noted that the adopted 2017 budget did not include funding for County Police employees to fulfil these functions.*

*In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain noted that the grant is for one year only at this time, so continuing the program would at some point involve costs to the County, but that he would evaluate the merits of continuing based upon how the program works.*

*In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. McKain noted that the County does get some data from the City of Pittsburgh and the Commonwealth, but that this degree of analysis is not currently done, and this will allow trend analysis in something approaching real time.*

**A motion was made by Macey, seconded by DeMarco , that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

## **V. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:29.*