

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

4:00 PM

Conference Room I

Committee on Health & Human Services

Mike Finnerty, Chair; Joan Cleary, Susan Caldwell, Brenda Frazier, William Robinson, and Jan Rea - Members

I. Call to Order

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

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Marc Cherna, Director, Human Services or Designee

Jack Cambest, Council's Legal Advisor or Designee

Mike Wojcik, County Solicitor or Designee

Summary: *Invited guests present: Derek Uber for Mr. Flynn; Mr. Wojcik, and Mr. Cambest*

Council staff present: John Mascio and Jared Barker

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Joan Cleary, Susan Caldwell, and Michael Finnerty

Absent: Brenda Frazier, William Robinson, and Jan Rea

III. Approval of Minutes

2526-06 Motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2006 and April 6, 2006 Health & Human Services Committee Meetings.

Action: **A motion was made by Cleary, seconded by Caldwell, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinance

2380-06 An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending the Allegheny County Administrative Code by adding a new Article 919 that governs Office of Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD) contracts by providing that vendors provide information about the quality of service, work force, and business practices of its agency and comply with County requests for information as conditions of its contract.

Sponsors: Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Chuck Martoni, Jan Rea, William Russell Robinson and Michael Finnerty

Summary: *The Chair provided a brief summary of the bill. He said that he believes that the bill provides accountability and credibility which would help people make informed decisions regarding care of their loved ones.*

Ms. Cleary said that they need to know the turnover rate in order to judge quality of services. She said that they need to move forward on this bill to try to require care givers to provide turnover rate. She said that constituents want this information and they should have it. She said that since the state indicated that they provide this information already it should not be a burden. She also said that the bill would require audits and that people want to know how public funds are spent.

Ms. Caldwell asked Ms. Cleary and the Chair to provide her with some background on the bill. They did so.

Ms. Caldwell asked if the county would lose funds if this bill was passed. The Chair said that Mr. Casey from the state said that could happen but he did not say that it would happen for sure.

Mr. Cambest provided the committee with legal aspects of the bill. He said that the requirements of the bill could drive care givers from Allegheny County. He said that he believes that the state wants to regionalize the program instead of implementing it county by county. He said that he does not know if this would really happen but he said that it could.

He also said that another argument that the state made was that they planned on doing this anyway. He said that if they were going to do it anyway, then what would be the problem with the county doing it.

The Chair said that everyone he spoke with said that the bill had merit. He also mentioned that the bill has a severability clause that would repeal the bill if it violated any existing law.

Ms. Cleary said that if passage of this bill causes the county to loose money, then she would introduce legislation to repeal it.

Action:

A motion was made by Cleary, seconded by Finnerty, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Adjournment

Summary:

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM