

# **Allegheny County Council**

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## **Meeting Minutes - Approved**

**Wednesday, September 17, 2014**

**4:00 PM**

**Conference Room 1**

### **Committee on Budget and Finance**

*Michael Finnerty, Chair*

*Members:*

*Barbara Daly Danko*

*Amanda Green Hawkins*

*Heather Heidelbaugh*

*Bob Macey*

*Sue Means*

*Nicholas Futules, John Palmiere*

*Jan Rea*

## I. Call to Order

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

**Invited Guests: William D. McKain, CPA-County Manager or Designee  
Warren Finkel, Director-Office of Budget and Finance  
Earl Hill, Director-Shuman Detention Center**

*Pete Schepis and Kathy Celestino were present from the Office of Budget and Finance*

*Mr. Pilarski, Deputee County Manager, and Earl Hill, Director-Shuman Center were present.*

*Walter Szymanski, Jared Barker, Erin Graney, and Lori Sicard were present from the Council staff.*

## II. Roll Call

**Members Present:** 4 - Finnerty, Barbara Danko, Heather Heidelbaugh and Sue Means

**Members Absent:** 5 - Amanda Green Hawkins, Bob Macey, John Palmiere, Jan Rea and Nick Futules

## III. Approval of Minutes

[8482-14](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee meeting of Allegheny County Council held on September 10th, 2014  
**Passed**

## IV. Agenda Items

### Resolutions

[8473-14](#)

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2014 (Submission #12-14).

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*The Clerk read the title of the Resolution into the record and Mr. Szymanski reviewed the grant blocks.*

*Ms. Means asked questions regarding the supplemental funds for the in-home care for the aging; What was the RFP process to select the providers; What qualifications are sought in the providers; Are there any faith-based providers facilitating care?*

*Ms. Celestino replied that she did not immediately have the information on the qualifications or the RFP process in detail but could provide additional reports. This is a new grant supplementing the money already budgeted and the purpose was to reduce wait time for elderly needing this care and assistance.*

**Affirmatively Recommended**

### Discussion Topic: State and Function of the Shuman Juvenile Detention Center

*The Chair invited Mr. Pilarski and Mr. Hill to the table to give an overview of the Shuman Detention Center.*

Mr. Hill stated that the facility has been refurbished with new paint and a new roof with expanded areas for physical activity. Further a staff relations committee has been established to increase communication between management and staff. Mr. Hill said that the mindset and attitude has been slowly changing for the positive with the establishment of policy and procedure.

Residents needs and risks assessments have been reevaluated and the length of stay has been shortened for residents. A relationship between parole, and CYF, and Human Services has been improved through more communication.

Mr. Pilarski stated that through cooperation with Human services, the youth are provided court appropriate clothes for when they are required to appear before a judge.

The Chair inquired about how many residents. Mr. Hill stated now there is around 50 but they are licensed for 120, with over 75% being male residents.

Ms. Heidelbaugh requested a tour of the facilities so that the people of Allegheny know that Council is interested in what is happening at the Center. Mr. Hill said that there is an open invitation for all Council Members to see the Shuman Center.

Ms. Danko inquired as to where the youth were in the judicial process when housed at the Center. Mr. Hill said largely they are adjudicated but they are waiting placement in another facilities.

Ms. Danko asked Mr. Hill to expand on his statement that the children they see tend to be more violent. Mr. Hill said that there is a lot of problem with history of abuse and trauma that leads to the behavior issues of their residents.

Ms. Danko inquired about the IEP (education plans). Mr. Hill stated that they are all required to go through an educational component. Mr. Hill stated that there is a school on the premises but the more aggressive children have individual tutoring away from a group setting.

Ms. Means inquired about mental and physical health service. Mr. Hill stated that the Center provides all of that to the children through UPMC.

Mr. Pilarski stated that the staff to child ratio is mandated by the State and followed by the Center.

Ms. Means inquired about past problems with part-time untrained employees filling full-time positions.

Mr. Hill stated that there are currently no part-time employees and that employees go through shadowing with other employees to be fully qualified. There are further education and training requirements that are mandated for all employees. There is a minimum of 40 hours a year of ongoing annual training required and offered to employees in-house.

Ms. Means inquired about dietary guidelines. Mr. Hill stated that they are part of the National Lunch Program which implements more healthy food options.

The Chair inquired about intake evaluations for residents. Youth Level of Service is given to all incoming residents that makes recommendations on residents needs while they are in the Center. A red mark on their charts indicates a history of aggression. There are in-house clinical assessments as well that will evaluate for past abuse. There

*are doctors present at the center from Children's Hospital as well as a dentist.*

*Mr. Pilarski stated that the Shuman staff were very adept at keeping track of the conflicts between different groups outside of the Center that may impact violent behavior amongs different residents in the Center so that they can be separated during their stay.*

*Ms. Means asked if Council could provide Mr. Hill with any assistance and asked if there was anything that they need at the Center. Mr. Hill stated that they need support and patience.*

*Ms. Danko inquired about the neighborhoods that the residents come from and if there was a trend in adult violence that impacted the youth. Mr. Hill stated that there were a few neighborhoods that tended to provide more residents than others as well as a trend in largely African American populations.*

*Mr. Pilarski gave an overview of annual audits done by the State and the kind of violations that may come up.*

## **V. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:40PM.*