

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

**Chairwoman Addonizio, Legislators Gouldman & Sayegh**

**Thursday**

**February 21, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7:27 P.M. by Chairwoman Addonizio who requested that Legislator Sayegh lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Gouldman, Sayegh, and Chairwoman Addonizio were present.

**Item # 3 - Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2018**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Item #4 - Discussion/Human Trafficking**

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Safe Harbour Prevention & Community Outreach Coordinator MaryBeth Ross gave the attached PowerPoint Presentation. She stated human trafficking is a growing problem and is an epidemic in our country. She told a story about a woman who was taken from a bus stop by a man who said he would take her to her family's house. She stated the man was just looking for women he could make money off of, like those looking to get away from their families. She stated human trafficking is now the second most profitable criminal enterprise, only behind drug trafficking. She went of the pertinent statistics of human trafficking on slide four (4). She stated anyone can be at risk for human trafficking. She stated recently the most frequent trafficking has shifted from romantic partners to "street sex". She stated a big reason for this is due to the internet. She continued the story of the Annika, the woman who was trafficked. She stated Annika was trafficked for two (2) months. She stated that means she was potentially sold five (5) times per night, every day, which would mean she was raped 70 times. She stated Annika's trafficker beat her so badly it punctured two (2) of her lungs, burnt her with an iron, and waterboarded her. She stated by the time the two (2) months was over, Annika believed she was going to die this way. She reviewed slide 14 which detailed the indicators of trafficking. She stated the traffickers want total control. She reviewed slides 14, 15, and 16 which detailed Safe Harbour's mission and strengths. She reviewed slide 19 which listed other entities that work with at-risk or trafficked youth.

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned if children are being educated through the schools.

Coordinator Ross stated the schools have been great partners. She stated Safe Harbour is currently working with Carmel School District. She stated she has met with the school

psychologists, guidance counselors, bus drivers, and aides because they are the ones who are going to notice the warning signs. She stated there is a middle school curriculum that Safe Harbour hopes to roll out soon. She stated she was able to speak to health classes at Carmel High School and she would like to bring this awareness to the other schools as well. She stated she even heard from a student the next day about an interaction she had.

Legislator Gouldman requested clarification on the rescuing of people who are being trafficked.

Coordinator Ross stated they cannot be rescued. She stated it is a very complicated dynamic and many times the person winds up going back. She stated there are people who do not even realize they are being trafficked. She stated often the trafficker is set up as a romantic partner so you have to be careful with your approach. She stated Safe Harbour can provide “go-bags” with supplies for when the person is willing and able to leave. She stated their goal is to plan for their safety.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if many victims are foreigners who do not speak English well.

Coordinator Ross stated about 83% of the victims are American.

Legislator Jonke questioned how many cases a year Safe Harbour handles in Putnam County and specifically 2018.

Coordinator Ross stated there were two (2) that reached the federal standard, with an additional six (6) referrals in 2018. She stated in 2016 there were over 1,300 referrals in the State, not including New York City. She stated in 2017 that number increased by approximately 1,000. She stated they are working on making people more aware to help bring attention to people who are at-risk.

Legislator Montgomery thanked Coordinator Ross and Safe harbor for the work they are doing. She stated she hopes this brings more awareness to this issue.

Legislator Castellano questioned if most referrals come from the schools.

Coordinator Ross stated most are through CPS (Child Protective Services), as they are mandated to screen all of their cases.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if Coordinator Ross works closely with Westchester and Dutchess Counties.

Coordinator Ross stated she does, as part of the Hudson Valley Region of Safe Harbour. She stated the region meets quarterly.

??? stated this issue comes down to bringing more awareness and educating people.

Legislator Sayegh stated some young girls probably do not even realize they are being trafficked.

Legislator Montgomery questioned what the Legislature can do to support Safe Harbour.

Coordinator Ross stated they are always looking for more partnerships and ways to reach out. She added that any help with educating the public would be appreciated.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if the videos in the PowerPoint can be found online.

Coordinator Ross stated they are from TruckersAgainstTrafficking.com. She stated they are a great organization.

Legislator Sayegh stated she would like to have Safe Harbour work with Mahopac High School as well.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated they should be working with all the schools.

Coordinator Ross agreed and stated that would be great.

**Item #5 - Approval/Local Law to Amend the Putnam County Code Regulating the Sale of E-Cigarettes, Similar Devices, and Related Products**

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo stated the Health Department brought to the Legislature's attention that the text for the signs in the stores was incorrect. He stated this is just a simple revision of a clerical error.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to move Approval/Local Law to Amend the Putnam County Code Regulating the Sale of E-Cigarettes, Similar Devices, and Related Products to the Full Legislative Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item #6 - Approval/Fund Transfer 19T020/Youth Bureau/To Cover Salary for Staff that is Filling In for Staff Member on Maternity Leave (Also reviewed by the Personnel Committee 2/13/19)**

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to move Fund Transfer 19T020 to the Audit & Administration Committee Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #7 - Approval/Budgetary Transfer 19T022/Office for Senior Resources/Combine 2 Part-Time Drivers into 1 Full-Time CDL Driver and Cover for Medical Leave (Also reviewed by the Personnel Committee 2/13/19)**

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to move Budgetary Transfer 19T022 to the Audit & Administration Committee Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #8 - Approval/Fund Transfer 19T023/Department of Social Services/Funds needed to cover Overtime for Probation Officers through September 30, 2019 to conduct Curfew Checks**

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to move Fund Transfer 19T023 to the Audit & Administration Committee Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item #9 - Approval/Victims Services Grant Renewal/Department of Social Services/Child Advocacy Center**

Chairwoman Addonizio stated there would be one (1) new position that would be fully funded by the grant, if approved.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to move Approval/Victims Services Grant Renewal/Department of Social Services/Child Advocacy Center to the Full Legislative Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #10 - FYI/Fund Transfer 18T439/Social Services/Reallocate Funds to Cover Projected Costs through 12/31/18 – Duly Noted.**

**Item #11 - FYI/Health Department Press Release/Putnam County is High Risk Radon Zone**

Chairwoman Addonizio stated radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in the United States among non-smokers. She stated a radon mitigation system could cost approximately \$1,200 and draws the gas out from under the foundation. She encouraged everyone to test their home for radon. She stated radon testing kits are \$11 from the New York State Department of Health website.

Legislator Sullivan also encouraged everyone to test their house for radon. He stated he knows many homes in Mahopac have radon issues. He stated the testing is very easy. He stated he had to have a radon mitigation system installed in his home.

Legislator Castellano questioned if there are certain types of homes that are more susceptible to radon issues.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated no not really.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if the county facilities are tested for radon.

Chairwoman Addonizio requested that the Legislative Staff look into the past testing of the county facilities.

**Item #12 - FYI/2019 Putnam County Seedling Sale**

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated the Monarch Butterfly or Milkweed Butterfly are endangered. She stated the population has been declining over the past decade. She stated the use of herbicides has destroyed the milkweed plants which are the only plant that the Monarch

Caterpillars feed on. She stated we can do our part by making our environment pollinator friendly.

Legislator Sayegh this sale is part of the Soil and Water grant program.

**Item #13 - Other Business** – None.

**Item #14 – Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 8:48PM, Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to adjourn: Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.