Special Board Meeting
Public Hearing
on the
Tentative 2011 Budget
1869 Opera House, 35 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York

Thursday, December 2, 2010

Chairman calls the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Clerk calls the roll:

PRESENT: 23 Bolner, Borchert, Cooper, Doxsey, Flesland, Goldberg, Horn, Horton, Hutchings, Incoronato, Jeter-Jackson, Kelsey, Kuffner, MacAvery, Miccio, Rolison, Roman, Sadowski, Jr., Surman, Thomes, Traudt, Tyner, White.

PRESENT, LATE: 0

ABSENT: 2 Forman, Weiss.

QUORUM PRESENT.

Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag.

Clerk read notice of public hearing.

The Chairman declared the Public Hearing open.

The following individuals spoke on restoring funding to the Arts Council's budget:
Chris Silva, Executive Director, 1869 Opera House
Joan Henry - Mill Street Loft Outreach Programs
Edgar Rivera-Cash
Tenisha Shotes – Mill Street Loft – Girls in Empowerment
Xi-Xi Whittaker – Mill Street Loft
Benjamin Krevolin, Director, Arts Council
Peter Cascone

The following individuals spoke in support of the Mid Hudson Civic Center Funding - Kids on Ice Program:
Anna Doxsey
Jenny Greenland
Madchen Knauss
Paul Lloyd

The following individuals spoke in favor of restoring Mental Health America and CASA budgets:
Mary Rich
Jacki Brownstein
Judy Lombardi
Roland Patterson
Kevin Hazucha
Elizabeth Willis
Liza Bove
Susan Eagan
Judge DJ Amodeo
Judge Joan Posner

The following individuals spoke in support of funding Cornell Cooperative Extension, 4-H Program, Environment Program, Nutrition Program and Green Team Program:
Linda Keech
Cornelia Harris – Watershed
Bob Cohen
Michele Hicks
Tim Heuer
Veronica and Don Shepis
Stuart Findlay
Karmen Smallwood

The following individuals spoke in support of funding for the Human Rights Commission:
Wesley Lee
Elouise Maxey
Thomas Jefferson, Lent Street
Sakima Green-Brown
Earl Brown
Cathy Whittaman
Frank Jackson
Kathy Deutermann
Bill Quinn
Cynthia Fiore

Diane Norstrom
La-Joy Bryan
Anwar Kearney
Paul Wenver
Gareth Howard

The following individuals spoke in support of funding the Mental Hygiene - Methadone Program:
Adrienne Marcus

The following individuals spoke in support of funding for the Office of the Aging Friendship Centers:
Rosemarie Yasiejko
Cindy Lefebvre

The following individuals spoke in support of funding the Domestic Violence Program:
Leah Feldman
Judy Lombardi

The following individuals spoke in support of funding the Mediation Center:
Judy Lombardi
Judge DJ Amodeo
Judge Joan Posner
Mary Mulligan-Position in Probation working with Mediation cut

The following individuals spoke in support of the SPCA:
Joyce Garrity
Dan Flaherty
Gus Kazolias

The following individuals spoke in support of funding for the Environmental Water Lab in the Department of Health:
Dick Sewell
Robert Cicilian
Sandy Winters

The following individuals spoke in support of Hudson River Housing funding:
Gail Webster
Pat Keller
Carol Madrid
Mike Lincoln

The following individuals spoke in support of Fire Investigation Division – Department of Emergency Response:
Steve Shultis

The following individuals spoke in support of Wheels for Work Program:
Nasarima Foster
Tiera Heill
Desiree Kelly
Debra Goodpaster
Susan McNish
Richard Carlson spoke in favor of a progressive tax

The following individuals spoke in support of the Assigned Council Program:
Judge Valentino Sammarco
Judge Joan Posner
Cynthia Kasnai
Paul Callaagy

The following individuals spoke in support of reinstating the Maintenance Mechanic I to the Airport Budget:
Jeff Durand
Denise Spens-Gallagher
Anthony Wittek
Stan Ptasianski

The following individuals spoke in Support of restoring positions in the 2011 Tentative Budget:
Billy Riccalo, Member, CSEA
James DeWitt, 2nd Vice President, CSEA
Liz Piriano, President, Dutchess County Unit CSEA

The following individuals spoke in support of restoring the Youth Board:
Susan Hochhauser

There being no one else wishing to speak the Chairman declared the public hearing closed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.

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PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SPEAKERS LIST

December 2, 2010

PRINT NAME	ADDRESS AND EMAIL ADDRESS
✓ Chris Silva	Burdavon
✓ MARY RICH	CASA of Dutchess Co. / MHA
✓ Leah Feldman	w/ Kathy Graham 236 Main St PK NY 12601 / 1feldman@dutchess.ny.us Domestic Violence
✓ JACKI BROWNSTEIN	273 MANSION AVE PO'K CASA MHA Ex. Direct Mental Health Am
✓ Wesley J. Lee	106 Van Wagner Rd #6B Human Rights SAVE AT RISK - Non-fir profit
✓ Elouise Maxey	Human Rights Com / Sheriff
✓ Thomas Jefferson	Human Rights
✓ Rosemarie Yasiejko	D.C. OFA - E. Fishkill site Manager
✓ Cindy Lefebvre	D.C. OFA - site Manager
✓ ANNA DOXSEY	skate Coach
✓ Jenny Greenland	skate
✓ Madchen Knauss	Mid Hudson
✓ Paul Lody	Civic Center
S MAYHEW	
T MUSE	
✓ [illegible] Keech	Clinton Corners 4H, Nutrion, GIS, AgSv.
✓ Judy Lombardi	City of Poughkeepsie outreach - Grace Smith
✓ Cornelia Harris	City of Poughkeepsie - Water Shed Loop Ext. Environment
✓ JAKIMA Green-Brown	City of Poughkeepsie - Human Rights
✓ Earl Brown	Human Rights
✓ Joyce GARRITY	DCSPCA - MHA

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PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SPEAKERS LIST

December 2, 2010

PRINT NAME	ADDRESS AND EMAIL ADDRESS
Daniel Flaherty	SPCA
Bob Cohen	EMC, conservation Adv. 225 Gardner Hollow, Poughquag, NY
Roland Patterson	HVMH Inc. Poughkeepsie NY & Mental Health Clinics
Kevin Hazucha	HVMH Inc. KHazucha@HVMH.org
Elizabeth Willis	HVMH Inc EWillis@HVMH.org
Liza Bové	" " lbove@HVMH.org
Dick Sewell	97 Bedell Rd. Health Water Lab
Steven Farina	230 North Road Poughkeepsie NY Lexington Center LCFR
Gail Webster	ex. Dir. Hudson River Housing 313 Mill St Poughkeepsie NY 12601
Patrick Kellett	" Hudson River Housing
Joan Henry	45 Pershing Ave Pkeie NY 12601 Mill St. Loft
Egdar Rivera-Cash	" "
TR Sharpes	Mill Street Loft 45 Pesh Pkr NY
Xi-Xi Whitaker	
Kathy Deutermann	21 Hammersley Ave TRDeutermann@aol.com
~~Eloise Maxey~~	Human Rights, OFA
~~Frank Jackson~~	15 William St Beach NY Veterans
STEVE SHULTIS	107 OLD RT 52 P.O. BOX 116 STORMVILLE NY Fire Safety Adv. Bd.
Nasarima Foster	160 Mina Pl Apt D. POK NY 12601 Wheels for work
Tiera Hall	65 Garden St POK NY 12601 Wheels for w. for transp.
DESIRÉ KELLEY	P.O. BOX 5205 POK. NY 12602 Wheels for work
Tony LEG	100 Rochdale Rd Pok NY 12603

(3)

PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SPEAKERS LIST

December 2, 2010

PRINT NAME	ADDRESS AND EMAIL ADDRESS	
Mike Lincoln	HR Stat Housing	
Deb Goodpaster	Rymph Boulevard, Poughk	Whalo for work/ 75 o/o State Rend
RICH CARLSON	3 BOWDOIN LN WAPP FALLS	Progressive Top
CAROL MADRID	HV. Housing	
Michelle Hicks	of Rebecca Russell Hill Rd Rhinebeck NY	4-H
Susan Eagan	32 Old Post Rd Staatsburg NY 12580	Advocate CASA
Damian J. Amodeo	48 Hill and Hollow Rd Hyde Park NY 12538	mediation
Valentino Sammarco	6 Margaret Dr. Hyde Park N.Y. 12538	Public Defender
JOAN POSNER	28 Brentwood Dr. P.O., POK 12603	mediation center
Bill Quinn	130 Martin Rd. kb22mx@hotmail.com	Human Rights
Cynthia Fiore	TRT 82 Washington St POK 12601 Director, Tacone Resource of Ind.	
Benjamin Krevolin	BKREVOLIN@RCTDMIDHUDSON.ORG	
Tim HEUER & SISTER MARGO	heuer.timothy@gmail.com margo@sprouts creekfarm.org	need to speak for Green Coop. Ext. - Team Green Team -
La-Joy Bryen	11 so Mansion St. lajoy1125@yahoo.com	Human Rights
NS Robert L. Davidson	Stream Horizons Farm, Pawling NY 12564 Davidsonrob5@AOL.com	
MARY MULLIGAN	MEDIATION CENTER DUTCHESS COUNTY	POK of PINS 12601 - mediation
Veronica Schepis Domini	890 No Hill Side Rd Wappingers 12590	
Cynthia Kasnick	267 Mill Street Poughkeepsie NY 12601	Kasnickw@yahoo.com assigned counsel
PETER CASCONE	37 FOLAN ROAD AMENIA, NY 12501	POSTER@4-D.net Arts
JEFF DURAND	1207 RT 376 WAPPINGERS FALLS NY	Mechanic Airport JNJDURAND@OPTONLINE.NET
Denise Spens-Gallagher	6 Essex Rd. POK NY 12601	Mechanic Airport DeniseAM61@aol.com
Anthony Witter	95 Long Pond Rd. Rhinebeck, NY 12572	TheOriginalTCW@hotmail.com

Diane Horstrom, sign language interpreter - Human Rights Tacone Resource

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PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SPEAKERS LIST

December 2, 2010

	PRINT NAME	ADDRESS AND EMAIL ADDRESS
	Stan Ptasienski	1 Cobey terrace Poughkeepsie 12601 Airport Mechanic sardog1@yahoo.com
	Gus Kazolias	47 Noxon Street Pok N.Y.
	Robert Cicilioni	2 Newington Dr, Hyde Pk Sandy Winters Health Dept
	Stuart Findlay	Cary Inst. Findlay S@CaryInstitute.org Coop. Ext.
NS	DAVE PETROVITS	27 COMMERCE ST.
	PAUL CALLAGY	13 WESTVIEW TERRACE POK Public Defender calgaigh@yahoo.com
	~~LIZ PERANNO~~	
	BILLY RICCALO	10 DELCONO ST U1A CSEA
	Aladdin H. Metwally	86 Rhobella Dr Pough 12603 almetwally@hotmail.com
NS	Angeline Mollica	53 Akindale Rd Pawling
NS	Cheryl Mollica	53 Akindale Rd Pawling
NS	Arianna Saaldone	26 Spruce St Pawling
NS	Susie Wong	26 Spruce St Pawling
	~~Carola Madrid~~	40 Manitou ave. Poughk. Ste
NS	Carl Hyde	29 No Hamilton St
NS	Michael Gifford	29 No Hamilton St Pough
NS	Brenda Whitson	29 No Hamilton St. Pok.
NS	Michael Aiken	29 N. Hamilton Pok
	Anwar Kearney	29 S. Cherry Pok Human Rights
	~~Nancy Vidrio~~	~~29 N. Hamilton St Pough~~

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PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN
SPEAKERS LIST

December 2, 2010

	PRINT NAME	ADDRESS AND EMAIL ADDRESS
✓	Susan Hochhauser	Youth Board
NS	Ralph Coats	Youth Board
✓	PAUL WENZLER	
NS	Jo-Anne Vitolo 4H	Clinton Corners
NS	Victoria Vitolo	" "
NS	Kori Vitolo	" "
NS	Robert Vitolo	" "

County Employees

PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN
SPEAKERS LIST

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December 2, 2010

PRINT NAME	ADDRESS AND EMAIL ADDRESS
~~Rosemarie~~ James DeWitt	340 Willow Glen Rd Red Hook CSEA Remsteb positions
Karmen Smallwood	28 Stuyvestandt Drive, Poughkeepsie 4-H Coop
NS Shaunte Hess	29 Deller Rd. Highland, NY 12528 Taegirl78@hotmail.com
NS Michele Paterson	3 Merrimac Rd. Poughkeepsie NY 12603 mpaterson16@yahoo.c
Liz Pirano	CSEA

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PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SPEAKERS LIST

December 2, 2010

PRINT NAME	ADDRESS AND EMAIL ADDRESS
NS [illegible]	Vassar College
GARETH HOWARD	ROCKY REEF FARM STANFORDVILLE, NY Coop. Ext.

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PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SPEAKERS LIST

December 2, 2010

PRINT NAME	ADDRESS AND EMAIL ADDRESS
Susan MacNish	83 Valley View Rd. Pleasant Valley NY Progressive Tax

susanmacnish@yahoo.com

The Poughkeepsie Farm Project

Connecting Food, Farm and Community

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010

Kim Notin
Chair
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Farm Manager
Wendy Burkhart-Spiegel
Office and Garden Manager
Sarah Pappas
Assistant Farm Manager
Steve Hopkins
Market Manager
Jamie Levato
Education Manager

The Poughkeepsie Farm Project

P.O. Box 3143
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Tel: (845) 473-1415

info@farmproject.org
www.farmproject.org

December 1, 2010

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

First of all, I appreciate the challenge that you are facing in allocating our county resources during this budget cycle. At the same time, I am writing to ask you to keep in the forefront of your mind the needs and constraints of Dutchess County residents whose life situations are the most difficult– those with too many challenges, too limited a range choices and too few opportunities, those who look to our not-for-profits for support in getting the information and services that they need.

Specifically, I am writing on behalf of Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County. County funding leverages significant external funding that Cornell has secured to provide programs that impact many lives. If Cornell's programs and services are diminished and/or eliminated, the effect will be far-reaching and negative.

The Poughkeepsie Farm Project, like many non-profit organizations, implements programs collaboratively. In some cases, collaboration increases efficiency. In other cases, the goals of a program cannot be met without having community partners to work with. The interactions and collaborations we have across several Cornell program areas extend the reach and effectiveness of our efforts to build a just and sustainable food system, whether we are:

- Benefitting from Cornell's representation on our collaborative efforts to create a plan for a hunger-free community, starting with a baseline survey to document the issues with food access
- Leveraging the community presence of Cornell's nutrition educators who inform residents of our food accessibility programs, including using public benefits at the farmers' market or securing a season-long share of farm fresh produce that is subsidized (through private donations) for low-income families
- Sharing information with the many partners of Cornell's Nutrition Advisory Committee to make important county programs more effective and non-duplicative
- Providing farm-based education to Cornell's Green Teen urban youth, whose experiences provide them with a positive outlet and give the knowledge and skills to make healthy eating choices and to develop into productive adults
- Receiving technical agricultural advice or accessing a repository of information about farming in Dutchess County from Cornell's agriculture program
- Relying on the skills of Cornell-trained Master Gardener volunteers

The list above details some of the potential direct impacts of funding cuts to the work of the Poughkeepsie Farm Project. It doesn't list the ripple effect of how too many households, families and individuals would be impacted. It is these people – residents of Dutchess County whose quality of life, choices and opportunities will be negatively affected – that you should consider the most as you work with your colleagues to make difficult decisions about how to allocate our tax resources. I, for one, would be happy to pay more in taxes – for example, sacrifice eating a couple of meals out – for the sake of my fellow residents and the collective good of our county.

Best regards,
Susan Grove
Executive Director

Poughkeepsie City School District
George W. Krieger Elementary School
265 Hooker Avenue
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603
(845) 451-4660

Salvatore Letterii, Principal

11/29/10

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a third grade teacher at Krieger Elementary School in the Poughkeepsie City School District. I have worked with the Cornell Cooperative Extension Nutrition Program [CCENP] for the last five years. This program is a valuable asset to our inner city students. The children have learned great lessons that included reading labels, making healthy choices, and understanding the food pyramid to name a few. I am always delighted to see my children reading the labels during snack time and comparing them to each others. Once the program starts, I notice that the children start bringing in healthier snack choices such as fruit.

Working with the CCENP educators it is easy to see that they love working with children and put many hours into preparing their engaging lessons so that they are age appropriate, educational, and fun. My students eagerly look forward to their weekly lessons and anticipate what they will learn about each week.

This program is so valuable because many of our children may never otherwise receive the nutritional education they need to understand why nutrition is important to their lives. It is my opinion that early education of our students is imperative to reducing obesity and other nutrition issues in our country. To cut this program would be detrimental to the many students that benefit from such programs that explain and inform our children at an early age. Please reconsider cutting this program and allowing these fine people and their organization to continue to do what they do best… educate our children on a very important topic.

Sincerely,
Sue Brudnak

MY NAME IS CARL RENNIA AND I BELONG TO THE EASTERN DUTCHESS CHAPTER OF RELATIVES AS PARENTS PROGRAM, KNOW AS RAPP. THIS PROGRAM IS RUNNED UNDER THE CORNELL COOPERTATIVE EXTENSION OF DUTCHESS COUNTY. FEW INDIVIDUALS CAN COPE ALONE WITH THE MANY DEMANDS PLACED UPON THEM AS A CAREGIVER. EVEN THE STRONGEST PERSON NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF OTHERS DURING STRESSFUL TIMES. IN MY CASE I AM RASING 2 GRANDCHILDREN AND IN MY LOCAL CHAPTER THE AVERAGE CAREGIVER HAS 2 GRANDCHILDREN TO RAISE DUE TO SURCOMESTANDES WHICH MAY BE DRUG OR ALCHOL ADDICTION, PRISON OR EVEN ABANDAMENT. IN MOST CASES CHILDREN OF CERTAIN SURCOMESTANDES ARE PUT INTO FOSTER CARE AND CHILDREN ARE SEPERATED FROM THEIR FAMILY. BUT WITH RELATIVES TAKING THE BURDEN AND COST FACTOR AWAY FROM THE STATE ADD'S A SENSE OF FAMILY UNIT WITH EACH CHILD.

HAVING A SUPPORT GROUP AS RAPP HELPS US CAREGIVERS A CHANCE TO LEARN ABOUT PROGRAMS TO HELP US OUT IN OUR CARE FOR THESE CHILDREN. TO DATE WE HAVE FORMED 3 RAPP CHAPTERS IN DUTCHESS COUNTY WITH OVER 150 MEMBERS AND STILL GROWING. THESE LOCAL CHAPTERS HAVE BEEN A MAJOR HELP IN OUR LIVES BY PROVIDING SO MANY SERVICES.

ONE OF THE SERVICES THAT IS PROVIDED IS THE RAPP YOUTH GROUP- WHICH PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITES THAT PROMOTE POSITIVE PEER AND FAMILY RELATONSHIPS IN A FUN AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT.

ALONG WITH OUR MONTLY MEETINGS WE HAVE EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS THAT FOCUSES ON DIFFERENT PRINCIPLES OF PARENTING. THE GROUPS ARE ALSO INFORMED OF ALL THE RESOURCES OUT THERE TO HELP US IN AREAS OF NEED EVEN THROUGH GUEST SPEAKERS.

INFORMATION AND PROGRAMS DIRECTED TO THE RAPP PROGRAM COULD NOT BE POSSIABLE WITHOUT CORNELL

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AND OUR RELATIVES AS PARENT PROGRAM COORDANTOR NINA DOYLE AND HER STAFF. THESE EDUCATORS HAVE BECOME OUR LIFE LINE TO UNDERSTANDING MANY ISSUES WE FACE AS BEING KINSHIP CAREGIVERS. THEY WORK IN GETTING GRANTS SO WE CAN GO PLACES THAT NORMALLY THE CAREGIVER CAN ONLY DREAM OF. WE WERE BLESSED THIS YEAR WITH WONDERFUL TRIPS AND THE SENSE OF FAMILY THROUGH OUT THE YEAR.

ONE THING THAT IS SAID OFTEN AMONG THE RELATIVE CAREGIVERS IS THAT WHEN THE CHLDREN ARE ALL TOGETHER NO ONE IS DIFFERENT BECAUSE OF A LACK OF A PARENT IN THEIR LIVES.

SO WITH THAT NOTE I AM ASKING THE LEGISLATORS OF DUTCHESS COUNTY TO CONSIDER NOT CUTTING THE RELATIVES AS PARENTS PROGRAM. WE NEED THE CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION IN OUR AREA. IT HELPS WITH OUR YOUTH, INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITIES HELP THEMSELVES. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

Carl Rennia

CARL RENNIA
459 OLD RT 22
AMENIA, NY 12501
(845) 373-8602

FROM THE "ALBANY WATCH" BLOG AT POUGHKEEPSIEJOURNAL.COM

State Education Commissioner David Steiner announced Monday that he has granted a waiver so publishing executive Cathie Black can take over as chancellor of the New York City school system. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg nominated her, but he needed a state waiver because Black does not have all the education and experience required under state law to serve in such a position.

Black, chairwoman of the board of Hearst Magazines, will replace outgoing Chancellor Joel Klein.

Want to read about the latest goings-on in Albany? Go to the "Albany Watch" blog on the Poughkeepsie Journal Web site, www.poughkeepsiejournal.com, and click on the blogs link. "Albany Watch" is a behind-the-scenes look at state government and politics from the capital bureau of Gannett News Service.

his mean that in addition to ncreased taxes and the elim- nation of garbage service, ou are going to fine us when thers litter on our property?

The best way to increase x rolls in the City of Pough- eepsie is to promote a clean, afe, business-friendly envi- onment that will encourage evelopment. The short-term fect, reducing this line on e budget, will create the ng-term effect of being anti- urist, anti-business, anti-in- stment and anti-tenant. The proposed $400,000 cuts will result in millions in revenue lost to this ill-conceived proposition.

Donna Levinson
Poughkeepsie

Not-for-profits vital to our communities

As former Dutchess County legislators, we were disturbed to learn of the county executive's severely reduced funding to not-for-profit agencies in his proposed 2011 budget. We were alarmed to read a letter in your newspaper from Paul Rinker, ("Kudos to Steinhaus for slimmer budget," Nov. 12).

Mr. Rinker and others need to know that salaries for employees in the not-for-profit world are far lower than those in the private sector, and the agencies in question perform very necessary functions that would be far more expensive to taxpayers were they incorporated into the government.

In an economic downturn, there is an increased need for homeless shelters, mental-health services, mediation and an improved quality of life, which is now provided by the Dutchess County Arts Council.

We strongly urge the Dutchess County Legislature to restore some, if not all, funding to the contract agencies, which make life viable and worth living in Dutchess County.

Colette M. Lafuente
Longboat Key, Fla.
Kip Bleakley O'Neill
Poughkeepsie

USA TODAY
www.usatoday.com
Report: Ga
Pentagon survey shows most see mixed/no effect

Dutchess County Legislature Board Meeting
Thursday, December 3, 2010 @ 7:00 pm

I'm Linda Keech, the Executive Director for Dutchess County's Cooperative Extension. With me tonight is our Board President, Laurie Rich from Rhinebeck. On behalf of our Board, thank-you once more for this opportunity.

Everything we do is in strict compliance with New York State Law Section 224 that states: "Cooperative extension work in a county may consist of programs in the fields of agriculture, home economics, 4-H and community betterment." As a subordinate **governmental** 501C3 agency, our funding is **legally** dependent upon County appropriated dollars.

We THANK the Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee for their hard work and for the three Amendments proposing to restore funds to 49%.

The **Good News** is that these amendments will:

- Allow the continuation of 4-H through staff and program restructuring.
- Provide some of the much needed match dollars for nutrition programming and additional direct services to residents.
- Allow the continuation of GIS programs and services.
- Provide minimal production agriculture services.

You've previously heard what the 84% County Executive's proposed budget would mean. A 51% - $474,779 Reduction will mean less drastic impacts . but **significant** none the less. – The **Bad News** is:

- 12 positions will be lost resulting in eliminated and reduced programs and services for your Dutchess County residents and communities. A significant change from what you know today.

You've heard from many of our constituents these past weeks – and I'd like to recognize many more who have come in support of CCEDC tonight and **ASK THEM TO STAND UP** while I finish speaking.

They are here because they value what CCEDC offers and provides.

Whether it's our primary prevention youth programs for Green Teens and 4-Hers who are our future workforce, community and political leaders; - -

Our diagnostics – trainings - and research for farmers whose small family businesses are critical to our economy, local food supplies and our open spaces; - -

Our nutrition and financial management education for Families and individuals who are striving to make healthy choices and struggle with their own limited resources; - -

The tools and resources utilized by Dutchess County municipalities and organizations to make more informed and collaborative decisions regarding land use, environmental issues and our natural resources.

These are your Dutchess County residents and taxpayers. These are who we serve.

And in respect for our legislators and others here tonight, knowing that some of our supporters may have planned to speak, please consider handing in your written comments to me, or someone else, to pass on, in lieu of speaking.

To quote Edwin Markahm "Choices are the hinges of destiny."

Your legislative decisions shape our choices and destiny. We **are** prepared to make difficult choices, however - we also ask you to please consider the Budget Committee's proposed amendments and anything else that you can. Our choices hinge on your decisions next week and later in December. We recognize you have not 1, but hundreds of interrelated and complex decisions in front of you. THANK YOU for your consideration.

Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council

(845) 677-5253
(845) 677-0708 (fax)
www.dcemc.org

Farm and Home Center 2715 Route 44, Suite 2 Millbrook, NY 12545

To: Dutchess County Legislature

My name is Bob Cohen and I am speaking on behalf of the Dutchess County Environmental Management Committee and the Conservation Advisory Council's for the 21 towns in Dutchess County. I am the co-chair of the EMC, and a member of the Beekman CAC. Working with the team from the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County, the EMC has achieved significant accomplishments that would not have been possible without a joint team effort. Some examples of these accomplishments are:

- The recent award winning Natural Resource Inventory update
- The prescription drug disposal program
- The recyclable shopping bag program
- The bottle recycle programs at local schools
- Reports regarding the Mile a Minute weed, Lyme disease, and flooding of our streams.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without partnering with the Cornell Extension staff. Loss of their support for the EMC will severely impair the EMC's ability to perform our mission.

In addition, the Cooperative Extension's staff hosted many programs throughout the year to provide skills and information to CACs, municipal officials and the public. These programs provided valuable information for many different topics. For example, as a member of the Beekman CAC, I used these skills to evaluate potential environmental impacts of proposed development projects in the Town of Beekman. The evaluations were presented to the Beekman Planning Board and used in deciding the number of houses they should permit and whether further environmental studies would be required. Loss of the educational programs will, in the long run, increase the costs to Dutchess County taxpayers.

The Cooperative Extension is also doing very important outreach to help manage water quality and quantity issues in Dutchess County. The recent pattern of rain and drought is causing cycles of flooding and drying up of wells that have a severe economic impact in the County. The Cooperative Extension is helping towns plan methods to mitigate this affect and has educated residents on proper land use techniques. The grants that are funding this effort in Dutchess County require matching county dollars that we will lose if funding is not restored for this Cooperative Extension program.

The Dutchess County investment in the Cooperative Extension has a very worthwhile return and I strongly request that the 2010 budget be reinstated for 2011.

Thank you for your consideration

The programs provided by this agency are partially funded by moneys received from the County of Dutchess.

Christian F Rohrbach
191 Overlook Rd
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
December 2, 2010

Robert Rolison
Chairman of the Legislature
Dutchess County Legislature

Dear Chairman Rolison:
I am writing to ask you to support increasing the funding for the environment and energy programs of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County.

I am the LaGrange citizen representative on the Wappinger Creek Intermunicipal Council (WIC) and a member of the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) for the Town of LaGrange.

The WIC provides an important link between the stakeholder communities that make up the Wappinger Creek Watershed. The problems of one community can directly affect all other communities in the watershed. A county-wide agency like CCE which carries out research projects, such as the Septic Soil Survey measuring the effect of septic density on groundwater quality and Stream Temperature Survey measuring the health of the watershed environment, provides a vital service. The coordination and support that the CCE provides to these volunteer committees is the linchpin that keeps them running.

The CACs are supported by, among other things, important and changing geographic information systems (GIS) data from CCE that is used every month to evaluate the impact of development projects on the community. This data identifies location and density of endangered species, wetland buffers, soil composition and other important information. In addition, threat advisories on environmental issues, such as Mile A Minute vine, Emerald Ash Borer, and Asian Longhorn Beetle, are essential to adopting timely and effective community action plans.

The investment in retaining these important services is small. If we fail to do so, the cost in our future is much larger.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Christian F. Rohrbach

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

My name is Will Jobs and I work for the Vassar College Environmental Research Institute. However, I grew up in Wappingers Falls and have lived in Dutchess County my entire life. Living in Dutchess County, I came to cherish the beauty of our landscape, the quality of our natural resources, and especially the pristine water bodies our county is fortunate enough to encompass. As I grew up, I came to appreciate any and all of the education offered to me about my local environment. From swimming, to fishing, to boating, to hiking, to running and more, I enjoyed the outdoors of the Hudson Valley, but appreciated them more so when I came to know more about the natural processes at work and how human impact them.

This is where things like the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County Environment and Energy Program come in. I knew growing up that there were many volunteer organizations in the area, and that there were frequent stream cleanups and film screenings and educational opportunities to be found throughout Dutchess County, but until I got my job with the Environmental Research Institute, I never understood who it was the coordinated all of this. Cornell Cooperative Extension does a massive job orchestrating large-scale events like Dutchess Watershed Awareness Month, which, this past year, incorporated over 40 events (drawing near a thousand people in the month of July) ranging from hikes to cleanups to kayaking, and more. They also organized the hugely successful rainbarrel workshops, wherein citizens pay a small fee and get provided with all of the materials as well as instruction to build a rainbarrel they can take home. To illustrate the success of just these workshops, when we opened registration for all five of our rainbarrel workshops of July, registration was filled within three days, and we ended up with a waiting list of about 75 people. Clearly the interest is there.

Without Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County's Environment and Energy Program, none of this would be possible. Dutchess County residents appreciate their local area and enjoy learning more about it. Dutchess County prominently touts working for the environment (which is one reason it was decided to use L.E.D. lights on the Walkway-over-the-Hudson, for instance). Volunteering, which is known to both build greater camaderie and connection to one's community, as well as improve it by virtue of working to restore it, would be more difficult without the Environment and Energy Program, as large-scale efforts would be harder to organize without a central-body like this program.

For all of these reasons and more, I ask that you *please* restore level funding for the Environment and Energy Program at Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,

Will Jobs

Environmental quality is something Dutchess County always boasts of and that residents prize. Water quality, habitat richness, aesthetic quality, and other environmental amenities are good for our communities, our kids, and our property values. If they're good for property values and community stability, then they're good for tax revenue in the county. There are few parts of the county budget that support environmental quality, and there are many parts that can to undermine environmental quality. Cornell Cooperative Extension uses county funding efficiently to support the amenities we prize. They support and empower community groups. They maintain and provide data with which we can monitor environmental quality. They provide linkages among community groups, the research community, and local government. Without Cornell Cooperative Extension, who would serve these functions, and who would aid county residents in safeguarding the public goods that make this a good place to live?

As an academic, I'm fully scheduled most of the time (including this evening). I often don't have time to share what I know about the county with residents who could benefit from more, more current, knowledge of the local environment. The CCEDC staff provide this knowledge support to the community. I'm grateful that they are here, and I think losing them would cause lasting harm to our abilities to understand and to safeguard Dutchess County's environmental resources.

Thank you,

Mary Ann Cunningham
Department of Earth Science and Geography
Vassar College

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Jennifer Dinsmore. My daughter Ahna, is a new Cloverbud. She is learning to ride and I love the opportunity she will get learning about horses with her peers. I also think having the chance to do a presentation in March is wonderful. It will build her confidence and speaking skills. I believe, in this day and age, many children do not have the responsibility of thinking for themselves; "outside the box" so too speak. I think 4-H gives children mature chances. I ask that you please keep funding for this program so my daughter will be able to progress in 4-H.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dinsmore
Mother of Ahna, Cloverbud, Allstrides
Dutchess County.

Hi my name is Angelina Mollica and I'm 9 years old, I have been in 4-H for 1 year, it was my first year. I learned so much in 4-H and I want to learn more in 4-H. If 4-H was taken away from me I would not be able to learn more about my horse and I wont be able to learn more how to ride. I'm in All-Strides horse club I hope 4-H keeps going on.

Sincerly,
Angelina
Mollica

To who this may concern,

I believe 4-h should not be discontinued because 4-H is a good club to learn about new things you never knew. 4-h makes learning fun as you share the same interust with the other kids in the group. Without 4-h I would not of known all I do today. Also, now I know things about my horse like how to take better care of them. Thanks to 4-h I improved my riding. If there was know 4-h I would not of improved my riding. As you can see please don't discontinue 4-h because without 4-h I wouldn't of known what I know today.

Thanks for your time

Jessica Schneider

11/13/10

To whom this may concern

My name is Christian Mollica, I am 11 yrs. old. I just joined 4-h and im excited to learn everything that I can about goats. My brother Cross and I are in the same group. Our 4H group is a good way to learn about the goats we are going to be getting. If 4H is shut down we will not know as much as we need to for the arrivel of the goats.

11/13/10

To whom this may Concern

My name is Cross Mollica I am 5 years old and Im a Cloverbud. I just joined 4H and Im excited to learn all that I can about goats. My brother Christian and I are in the same 4H Club together. I have made alot of new friends. I Like going to the meetings and learning about goats. I Cant wait to get my own goat and take it to fair. My mom drives a long way to go to our meetings.

Hello my name is Cheryl Mollica and I am the mother of Cross Mollica. I have seen a wonderful change in my son at our 4H meetings. He is excited to go and is starting to really open up. I personally think this is such a positive experience for my children, the knowledge and the hands on experience I dont think they could obtain through any other program. I hope for their sakes and all the other children in 4H that they will continue to be funded.

Dear,

Hi my name is Gracie Eichinger I am 10 years old, I am a member of Allstrides 4H. 4H has taught many things such as making friends, learning about horses ect. If 4H was taken away from my life I would not have learned all these things I have listed above. I look forward to learning more in the future if you allow to be a future

Sincerely,
Gracie

I am apart of All Strides 4-h horse club. I will be very disappointed if 4-h is gone. I have learned alot about horses. I learned about the body parts of the horse. The foot, Saddle part and much more. I met lots of people that have the same intrists as me. I love 4-H!!!

from,
Victoria Vitolo
Victoria Vitolo

My name is Arianna Scialdone.
I'm 9 years old and a member of All Strides.
I'm the treasurer in All Strides. I have
been in 4-H for four years and
I loved it! I loved learning more
about my horse. I was in Hoof Prints before
All Strides. My riding skills have improved
and I learned more to horses then I ever
thought. Such as what is in a good horse
and a good rider. This year I will be
doing cross rails and I'm so excited
to do so. 4-H is such a big part of my
life so is horseback riding so I want
to do 4-H for a long time to come.

Sincerly,
Arianna Scialdone

November 20, 2010

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing in concern regarding the 2011 budget effecting Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County. I am in my second year of volunteering as a 4H leader, also my daughter is in her 4th year of being a 4H member in the Horse Program. I have grown up in 4H myself, ten years in a horse program in Westchester County. I learned a tremendous amount in those years about horses and continued it on to successful career with horses. I have sadly seen the cut of the program in Westchester County leading to very little 4H for the children of Westchester. I would hate to see the same happen in Dutchess County.

Every year we prepare and look forward to the projects leading us up to the Dutchess County Fair. Everyone I know looks forward to the 4H animals, showing and of course the snack bar. The fair wouldn't be the same with 4H not being a huge part of the fair. Our 4H club really focuses on learning through doing, we volunteer, help other local charities and as a group we are learning and growing together. I have always found the 4H program a well rounded program that prepares our children for living a better life and the challenges that they will face in college.

I am a small business owner in Dutchess County, volunteering as a 4H leader has been a highlight for me and my fellow club leaders and of course our great group of children in our club. I would hate to see what has happened to Westchester happen to Dutchess. My fondest childhood memories have been with 4H and the Grange Fair. As an adult I do go back to the fair it is just not the same. Please do not let that happen to Dutchess County.

Regards,

Susie Wong

Susie Wong

AllStrides 4H

Dutchess Horse & Rider

December 2, 2010

Don Jiskra
15 Dodge Road
Pawling, NY 12564
(845) 855-7357

Dutchess County Legislature
Poughkeepsie, NY

Honorable Legislators:

I am writing to you as a tax payer and voter of Dutchess County to ask that you restore the funding for Cornell Cooperative Extension Service Dutchess County (CCEDC) to the 2010 level. In particular, my comments apply to the Environmental and Energy Programs (EEP).

I am by nature wary of the effectiveness of government sponsored programs. However, I firmly believe that it is the proper role of local government to be a steward of local natural resources. While protecting the environment is a worthy end in itself, the benefits of doing so extend to our local economy and quality of life. The Dutchess County government is a key participant in protecting the valuable natural environment within its borders. Particularly here in Pawling, the draw for purchasing property and homes is largely driven by the beauty of our open spaces. Throughout the County there are innumerable recreational activites tied to the quality of our water, views, and biodiversity. Degradation of the environmental quality in Dutchess County will lead directly to reduced demand for housing and tourism.

I serve as the Conservation Chair of the MidHudson Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU). I am also active with the Pawling Conservation Advisory Board. Both TU and the Pawling CAB have benefited greatly in the recent past from support provided by the CCEDC EEP. CCEDC EEP is the single most effective local organization in providing information and coordinating science based work related to protecting the environment of Dutchess County.

In 2010 TU provided volunteers and funding for a CCEDC EEP led study of the tributaries of Wappingers Creek. TU will use the findings of this study to focus our conservation efforts in the coming years. This is the first strategic study of its kind for us. We plan to use the methods taught to us by the CCEDC Environmental Education, Carolyn Klocker, to conduct other such studies in the other Dutchess Watersheds. Carolyn has also spoken to our membership about the Dutchess watersheds, she gave us a great presentation that was very well received. She also gave a presentation at our annual fundraiser that will help us grow our Stewardship Fund. Losing Carolyn's position due to funding cuts will have a negative impact on our ability to carry out our mission of protecting Dutchess County cold water habitat.

The Pawling CAB benefits from the CCEDC EEP in several valuable ways. Promoting watershed awareness is a key goal of the CAB. The Creek Week watershed awareness programs organized by Carolyn are in perfect alignment with the CAB goals and were a resounding success. All the activities were very well attended here in Pawling the last two summers. EEP helped us educate the local community about the value of protecting our local streams and conserving water. Watching our local children get excited about clean water bugs under a microscope, seeing new rain barrels connected to homes: these things would not have been possible without the work of CCEDC EEP. Last month I attended the Watershed Forum organized by Carolyn Klocker at the CCEDC Farm and Home Center. For the first time I am aware of, the County's CACs got together to discuss challenges and opportunities related to protecting their local watersheds. This forum promises to be extremely valuable to all the CACs going forward, but it can not go forward without continuing the County funding of CCEDC at 2010 levels.

Please do the right thing for our County and restore the funding for CCEDC!

Thanks,

Don Jiskra

HUDSON VALLEY MENTAL HEALTH, INC.

Kevin M. Hazucha, LCSW-R, President

BEACON CLINIC
223 Main Street
Beacon, New York
12508-2770
845/838-4900
Fax: 845/838-4915

EASTERN DUTCHESS CLINIC
7 Market Street
Dover Plains, New York
12522-5136
845/877-4100
Fax: 845/877-4112

MILLBROOK CLINIC
131 County House Road
Millbrook, New York
12545-6148
845/677-4050
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MAIN OFFICE
POUGHKEEPSIE CLINIC
230 North Road
Poughkeepsie, New York
12601-1386
845/486-2703
TTY: 845/486-2767
Fax: 845/486-2865

RHINEBECK CLINIC
6529 Springbrook Avenue
Rhinebeck, New York
12572-3709
845/876-2006
Fax: 845/876-5641

December 2, 2010

Mr. Robert Rolison
Chairman. Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Presentation to the Legislature

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to address the Dutchess County Legislature at this hearing. I am here tonight to request that you take the proper action and restore the proposed cut of $100,000 to the 2011 contract that Hudson Valley Mental Health Inc (HVMH) has with Dutchess County. Please be reminded that our contract has already been reduced by more than $200,000. The additional proposed cut makes no fiscal sense and it would be irresponsible and harmful to Dutchess County residents.

HVMH provides crucial outpatient mental health treatment services to more than 4000 individuals annually at our five clinics spread throughout the County. We are the public face of outpatient mental health clinic services in Dutchess County. Our service offerings include direct face to face individual sessions with licensed professionals including social workers, nurse practitioners and psychiatrists. These programs had previously been operated by Dutchess County. We are providing the services at roughly 2/3 of the cost that the County had incurred which is producing significant savings for taxpayers. HVMH provides quality services without a wait list and regardless of an individual's ability to pay. However, we require County assistance in the form of deficit funding in meeting the mandate for services. Our program offerings are cost effective as they divert from much more costly alternatives such as psychiatric hospitalizations and incarceration.

The proposed cut to our contract would result in a reduction in our much needed services. Our clients are already beset by myriad serious mental health problems only made worse by the poor condition of the economy and the resulting layoffs and added stress to their compromised support systems. Individuals who are unable to receive our treatment are likely to engage in behavior that is harmful to themselves and others in the community. It is frankly grossly irresponsible to create a system that denies treatment to our vulnerable population. Please do the right thing and restore the funding.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Hazucha, LCSW-R President HVMH

HVMH Clinics are licensed by the New York State Office of Mental Health and are partially funded by Dutchess County Department of Mental Hygiene

HUDSON VALLEY MENTAL HEALTH, INC (HVMH)

FACT SHEET

- Hudson Valley Mental Health Inc (HVMH) is a private non profit organization. It operates five clinics in Dutchess County.
- Clinics are located in Poughkeepsie, Beacon, Dover, Rhinebeck and Millbrook.
- All clinics are licensed by the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) as Article 31 outpatient clinics.
- Revenue is generated strictly through billing for services provided. Deficit funding assistance is provided by Dutchess County.
- HVMH provides approximately 38,000 units of service (ie visits) annually. HVMH treats over 4,000 individuals during the course of a year.

Mission:

Hudson Valley Mental Health Inc (HVMH) provides clinical outpatient mental health services to residents of Dutchess County. Services provided are accessible, cost effective, recipient oriented and dedicated to quality improvement.

Programs/Activities:

Treatment service offerings include:

- Assessment
- Individual Therapy
- Group Therapy
- Psychiatric Evaluation
- Medication/Medication Management
- Services in Spanish are offered at the Beacon and Poughkeepsie sites, services in American Sign Language are also offered across all sites.

Staff:

- HVMH staff of 70 includes Psychiatrists, Licensed Social Workers, Nurse Practitioners and Support Staff.

All individuals receiving treatment at HVMH are diagnosed with serious mental illness and many have a concomitant substance abuse disorder. Typically a client of HVMH is provided individual and/or group therapy sessions by a licensed Social Worker and is followed by the prescriber (Psychiatrist and/or Nurse Practitioner) for psychiatric medication and medication management. Each client has an individualized service plan which is reviewed by the treatment team.

LEXINGTON CENTER FOR RECOVERY, INC.

Treating People with Alcoholism and Drug Dependency Since 1982
SERVING DUTCHESS AND WESTCHESTER COUNTIES
www.lexingtonctr.org

AGENCY HEADQUARTERS
116 Radio Circle, Suite 307
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549
Tel: 914-666-0191
Fax: 914-666-9107

POUGHKEEPSIE COUNSELING CENTER
20 Manchester Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
Tel: 845-486-2950
Fax: 845-486-2999

BEACON COUNSELING CENTER
249 Main Street
Beacon, NY 12508
Tel: 845-765-2366
Fax: 845-765-2367

EASTERN DUTCHESS COUNSELING CENTER
7 Market Street
P. O. Box 696
Pawling, NY 12522
Tel: 845-877-4100
Fax: 845-877-4112

MAIN STREET COUNSELING CENTER
412 Main Street, 2nd floor
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
Tel: 845-486-8880
Fax: 845-486-8885

MILLBROOK COUNSELING CENTER
131 County House Road
Millbrook, NY 12545
Tel: 845-677-4050
Fax: 845-677-4056

RHINEBECK COUNSELING CENTER
6529 Springbrook Avenue
Rhinebeck, NY 12572
Tel: 845-876-2006
Fax: 845-876-5641

METHADONE MAINTENANCE TREATMENT PROGRAM
30 North Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
Tel: 845-486-2850
Fax: 845-486-2770

November 16, 2010

Robert Rolison, Chairman
Dutchess County Legislature
County Office Building
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Mr. Rolison:

I have just been informed by Margaret Hirst, Division Chief, Chemical Dependency Services, Dutchess County Department of Mental Hygiene, that the proposed 2011 County budget reduces Lexington Center for Recovery's funding for our Methadone Maintenance Treatment Program $20,000. With the pass thru in federal funding, this amounts to a total reduction of $53,496.00.

This budget cut will undoubtedly result in a severe reduction in the services we have been providing to the heroin-addicted residents of Dutchess County. Presently, this service is operating at capacity and is serving approximately 250 individuals. Our staffing pattern in this program is mandated by state and federal regulations. Our counseling staff cannot have caseloads of more than 50. Therefore, if this budget cut is actualized, we would be forced to eliminate one counseling position reducing our capacity to 200.

Fifty individuals in need of treatment will not be receiving that treatment. This can only have deleterious effects on both the individual and the community. As you may be aware, there is a strong relationship between heroin addiction and criminal activity. Research has shown that methadone is the most effective treatment for heroin addiction. Therefore we would hope that the legislature will vote to maintain current funding levels for the only methadone clinic in Dutchess County.

Sincerely,

LEXINGTON CENTER FOR RECOVERY, INC.

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Fax: 845-677-4056

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6529 Springbrook Avenue
Rhinebeck, NY 12572
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Fax: 845-876-5641

METHADONE MAINTENANCE TREATMENT PROGRAM
230 North Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
Tel: 845-486-2850
Fax: 845-486-2770

Adrienne Marcus, Ph.D., CASAC
Executive Director

Cc: William Steinhaus, County Executive
Dr. Kenneth M. Glatt, Commissioner, DCDMH

Smith Metropolitan
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

124 Smith Street * Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
Office: 845.454.1913 * Church: 845.485.8014
E-mail: smithstreetamez@verizon.net
Web-site: www.smamezionchurch.org
Fax: 845.454.3398

The Ret. Rev George E. Battle, Jr. Bishop *Dr. Cynthia Willis-Stewart,* Presiding Elder

Dr. H. Dwight Bolton, D.Th., Pastor

Dec. 1, 2010

To the Honorable Members of the Dutchess County Legislators and particularly Members of the Budget & Finance Committee. I bring you greetings from the Members and Citizens of the Historical Smith Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church.

Thank you for your invaluable service to the citizens of our County. Due to a conflict in my schedule, I am unable to attend this public hearing but I do want to express my concerns regarding the funding of the Human Rights Commission. The Commission is very well needed in our community. Historically it has provided advocacy for those who have no means to litigate or voice to be heard. Today more than ever the Commission still stands as a defender of equality and justice for all; principles on which the country was founded and I'm sure you embrace.

Therefore, I ask that you restore funding for the Human Rights Commission.

Sincerely,

The Reverend Dr. H. Dwight Bolton
Pastor

To: Dutchess County Legislators

From: Tom Lynch, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair, Environmental Science and Policy Department, Marist College

12-2-10

Re: Environment and Energy Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension

I have lived and worked in Dutchess County for over 19 years. I would like to make some comments about the proposed budget cuts to the Environment and Energy Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension from the perspective of an environmental professional. I am part of a cadre of local environmental scientists who are associated with institutions like the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Vassar College, Marist College, private consulting firms, and government agencies. We hold advanced degrees in areas like aquatic ecology, geology, chemistry, hydrology, and watershed management. We routinely give freely of our time and share our expertise with local organizations and task forces who are trying to conserve and remediate our local environment. In this effort, we are often supported by the institutions for whom we work and by dozens of volunteers who we work with as equal partners. The expertise and effort that we provide would easily cost the county or local governments thousands of dollars per year if they were to go out and contract for similar services with private consultants. We volunteer our time and effort because we feel that we are having a positive impact on our communities, that we are making a difference, that our efforts are useful and effective. We have been involved in the development of watershed management plans for the Casperkill Creek, the Fall Kill, Fishkill Creek, and Wappinger's Creek. We have provided guidance for preservation and restoration efforts on the Landsman Kill, the Ten Mile, and the Swamp River. We have collaborated to produce recommendations on stream management and flood control and we have helped to rewrite the Natural Resources Inventory that was recently released.

I personally feel that the effectiveness of our efforts is strongly tied to the Environment and Energy program of CCE. The staff of this program provides the glue that holds all of these efforts together. The staff positions proposed for elimination are the ones that provide the leadership, organization, and direction for the initiatives that we contribute to. The staff provide coordination among us and with the vast network of dedicated volunteers throughout the county who are concerned about the health of our environment and the quality of our communities. But as anyone who has worked with organizations heavily dependent on volunteers knows, people come and go. Without some centralized full time leadership, continuity and forward momentum are quickly lost. Institutional memories fade quickly. People forget what projects have been done, what the outcomes were, and where the data are stored. The Environment and Energy Program serves all of these purposes. In addition, the Environment and Energy Program provides outreach to, and education for, the general public about the efforts and the findings that the projects have produced thereby greatly increasing the impact of the work effort.

Should these kinds of functions, currently provided by the Environment and Energy Program, be lost even for a short period, they will be very difficult to retrieve. Staff will disappear, volunteer networks will break down, coordination will vanish, and people like myself will be less inclined to get involved if we perceive our efforts are frustrated by lack of follow-up and future actions that only a full time staff can provide.

I realize that these are tough economic times, that funds are tight, and competition for available resources is intense. The argument can be made that we can't afford to keep this program. However, given all the environmental problems facing the county, the nation, and the planet, like energy shortages, transitioning to alternative energy technologies, climate change, sprawl, threats to water quality and quantity, and flooding issues, I would argue that we can't afford to not have this program in place. Without the leadership and coordination provided by the Environment and Energy Program, the quality of life in Dutchess County will erode. We will lose the health and economic benefits, aesthetic qualities, and recreational amenities our environment and open spaces provide, the very things that those of us who live in Dutchess County cherish and others envy.

Please consider restoring full funding support for this vital program.

November 27, 2010

Subject: Office for the Aging Friendship Center Budget Cuts

Dear Dutchess County Legislators,

This year, the Office for the Aging Friendship Centers suffered the loss of one day per week of services to our congregate and homebound clients due to budgetary cuts. The 2011 budget again cuts our services by closing three centers. This is to be accomplished by consolidating sites: Fishkill will be combined with Beacon and, Millerton and Pawling will be combined with South Amenia. Servicing these entire territories from such remote locations is not sustainable. What looks good on papers does not work out in the field.

As the Site Manager for the East Fishkill Friendship Center, who deals directly with the end user, I can speak of my own personal experiences. When I was hired in 1996, it was to open a new center in East Fishkill in order to expand Office for the Aging's service area. Even now, we have what are referred to as "dead zones." These are areas without coverage because they are too far away for any center to reach. Consolidating centers will necessitate the creation of even larger "dead zones."

Whenever possible, we site managers assist one another in reaching clients that border our locations, because we know how vital our services are for those in need of them. For instance, our Pawling center assists with meal deliveries to some of the more remote parts of East Fishkill. Just last week, I accepted a client, who is technically out of my service area. No volunteers from the center handling this area were willing to travel that far. Since we already make deliveries close to this location, we were able to handle the client. Prior to the opening of the East Fishkill Friendship Center, this client would have fallen in a "dead zone."

Originally, the East Fishkill territory was serviced by our Fishkill Friendship Center. There were only two congregate participants that were picked up from East Fishkill and far fewer homebound clients were able to be serviced. Our growth in East Fishkill necessitated the addition of another volunteer delivery route many years ago.

Much of our homebound program functions but by the grace of wonderful volunteers who deliver meals to our clients. It was much more difficult to find, and hold onto, volunteers willing to come all the way from East Fishkill to pick up meals in Fishkill, deliver them in East Fishkill and then return the equipment back to Fishkill. To maintain an active volunteer base, it is also necessary to limit the length of time it takes to do a meal delivery run, preferably to not more than an hour and a half. Please also keep in mind that the majority of our volunteers are seniors themselves.

For my center alone, the staff driver, on average, puts on 160 miles per day between pick-ups/take homes of congregate clients and homebound meal deliveries. The first congregate clients to be picked up are on the van for two hours most mornings. These are people who are on all kinds of medications, including diuretics (water pills), which makes such a long journey very uncomfortable to say the least. Imagine if these individuals had to now travel even further to go to a center in a different location. Additionally, the 2010 budget cuts, limited the hours per day the site managers and drivers are allowed to work. As such, we have had to limit the number of days a week our more remote clients can come to the center.

Should the new combined centers be "allowed" to continue to service all of their existing congregate and homebound clients, the drivers would have to put in more hours by traveling to the further location. Picking up the additional workload of the new combined centers would also erode the ability of the site managers to do on-site programs with their congregate clients. Site managers are not only volunteer coordinators and program planners for these seniors, we are the craft instructors, we set-up and run all the activities and

parties held at our centers. If we are lucky, we may have volunteers who come in to assist. Many of us are also responsible for the set up and clean up associated with running a meal program. Site managers are required to do home assessments for our homebound clients as well. Adding the clients from those locations now closed will also require site managers to spend more time out in the field for home visits.

With an ever growing population of seniors, the necessity for programs that address the needs of the elderly has become increasingly more critical. The goal is to keep our seniors nutritionally, physically and mentally healthy. Our programs help them stay independent and in their own homes for as long as possible. Ultimately, this saves our county taxpayer dollars by delaying or avoiding the need for nursing homes and the increasingly heavy burden of Medicaid that kicks in when it is needed to pay for such an expensive option. Even though we have a number of clients who already receive Medicaid benefits, the cost is significantly reduced by the ability to stay at home.

This is just a condensed version of the impact of the closing of any of our centers. It is not feasible for our present coverage to be unaffected by the consolidation of sites. It is highly conceivable that the coverage would have to shrink by not accepting any new clients that live in the farther reaches of our present territories. Consequently, the questions become: Do we retract existing services to one of the most vulnerable population groups in Dutchess County? And, what is the true cost to Dutchess County caused by the reduction of services creating an increase in Medicaid expenditures.

Our seniors have already felt the loss of one day of service at the Friendship Centers. Please assist us in the effort to prevent the closing of any centers and loss of site managers' jobs.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Yasiejko
East Fishkill Site Manager

STEVE SHULTIS CHAIR
RICH YENO CO CHAIR

I stand before you tonight on behalf of the Dutchess County Fire and Safety Advisory Board to address two key points. As you are aware, the Dutchess County Fire and Safety Advisory Board, serves as a consultant to the Dutchess County Legislature.

I would first like to thank the Budget and Finance committee for their support and understanding of the need for the Dutchess County Fire Investigation Division. The restoration of the funds needed to maintain this all volunteer team will be a great benefit to the Fire Departments and residents of Dutchess County. For that, I thank you.

As your consultant to all things fire related we are here to implore you to restore funding for the Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response to keep the position of Fire Coordinator budget line A3410.1010.

The mission statement of the Department of Emergency Response is **"To assist the Emergency First Responders of Dutchess County and local municipalities to prepare and respond to natural and man-made emergencies".** In order to meet that mission the Department of Emergency Response requires not only a Department Head but a full time Fire Coordinator as well.

The Fire Coordinator position is responsible for leading five separate divisions at Emergency Response which include the Fire Investigation Division, the Fire and Rescue Division, the Fire Police Response Team, the Fire Prevention and Public Education Division, and the Fire Training Division. Additionally, the Fire Coordinator is the representative to six local professional associations. In addition, the Fire Coordinator is our representative to state and federal officials. Dutchess County and its residents need to be represented fully!

The Department of Emergency Response plays a vital role in the safety of all Dutchess County residents and visitors daily. The Fire Service, like all levels of government is facing difficult challenges. To meet these challenges we need a full time dedicated professional to provide a comprehensive and thorough approach.

As you aware John Murphy will be retiring in three weeks. He is taking his 33 years of department knowledge with him. John started in the basement of Alarm Headquarters then transitioned to the Bureau of Fire and has been with the Department of Emergency Response since its inception. Only with this experience has John been able to fill both the role of Department Head and Fire Coordinator. The new department head will not have that luxury. They must learn the many facets of leading the Department **(A Full Time Task)** and as a result of these budgets cuts fill the role of Fire Coordinator as well. This will be a disservice to the department, the Fire Service and to the residents of Dutchess County.

Again, the mission statement of the Department of Emergency Response is **"To assist the Emergency First Responders of Dutchess County and local municipalities to prepare and respond to natural and man-made emergencies".** I am asking for you to support this mission and restore funding for A3410.1010.

Thank you.

DRAFT

December 2, 2010

Subject: Office for the Aging Friendship Center Closings

Dear Dutchess County Legislators,

The 2011 proposed Dutchess County budget would combine my site with that of our Beacon Friendship Center. This consolidation would create the need to limit the number of clients serviced due to the additional travel distance to reach the Beacon location.

Presently, Office for the Aging does not have a Friendship Center located in the town of Wappingers Falls. Meals-on-Wheels handles food delivery services for the homebound, but the Fishkill center picks up clients from a small portion of Wappingers. We have a twenty passenger bus that picks up congregate clients and brings them to the center four days a week. On days we have more than twenty clients, our bus driver makes a double run, going out to pick up the additional seniors. Moving the site to Beacon would not allow our driver to make double runs to pick everyone up. The decision would have to be made as to who is allowed to go and who is not.

Most of my congregate clients live on their own. The center offers them a safe, comfortable place where they can meet to socialize, have a nutritious meal and participate in various activities. Many of the seniors use our transportation services to do their grocery shopping once a week. This is a much better option than trying to cross over Route 9 by foot.

Over the years, the Fishkill Friendship Center has been able to join the East Fishkill Center to participate in parties and activities that were made possible by combining our resources. These have been events that our clients look forward to and enjoy. I've worked hard to offer my seniors the best possible programming given the limitations of our funding and manpower. The loss of such activities would be a great disappointment to everyone.

Additionally, the increased workload of the Beacon Site Manager in order to pack and distribute the additional Fishkill meals for the homebound meal program, will make it increasingly difficult to run an effective activity program on site within the time constraints allowed.

If you can find a way to keep all our Friendship Centers open, the long-term impact to our seniors can be diminished. The permanent implications of such closures is a scary scenario. I invite any of you to come out to our centers and experience for yourself a pickup or meal delivery run. Please help us to remain open.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cindy Lefebvre

Cindy Lefebvre
Fishkill Site Manager

November 27, 2010

Subject: Office for the Aging Friendship Center Budget Cuts

Dear Dutchess County Legislators,

This year, the Office for the Aging Friendship Centers suffered the loss of one day per week of services to our congregate and homebound clients due to budgetary cuts. The 2011 budget again cuts our services by closing three centers. This is to be accomplished by consolidating sites: Fishkill will be combined with Beacon and, Millerton and Pawling will be combined with South Amenia. Servicing these entire territories from such remote locations is not sustainable. What looks good on paper does not work out in the field.

As the Site Manager for the East Fishkill Friendship Center, who deals directly with the end user, I can speak of my own personal experiences. When I was hired in 1996, it was to open a new center in East Fishkill in order to expand Office for the Aging's service area. Even now, we have what are referred to as "dead zones." These are areas without coverage because they are too far away for any center to reach. Consolidating centers will necessitate the creation of even larger "dead zones."

Whenever possible, we site managers assist one another in reaching clients that border our locations, because we know how vital our services are for those in need of them. For instance, our Pawling center assists with meal deliveries to some of the more remote parts of East Fishkill. Just last week, I accepted a client, who is technically out of my service area. No volunteers from the center handling this area were willing to travel that far. Since we already make deliveries close to this location, we were able to handle the client. Prior to the opening of the East Fishkill Friendship Center, this client would have fallen in a "dead zone."

Originally, the East Fishkill territory was serviced by our Fishkill Friendship Center. There were only two congregate participants that were picked up from East Fishkill and far fewer homebound clients were able to be serviced. Our growth in East Fishkill necessitated the addition of another volunteer delivery route many years ago.

Much of our homebound program functions but by the grace of wonderful volunteers who deliver meals to our clients. It was much more difficult to find, and hold onto, volunteers willing to come all the way from East Fishkill to pick up meals in Fishkill, deliver them in East Fishkill and then return the equipment back to Fishkill. To maintain an active volunteer base, it is also necessary to limit the length of time it takes to do a meal delivery run, preferably to not more than an hour and a half. Please also keep in mind that the majority of our volunteers are seniors themselves.

For my center alone, the staff driver, on average, puts on 160 miles per day between pick-ups/take homes of congregate clients and homebound meal deliveries. The first congregate clients to be picked up are on the van for two hours most mornings. These are people who are on all kinds of medications, including diuretics (water pills), which makes such a long journey very uncomfortable to say the least. Imagine if these individuals had to now travel even further to go to a center in a different location. Additionally, the 2010 budget cuts, limited the hours per day the site managers and drivers are allowed to work. As such, we have had to limit the number of days a week our more remote clients can come to the center.

Should the new combined centers be "allowed" to continue to service all of their existing congregate and homebound clients, the drivers would have to put in more hours by traveling to the further location. Picking up the additional workload of the new combined centers would also erode the ability of the site managers to do on-site programs with their congregate clients. Site managers are not only volunteer coordinators and program planners for these seniors, we are the craft instructors, we set-up and run all the activities and

parties held at our centers. If we are lucky, we may have volunteers who come in to assist. Many of us are also responsible for the set up and clean up associated with running a meal program. Site managers are required to do home assessments for our homebound clients as well. Adding the clients from those locations now closed will also require site managers to spend more time out in the field for home visits.

With an ever growing population of seniors, the necessity for programs that address the needs of the elderly has become increasingly more critical. The goal is to keep our seniors nutritionally, physically and mentally healthy. Our programs help them stay independent and in their own homes for as long as possible. Ultimately, this saves our county taxpayer dollars by delaying or avoiding the need for nursing homes and the increasingly heavy burden of Medicaid that kicks in when it is needed to pay for such an expensive option. Even though we have a number of clients who already receive Medicaid benefits, the cost is significantly reduced by the ability to stay at home.

This is just a condensed version of the impact of the closing of any of our centers. It is not feasible for our present coverage to be unaffected by the consolidation of sites. It is highly conceivable that the coverage would have to shrink by not accepting any new clients that live in the farther reaches of our present territories. Consequently, the questions become: Do we retract existing services to one of the most vulnerable population groups in Dutchess County? And, what is the true cost to Dutchess County caused by the reduction of services creating an increase in Medicaid expenditures.

Our seniors have already felt the loss of one day of service at the Friendship Centers. Please assist us in the effort to prevent the closing of any centers and loss of site managers' jobs.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Yasiejko

Rosemarie Yasiejko
East Fishkill Site Manager