

September 21, 2009

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
REPORT NO. 11

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

1. RESOLVED, the following items are hereby received and filed:

- a. COMM. 6E-11 (2009)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE:** "Realignment of Youth Bureau into Division of Youth Services"  
(5-0)
- b. COMM. 7E-3 (2009)  
**MAZUR:** "Copy of Letter to NYS Health Commissioner Concerning Erie County's Role in WIC Program"  
(5-0)
- c. COMM. 8D-2 (2009)  
**DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE:** "Letter Responding to Legislators' Questions Raised About WIC Program"  
(5-0)
- d. COMM. 14D-4 (2009)  
**HEALTH DEPARTMENT:** "EC WIC Program Transition Team Minutes for April 3, 2009"  
(5-0)
- e. COMM. 14D-5 (2009)  
**HEALTH DEPARTMENT:** "EC WIC Program Transition Team Minutes for April 24, 2009"  
(5-0)
- f. COMM. 14D-6 (2009)  
**HEALTH DEPARTMENT:** "EC WIC Program Transition Team Minutes for May 8, 2009"  
(5-0)
- g. COMM. 14D-7 (2009)  
**HEALTH DEPARTMENT:** "EC WIC Program Transition Team Minutes for May 21, 2009"  
(5-0)

- h. COMM. 14M-3 (2009)  
**COLUCCI & GALLAHER, P.C.:** "ECMCC Agenda Items for Board of Directors Meeting Held 6/17/09"  
(5-0)
- i. COMM. 17E-14 (2009)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE:** "Appointments to the EC Youth Services Board"  
(5-0)
- j. COMM. 17D-5 (2009)  
**MEDICAL DIRECTOR:** "Board of Health Agenda Items for Meeting Held 8/13/09, and Minutes for Meeting Held 5/7/09"  
(5-0)
- k. COMM. 17D-10 (2009)  
**COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES:** "Response Letter to Legislator Konst Concerning Financial Reports"  
(5-0)
- l. COMM. 17D-12 (2009)  
**EC COMPTROLLERS OFFICE:** "EC Dept. of Mental Health Audit of Payroll Transactions for 1/1/07 - 12/31/08"  
(5-0)
- m. COMM. 17M-10 (2009)  
**SCHOHARIE CO. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:** "Resolution Passed by Schoharie County Board of Supervisors - Requesting NYS to Take Back Local Share of Medicaid"  
(5-0)
- n. COMM. 17M-16 (2009)  
**COLUCCI & GALLAHER, P.C.:** "ECMCC Agenda Items for Board of Directors' Meeting Held 7/29/09"  
(5-0)
- o. COMM. 17M-23 (2009)  
**GOVERNOR PATERSON:** "Appointment of Thomas Malecki to Position of ECMCC Director - Term Expiring 3/30/12"  
(5-0)

P. COMM. 17M-34 (2009)  
**COLUCCI & GALLAHER, P.C.:** “ECMCC Agenda Items for Board of Directors' Meeting Held 8/26/09”  
(5-0)

2. INTRO 6-6 (2009)  
**MAZUR, WHYTE, MILLER-WILLIAMS, AS AMENDED**  
**GRANT & REYNOLDS**

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature has learned through media reports that the County Executive wants to “get out of the business of running the federally funded WIC Nutrition Program for low-income pregnant and nursing mothers, as well as their children – from birth through age five”; and

WHEREAS, this unilateral decision was made without consulting with the Erie County Legislature or soliciting the opinions of the general public on such a significant shift in public policy; and

WHEREAS, national data have placed the City of Buffalo second or third in the nation relative to its percentage of the population living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, proper nutrition is a key component of a preventive health strategy regardless of age; however, it is critically important to children during the period of fastest growth and development (birth to age five), as well as to pregnant and nursing mothers; and

WHEREAS, according to the March of Dimes, the combined infant and maternity costs of caring for a medically fragile premature baby is \$64,713 during the first year of the infant’s life, as compared to \$15,047 for a full-term, healthy infant; and

WHEREAS, the number of women, infants and children who depend on Erie County’s WIC program to meet their nutritional needs is more than 16,000; and

WHEREAS, it is also apparent from the media reports that a seamless transition plan to move the WIC program to a community-based organization, rumored to be Catholic Charities, is not in place; and

WHEREAS, this situation may require the New York State Department of Health to step in to ensure that clients do not fall through the cracks resulting from this hasty, short-sighted and poorly planned business decision on the part of the Collins’ administration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature again go on record in opposition to the County Executive’s unilateral decision to terminate Erie County’s administration of the federally funded WIC Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be conveyed to the County Executive, the Erie County Commissioner of Health, the New York State Commissioner of Health, the Director of the Western Regional Office of the New York State Health Department, all others deemed necessary and proper.

(4-1) Legislator Walter voted in the negative.

3. COMM. 17E-36 (2009)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, the Department was notified of a special Back to School payment of one-time benefits of \$200 per child to Temporary Assistance and Food Stamps cases with children between the ages of 3 and 17, inclusive; and payments were mass authorized by New York State for distribution via electronic benefits transaction; and

WHEREAS, Back to School money is designated for purchase of such items as books, pencils, pens, notebooks, calculators, backpacks, shoes, school uniforms, pants, shirts, skirts, dresses and other essential school items; and

WHEREAS, the State advanced funds in the amount of \$8,512,600 to Erie County for this special program, and initial payments authorized by the State were in the amount of \$7,706,400 for retrieval by Temporary Assistance and Food Stamps clients; and

WHEREAS, there is no local share to this program as the special funds are fully provided by New York State as a combination of private donation and Temporary Assistance to needy Families funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the following budget amendments are hereby authorized in the 2009 Adopted Budget:

Department of Social Services, Department 120, Fund 110

| <u>ACCOUNT</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u>      | <u>INCREASE</u>    |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 525045         | Back to School Benefits | <u>\$8,512,600</u> |
|                | Total Expenditure       | <u>\$8,512,600</u> |
| 411525         | Federal Aid             | \$6,810,080        |
| 407525         | State Aid               | <u>1,702,520</u>   |
|                | Total Revenue           | <u>\$8,512,600</u> |

and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the Commissioner of Social Services, the Erie County Comptroller and the Director of the Division of Budget and Management.

(5-0)

3. COMM. 17E-51 (2009)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, this resolution authorizes an increase to the International Institute Interpreter Services contract in the amount of \$24,000; and

WHEREAS, the increase to this contract is necessary due to the utilization of critical interpreter services for non English speaking persons primarily from Somalia, Burma, Thailand, and the Middle East whose languages include Somali, Burmese, Karen, and Arabic; and

WHEREAS, currently, there are four agencies in this community which conduct re-settlement programming, and families and individuals that arrive are in need of translation services; and

WHEREAS, this resolution has no fiscal impact in the 2009 Adopted Budget. Funds utilized for this contract expansion are available in a budget line from a United Way contract that was discontinued in 2009 due to regulatory program changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the following budget amendments are hereby authorized in the 2009 Adopted Budget:

Department of Social Services, Department 120, Fund 110

| <u>ACCOUNT</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u>                     | <u>INCREASE/<br/>(DECREASE)</u> |
|----------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 516010         | International Institute                | \$24,000                        |
| 516010         | United Way-Public Schools (Preventive) | <u>(24,000)</u>                 |
|                | Total Expenditure                      | <u>-0-</u>                      |

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Executive and/or the Commissioner of Social Services are authorized to increase the contract with the International Institute; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the Commissioner of Social Services, the Erie County Comptroller and the Director of the Division of Budget and Management.

(5-0)

**THOMAS J. MAZUR  
CHAIR**