

**Westchester County Board of Legislators**

**COMMITTEE OF GENERATIONAL, CULTURAL & ETHNIC DIVERSITY**

**Minutes: October 16, 2007**

**COMMITTEE ON GCED**

**MEMBERS:** **Chair:** Bernice Spreckman; Legislators: Chairman William Ryan and William Burton

**ATTENDANCE:** **STAFF:** RVinci, NRentz. **OTHER:** Commissioner Mae Carpenter, Ann & Al Gorges, David & Victoria Kozlow, Lucy Monteleone, Amy Brown, Caryl Weinsch, Judy Fink, Laura Bolotsky, Terry Scatola, Ela Hathaway.

Meeting called to order at 10:10 pm.

Bill Koester, Health and Consumer Advocate – Statewide Office for the Aging, will give an update on changes to Medicare and re-enrollment issues.

Legislator Spreckman: what issues do we need to advocate for when our group goes to Albany?

Bill Koester introduces himself and speaks about his experiences. He tells what Statewide is currently working on and that their mission is to keep seniors active and living in their communities for as long as possible by providing transportation, affordable housing and any necessary services.

Commissioner Carpenter tell the group that the State needs to start thinking like a business, out of the box, to help come up with ways for seniors to live more affordably.

Chairman Ryan spoke about the levels of bureaucracy in regards to obtaining new senior housing units. We need to engage the State Legislature with ideas and bring together some advocacy organizations to set priorities.

Laura Bolotsky spoke about Medicare Part D, ISEP (in-home care) and other issue that the Office of the Aging helpline addresses (914-813-6100).

Meeting ended at 11:55 am

-AUDIO MINUTES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST-