

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 12, 2008**

Members

In Attendance: Lois Bronz, Chair, Judy Myers, Bill Burton, Ken Jenkins, Vito Pinto.

In Attendance: HEALTH: Patsy Yang BOL: Laura Siegel, Rose Vinci Guests: Christine Verber, Emma Lou Saint Louis, Judith Anderson, Susan Goodman.

Items Discussed: Children with Special Needs

Minutes

Legislator Bronz called the Community Services Committee meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

Patsy Yang, First Deputy Commissioner to the County Health Department, gave a presentation on the Children with Special Needs Program. She provided the Committee with graphs depicting the number of children served and costs per child. A copy of the graphs is on file and available for review.

Ms. Yang discussed the Early Intervention and the Pre-k programs. She stated that both programs continue to see growth. She stated that the County Health Department has the final say in eligibility and services provided for the Early Intervention program. However, for the Pre-K program, the County has no decision making power, it is entirely up to the school district and the County must pay for the services.

A discussion ensued amongst the Committee and Ms. Yang regarding payments for services and how much private insurance companies are responsible for as well as the loopholes in the program that allows insurance companies to avoid paying their share. Ms. Yang stated that there is a bill in Albany that would close these loopholes and the County continues to support the bill and encourage the legislature to pass it.

Members of the League of Women Voter's Health Committee participated in the discussion.

Moved by Legislator Pinto and seconded by Legislator Jenkins the Community Services Committee minutes of September 23, 2008 passed with a vote of 4-0.

Moved by Legislator Pinto and seconded by Legislator Burton the Committee on Community Services adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

A complete audio recording of the meeting is available for review upon request.