

AGENDA

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, March 24, 2014; 10:30

Supervisors Large Conference Room

I. Call Meeting to Order, 10:30

- A) Approve Minutes

II. Veterans Agency, 10:30 -10:40

- A) Monthly Activity Report & Statistics
- B) Travel Request

III. Youth Bureau, 10:40 -10:50

- A) Resolution:
 - 1) Authorizing the Chairman to enter in agreements and modifying the 2014 adopted County budget

IV. Social Services, 10:50 -11:10

- A) Net Expense and Caseload Summary
- B) Statewide "Wear Blue Day" – to benefit child abuse prevention

V. Mental Health, 11:10 - 11:20

- A) Program and Fiscal Reports
- B) Resolutions:
 - 1) Authorizing the Chairman to execute a contract modification and modifying the 2014 adopted County budget
 - 2) Authorizing the Chairman to proclaim April as Alcohol Awareness Month

VI. Public Health, 11:20 -11:40

- A) Resolutions:
 - 1) Authorizing a contract for professional services to develop software to improve immunization billing
 - 2) Authorizing the chairman to enter into an agreement with New York State Department of Health for the administration of Early Intervention and modifying the 2014 County budget
 - 3) Authorizing a contract for professional services to upgrade access point to Honeywell web-based system in Building #5

VII. Other Business, 11:40 -12:00

- A) Resolution:
 - 1) Favoring passage of GMO Labeling Bill A.3525/S.3835 by the New York State Legislature

Next meeting: Monday, April 28, 2014, 10:30 a.m. in the Supervisors Large Conference Room.

Adjournment

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, February 24, 2014
Supervisors Large Conference Room

Committee Members Present

Alexander Stepanski, Chairman, Town of Stockbridge
Lewis Carinci, Vice Chairman, City of Oneida
James Goldstein, Town of Lebanon
Joseph John Pinard, Town of Lenox
Paul Walrod, Town of Georgetown

Others Present

Mark Scimone, County Administrator
Donald Smith, Director, Veterans Service Agency
Joanne Eddy, Director, Youth Bureau
Michael Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Department of Social Services
Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health
Karolyn Sayles, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, Mental Health
Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health
Dennis Rahn, Chairperson, Community Services Board
Christine Coe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Alex Stepanski called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. indicating that there was a quorum for the Health and Human Services Committee.

Approve Minutes

The Health and Human Services Committee reviewed the January meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Jim Goldstein, seconded by Joseph John Pinard and carried unanimously.

Veterans Agency 10:30 – 10:40

Donald Smith provided a report of the Veterans Service Agency's activities and statistics for February 2014.

Veteran's Property Tax Exemption has been expanded to include school taxes. Each school district must opt in or out for the exemption and caps can be set. This could have a significant impact on property owners that are not exempt.

As discussed at last month's meeting, a letter was drafted asking the Supervisors/Towns to support the FAVOR program by reaching out to their respective merchants to help grow the program. The letter along with the program terms and conditions, enrollment letter and form, and a list of currently enrolled merchants and discounts will be emailed to this Committee for distribution.

Youth Bureau 10:40 – 10:50

Resolution:

Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with agencies to provide youth services and to modify the 2014 adopted County budget

A motion was made by Lewis Carinci, seconded by James Goldstein, and carried unanimously.

Social Services 10:50 – 11:10

Mike Fitzgerald provided Social Service's January 2014 expenditure and refund summary. Currently, the programs are under budget by \$406,532; however, expenses vary by month. Chairman Stepanski requested that the annual budget total be added to the chart to show a year-to-date comparison. A caseload summary chart by current month, previous month and previous year was also provided for review. Management staff evaluations have been completed and are available for review.

Resolutions:

Fixing Foster Boarding Home Rates

Discussion: The Committee recommended attaching the Foster Care Rate Comparison chart to the resolution to illustrate the disparity in Madison County rates compared to neighboring counties and the maximum rate set by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

A motion was made by James Goldstein, seconded by Lewis Carinci, and carried unanimously.

Mental Health 11:10 – 11:40

Karolyn Sayles provided an overview of Mental Health's preliminary year-end report. Although expenditures came in under budget, revenues were down significantly resulting in a deficit of \$1,428,098. One time expenditures to Comprehensive Outpatient Services and OMIG overpayment also impacted the budget along with three vacancies and a 32% patient no-show rate.

Mental Health has made significant improvements with billing over the past year. Teisha Cook is currently looking at an open access model to back fill no-shows and make scheduling more efficient.

Executive Session

A motion was made by James Goldstein to enter into executive session to discuss matters leading to the appointment of a particular person; Lewis Carinci seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by James Goldstein to exit executive session; Paul Walrod seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Resolution:

Appointing a member of the Community Services Board

Discussion: The Committee recommended including the Mental Health memorandum from the Community Services Board Chairman that details the applicant's qualifications with the resolution.

A motion was made by Supervisor Carinci, seconded by Supervisor Goldstein, and carried unanimously.

Public Health 11:40 -12:00

Resolutions:

Authorizing the Chairman to enter agreements with SUNY Delhi, SUNY IT, and Utica College Nursing Program

A motion was made by James Goldstein, seconded by Joseph John Pinard, and carried unanimously.

Entering an agreement with Madison County Rural Health Council (MCRHC) for capacity building and services activities

A motion was made by Lewis Carinci, seconded by James Goldstein, and carried unanimously.

Entering an agreement with Madison County Rural Health Council (MCRHC)

A motion was made by James Goldstein, seconded by Paul Walrod, and carried unanimously.

Enter into agreements with Veterinarians for Rabies Clinic

A motion was made by James Goldstein, seconded by Lewis Carinci, and carried unanimously.

Public Health Department approved Charges and Fee Schedule

A motion was made by James Goldstein, seconded by Joseph John Pinard, and carried unanimously.

Authorizing attendance at an Out-of-State Conference

A motion was made by James Goldstein, seconded by Lewis Carinci, and carried unanimously.

Authorizing a contract for Professional Services to Manage Transportation Services with VMC Consultants, LP.

A motion was made by James Goldstein, seconded by Joseph John Pinard, and carried unanimously.

Authorizing attendance at an Out-of-State Conference

A motion was made by Joseph John Pinard, seconded by Lewis Carinci, and carried unanimously.

Opioid Overdose Prevention Program:

The Sheriff's Office approached the Public Health Director regarding the State's Opioid Overdose Prevention Program due to the increase in heroin abuse in Central New York. The Health Department would need to submit an application to register as an authorized provider of the program. Eric is discussing the liability issue with the Medical Director and County Attorney's office, and wanted to make this Committee aware of the inquiry.

New Business 12:00 -12:20 – GMO Labeling

The Committee discussed adopting a resolution supporting GMO labeling in the State to forward to Assemblyman Magee and State Senator Valesky.

Connecticut and Maine have passed GMO labeling bills that would require genetically modified foods to be labeled for consumers. Connecticut's mandate can't take effect until other bordering states pass similar labeling rules. Several GMO bills are pending and debate is likely in the Senate.

The Committee is not prepared to pass a resolution at this time. More research is needed of the pending bills and the pros and cons of such legislation. The Committee will identify individuals who can speak on both sides of the issue.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Paul Walrod at 12:23 p.m., seconded by Joseph John Pinard and carried.

Next meeting: Monday, March 24, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. in the Supervisor's large conference room.

Prepared by Christine Coe

RESOLUTION NO. YB1

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS
AND TO MODIFY THE 2014 ADOPTED COUNTY BUDGET**

WHEREAS, as of 1/1/14 municipalities seeking OCFS funding to help support their youth recreation programs are required to compete for the funding through a competitive RFP process and the Village of Hamilton and Village of Morrisville submitted program proposals to the Madison County Youth Bureau as part of this process; and

WHEREAS, the Madison County Youth Board has evaluated the proposals and has recommended the following allocation of funds to the proposed programs, and the Health & Human Services Committee has approved the allocation;

<u>MUNICIPALITY</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Village of Hamilton	Summer Recreation Program	\$ 3,500.00
Village of Morrisville	MESYC Summer Rec. Program	\$ 3,500.00

WHEREAS, these costs are reimbursed 100% by State Aid;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors be and is hereby authorized to enter into agreements on behalf of the County of Madison with the Village of Hamilton and the Village of Morrisville, in the form as is on file with the Clerk of the Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2014 Adopted County Budget be modified as follows:

GENERAL FUND

Youth Programs

7146 Youth Programs - Agencies

<u>Expense</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
A7146.42733 Summer Recreation (V./Hamilton)	\$ 0	\$ 3,500
A7146.42735 MES Youth Commission (V./Morrisville)	\$ 0	\$ 3,500
Totals	\$ 0	\$ 7,000
Control Total		\$ 7,000

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
A3820.2091 St Aid Summer Recreation (V./Hamilton)	\$ 0	\$ 3,500
A3820.2092 St Aid MES Youth Commission (V./Morrisville)	\$ 0	\$ 3,500
Totals	\$ 0	\$ 7,000
Control Total		\$ 7,000

Dated: April 8, 2014

Alexander Stepanski, Chairman
Health & Human Services Committee

John A. Reinhardt, Chairman
Finance, Ways and Means Committee

	FEBRUARY 2014	YTD	BUDGET EXPENSE	PERCENTAGE
	NET EXPENDITURES	NET EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT	SPENT/RECEIVED
GEN ADM - SALARIES	\$ 372,788.14	\$ 752,282.78	\$ 5,086,409	14.79%
GEN ADM - EQUIPMENT	\$ 15,732.00	\$ 15,732.00	\$ 159,000	9.89%
GEN ADM - CONTRACTUAL	\$ 115,238.66	\$ 121,454.21	\$ 1,778,957	6.83%
GEN ADM - FRINGE BENEFITS	\$ 154,763.10	\$ 310,737.69	\$ 2,894,144	10.74%
GEN ADM - MLR	\$ 15,100.00	\$ 30,200.00	\$ 184,800.00	16.34%
GEN ADM - A-87	\$ 47,100.00	\$ 94,200.00	\$ 565,200.00	16.67%
REIMB SCH SERV COOR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (9,193.00)	0.00%
INTERFUND-LANDFILL WORK CREW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (22,872.00)	0.00%
CHILD SUPPORT PROCESSING	\$ (250.00)	\$ (550.00)	\$ -	#DIV/0!
INCENTIVES	\$ (3,025.15)	\$ (6,058.26)	\$ (35,762.00)	16.94%
CCBG	\$ 34,303.78	\$ 85,271.22	\$ 489,221.04	17.43%
CCBG - 75%	\$ 9,196.78	\$ 18,389.61	\$ 108,276.96	16.98%
TITLE XX	\$ 15,801.48	\$ 45,465.64	\$ 281,550.00	16.15%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	\$ 14,543.58	\$ 29,087.16	\$ 174,523.00	16.67%
FAMILY UNIFICATION	\$ -	\$ 24,787.00	\$ 399,053.00	6.21%
STSIP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,333.00	0.00%
DCJS	\$ 7,906.54	\$ 16,453.73	\$ 120,000.00	13.71%
MMIS	\$ 866,276.00	\$ 1,732,552.00	\$ 11,375,963.00	15.23%
MA	\$ (27,912.87)	\$ (26,153.65)	\$ (194,000.00)	13.48%
FAMILY ASSISTANCE	\$ 100,622.24	\$ 203,696.30	\$ 1,418,000.00	14.37%
FAMILY ASSISTANCE - DISREGARDS	\$ -	\$ (996.83)	\$ -	#DIV/0!
EAF-FOSTER CARE	\$ 33,785.58	\$ 69,540.76	\$ 876,674.00	7.93%
EAF-SERVICES	\$ 10,445.28	\$ 18,494.31	\$ 105,389.00	17.55%
EAF	\$ 3,147.49	\$ 9,329.92	\$ 158,000.00	5.91%
EAF JD/PINS	\$ 10,196.94	\$ 30,979.18	\$ 332,938.00	9.30%
TANF NONSEC DET PREV	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	0.00%
FOSTER CARE	\$ 135,668.73	\$ 278,125.57	\$ 1,865,627.00	14.91%
FOSTER CARE - IND LVG	\$ 835.78	\$ 1,456.77	\$ 14,425.00	10.10%
JD/PINS	\$ 184,100.16	\$ 266,271.97	\$ 440,163.00	60.49%
DFY-14	\$ 8,505.75	\$ 12,826.50	\$ 100,098.00	12.81%
JD - IND LVG	\$ 80.00	\$ 224.98	\$ 4,808.00	4.68%
SAFETY NET	\$ 82,862.18	\$ 151,606.64	\$ 1,056,000.00	14.36%
HEAP - PA	\$ -	\$ 24.00	\$ -	#DIV/0!
HEAP - NPA	\$ (8,150.00)	\$ (42,467.84)	\$ -	#DIV/0!
HEAP - EMERGENCY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!
EAA	\$ 1,203.60	\$ 1,719.85	\$ 20,000.00	8.60%
BURIALS	\$ 18,357.80	\$ 28,256.39	\$ 165,000.00	17.13%
TOTAL	\$ 2,218,877.34	\$ 4,272,939.60	\$ 29,928,224.80	14.28%

SNAP - PA	\$ 62,431.00	\$ 124,114.00	\$ 725,004.00	8.61%
SNAP - NPA	\$ 1,010,119.00	\$ 1,988,262.00	\$ 12,404,532.00	8.14%

CHILD SUPPORT - CURRENT ASSISTANCE	NA	\$ 13,929.41	\$ 203,196.00	6.86%
CHILD SUPPORT - FORMER ASSISTANCE	NA	\$ 73,146.21	\$ 887,424.00	8.24%
CHILD SUPPORT - NEVER ASSISTANCE	NA	\$ 456,720.46	\$ 4,648,932.00	9.82%

BUDGET	\$ 29,991,640.80
MLR	\$ 184,800.00
A-87	\$ 565,200.00
TOTAL	\$ 30,741,640.80
LESS REUNDS	\$ 813,416.00
TOTAL	\$ 29,928,224.80

	CASELOAD FEBRUARY 2013		CASELOAD JANUARY 2014		CASELOAD FEBRUARY 2014
SUMMARY OF CASES					
MA & MPE	4,515		4,866		4,824
FAMILY HEALTH PLUS	783		763		740
SSI	1,491		1,511		1,528
TOTAL MEDICIAD CASES	6,789		7,140		7,092
FAMILY ASSISTANCE	190		195		194
EMERGENCY AID TO FAMILIES	8		6		8
SAFETY NET	153		168		168
EMERGENCY AID TO ADULTS	1		1		1
TOTAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES	352		370		371
SNAP - PA	174		199		201
SNAP - NPA	4,002		4,116		4,197
TOTAL SNAP CASES	4,176		4,315		4,398
BURIALS	8		4		8
CHILD SUPPORT - CURRENT ASSISTANCE	416		448		NA
CHILD SUPPORT - FORMER ASSISTANCE	913		921		NA
CHILD SUPPORT - NEVER ASSISTANCE	1,675		1,703		NA
CHILD SUPPORT - TOTAL	3,004		3,072		0
SUMMARY OF CHILDREN					
CCBG - 100%	150		147		77
CCBG - 75%	28		24		25
TOTAL	178		171		102
EAF-FOSTER CARE - FOSTER HOMES	14		11		10
EAF- FOSTER HOMES - HIGHER LEVEL	12		7		7
EAF JD/PINS - FOSTER HOMES	2		0		0
EAF JD/PINS - HIGHER LEVEL	3		2		1
FOSTER CARE - FOSTER HOMES	18		21		21
FOSTER CARE - HIGHER LEVEL	9		8		8
FOSTER CARE - JD/PINS	1		0		0
FOSTER CARE - ADOPTION	83		81		81
JD/PINS - FOSTER HOMES	0		0		0
JD/PINS - HIGHER LEVEL	2		11		10
DFY	0		1		2
CHILDREN NOT IN FOSTER CARE	378		393		382
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED	522		535		522
CPS REFERRALS	95		84		61
FAR REFERRALS	28		50		35

RESOLUTION NO. MH1

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT MODIFICATION AND MODIFYING
THE 2014 ADOPTED COUNTY BUDGET**

WHEREAS, OASAS has approved one-time funding for Liberty Resources Alcohol Community Residence Program (Maxwell House) for purchase of a washing machine, kitchenware and bedding; and

WHEREAS, these additional funds result in 100% State Aid for 2014 to Liberty Resources, Inc.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2014 Adopted County Budget be modified as follows:

General Fund

4316 Mental Health - Liberty Resources

Revenue

A3490.3083 St. Aid Liberty Resources

From

282,394

To

285,994

Control Total

\$ 3,600

Expense

A4316.4276 Liberty Resources-Halfway

282,394

285,994

Control Total

\$ 3,600

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board be hereby authorized to execute a modification agreement, a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of this Board, for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 with Liberty Resources, Inc.

Dated: April 8, 2014

Alexander Stepanski, Chairman
Health and Human Services Committee

John A. Reinhardt, Chairman
Finance, Ways & Means Committee

RESOLUTION NO. MH2

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO PROCLAIM
APRIL AS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Alcohol is the most commonly used addictive substance in the United States; and

WHEREAS, one in every 12 adults (17.6 million people) suffer from alcohol abuse or dependence; and

WHEREAS, more than half of all adults have a family history of alcoholism or problem drinking; and

WHEREAS, more than 7 million children live in a household where at least one parent is dependent on or has abused alcohol; and

WHEREAS, alcohol is a primary factor in the four leading causes of death for young persons ages 10-21; and

WHEREAS, young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21; and

WHEREAS, alcohol-related problems cost America \$224 billion (\$746 per person) in lost productivity, absenteeism, healthcare costs, crime and family-related problems; and

WHEREAS, adults in Madison County have higher rates of newborn drug related hospitalization rates (98 vs. 64 per 10,000) and alcohol related motor vehicle injuries and deaths (53.9 vs. 50 per 100,000) than the state and upstate New York;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors join the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD) and hereby proclaim that April 2014 is Alcohol Awareness Month in Madison County and call upon all citizens, parents, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals, schools and colleges in Madison County to support efforts that will reduce stigma, increase community awareness and increase support for individuals and families coping with alcoholism. Through these efforts, together, we can provide "**Help for Today, Hope for Tomorrow**" for those in our community who are facing challenges with alcohol use and abuse.

DATED: April 8, 2014

Alexander Stepanski, Chairman
Health and Human Services Committee

RESOLUTION NO. ___ PH1 ___

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO DEVELOP SOFTWARE
TO IMPROVE IMMUNIZATION BILLING**

WHEREAS, the County accepted grant funds from Health Research Incorporated for \$20,100 on Resolution #407-13 on December 6, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Department is currently works with ACC Technical Services, Inc. to manage the E-Health Scheduler for the Immunization program; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Department has a need to expand E-Health to incorporate billing requirements for our clinical services; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to enter a contract with ACC Technical Services, Inc. to leverage our grant funds in collaboration with six other New York counties and enhance a robust billing software; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department agreement includes services for the enhancement of immunization billing services and the compensation for this agreement will not exceed \$17,000 that is fully reimbursed by the Immunization Billing grant; and

WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services Committee recommends approval of the this agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors be and is hereby authorized to sign an agreement with ACC Technical Services, Inc. as is on file with The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

DATED: April 8, 2014

Alexander Stepanski, Chair
Health and Human Services

RESOLUTION NO. PH2

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF EARLY INTERVENTION AND MODIFYING THE 2014 COUNTY BUDGET

WHEREAS, Madison County Public Health Department, through the Preventive Health Programs, has administered the Early Intervention Program, which is a program to assist families of children ages 0-2 years with developmental delays by determining appropriate services for these children; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health has devoted much time to implement this program on the local level in an effort to assure continuity of care for all children who meet the criteria; and

WHEREAS, grant funds have once again been made available with funding being provided as follows:

Awarding Agency:	U.S. Dept. of Education/U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Sv
Pass-through Agency:	New York State Department of Health
Catalog #:	84.181
Program Name:	Early Intervention Administration
Grant Extension:	October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014
Contract #:	C-027488
Federal Funds:	100%
Grant Total:	\$29,655

WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services Committee has reviewed this grant renewal and finds it to be appropriate;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors be and is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement between Madison County and the New York State Department of Health, as is on file with the Clerk of the Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2014 Adopted County budget be modified as follows:

Public Health Department

A2961 Early Intervention

<u>Expense</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
A2961.4102 El Grant Expenses	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 1,207</u>
Control Total		<u>\$ 1,207</u>
<u>Revenue</u>		
A4489.2025 Federal Aid El Grant	<u>\$ 37,293</u>	<u>38,500</u>
Control Total		<u>\$ 1,207</u>

Dated: April 8, 2014

Alexander Stepanski, Chairman
Health and Human Services

John A. Reinhardt, Chairman
Finance Ways & Means Committee

RESOLUTION NO. ___PH3___

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO UPGRADE ACCESS POINT TO HONEYWELL WEB-BASED SYSTEM IN BUIDLING #5

WHEREAS, the Public Health Department is using the NStar system for access to Building #5; and

WHEREAS, the current system is located on a old stand alone system that is not easily accessible to administrative staff and needs updated; and

WHEREAS, Sentry has a option to upgrade to a web-based system that doesn't require a dedicated computer; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to enter a contract with Sentry Alarms to upgrade the current NStar system to the new Honeywell Web-based Access system for a maximum cost of \$2,755; and

WHEREAS, funds are available within the existing Department budget to cover the cost of this new system; and

WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services Committee recommends approval of the this agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors be and is hereby authorized to sign an agreement with Sentry Alarms as is on file with The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

DATED: April 8, 2014

Alexander Stepanski, Chair
Health and Human Services

RESOLUTION NO. _____

FAVORING PASSAGE OF GMO LABELING BILL A.3525/S.3835 BY THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, the Madison County Board of Supervisors supports giving local consumers the choice to know what is in the food that they are purchasing to allow them the ability to make informed purchasing decisions with regard to health concerns, and

WHEREAS, A. 3525 (Rosenthal)/ S. 3835 (LaValle) would mandate labels on genetically engineered (GE) seed, seed stock and foods offered for retail sale in New York, identifying them as such, and

WHEREAS, genetic engineering is biotechnology used to create new organisms – Genetically Modified Organisms known as GMOs - through the combination of the DNA from unrelated species in which scientists extract the DNA coding for a desirable trait from one species and insert it into the DNA of another species so that the new created GMO will express the desirable trait, and

WHEREAS, the labeling of genetically engineered foods is about giving people the right to know what is in the food they buy for themselves and families, and labels insure transparency, more information, more choice and more control over the food consumers purchase, and

WHEREAS, A.3525/S.3835 is designed to be compatible with GMO labeling bills already passed in Alaska, Connecticut and Maine, and the legislation does not ban or restrict the cultivation, manufacture or sale of GE crops or foods, and is designed to be compatible with existing laws to label GE foods in 64 other countries including key trading partners in Japan, Korea, China, India, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Russia and all the nations of the European Union, and

WHEREAS, this legislation clearly states in the exemption section that the food products of an animal raised on GE feed will NOT require a label as long as the animal itself was not genetically engineered including meat, poultry and pig products raised on a diet of grain made of GE soy and GE Corn, and

WHEREAS, under implementation of A.3525/S.3835, New York Farmers will NOT be denied access to new agricultural technologies as this bill does not ban the cultivation of GE seeds/crops and it does NOT restrict their manufacture or commercial sale in any way, and

WHEREAS, the primary GE crops grown in New York State are GE soy and GE corn, and the vast majority (80 percent) of it are used to produce ethanol, grain feed and silage and are not grown for human food, and

WHEREAS, the estimated costs of attaching a GE or GMO label to all such products in New York State is estimated by some studies to cost approximately \$6 per year for most consumers, and

WHEREAS, the health and ecological impact of the use of GE and GMO crops and foods are in dispute at this time and require further ongoing study, and

WHEREAS, American food companies such as PepsiCo, General Mills, Kellogg's and Kraft already comply with GE labeling laws in effect in countries where they sell their product to overseas customers and there is no reason why they could not comply with similar laws should they go into effect in New York State and the rest of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the labeling of GE/GMO products may actually improve agricultural exports for New York Farmers in these countries that have GE labeling laws, and

WHEREAS, labeling already exists as to whether fish is wild or farm-raised, whether flavors and colors are natural or artificial, whether they contain allergens and in which country our fruit, vegetables and beef have been produced,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Madison County Board of Supervisors endorses the adoption by the New York State Legislature of A.3525 (Rosenthal)/S.3835 (LaValle) to mandate labels on GMO/GE foods and directs that copies of this resolution be sent to Assemblyman William Magee, State Senator David Valesky, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senate Majority Co-Leader Dean Skelos, Senate Independent Democratic Chair and Majority Co-Leader Jeffrey Klein and the appropriate members of the Assembly and Senate food safety committees charged with review of this proposed legislation.

Dated: April 8, 2014

Alex Stepanski, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee