

**Albany County Charter Revision Commission**  
**April 25, 2013**  
**Room 620 Albany County Office Building**

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Members Present:

Willow F. Baer  
Robert C. Batson  
Jacob M. Crawford  
Patrick O. Dalzell  
Michael J. Elmendorf II  
Henry M. Greenberg  
Christopher J. Hannifin  
Ami J. Schnauber

Others in Attendance:

Patrick Collins  
Stephen J. Giordano, Ph.D.  
David Kircher  
John Thune  
Arnis Zilgme

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Mr. Greenberg called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Greenberg distributed an “Issues List” and a tentative work plan for the Commission to review and discuss.

The Commission interviewed Stephen J. Giordano, Ph.D., the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health (“DMH”), regarding his views on Article 10, which establishes DMH. Mr. Giordano expressed overall satisfaction with the Charter, but suggested that it could provide more detail on the type of work performed by DMH.

The Commission interviewed David Kircher, the Acting Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (“DSS”), regarding his views on Article 8, which establishes DSS. The Commission asked Mr. Kircher questions regarding the relationship between DSS and the Department for Children, Youth and Families. With respect to the Charter itself, Mr. Kircher did not recommend any substantive changes.

Ms. Schnauber provided a report on her review of Article 9, which establishes the Department of Health. Ms. Schnauber noted that, unlike other county charters, the Albany County Charter does not provide a succession plan for the Commissioner of Health. Ms. Schnauber also observed that other county charters do not make a medical degree a necessary qualification to serve as a public health director; and that New York law dictates that the County Executive is responsible for appointing the Board of Health, not the County Legislature as noted in the Albany County Charter.

The Commission revisited the subject of its website and taking steps to make it more user-friendly and informative. Mr. Elmendorf volunteered to work with the County in this regard.

The Commission discussed establishing committees/workgroups to review complex issues and provisions in the Charter. Ms. Baer volunteered to research the types of committees/workgroups that other charter review commissions have utilized in going about their work. Mr. Greenberg noted the possibility of establishing a committee/workgroup to research provisions in the Charters addressing the County's budget process (Articles 4, 5, 6). Mr. Dalzell and Mr. Crawford volunteered to serve on such committee/workgroup.

The Commission agreed that its next meeting should be scheduled for Thursday, May 9, 2013, at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which motion was seconded and unanimously approved.