



Friday
November 14,
2008

[Back](#)

Copyright © 2008 Mid-Hudson News Network, a division of Statewide News Network, Inc.
This story may not be reproduced in any form without express written consent.

Study of Sullivan's adult service options paying dividend midway

MONTICELLO – A study of Sullivan County's Health and Family Services operations, authorized in July, is already paying dividends, and the study is not yet complete.

Donald Pryor, director human services analysis for CGR, a Rochester-based research company, met with legislators Thursday, for an interim update. Pryor wanted to focus on the Division of Community Services and Adult Care Center.

Some points made during the presentation:



Pryor, (left): "interacting with the private sector"

- Cost-cutting opportunities exist across the board
- Nursing Home: in good shape, but look at opportunities to strengthen the operation within the department.
- One concern at the Nursing Home is 'callouts' ... staff members who don't show up for a specific assignment.
- Opportunity may exist for more rehab services which could bring in more revenue.
- If county gets out of nursing home business, clients would have nowhere to go.

Pryor cautioned against any premature look at divestiture.

"Both the nursing home and mental health being sort of safety net programs that really are mission driven, in terms of the county's service provision, we think there is the real significant potential that people who are currently receiving services from the county would lose those services, that would not be picked up at the same quality level, if the county were to divest itself of these services."

Health and Family Services Commissioner Christopher Cunningham said the right balance could be somewhere in between.

"You have a very vulnerable population that may not have a whole lot of other options, so how do we try to craft a system that is financially viable and also provides a level of service. That may mean looking at interacting with the private sector and the not for profit sector a little more. We try to maintain services, but also be as efficient as we can with the taxpayer dollar."

Both Pryor and Cunningham praised the ongoing process. Pryor noted that some of the key findings have been acted on, already. Cunningham said they understand it is important to not come up with answers before they understand complex questions.

Pryor told the county legislature, in July, that his goal would be to come back with "very practical, implementable, doable kind of recommendations".

The county is paying \$20,000 of its own money for the \$99,000 study. The balance is covered with

federal and state funding sources.

HEAR today's news on MidHudsonRadio.com, the Hudson Valley's *only* Internet radio news report.

[Back](#)