

A HISTORY OF
THE NEW YORK STATE
COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIRECTORS
1966 - 2004

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PREFACE

Then Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath he went as usual to the Synagogue. He stood up to read the Scriptures and was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people.”

Luke 4:16-19

There could be no better description of the mission of Catholic Charities than this passage from Luke.

Through their work in Catholic Charities for over 100 years, priests, religious women, and lay men and women, staff and volunteers alike, have sought to bring the good news and hope to poor and vulnerable individuals and families in our state.

They have done so through providing all kinds of direct services in their own Dioceses.

They have also done so by coming together to speak as one voice at the state level for policies that help all individuals achieve their fullest human potential.

Over these last 100 years at the state level, they have done so through the Catholic Welfare Committee, the Catholic Committee, the New York State Catholic Conference, and finally, since 1969, through the State Council of Catholic Charities Directors.

This history of the State Council is written in recognition and appreciation of the contributions of those who have served on the Council and to provide a perspective which can enhance the work of current and future Council members. It is dedicated to all those who have made Catholic Charities what it is in New York. Appendix I provides a list of Diocesan Directors in New York State, as representative of all who have made such wonderful contributions.

Jack Balinsky
Pittsford, NY
Summer 2004

Special Acknowledgement

I wish to offer special thanks to Earl Eichelberger and Walt Woytowicz from the New York State Catholic Conference for their tireless assistance for this effort and to my “administrative professional”, JoAnn Anderson, who made it possible.

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INTRODUCTION

In November 1916, the bishops of New York State, with Cardinal Farley presiding, established the New York State Catholic Welfare Committee. As an incorporated forum/council, the purpose of the Committee was:

- ◆ to consider current legislative problems
- ◆ to formulate legislative policies for the safeguarding and promotion of Catholic interests
- ◆ to effect unity of approach in state-wide legislative and administrative matters
- ◆ to develop harmonious relations between the agencies of the Church and State departments.

The membership of the Committee included representatives from each of the dioceses. Each Ordinary appointed two representatives from each diocese: one priest, the other the diocesan attorney or a competent layman. Bishop Edmund Gibbons, Bishop of Albany, served as the first Chairman and Charles Tobin, Esq. was named executive secretary.

The Committee dealt with the content of policy as well as with strategies for adoption and implementation of policy issues. The bishops desired that all legislative matters of general import, including the framing of bills and the promoting or opposing of legislation, should be directed by this committee. The Committee met monthly from September to June and spoke and acted only with the approval of the bishops.

In the early years of the Committee, a great deal of emphasis was laid on dependent children's issues and thus the priest delegate from each diocese was the Director of Catholic Charities and the lay delegate was generally the diocesan attorney. As it developed, the Committee also had representation from the Catholic School Superintendents. In the 1930's the Council of School Superintendents designated three members to participate in the deliberations. In the 1940's two representatives from health and hospital activities were added to the Committee. Subsequently, the Conference of Catholic Colleges and Universities, including seminaries, was invited to designate two representatives for membership on the Committee. A priest active in the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine also served as a delegate. Although the Committee had encouraged the establishment of small, legal-oriented diocesan advisory groups within each diocese, only the work in the New York and Brooklyn Dioceses, which constituted 50% of the Catholic population, proved to be significant.

In November 1968, the Roman Catholic Bishops of New York established the New York State Conference of Catholic Bishops. Its purpose articulated in the Statement of Organization was "the collaboration of the Bishops to promote, by means most appropriate to social conditions existing in this state, the apostolate of the church exercised by the Province and the dioceses it comprises." The New York State Catholic Committee was continued and its purpose was described as "to serve the New York Conference of Bishops in public affairs, including health, education and social service, in which the apostolate of the Church exercised by the dioceses of the State affects or is affected by the circumstances of civil society within this state. The Committee's activities include coordination of inter-diocesan efforts in all matters when joint action is desirable." (Article V)

In December 1968, a statement of organization for the Public Policy Committee, successor to the Welfare Committee was developed and its purpose articulated:

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- ♦ To serve the common good of the people of the State by serving the Bishops of the State in an advisory and consultative capacity;
- ♦ To provide a means for coordinated efforts of the dioceses of New York State in matters of interest and concern in which joint participation is desirable; and
- ♦ To serve as a means through which the Bishops of the State may communicate with respect to public affairs at the State level.

In a footnote, it was noted that the Committee was not:

- ♦ To speak or act as an independent organization;
- ♦ To carry on programs or activities in direct service to people or groups; or
- ♦ To substitute in any respect for the duties and responsibilities of the Ordinaries and of diocesan organizations and agencies.

The membership of this Committee provided for each Ordinary to appoint three regular members (Director of Catholic Charities, Secretary of Education or Superintendent of Schools, and an attorney) and three alternate members, two of which should be laymen. In addition, the Committee invited the following groups to designate a representative and an alternate: The State Council of Confraternity Directors, the Conference of Catholic Colleges and Universities and the Council of Bishops' Hospital Representatives.

THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIRECTORS

As described in the introduction, during most of the period 1916-1966, the State Church organization focused on human service issues, with a special emphasis on issues relating to the care of dependent children.

As times changed, and the membership on the Catholic Committee broadened, the Charities Directors felt the need to have a vehicle to focus together on issues relating to social services provision.

From time to time in the 1950's, an Ad Hoc Committee of Catholic Charities Directors was asked to address particular issues, e.g. adoption, child placement and the like.

In the early 1960's there was created a Standing Committee of the Catholic Charities Directors.

In November 1966, there was formal action to continue and strengthen the role of the Standing Committee.

In 1969, the Standing Committee became the New York State Council of Catholic Charities Directors.

ORGANIZATION OF THIS HISTORY

It is the purpose of this history to summarize the work and accomplishments of the Council from the time of formalization of the role of the Standing Committee of Catholic Charities Directors in 1966 until June 2004. There are many different ways in which such a history could be organized. The author chooses to organize this document in relation to the tenure of the various Executive Secretaries of the Council.

Certainly, there were many influences over this time frame on the work of the Council:

- ◆ who were the Ordinaries in the State and what was their interest in the State Catholic Conference;
- ◆ the personality and priorities of the Cardinal Archbishop of New York, the Bishop of Albany serving as Chairperson of the Public Policy Committee, and the Executive Director of the State Catholic Conference;
- ◆ the abilities, interests and participation of the various members of the Council;
- ◆ the attitude and leadership of various administrations in state government, as well as the sitting Legislature;
- ◆ the overall economic environment
- ◆ societal attitude to the poor and vulnerable.

Nonetheless, it is contended that here, as with many geographically disparate organizations, it is the work of the full-time on-site staff person which is most determinative of the focus and accomplishments of the Council.

In organizing the history in this fashion, and entitling each section with a descriptive focus, it is of course recognized that in each time frame, the Council attended to many different aspects of activity. The titling is merely a means of highlighting the major emphasis of activity at that time.

These, then are the chapters of this history.

<u>Years</u>	<u>Executive Secretary</u>	<u>Descriptive Title</u>
1966-1969	Catholic Charities Committee	Getting Started
1969-1972	John Szulgit	Getting Organized
1972-1980	Jim Cashen I	Broadening the Agenda
1980-1984	Jim Cashen II	Creating Committees
1984-1990	Jack Balinsky	The Committee Era
1990-1998	Joe Buttigieg	Focus on Economic Security
1998-2001	David Hamilton	Transition
2001-2004	Earl Eichelberger	Getting it all Together

CHAPTER ONE

COMMITTEE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIRECTORS 1966-1969 (Getting Started)

A. Introduction

At its November 29, 1966 meeting, the Standing Committee of Catholic Charities Directors unanimously agreed:

- a. That the Standing Committee of Catholic Charities Directors be continued and strengthened.
- b. That the Standing Committee be composed of the Directors of Catholic Charities and an alternate from each Diocese.
- c. The persons designated to attend meetings from each Diocese is in the discretion of the Directors. It is expected that no more than three persons would attend from any one Diocese. It is hoped that persons of special competence on agenda subjects would be invited participants.
- d. That the officers of the Committee be a Chairman and Vice-Chairman, to serve for terms of one year with a maximum service of two one-year terms. Officers will be elected by members of the Committee at the June meeting.
- e. That the Committee will meet monthly on the last Thursday of the month, from September through June, at Kennedy International Airport.
- f. Monsignor Mugavero was elected Chairman and Monsignor Mulcahy was elected Vice Chairman.
- g. Arrangements for meetings and formulation of agenda shall be made by the officers in conjunction with the Secretary of the New York State Catholic Welfare Committee.
- h. The office of Secretary of NYSCWC will provide assistance to the Committee and shall provide a record of its proceedings.
- i. That the need for staff assistance to the work of the Committee will be a priority item for consideration by the officers and staff.
- j. That the problem of inter-relationship with other diocesan activities will be confronted at the NYSCWC, with the use of ad hoc committees, when appropriate.
- k. That further consideration be given to the name of the committee, to conform to any change that might take place in the name of NYSCWC.
- l. That the Committee's work will arise from:
 1. matters which it will initiate
 2. matters referred to it by the NYSCWC for advice, or for background and research
 3. The exchange of information with respect to Diocesan programs, and the development of cooperative planning between Dioceses
 4. The need to continually appraise the role of Diocesan programs in the light of changing needs and developing governmental programs.

Despite that the fact that the Charities Directors had met previously as an Ad Hoc Committee or Standing Committee within the structure of the New York State Catholic Welfare Council, the decisions made at this November meeting marked the formal

creation of what has come to be the New York State Council of Catholic Charities Directors.

B. Membership

Monsignor Mugavero served as Chairperson of the Committee from its inception in 1966 until January 1969, when Monsignor Mulcahy from Rochester was elected as Chairperson and Monsignor Head from New York was elected as Vice-Chairperson.

Archdiocese of New York = Monsignor Ed Head, Father Jim Murray, Dorothy Coyle (1969-) Father John Ahern

Albany = Father Jack Sise, Father Richard Downs

Brooklyn = Monsignor Frank Mugavero, Father Joseph Sullivan, Mildred Shanley

Buffalo = Monsignor Jack Conniff, Father Bill Zenns, Father Bob Williamson

Ogdensburg = Monsignor Bob Lawler

Rochester = Monsignor Don Mulcahy,

Rockville Center = Monsignor Jerry Ryan, Father Emmet Fagan, Father Frank Santagata

Syracuse = Monsignor Charles Fahey, Father Jack McCrea, Harry Honan

This group of “Founding Fathers” was a strong leadership team, including two members who were soon to become Bishops.

- Monsignor Jerry Ryan provided calm, graceful leadership to the Committee and to the agency which was less than ten years old.
- Monsignor Frank Mugavero was a quintessential “people person” who brought a spirit of joy, happiness and celebration wherever he went. A godfather presence and a risk taker, he was a mentor to Joe Sullivan and would soon become the Bishop of Brooklyn.
- Monsignor Ed Head had an impressive presence and was genuinely empathetic to people. He was always well prepared for meetings. He would become Bishop of Buffalo.
- Father Jack Sise was small in stature but big in influence. A dapper man, he was a perfectionist at the desk or links. A swash-buckling personality, he was well connected in the Albany scene.
- Father Richard Downs was social work oriented and oversaw the reorganization of children’s and mental health services in Albany Catholic Charities
- Monsignor Don Mulcahy was very formal, professional and business-like in his approach and brought a seriousness to the work of the Council.
- Monsignors Jack Conniff, Bob Lawler and Charlie Fahey who had lengthy tenures in their positions are described at the end of Chapter Four.

While he was never a member of the Standing Committee or the Council, Charles J. Tobin, Jr. exerted enormous influence on its work and its members. In 1954, Charles was appointed Executive Secretary of the New York State Catholic Welfare Committee, following in the footsteps of his father, Charles Sr., who was the founding Executive Secretary in 1916. It had been said of Monsignor John O’Grady at the federal level, that no piece of child welfare legislation was passed by Congress over a thirty year period from 1910-1940 without his imprimatur. In similar fashion, both Tobins exerted enormous influence on social welfare programs in New York State. In particular, Charles

Jr. had a relationship with leadership in the Rockefeller administration and state legislature at that time that was of great benefit to the Catholic Church in the state.

Whether working with the Bishops, the Catholic Committee or the Charities Directors, Charles was an “enabler”, not a “Director”. As several of his colleagues commented, he often knew what the right approach was or the answer was, but rather than telling them, by a skillful, indirect approach, he would lead those involved to themselves come to the same conclusion he had in mind from the beginning.

Charles also served as a mentor and advisor to those Catholic Charities Directors appointed in the 1960’s and the 1970’s. Among many other involvements, he helped create the decentralized Catholic Charities governance structure enjoyed in the Dioceses of Albany, Syracuse and Rochester.

Much of what is written in this history would not have been possible without the foundation created by Charles J. Tobin, Jr.

C. Committee Activities

In this three year time period the Committee focused on these major areas of concern:

- The Constitutional Convention
- Abortion
- Child Welfare
- Health
- Federal Relationships
- Other Matters
- Creation of the Council

1. The Constitutional Convention

A major reason that the Catholic Charities Directors decided to formalize and intensify their activities, and a major area of focus of their early work was the 1967 Constitutional Convention.

At the January 26, 1967 meeting, the Charities Directors considered social welfare and health issues which should be included in the Constitutional Convention. There was more detailed discussion at the February 23, 1967 meeting in preparation for the issuing by the Convention Committee of study reports on March 1, 1967, and the study reports that had been published were reviewed at the April 27, 1967 meeting. The key human services issues addressed were: preserving the clause in the Constitution requiring the state to pay an adequate standard of need, preservation of religious protection rights for children in foster care, and preservation of the powers of the State Board of Social Welfare.

Discussing the Constitutional Convention, it should be noted that the Catholic Church representatives on the Constitutional Convention Committee were

Monsignor John Conniff, Diocesan Charities Director from Buffalo and Charles Tobin. Monsignor Conniff often fondly told the story of how after several meetings of the Committee in Manhattan, Charles Tobin asked the Chairman of the Committee, Tony Travia, if it ever would be possible to hold a meeting upstate. The Chairman replied, "Fine, we'll hold the next meeting in Yonkers".

Of course, the other major issue for the Church in the Convention was agreement that as part of the reform package put before the voters in November would be inclusion of provision for repeal of the Blaine Amendment, a provision which prevented use of state funds for parochial schools.

Throughout the preparation for the Convention and during the convention itself, Charles Tobin was the chief staff representative of the Catholic Committee and had extensive help from a young Brooklyn Catholic Charities staff attorney, Millie Shanley, who was to play an enormous role with the Council over the years.

The Catholic Conference advocated for a strategy of including all the amendments in one ballot item, which turned out to be a mistake, as the measure was badly defeated.

In the aftermath of the devastating defeat of the reform proposal, there was much discussion at the December 1967 Committee meeting about the political implications of this defeat.

2. Abortion

Another issue of major importance in the early work of the Committee was abortion legislation. There had been growing support within the Legislature for the so-called Blumenthal Bill, (introduced by a liberal Manhattan Assemblyman, Albert Blumenthal) which would legalize abortion in New York State (several years ahead of the landmark 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision). As early as the January 26, 1967 meeting, there was discussion about developing a grassroots Catholic campaign in opposition to this proposed legislation. It was agreed that the strategy would include a state Bishops' pastoral letter, a parish-based letter writing campaign, and systematically testifying at legislative hearings on this bill to be held around the state.

This campaign was given further emphasis in spring 1967 when the Administrative Board of the United States Catholic Conference formalized creation of a national campaign against abortion.

But with each passing year, the bill gained more support. Church advocacy was among the reasons why the Blumenthal bill was not enacted in 1967, but this legislation was ultimately passed in 1977 making New York State one of the first states in the nation to legalize abortion.

The story of passage of the bill is interesting. As happened many times over the years, there was internal debate within the Catholic Committee as to whether to support the Blumenthal bill as more restrictive legislation, and the “lesser of evils”. The Church came to the conclusion that it could not do so because one of the conditions under which abortion would be legal would be if the health of the mother were endangered. It was felt that this provision was too broad and therefore the Church opposed the Blumenthal bill. The climax of the debate came in March 1970. Senate Majority Leader Earl Brydges, who was generally supportive of the Church position, but recognized the potential strength of abortion advocates, devised a strategy which he believed would avoid passage of any abortion legislation. He had introduced a bill that was so liberal and broad that he thought it would surely be defeated. Unfortunately, it was passed 31-26 on March 18, 1970 with the only limitation being to permit abortion on demand only through the 24th week of pregnancy.

Two weeks later that same bill was defeated in the Assembly, but only because Speaker Perry Duryea refused to count the affirmative votes of two Democrats who had “left” their votes with the Clerk of the Assembly and departed for home during the nine-hour debate but before the roll call. In the next two weeks, the Bishops vigorously expressed their opposition to this bill. After another lengthy and bitter debate an upstate Democrat, George Michaels of Auburn, (who was Catholic) dramatically changed his negative vote to the affirmative and the bill passed with the minimum 76 votes. (This was to be the end of Assemblyman Michael’s political career.)

3. Child Welfare

A very early activity of the formalized Committee was with regard to adoptions. At the January 26, 1967 meeting, Father Frank Santagata of Rockville Center was appointed chairperson of “a special committee to study the whole subject of adoption in relationship to Catholic principles and programs under the Catholic auspices”.

One of the first efforts of the committee was to develop for distribution in April 1967 an extensive questionnaire (79 questions) on the practices of Catholic adoption agencies.

From the results of this questionnaire, the subcommittee was charged by the Catholic Charities Committee to focus on these issues:

- a uniform approach in the state to baptismal records for adoptees
- religious qualifications of adoptive parents (including validity of marriage, membership in a parish Church, Catholicity of at least one parent)
- developing a manual for adoption agencies

Over two years, it was recognized that there could not be a uniform state guideline stating that adoptive parents had to be practicing Catholics (one or both), because of different approaches taken by different Bishops.

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Over this time period, other adoptions issues addressed included:

- adoption subsidies for minority adoptions
- a more effective means for moving children from long-term care to adoption
- advocacy on issues relating to abrogation of adoption
- creation of a national demonstration project jointly developed by Fordham University and Angel Guardian Home

The Committee also addressed several other child welfare issues as follows:

- through creation of a special sub-committee on day care appointed at the November 29, 1966 meeting, the committee addressed such issues as advocacy for re-imbusement for 80 percent of the actual cost of day care, and support for legislation to create a funding stream for loans for construction of day care facilities.
- advocacy for financial support for education programs in child care institutions.
- advocacy for funding for education for handicapped children in the community.
- addressing issues relating to the implementation at the state level of 1967 federal amendments to the Social Security law particularly affecting AFDC and foster care services.
- support for legislation providing that the religion of a child in the childcare system would be presumed to be that of his or her parents.
- opposition to legislation such as the Tursken Bill that would allow families to function independent of agency review after an adoption was completed
- providing input into the 1969 White House Conference on Children and Youth.
- advocacy for a policy that medical assistance should be provided for all children in the childcare system.
- discussion of creation of a State Association of Child Care Institutions (later to become COVCCA-the Council of Voluntary Child-Caring Agencies.)

4. Income Security

From its early beginnings, the Committee was a staunch advocate for the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable residents of New York State.

The earliest activities of the formalized Committee about public assistance were in relation to provision of family planning services to those on welfare. At its meeting on December 8, 1966, the committee appointed a sub-committee composed of Monsignor Conniff, Father Sullivan, Father Murray and Father Fahey to prepare a presentation for the Catholic Committee to the State Board of Social Welfare in opposition to making information about family planning services available to welfare recipients. (At the same meeting, it was recommended that Catholic agencies not participate in the upcoming HEW

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Conference on Family Planning). At the February 2, 1967 meeting there was review of the decision by Commissioner Ginsburg to make such information available to recipients in New York City.

As previously indicated, during the deliberations of the Constitutional Convention Committee, the Committee advocated successfully for the retention of the clause requiring the state to pay an adequate standard of need. The Committee also advocated successfully for preservation of the powers of the State Board of Social Welfare against those who felt that the legislature itself should set the level of welfare payments. And, indeed, in the early 1970's, when the Board lost authority to set benefit levels, the legislature proposed a 10 percent reduction in benefits.

In the spring of 1968, Governor Rockefeller through the State Board of Social Welfare, held hearings in seven locations in the state. The Committee prepared testimony which focused on these issues:

- the welfare system should be transformed to a system of providing insurance for those in need
- that assistance to blind, disabled and aged persons should be moved into the Social Security System, and that as a corollary, provision of services should be separated from provision of cash assistance
- there should be a national standard of need
- the state should develop an education program so that all residents could better understand the needs of those who required assistance

In the fall of 1968, the Committee in like fashion testified before the Legislative Committee to Revise the Social Services Law, advocating:

- that the focus of government programs should be to eliminate poverty
- that there should be developed a social insurance system
- that the progressive state income tax should be the primary mechanism for funding these programs
- that services should be available and provided at the choice of the recipient

In January 1969, the eight Diocesan Catholic Charities Directors issued a statement in response to the Governor's proposals relating to welfare reform. They were particularly concerned with his proposals to:

- reduce the minimum assistance level
- limit payment for nursing home care to 120 days
- strengthen the residency requirement
- restore filial responsibilities

They stated:

“We are alarmed and greatly disturbed at Governor Rockefeller’s welfare proposals which are an economic attack on the disadvantaged”.

On February 12, 1969 in testimony before the Senate Finance Committee on the health, human services and hospital budget, Father Charles Fahey from Syracuse stated on behalf of the Catholic Charities Directors:

“I register a strong protest in regard to the way in which the budget is being cut at a great cost to people in need”.

In the fall of 1969, as described later, the Charities Directors would call upon the Bishops of the state to develop a statement on poverty.

5. Health Care

During this time period, the Committee also addressed a number of healthcare issues including:

- urging that home health services become Medicare reimbursable
- achieving a major victory with regard to Article 28A legislation about the establishment of nursing homes with the inclusion of language that the standard for proving need was met if a religious entity stated there was a need
- advocating for appropriate levels of funding for County Health Departments
- providing input about the licensure and standards for health care professionals, including nursing home administrators, homemakers and home health aides
- urging funding for provision of homemaker services
- providing input into the implementation of legislation providing funding for hospital construction
- support for universal health insurance

6. Federal Relationships

The Committee was involved with several federal issues, including:

- advocacy about and monitoring of implementation of the 1967 amendments to the Social Security law as described above
- monitoring the development of and discussing what should be the relationship between Catholic Charities and Urban Task Forces which were being created as a result of a decision by the National Bishops’ Conference
- discussion at the March 7, 1969 meeting of the relationship of this state group with the National Conference of Catholic Charities which led to an invitation to national Director Monsignor Larry Corcoran to attend the June 8, 1969 meeting at which the relationship was further discussed

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- input through NCCC into federal issues relating to childcare, income maintenance and public assistance issues.

7. Other Issues Addressed

The Committee addressed other issues as follows:

- eligibility of priests for Medicaid, with the decision that further study was required
- discussion of the impact passage of proposed minimum wage legislation would have on Church agencies and institutions
- advocacy on behalf of migrant farm workers, including a proposal by Father Fagan to organize an interfaith conference in Syracuse
- discussion of the future role of Catholic Charities (Father Fahey developed a paper outlining a proposal that Catholic Charities should be more involved in planning, coordinating and monitoring, while other agencies were more involved in direct service provision.)
- proposing the convening of a Housing Conference to discuss common issues and concerns
- discussion of the relationships of Catholic Charities to various inner-city advocacy groups that were springing up around the state in the wake of urban riots
- discussion about the demise of the Office of Economic Opportunity, and agreement that Catholic Charities should support continuation of local programs because of grassroots empowerment, and should work through NCCC for restoring of federal funding

8. Creation of the Council

A major focus of the work of the Committee during this time period was movement toward creation of the Council of Catholic Charities Directors.

At the February 27, 1967 Committee meeting, Charles Tobin was authorized to follow-up on a proposal to obtain the services of Joseph Bauer to serve as secretary of the Committee of Catholic Charities Directors. Joseph Bauer was on the staff of the Albany Medical College. He would be hired to address both health and social welfare issues. The enterprise would cost \$15,000 annually: \$10,000 for salary and \$5,000 for office expenses. For whatever reason, this hiring never came to pass, and it would be two years before the Council would have staff assistance beyond that provided by Charles Tobin and Millie Shanley.

At the October 25, 1968 meeting, there was agreement that there should be created a structure similar to the recently created Council of Catholic School Superintendents. There should be staff to focus on issues relating to Catholic Charities and Catholic healthcare. It was agreed that Charles Tobin and Monsignor Don Mulcahy would develop a job description for this staff position.

At its meeting on February 7, 1969, the Committee came to the following agreements:

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- the new organization would be called the State Council of Catholic Charities Directors
- it would be a substructure of the State Catholic Committee
- the group approved the job description for an Executive Secretary who would have basically a coordinating and monitoring role
- the Council would elect biannually a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson each of whom would serve a two-year term
- the Directors agreed to contribute proportionally to a \$40,000 annual budget

Four new Diocesan Directors became members of the Council during this time period:

- Father William Charbonneau became Director in Rochester in 1971. He was a warm, sensitive person who was affirming and welcoming.
- Father Joseph D'Aurizio was appointed Diocesan Director in Rochester in 1974. He had a professional social work background and was heavily involved with the United Way.
- The work of Father Charles Mulligan, appointed Rochester Diocesan Director in 1977, and Sister Serena Branson, appointed Albany Director in 1974, is described in the next chapter.

Charles Tobin reported at the April 17, 1969 meeting that the Bishops had approved the proposed structure and budget, and the Council determined to begin advertising the position. It should be noted here that a helpful supporter in this decision and in his entire tenure was Terence Cardinal Cooke, Archbishop of New York from 1968-84.

Whereas the Committee had previously attended to developing goals for the forthcoming year only in passing fashion, it did so formally at its June 8, 1969 meeting in adopting program goals for Catholic Charities for 1969-1970. They were:

- 1.) Relationship, Involvements
 - a) Third Party Payors
 - b) Diocesan Urban Task Forces
 - c) Development of education programs to help parishioners better understand poverty and the poor
 - d) White House Conference on Children and Youth
 - e) 1971 White House Conference on the Aging
- 2.) Participation with Legislative Committees, Concerns
 - a.) Implementation of Social Security amendments
 - b.) Child Care and Child Protective issues
 - c.) Housing
 - d.) Handicapped

- 3.) Family and Child Welfare Issues
 - a.) Finalization of adoption study
 - b.) Religious protection issue for children in foster care
 - c.) Subsidy for Adoption
 - d.) Abrogation of adoption
 - e.) New York State Department of Social Services regulations on purchase of service (unlike other states, New York early on was not enthusiastic about implementing this opportunity for voluntary agencies)
 - f.) Voluntary commitment to childcare placement
 - g.) Securing greater federal financial assistance for programs
- 4.) Implementation of the Laws of 1969
 - a.) Day care construction and finances
 - b.) Food distribution
 - c.) Monitor legislation that gave foster parents preference in adoption
- 5.) Internal Management
 - a.) Conference on Catholic Charities in the Future
 - b.) Conference on Aging
- 6.) Clarification of Relationship of Health and Welfare Subgroups
- 7.) Development of a Convening on Theology

At a planning meeting held on July 23, 24, 1969, it was agreed to add several goals, to work with the Bishops in focusing on poverty, and to engage in other activity.

Goals added were:

- Family and Child Welfare issues including homemaker services, housing, family court and child abuse
- State support for schools in child care institutions
- Restoration of welfare cuts
- Relationship with inner-city advocacy groups

With regard to poverty, it was agreed that in concert with the Bishops the Charities Directors should give priority during the coming year to this area of concern in four ways:

- a message from the Bishops in the fall of 1969
- continued development of education materials
- exploration of various educational techniques in Dioceses, e.g. Forums, speakers, parishes-based programs

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- legislative advocacy

Finally, it was agreed to hold convenings in the spring of 1970 on housing and aging, and through the National Conference of Catholic Charities to advocate for federal legislation relating to childcare, income maintenance, and public assistance.

With this formalized agenda, the Council was poised in September 1969 to “hit the ground running”.

CHAPTER TWO

JOHN SZULGIT 1969-1972 – (Getting Organized)

A. Introduction

With the establishment of the Council and the hiring of a staff person officially approved by the Bishops in April 1969, the Council then began a search process.

Through this effort, John Szulgit was hired as Council Executive Secretary effective September 15, 1969. John was a social worker from the Lackawanna area, who had a Masters Degree in Social Work from Fordham and was working on a Doctorate at Syracuse University. John was to work until 1972, when, because of a tragic death in his family, he was forced to return to Rochester to run the family business.

The era into which John was hired was one of significant turmoil and change. The 1960's had brought in society a much greater focus on the poor and availability of funding for social programs. With changes in the Church in the wake of the Second Vatican Council, there was much over-all concern about the role of Catholic Charities and the Church in society. In addition, the Council itself was newly organized and there was need for sorting out of the role of a staff person. This process was made even more difficult because the staff person was supervised by a group whose members were geographically disbursed and because, as one observer commented, many of the Directors were "free spirits".

Described here are first activities through which the role of Catholic Charities and the Council were analyzed and evaluated, and then the ongoing work of the Council is discussed.

B. Membership

Monsignor Edward Head was elected Chairperson of the Council on January 15, 1970, replacing Monsignor Donald Mulcahy. In turn, Father Joseph Sullivan was elected Chair on September 15, 1971, and Monsignor Fahey Vice-Chair. On July 1, 1972, Monsignor Fahey and Father Emmet Fagan were elected as Chair and Co-Chair for a three-year term.

Council members were:

Archdiocese of New York: Monsignor Ed Head, Monsignor Jim Murray, Monsignor William Toohy, Father John Ahern, Father Bob Arpie, Ms. Dorothy Coyle.

Albany: Father Richard Downs

Brooklyn: Father Joseph Sullivan, Millie Shanley

Buffalo: Monsignor Jack Conniff, Father Phil Jarmac

Ogdensburg: Monsignor Robert Lawler, Father Pat Mundy

Rochester: Monsignor Don Mulcahy (-1971), Father William Charbonneau, Father Tim Weider

Rockville Center: Father Emmet Fagan, Father Ed Molloy, Joe Barbaro

Syracuse: Monsignor Charles Fahey, Father Jack McCrea, Harry Honan, Monsignor Robert Davern (1971)

C. **Analysis and Evaluation**

1. **Evaluation of the Role of National Conference of Catholic Charities**

The Council undertook two activities relative to evaluating the role of the National Conference of Catholic Charities (NCCC). Following up on an earlier meeting, the Council met again with national Director Monsignor Larry Corcoran, on April 16, 1970 to discuss:

- policy and program directions for NCCC
- the relationship between NCCC and the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. (Illustrative of the concern about the relationship was the decision of USCC to recommend establishment of Diocesan Urban Task Forces separate from the Diocesan Catholic Charities structure.)

This meeting contributed to a larger effort to evaluate the role of Catholic Charities in the Church and country, and the related role of the National Conference of Catholic Charities. The “Cadre” appointed to carry out this analysis was heavily influenced by New Yorkers including Father Charlie Fahey, Father Joseph Sullivan and Father Bob Fox, a street priest from Harlem.

Bob Fox would become the principal author of the Preface to the Cadre report which still stands today as a vision statement for the work of Catholic Charities.

The Preface begins: *“The good news of the gospel and the scandal of human suffering together situate the paradoxical mandate of Catholic Charities. Our understanding of both the good news and human suffering have been restored by our tendency to dichotomize the two.*

As an integral expression of the Church of Christ we are charged not simply with attempts to meet human need, but with the further challenge of a reflective penetration of every expression of need as a revelation of the human condition that all men share.....

At the Charities Director’s meeting on February 19, 1971, as part of the Cadre study, the Charities Directors considered these questions:

- Should Catholic Charities continue as a direct service agency?
- Are Catholic Charities programs a Church related ministry or a professional social work effort?
- What is the actual value of casework?

At its meeting on October 29, 1971, the Council heard and endorsed the Phase I report of the Cadre.

Council members traveled to Washington on May 2, 1972 to meet on the draft of the Cadre report and at the same time organized visits with representatives of the New York State Congressional delegation.

On May 17, 1972, the Council met with representatives of communities of religious women to discuss the proposed Cadre Report.

The three-fold mission statement approved in September 1972 at the National Catholic Charities meeting in Miami at the recommendation of the Cadre Committee was:

- the continuing provision of quality direct services
- advocacy to transform the social order
- convening, especially calling to action local faith communities, to address community needs

With some minor modification, this mission statement was a major focus of the 1976 national meeting in Denver, was reaffirmed on its 20th anniversary in 1992 at the national meeting in Philadelphia, and then again in the Catholic Charities USA Vision 2000 process. It still today guides the work of local Catholic Charities agencies.

2. The Role of Diocesan Catholic Charities Agencies

The same concerns that drove the national study also drove an effort within the Council to discuss the role of Diocesan Catholic Charities agencies.

At the October 9, 1969 meeting, Father Joseph Sullivan was asked to provide a guide or outline for addressing the future role of a Diocesan Catholic Charities agency. At the December 9, 1969 meeting the Council endorsed his proposed study guide and agreed to address it at a future meeting.

At the February 27, 1970 meeting, the Council discussed the following common concerns:

- a) relevance to Diocesan leadership
- b) timeliness to the life of the community
- c) appropriateness to available revenue
- d) real time reactions including:
 - How are service areas chosen for funding, staffing and evaluation
 - What are new approaches to planning, development, implementation and evaluation that “create new genesis of generalization.”

Materials indicate that Council members found this discussion most helpful. It no doubt contributed also to the work of the NCCC Cadre group.

3. Role of Church in Society

The turbulence of the times continued to create interest in analyzing the current and future role of Catholic Charities in the Church and society. In June 1971 Monsignor Don Mulcahy, now a pastor, led a discussion with appropriate resource materials on “why study the future”. (This session was augmented with a golf outing at Oak Hill)

This theme next appeared in a memorandum from Monsignor Fahey to the Council written on February 12, 1972 entitled “A Call for Action on a Statewide Level”. There was follow-up discussion at the March 21, 1972 Council meeting about a process for evaluating Church structures in New York State. This discussion led to a meeting on May 17, 1972 about the “Statewide Study Process” involving Monsignor Tom Costello, Syracuse Diocesan School Superintendent, Monsignor Fahey, schools staff person Alan Davitt, Millie Shanley, Syracuse attorney Bob McAuliffe, and John Szulgit. Since it seemed that there was a lack of conviction about participation in this effort, the matter was referred to the meeting of the Catholic Committee the next day. Finally, at the June 20, 1972 meeting, it was determined that there was not the will or interest to continue this effort, so it was “dismissed”. Nonetheless, it was a sign of the time of change and evolution.

4. The Evolving Council Structure

It was within this over-all context and environment that the Council underwent its own growing pains.

Already at his first meeting held on October 9, 1969, the Council discussed what were to be priorities for Council Executive Secretary John Szulgit. It was agreed:

- that he should seek to become affiliated with a wide variety of groups
- that the Charities Directors would decide what substantive issues he should address
- that the office would serve as a focal point for information about legislation and regulation

At the December 9, 1969 meeting, it was agreed that John would use the Department of Commerce Clearing House as a source of information about federal issues.

There was discussion at the March 23, 1970 meeting about the co-location of John’s office with that of Charles Tobin and the secretary to the School Superintendents Alan Davitt. Eventually, it was agreed to do so for economy of scale reasons (sharing secretarial support, conference space, etc.)

There was also again addressed at this meeting the role of the Executive Secretary, including these issues:

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- John expressed concern that he had only a cursory knowledge of Diocesan Catholic Charities activities (it was suggested there be identified individual Diocesan contacts on whom he could rely).
- it was felt that John had done a good job establishing contacts with government leaders and voluntary groups
- it was agreed that John should work closely with Charles Tobin and Millie Shanley on legislative issues
- in discussion about what was the unique role and contribution of the Executive Secretary, it was agreed that John would develop an outline for review by the Directors on specifics of his relationship with government and issue areas to be addressed

This discussion led to planning an entire meeting to be held on July 1, 1970 about the purposes of the Council and planning for 1970-1971 goals.

At this meeting, it was agreed that the purposes of the Council were:

1. to keep membership informed about internal and public developments in health and welfare policy, services and administration
2. to participate with public and private welfare organizations
3. to react to issues and policies
4. to provide leadership for new directions
5. to share information and review existing programs and policies
6. act in unison with the Catholic Committee

Membership of the Council was to include the eight Diocesan Directors and up to two other staff from each Diocese who worked closely with the Director.

Set forth as examples of issues which the Council would address were:

- New York State welfare payments
- Federal Family Assistance plan
- NYS Youth Facilities Act
- Public Housing Bond Issue
- Universal Health Insurance
- Medical Assistance Program
- Reimbursement Rates for Child Care
- Child Care Legislation
- Recodification of Mental Hygiene Law
- Narcotics Education and Prevention Program

At this meeting, the Council also adopted goals for the 1970-1971 program year, as follows:

- organize a conference on the future of Catholic Charities
- participation in the NYS Association of Child Caring Agencies
- adoption by foster parents
- childcare rates

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- Conference on aging
- construction of day care facilities
- survey on food distribution
- discussion of Catholic Charities experiences with Diocesan Urban Task Forces
- purchase of services
- White House Conference on Aging 1971
- White House Conference on Children and Youth 1970
- position on abrogation of adoption
- federal issues including childcare, income maintenance and public assistance
- legislation on religious protection

This meeting helped to focus the work of John Szulgit until he left work with the Council in summer 1972, as previously indicated.

D. Ongoing Council Activities

Throughout this time of analysis and evaluation, the Council continued to address federal issues, income security issues, service delivery priorities and organizational issues.

1. Federal issues:

The Council addressed these federal issues:

- a) At its meeting on October of 1969 and again in October of 1970, the Nixon Family Assistance plan, which was ultimately defeated
- b.) At its meeting on September 15, 1971, the Comprehensive Child Development Act, which was vetoed by President Nixon on December 15th of that year
- c) At its April 25, 1972 meeting new federal welfare reform legislation introduced in Congress

2. State Income Security Issues

Throughout this time period, the Council continued to give priority to addressing income security priorities at the state level.

As previously indicated, the Bishops of the state issued a pastoral letter on poverty in the fall of 1969 at the recommendation of the Council. This letter was read in parishes on the weekend of December 7, 1969 and was printed in Catholic newspapers. The Charities Directors held a special meeting in Albany on December 17, 1969 just prior to the Health and Welfare dinner to discuss how to further publicize this statement.

On January 7, 1970, representatives from the Council (Father John Ahern, Monsignor Don Mulcahy, Father Charles Fahey, Millie Shanley, Charles Tobin, John Szulgit), met with Governor Nelson Rockefeller to discuss income security issues including: the flat grant proposal, the Advisory Committee to the State

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Government Social Development Planning Committee, and the Governor's proposal for Universal Health Care. As a follow-up, it was agreed at the January 15, 1970 Council meeting to nominate John LaFalce, an attorney from Buffalo, and Jim Parr, a banker from Syracuse, as Catholic Church representatives to the Advisory Committee to the Social Development Planning Committee.

On February 4, 1970, Father Richard Downs testified before the State Legislature on the local assistance budget on behalf of the Council.

On April 16, 1970, the Council issued a statement in response to the welfare cuts included on the 1970-1971 state budget.

Advocacy continued during the budget debate the next year.

In testimony about the state budget presented on February 17, 1971, John Szulgit addressed these issues:

Public Assistance

- separate service from income maintenance function
- support for flat grant
- gradually have state take over funding
- strengthen purchase of service utilization

Health

- eliminate 20 percent Medicaid co-pay
- support universal access
- require skilled personnel in key positions

Housing

- utilize bond funding to create 100,000 new affordable units
- funding for pre-development costs
- loans to enable lower income families to buy homes

In continuing budget advocacy in February 1971, the Council and Catholic Committee joined the New York Board of Rabbis and the New York State Council of Churches in "expressing deep and urgent concern over the announcement of proposed and regressive budget cuts in assistance for the poor, the sick and the disadvantaged of our great state."

For the 1971-1972 budget year, the Council was involved in these activities:

- on September 15, 1971, expressing support for an adequate standard of need
- on December 15, 1971, meeting with the person appointed to the newly created position of Welfare Inspector General

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- on that same day, issuing a statement advocating against denial of welfare benefits to “aliens”, and advocating against cutback of benefits to blind persons (after hearing a presentation from Paul Sauerland from the Rockville Center Diocese)
- advocating on June 12, 1972 for the re-establishment of the State Board of Social Welfare

3. Service Delivery Priorities

During this time period, the Council was involved with service delivery priorities including:

- agreement at the October 9, 1969 meeting that the adoption committee would continue to meet on a twice a year basis
- hearing a presentation at its January 15, 1970 meeting about implementation of the Youth Facilities Development Act
- at its March 23, 1970 meeting, establishing a joint committee with representatives from the school superintendents to advocate on special education issues relating specifically to sections 4407 and 4001 of the State Education law
- at its March 23, 1970 meeting, preparing for the White House Conference on Children and Youth
- relating to the drug abuse issue, organizing a May 5, 1970 Conference on Narcotics and then establishing at its December 11, 1970 meeting an Ad Hoc Task Force on Drug Abuse (Bishop David Cunningham of Syracuse served as Moderator of the Committee). The Committee directed on February 19, 1971 that there be a survey of existing Diocesan efforts relating to prevention and treatment
- addressing issues relating to grants to states from Title XX for services to individuals and families, both at the October 15, 1970 meeting and the March 21, 1972 meeting
- at its February 19, 1971 meeting, hearing a presentation by Father Emmet Fagan and Father Ed Molloy on the FISH program initiated in Rockville Center
- organizing a Housing Conference on April 6, 7, 1971
- through Bob McAuliffe and Father Emmet Fagan, advocating at an State Communities Aid Association (SCAA) meeting on October 19, 1971 that that organization support implementation in New York State of the federal purchase of service opportunity
- at several meetings beginning on October 29, 1971, addressing the decision of the State Department of Social Services to inform clients in the childcare system of the availability of family planning services
- also, beginning with the October 29, 1971 meeting when it was indicated that Monsignor Head and Monsignor McGann were to head a statewide effort within the Catholic community, addressing issues relating to criminal justice policy and ways in which the institutional Church could support Catholic Chaplains in prisons

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- beginning with the Council meeting on December 5, 1971, addressing issues related to proposed New York City Council Resolution 475 giving extended rights to homosexuals. Included in these deliberations, the Council discussed, on January 18, 1972, a memo entitled “More Recent Theological Thinking on Homosexuality”.
- achieving a breakthrough on a purchase of service opportunities in a meeting on January 12, 1972 with George Levine from the United States Department of Labor, and following up in March with submission of a proposal to DOL for an employment program
- discussing issues at its April 25th meeting relating to calculating a cost per unit of service
- at the same meeting, agreeing to support legislation for creation of home health agencies introduced by State Senator Tarky Lombardi
- hearing a presentation from Charlie Fahey at the May 17, 1972 meeting about the availability of funding nutrition for programs for senior citizens (in the event, the funding was delayed for over a year)

4. Internal Organizational Issues

During this time, the Council also addressed internal Church issues as follows:

- at its October 9, 1969 meeting, discussing possible changes to the statute creating Catholic Charities agencies, both to update language to more modern terminology, and also to emphasize that services were provided not just to Catholics
- agreeing that presentations at the Health and Welfare Dinner to be held on December 17, 1969 would be limited to two, one by Father Fahey and one by the Commissioner of the State Department of Social Services
- after hearing a presentation at the December 11, 1970 meeting by Monsignor Christopher Kane from the healthcare ministry in the Archdiocese, suggesting that he be appointed to the State Catholic Committee to represent Catholic healthcare interests
- on initial evaluation, determining that the response to the first Campaign for Human Development collection was good
- also at that meeting, reviewing a model contract between a Catholic Charities agency and community of religious women for the hiring and placement of religious women within Catholic Charities agencies
- suggesting at the January 12, 1972 meeting that there be created Diocesan Legislative Advocacy Committees (the forerunner of Diocesan Public Policy Committees created in the 1990’s)
- at the February 1, 1972 meeting, discussing for the first time the use of parish facilities for human services programs

CHAPTER THREE

JIM CASHEN 1972-1980 – (Broadening The Reach)

A. Introduction

Jim Cashen was the right person at the right time at the right place to spur the growth and effectiveness of the Council of Catholic Charities Directors. An attorney by profession, he had been working as a Grants Officer at the United Hospital Fund in New York City. With a change in leadership there, he had decided it was time to move on. Raised in the Catholic faith, and committed to the social justice Gospel, Jim came upon Father Bob Fox, a street priest from Harlem who, as previously described, had become a leader in the National Catholic Charities movement. Through Bob, Jim came to know Charlie Fahey and Emmet Fagan and was hired as an Executive Secretary of the Council in March 1973. Jim's outgoing nature, intelligence and passion for social justice were to stand the Council in good stead for the next eleven years. Through his efforts, the reach of the Council was broadened considerably, both in terms of connectedness made and issues addressed.

During this time period, both in the nine months before Jim was hired, and subsequent to his hiring, the Council continued to devote considerable attention to its own internal development.

The Council also continued to address federal issues, issues related to income security (including now food stamps), and child care issues.

During this time period, the Council broadened its concerns to address issues including:

- life issues
- aging issues
- health issues
- mental health issues
- housing issues
- criminal justice issues
- issues relating to refugees
- social justice advocacy issues
- teen pregnancy issues

B. Membership

This time period began with Monsignor Fahey serving as Chair and Father Fagan as Co-Chair. In April 1974, Father Fagan was elected as Chair and Monsignor Lawler was elected as Vice-Chair. In April 1976, Harry Honan was elected as Chairperson, with Monsignor Murray serving as Vice-Chairperson. In 1978 Monsignor Murray was elected as Chairperson and Father Charlie Mulligan was elected as Vice-Chairperson.

Members included:

Archdiocese of New York: Monsignor James Murray, Dorothy Coyle
Albany: Father Richard Downs (-1974), Sister Serena Branson (1974-)

Brooklyn: Father Joseph Sullivan, Millie Shanley, Tom DeStefano (1979-)
Buffalo: Monsignor Jack Coniff, Monsignor Henry Gugino (1976)
Ogdensburg: Monsignor Bob Lawler, Al Velto (1974)
Rochester: Father William Charbonneau (-1973), Father Joe D'Aurizio (1973-1977),
Father Charlie Mulligan (1977-), Maurice Tierney (1978-)
Rockville Center: Father Emmet Fagan, Father Dick Dina, Joe Barbaro (1976-)
Syracuse: Monsignor Charles Fahey, Harry Honan (-1977), Jack Balinsky (1977-)

C. Continued Evolution of Council Structure and Functioning

Following on John Szulgit's departure in the summer of 1972, the Council discussed revising the job description for this position. At the December 5, 1972 meeting, Charlie Fahey offered his thoughts that the person in this position should be a convener and a self-starter. Others suggested it would be important that this person have technical skills related to human service delivery and legislative analysis. Jim Cashen was certainly effective as a convener and self-starter, and from his legal background would have a basis for analysis of legislation.

With Jim's hiring, the Council was to undertake what would be a two-year process of self-development.

At its meeting on May 16, 1973 the Council appointed a Finance Committee and Planning Committee.

The Planning Committee (comprised of Monsignor Charlie Fahey, Monsignor Jack Conniff, Monsignor Bob Lawler, Father Richard Downs and Jim Cashen) made its first report at the November 7, 1973 meeting addressing three issues:

- recognition that the structure and functioning and relationship to the Council was different in each Diocese
- suggesting ways to streamline the program for the Annual Health and Social Service Dinner which was to be held at the Fort Orange Club on December 19, 1973.
- recommending that the Council take a position in federal revenue sharing

At its February 4, 1974 meeting, the Council appointed a new Committee to review childcare legislation.

At its April 24, 1974 meeting, the Council elected Father Emmet Fagan as Chairperson and Monsignor Bob Lawler as Vice-Chairperson, both for two-year terms.

For the 1974-1975 program year, Jim Cashen wrote to Father Fagan suggesting the following priorities:

1. Review of federal and state legislation
2. Government relations – review contacts with the administration
3. Establish three convenings during the coming year
4. Provide educational programs for Catholic Charities staff

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5. Create a Council intern position

At the November 6, 1974 meeting, Father Joseph D'Aurizio, recently appointed as Rochester Diocesan Director and a new member of the Council, raised a question about what was the perceived role of the Council and the role of Directors in relation to the Council. This led to discussion at the January 22, 1975 meeting and a decision at the March 5, 1975 meeting to appoint a planning committee comprised of Father Emmet Fagan, Father Joe D'Aurizio and Jim Cashen to organize a Council planning retreat.

At this special session held in Rochester on July 1, 2, 1975, it was agreed that "the purposes of the State Council of Catholic Charities Directors shall be as follows:

- to provide a forum by which Catholic Charities organizations, sharing of the vision and social mission of the Church, may join together at the state level to:
 - * inter-relate with government and voluntary organizations
 - * contribute to the development of public and Church policy
 - * be responsible to human service needs which are inter-Diocesan in nature
 - * experience the mutual support of the group
 - * offer opportunities for leadership and program development

At this session also, Jim Cashen presented a year-end activity report for the time from, 8/1/74-7/30/75 which addressed these matters:

1. Legislative advocacy (recognizing that there had been less at the federal level)
2. Convenings – Statewide Housing and Community Development
3. Relationships with state agencies
 - Department of Social Service
 - Board of Social Welfare
 - Department of Health
 - Office for Aging (recognizing that Rhea Eckel left her position in January 1973)
4. Relationships with other organizations
 - State Coalition for Criminal Justice
 - Health and Welfare Council
 - Council of Voluntary Child Caring Agencies
5. Education Activities
6. Work of an Associate, Father Ed Molloy from Rockville Center

In reviewing this activity report, the Council came to the following agreement with regard to its activities for the coming year:

- there needed to be a better process for legislative analysis
- afternoons of Council meetings would be given over to in-depth special issues presentations
- agendas would be planned by a Program Committee including Father Emmet Fagan, Monsignor Bob Lawler, Sister Serena and Jim Cashen
- Jim Cashen would develop a brief Annual Report of Council activities for wide-spread dissemination

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Based upon this discussion also, Jim Cashen prepared a proposed Council Program for 1975-1976, addressing these matters:

1. Legislation
 - Temporary Commission to Revise the Social Services Law
 - Senator Pisani Bills on Child Care
 - Mental Health issues
2. Two convenings planned
3. Continued relationship with state agencies
4. Liaison activities
 - State Coalition for Criminal Justice
 - State Health and Welfare Council
 - Council of Voluntary Child-Caring Agencies
 - Council of Churches
5. Educational efforts – Council newsletter
6. Continue the Associate Program

Because of concerns about the best prioritization of time and the relationship of the Council and State Catholic Conference staff, Harry Honan and Sister Serena were appointed at the May 14, 1976 meeting as a committee to address the excessive workload placed on the Executive Secretary, especially in light of his responsibilities to the Catholic Conference, and his work with groups focusing on criminal justice and healthcare issues.

With their report in mind, the Council approved the following program plan for 1976-1977.

1. Legislation – to be given more emphasis
 - Pisani Bills
 - Budget concerns
2. Convenings
 - Housing
 - Temporary Commission to Revise Social Services Law
3. Relationships with state agencies-priorities
 - Division for Youth
 - State Office for Aging
 - Department of Mental Hygiene
4. Liaisons
 - State Coalition for Health and Welfare
 - State Coalition for Criminal Justice
 - Health and Hospital Advisory Council

These program plans were also closely replicated for 1977-1978, 1978-1979 and 1979-1980. The Council had found its rhythm in addressing issues. The next major change would come with the formal establishment of issue area subcommittee. This development is discussed in the next Chapter.

This section on the evolving structure of the Council is concluded with a discussion about the relationship of the Council to the National Conference of Catholic Charities.

An important element of the Cadre Report adopted at the 1972 annual meeting in Miami, was the notion of individual membership in the National Conference, and the concomitant opportunity to participate in and vote in the Congress session at the annual meeting. At its October 25, 1972 meeting, the Council invited Sister Serena Branson, who had been involved in the national discussion, to address the Council about recruiting members.

At the May 19, 1976 meeting, it was reported that New York State had been assigned the distinction of becoming a separate region of NCCC.

At the June 22, 1976 meeting, there was discussion about organizing individual Diocesan convenings to prepare staff and members for the upcoming Congress.

At its December 8, 1976 meeting, the Council heard a presentation from Jerry Ernst about the Parish Outreach program being promoted by NCCC.

D. Ongoing Advocacy Activities

During this time period, the Council continued to focus on federal issues, income security issues, and child care issues.

1. Federal Issues

In this time period, the Council continued and expanded its advocacy activities in relation to federal issues.

A major issue addressed was the evolution of the Title XX program for provision of social services. At its September 25, 1972 meeting, the Council developed testimony for state implementation with particular emphasis on Sections 4 and 16 in the state plan. State implementation of the Title XX program was again an agenda item at the December 11, 1974 and March 5, 1975 meetings. A concern addressed at the March 19, 1976 meeting was citizen participation in developing plans for county implementation of Title XX. At its June 22, 1976 meeting, the Council addressed the Family Planning Amendment to Title XX, expressing its opposition to including those services in the funding opportunities.

Other federal issues addressed during this time period included:

- the Comprehensive Child Development act, including a meeting with Senator James Buckley on this legislation which never came to fruition
- the Nixon veto of the nutrition program, and various other items in the Nixon budgets of 1973 and 1974
- in 1973, review of new federal social security regulations
- helping Charlie Fahey prepare a presentation given to the state Bishops on June 16, 1973 about “the new Federalism”

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- in 1974, the newly created Commodity Distribution program
- in November 1974, a discussion about the possibility of a National Health insurance program
- in 1975, a series of discussions about federal revenue sharing
- in May 1976, discussion about mounting a voter registration drive for the coming Presidential election
- at the same meeting in 1976, the Council determined not to take a position in opposition to increased defense spending
- in fall 1979, the Council organized a meeting with newly elected Senator Moynihan on a variety of income security issues

2. Advocacy on Income Security

Throughout the remainder of the 1970's, the Council continued to give high priority to advocacy on income security priorities.

During the first part of the decade, much of this activity was carried out in relation to work of the Temporary Commission to Revise the Social Services Law and also to the role of the State Board of Social Welfare. At meetings on October 25, 1972 and December 5, 1972, the Council reviewed a report from the Temporary Committee (Chaired by Senator Bill (Cadillac) Smith from Big Flats and staffed by Norma Wedlake) that indicated that of \$500 million spent by New York State on social welfare programs, \$400 million was given to voluntary agencies for service provision. In testimony given in February 1973, Father John Cleary from Brooklyn endorsed recommendations of the Temporary Commission relating to service delivery and income maintenance. In upstate testimony given in the same time frame, Monsignor Coniff expressed concern that these recommendations "did not ameliorate the emasculation of the State Board of Social Welfare". In March 1973, the Council endorsed the continuation of the work of the Temporary Commission for another year. At its meeting on February 4, 1974, the Council heard a presentation by representatives from the Temporary Commission, and at its meeting on January 22, 1975, voted to recommend approval of the report and recommendations of the Temporary Commission.

The Council in this time frame also addressed several other issues relating to income maintenance, including advocacy in relation to the Food Stamp program. At its meeting on February 4, 1974, the Council determined to support Governor Wilson's request in his Executive Budget program for an increase in public assistance grant levels. The new food stamp program first came on the agenda of the Council at its January 22, 1975 program. In September 1975, Council representatives participated in a meeting of the State Food Stamp Coalition with representatives of the State Department of Social Services. At its meeting on December 11, 1975, the Council reviewed the proposed state plan for implementation on the Food Stamp program, and planned a convening to organize outreach efforts by the Catholic community. In a memo from Jim Cashen to Charlie Tobin on April 12, 1976, Jim was able to report that the state had created a Food Stamp Advisory Council "largely through my efforts."

Again in meetings in late 1976, and early 1977, there was expressed concern about future changes and reductions in the role and responsibilities of the State Board of Social Welfare.

As the decade came to a close, there was growing concern about the inadequacy of the basic welfare grant. At the February 19, 1979 meeting, Dorothy Coyle and Joe Barbaro were asked to develop a position paper on this issue. On May 31, 1979, Jim Cashen produced a revised paper. This matter was to become a major priority for the Council in 1980 and 1981, as described in the next Chapter.

3. Advocacy on Child Care Issues

Continuing its previous activity, the Council continued to focus heavily on child care issues throughout the 1970's. Among the issues addressed were:

- at its meeting on September 25, 1972, the Council developed positions on issues relating to the rights of children, including termination of parental rights, voluntary commitment and special education programs, and also recommended that PINS cases fall under the jurisdiction of Family Court
- at its meeting on October 25, 1972, the Council reviewed and raised suggestions about a package of legislative proposals on child abuse introduced by Assemblyman Perry Duryea
- at its December 5, 1972 meeting, with advice from Father Emmet Fagan, the Council reviewed various bills relating to licensure of social workers
- on March 14, 1973, the Council again reviewed legislation for termination of parental rights
- at its May 16, 1973 meeting, the Council expressed concern that funding for Marriage Conciliation Bureaus was in jeopardy
- in relation to the ongoing discussion during this decade about the Wilder litigation, the Council reaffirmed its three goals in relation to this case at its November 7, 1973 meeting:
 - * that the Church be allowed to continue providing services to those in need
 - * that sectarian agencies be allowed to encourage religious participation of clients
 - * that parents be allowed to express religious preference for their children
- at the February 4, 1974 meeting, concern was expressed that the State Department of Social Services had issued a directive requiring that all children in foster care be informed of the availability of family planning services. Discussion on this matter was to be continued over several meetings, with inquiry made as to whether the state was exceeding mandates imposed by the federal government in the regard. It was also agreed that the Council advocate that voluntary agencies should have discretion in handling this matter

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- at its February 4, 1974 meeting, the Council determined to support a proposal by Senator Joseph Pisani to create a Temporary Commission on Child Welfare Legislation
- in fall 1974, representatives of the Council testified at a legislative hearing in support of Family Court having jurisdiction over PINS cases
- the Council sponsored a convening on Family Services legislation held on December 11, 1974
- at its May 28, 1975 meeting, the Council supported review of the activities of Family Courts, because there was concern that they were not functioning well.
- once again on September 24, 1975, there was discussion about the provision of family planning services in Catholic institutions
- at the Council meeting held on December 11, 1975, Father John Fagan gave a presentation on the work of the Temporary Commission on Child Welfare
- the Council discussed at its January 1, 1978 meeting “the rights of adopted children”
- on May 15, 1978, Jim Cashen sent to Charles Tobin a memo on “No Fault Custody”
- representatives of the Council testified at the hearing held by Senator Pisani on November 1, 1978, on foster care reimbursement
- on February 21, 1979, the Council presented recommendations to State Task Force on Early Intervention, chaired by Ilene Margolin, the Executive Director of the State Council on Children and Families
- at its February 28, 1979 meeting, the Council endorsed recommendations developed by Millie Shanley on day care issues
- at its July 18, 1979 meeting, the Council discussed at length concerns about state agencies and children, including:
 - * the growing number of state agencies involved in providing services to children
 - * the more direct involvement of the state legislature in provision of services to children
 - * questions raised increasingly about Church participation in providing services to children, as exemplified in the Wilder vs. Sugarman case
 - * the rapid changes in policy and laws
 - * the growing policy emphasis on children apart from families
- at its June 26, 1980 meeting, the Council addressed issues relating to the implementation of the Child Welfare Reform Act

E. Broadening the Reach

A significant accomplishment of the Council during the first part of Jim Cashen's term was to broaden the agenda, both in terms of contacts made and also substantive areas addressed.

1. Increasing Connectedness

Council efforts to broaden connectedness included the Annual Health and Welfare Dinner, outreach to government, increasing connectedness with others in the voluntary sector, and increasing internal connectedness.

a) Health and Welfare Dinner

The Council held its Annual Health and Welfare Dinner in December in each of the years between 1972 and 1979. Throughout this time, efforts were made to expand and fine-tune the events.

For the dinner held on December 5, 1972, the Council decided to broaden participation by inviting the Commissioner of the Department of Labor, the head of the Housing Finance Agency, the Director of the State Government Council on Social Planning (Howard Miller), the newly appointed State Welfare Inspector General (George Berliner), and the Commissioner of Education.

For the December 11, 1974 meeting, it was determined there should be two speakers, one from state government, one from the Council.

For the dinner held on November 28, 1979, the speakers were Department of Social Services Commissioner Barbara Blum, Health Commissioner David Axelrod and Sister Serena.

b) Contacts with Government Leadership

High priority was given during this era to enhancing contact with state government leaders. Jim Cashen observed that this was a wonderful time to work with state government leaders because they were competent, wanted to achieve their mission, knew that the Church would help them to do so, and were not afraid of strong advocacy. Contacts included:

- Department of Social Services Commissioner in the Rockefeller administration Abe Levine was invited to the Council meeting on March 14, 1973;
- considerable attention was given at the December 11, 1974 Council meeting to recommending appointments to the Carey administration;
- at its meeting on January 22, 1975, the Council determined to recommend to incoming Governor Carey the following priorities:
 - * state implementation of the federal purchase of service opportunity;
 - * increase in the public assistance grant;
 - * reorganization of the State Department of Social Services (separation of services and income maintenance);
 - * several criminal justice priorities.

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- On May 28, 1975, the Council met with new State DSS Commissioner Steve Berger. It met with him again on September 24, 1975 about the new state initiative for a Family Service Program;
- Father Joseph Sullivan attended the first meeting of the newly formed Advisory Committee to the State Department of Social Services on December 8, 1976, as a representative of the Council;
- on January 14, 1977, the Council met with Peter Edelman, the Director of the State Division for Youth;
- through the relationship of Jim Cashen to Meyer (Sandy) Frucher, a key advisor to Governor Carey, the Council submitted in July 1978, and gained approval in April 1979, for a state manpower training grant which provided funding to five Dioceses in the amount of \$600,000. (Because of the political troubles of Sandy Frucher, this program later came under public scrutiny, including an audit of the program in the Buffalo Diocese, happily without any reported problems.)
- Jim Cashen had also established close working relationships with Social Services Commissioner Barbara Blum and Corinne Plummer, the Deputy Secretary for Human Services in the Governor's office.
- On February 13, 1979, the State Catholic Conference met with Governor Carey making presentations as follows:
 - * Bishop Howard Hubbard – role of government and the voluntary sector
 - * George Donahue – labor issues
 - * Sister Serena Branson – preventive services, international year of the child, teen pregnancy programs
 - * Monsignor James Murray – role of the State Board of Social Welfare
 - * Father Joseph Sullivan – public assistance and juvenile justice
 - * Monsignor Charles Fahey – issues relating to the elderly
 - * Jerry Porath – education issues
 - * Millie Shanley – criminal justice issues
 - * Father Saverio Mattei – health issues
- At its meeting on June 26, 1980, the Council asked Sister Serena to take the lead role in helping to foster relationships with the Black and Hispanic Caucus in the State Legislature

c) Connectedness in the Community

Described above as part of the annual Council program plans were efforts to connect with the State Health and Welfare Coalition, State Council of Voluntary Child-Caring Agencies and State Coalition for Criminal Justice. In addition, Jim Cashen worked at a more grassroots level with Father Bob Kennedy from Brooklyn, Susan Kinoy and Dick Dina, and remembers fondly their work in traveling throughout the state in their Volkswagen,

meeting with welfare rights groups, those on public assistance and the elderly.

d) Connectedness Within the Church Community

The Council was engaged during this time in several activities designed to enhance connectedness within the Church.

- in May 1973, (marriage and youth), in Syracuse, and in June 1974 (family) in Ogdensburg, the Council participated in NCCB-inspired regional convenings to address issues of current concern;
- in February 1974, the Council sent representatives to a statewide Conference on youth ministry held in Glenmont;
- at its meeting on December 11, 1974, the Council heard a presentation from representatives of St. Vincent DePaul;
- the Council held several sessions in which it discussed the role of the State Catholic Conference Task Force on Urban Policy, from which it finally concluded that this group should advocate for the Church as a moral force in setting urban policy;
- finally, through a series of meetings in 1978, led by Jim Cashen and Jack Balinsky, the Council facilitated a proposal submitted to the Federal Council on Aging for a parish based SSI and Food Stamp outreach program, which unfortunately was not funded.

2. Broadening the Agenda

Just as the Council reached out during this time frame to expand its contacts, so too did it broaden the focus of its agenda in recognition of the rapidly growing specialization in human services and the expanding role of Diocesan Catholic Charities agencies in service delivery and policy advocacy. Issues addressed for the first time or in an expanded way included:

a) Life Issues

The 1973 Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion (on top of earlier New York State legislation) led the Council to again focus on the abortion question.

- at its February 1, 1973 meeting, the Council discussed the implications of the Roe vs. Wade decision;
- at its March 14, 1973 meeting, it took a position of opposition to bills broadening the availability of contraceptives;
- at meetings on April 11 and May 16, 1973, it took positions in opposition to expanding access to abortion. At the latter meeting, it also discussed the relationship in Dioceses between Catholic Charities and Birthright;
- at its January 19, 1977 meeting, the Council endorsed legislation to require parental consent for abortion.

b) Aging Issues

With increasing frequency, the Council addressed public policy issues relating to older persons, as follows:

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- at its December 19, 1973 meeting, the Council decided it was important to monitor the ongoing study of the State Office for the Aging;
- at its March 13, 1974 meeting, the Council supported a state supplement to Federal SSI benefits;
- the Council appointed an advisory committee on aging at its September 24, 1975 meeting;
- a statewide convening was held in June 1976 for “leadership types in the Church, Catholic Charities or otherwise, who are currently involved in the planning, development and implementation of programs for or reaching out to aging persons in the Church”;
- the Council sponsored a provincial meeting on convenings of the aging in January 1979;
- at its June 26, 1980 meeting, the Council had discussions in preparation for the 1981 White House Conference on the aging.

c) Health Issues

Since there was for the most of this time period no primary formal structure within the Catholic Conference for relating to health policy issues, much of this responsibility fell to the Council. Activities included:

- encouraging an early meeting of Catholic Hospital representatives on November 19, 1972;
- at its meeting on March 14, 1973, determining to oppose preference being given to “non-conforming proprietary providers”;
- organizing a meeting in October 1973 with Health Coordinators around issues relating to euthanasia and dying;
- expressing concern at the December 19, 1973 meeting about the state moratorium on construction of nursing home beds;
- convening a session on September 23, 1974 on pastoral care in health institutions
- reviewing at its April 22, 1975 meeting a new state initiative on investigating nursing homes;
- recommending at its September 24, 1975 meeting delay in formation of a State Catholic Health Association;
- addressing at meetings in early 1977 nursing home regulation and reimbursement issues;
- discussing at its November 1, 1978 meeting, a proposed Bishops’ Pastoral on Health Care;
- following the establishment of the State Catholic Hospital Council, discussing at its April 1, 1980 meeting, establishment of a group to address health care issues that were not being addressed by that group which had a more institutional focus.

d) Mental Hygiene Issues

A classic example of an area which provision of human services blossomed in the 1970’s, was in the area of provision of services to persons who were mentally retarded and mentally ill. The signing by Governor Carey in 1976 of the Willowbrook Consent Decree providing

for the deinstitutionalization of mentally retarded persons, heralded the dawning of a new era of service provision to this population. The Council of Catholic Charities Directors began to address these two new service areas in the following ways:

- for the first time, at its December 5, 1972 meeting, the Council reviewed the legislative agenda of the State Association for Retarded Children;
- there was discussion at the February 4, 1974 Council meeting as to whether there should be established a State Advisory Committee to the Department of Mental Hygiene;
- at its March 13, 1974 meeting, the Council reviewed proposed Department of Mental Hygiene Regulations on the Quality of Care and Treatment for persons who were mentally ill;
- at the April 24, 1974 Council meeting, there was discussion about “policies and procedures” relating to the return of mental patients to community;
- in reviewing the Council program plan for 1975-1976, it was agreed that the Council would give greater emphasis to community mental health issues;
- at its September 5, 1975 meeting, the Council heard a presentation from Dick Merges of OMRDD on a series of issues relating to deinstitutionalization;
- at the Council meeting held on January 14, 1977, there was discussion about the state reorganization of the Department of Mental Hygiene;
- the Council heard a presentation at its October 14, 1979 meeting about a new initiative for community residences for mentally retarded persons – ICF-MR’S;
- at the June 26, 1980 meeting, it was agreed that Bill Privett, Monsignor Tom Cribbin and Father Alan Placa would form a subcommittee to more fully address issues relating to this population.

e) Housing Issues

Throughout this period, the Council addressed issues relating to affordable housing as follows:

- on April 4, 1973, Father Ondrako testified at a state legislative hearing on affordable housing;
- at its meeting held on September 23, 1974, the Council heard a presentation from Shel Trapp from Chicago on community organizing and housing;
- in early 1975, following a convening on housing and community development, the Charities Directors developed and the state Bishops issued a statement on affordable housing;
- at the May 19, 1976 Council meeting, Jim Cashen was asked to obtain and distribute information on the newly created HUD Section 202 Housing for the Elderly program;

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- there was discussion at the June 22, 1976 Council meeting about the private sale of FHA bonds;
- there was discussion at the September 15, 1976 meeting about NCCC activities relating to redlining;
- the Council appointed an Ad Hoc Committee on housing which met at LaGuardia Airport on January 12, 1978. Present for the meeting were: Amalia Betanzos, Monsignor John Ahern, Bob Barrett, Father Denis Woods, Father Raul DelValle, Robert Paul, Raymond Malone, Roger and Maria Markovics, John Gregory, Monsignor Henry Real, Ken Bessette and Jim Cashen. In this and subsequent meetings, the committee focused on a survey of Diocesan housing activities, a seminar on HUD 202 programs presented by Bob Barrett from Syracuse, and a seminar on rural housing issues presented by Alex Velto from Ogdensburg. It was agreed that after receipt of survey results, the committee would reconvene and determine future directions, although there was recognition that on the agenda should be production issues and issues relating to tenant rights.
- during 1978, the Council was a major force in the establishment of the Statewide Rural Housing Coalition. This group was created on May 23, 1978 with Al Velto from Catholic Charities in Ogdensburg playing a key role. On the agenda for the first formal meeting of the State Rural Housing Coalition held on July 12, 1978 were these matters:
 - * Rent Supplements
 - * FMHA Pooling of Rent Supplement Funds
 - * Retaliatory Eviction
 - * CSA Funds
 - * Letter to Governor Carey

f) Criminal Justice Issues

In the early 1970's, Monsignors Head and McGann had been appointed to stimulate Catholic Church advocacy in the criminal justice field.

Activities relating to criminal justice advocacy which took place during this time period included:

- at the September 25, 1972 general meeting, it was reported that Monsignor (later Bishop) Head would meet with prison chaplains to help formulate an agenda;
- at its March 14, 1973 meeting, the Council heard a presentation from Rev. Joseph Girzone about chaplains in state and county facilities;
- at its May 16, 1973 meeting, the Council entertained a request from Bishop Hogan from Rochester about the creation of an Attica Defense Fund;
- at its meeting on November 7, 1973, the Council entertained a request from Bishop Head "that Catholic Charities become involved in the prison apostolate";

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- at the September 15, 1976 Council meeting, Sister Serena was asked to become the point person in addressing juvenile justice issues in State Division for Youth facilities;
- at the same meeting, the Charities Directors determined that the priority criminal justice issues were:
 - * community corrections
 - * overcrowding
 - * working with the State Coalition for Criminal Justice
- at its December 8, 1976 meeting, the Council endorsed an Aging Prisoner's Release program;
- at its January 1, 1977 meeting, the Council endorsed opposition to capital punishment and planned for a criminal justice convening.
- With the decision at this time to establish a State Catholic Conference Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, that group would become the vehicle for advancing these issues.

g) Refugee and Immigration Issues

The national Catholic Church had long been involved in resettling refugees and immigrant issues. For example, Catholic Charities had played a major role in helping Hungarian refugees in this country in 1956, and Cuban refugees in 1960.

During this period, the State Council actively addressed refugee and immigration issues in these ways:

- at its April, 22, 1975 meeting, urging that programs be developed to foster adoption of Vietnamese youth;
- with regard to refugee resettlement, at its September 24, 1975 meeting, urging revitalization of the program, parish sponsorship and developing a Bishops' statement;
- adopting at its April 4, 1979 meeting a statement of advocacy on behalf of Indochinese minors.

h) Teen Pregnancy Issues

With changing societal mores and reality, the Council became ever more involved in advocacy for unmarried pregnancy teens. Activities included:

- in spring 1974, advocating for maternity benefits for this target population;
- testimony in a September 15, 1976 hearing for services for unmarried pregnant teens;
- creation in early 1978 of an alternatives to abortion committee;
- creation of an agenda by an Ad Hoc Committee for Programs and Services for Pregnant Women on January 16, 1978 including:
 - * availability of adoption subsidy;
 - * state DSS eligibility be mandatory;
 - * require full coverage from Blue Cross/Blue Shield;
 - * remove benefits for unmarried women out of Title XX ceiling;
 - * after-care funding;
 - * provision of benefits to undocumented aliens;

- * create within State Department of Social Services a Bureau for unmarried pregnant women.
 - testimony at a May 23, 1978 legislative hearing in support of legislation for services to unwed pregnant teens;
 - the Council supported creation of a Catholic Conference Teenage Pregnancy Task Force. Present for a meeting on June 18, 1979 were: Sue Becker, Nancy Cavoluzzi, Sister Mary DeSales, Susan Grady, Hugh Gratz, Father Henry Gugino, Karen Halvoran, Mary Martha Hanlon, Sister Maureen Joyce, Father John Madden, Sister Una McCormick, Millie Shanley, Catherine Wobus. The group heard a presentation from Marilyn Dees of the State Department of Social Services on a RFP for teen pregnancy services and determined that it wished to continue in existence.
- i) Social Justice Advocacy
Given Jim Cashen's commitment to the social justice teachings of the Church, he encouraged the Council to become more involved in social justice advocacy efforts. Examples included:
- in 1973, gaining the state Bishops support for the Farrah Pants boycott, and for the activities of Caesar Charez in California;
 - participation in NCCC meetings on social justice advocacy in 1973 and 1975;
 - convening social justice representatives in New York State in 1976, with the leadership of Jim Murphy, Mary Jane Smith and Diane Geary.

F. Conclusion

Through the active leadership of Council members and Jim Cashen, the Council had broadened its reach, and was prepared to take the new step in its organizational development in response to the ever greater specialization of service delivery – the formal creation of committees.

CHAPTER FOUR

JIM CASHEN, 1980-1984 – (Creating Committees)

A. **Introduction**

The Council had made considerable progress in organizing itself and focusing its agenda during the 1970's. Further progress was made beginning in 1980 with the election of Father Charlie Mulligan as Chairperson. The Council Program Plan was developed in significantly more detail. Focus on various issue areas was more intense and focused, and led to the creation of Council standing committees. The Council continued involvement in its many ongoing activities. These activities are described in turn in this Chapter.

An important factor in the evolution of the Council in this time period was the hiring of Alan Davitt as Executive Director of the State Catholic Conference.

Alan had graduated from Woodstock College, earned a Master's Degree from Canisius, and was studying for a Doctorate at the University of Buffalo. He had married a wonderful woman Mary, and was working for the Buffalo Catholic School System, where he rose to the position of Assistant Superintendent. Having become familiar with the work of the New York State Catholic Welfare Committee and the work of the School Superintendents, Alan made a proposal that there be created the position of Executive Secretary to the Council of Catholic School Superintendents. He was hired, and began a long and distinguished career with the Catholic Conference. Having ably served the Superintendents, Alan became Executive Director of the Catholic Conference in 1979, and Charles Tobin became General Counsel to the Conference.

Alan brought many skills to this leadership position. He understood well the functioning of Diocesan Church and the Bishops' Conference. He enjoyed the full support of Cardinals Cooke and O'Connor. While the initially separate offices of Charles Tobin, the schools and Catholic Charities offices had come together in location some years before, Alan's leadership and administrative skill were to effectuate the full integration of all these efforts under the Catholic Conference, and enable it to continue to be an effective voice with state government. His focused leadership was also a significant factor in helping the Council to become more organized in its work.

B. **Membership**

Father Charlie Mulligan served as Chairperson from 1980-1982, and Sister Serena Branson served as Chairperson from 1982-1984. Members included:

Archdiocese of New York: Monsignor James Murray, Dorothy Coyle

Albany: Sister Serena Branson

Brooklyn: Bishop Joseph Sullivan, Tom DeStefano, Millie Shanley

Buffalo: Monsignor John Conniff, Monsignor Henry Gugino

Ogdensburg: Monsignor Robert Lawler

Rochester: Father Charles Mulligan, Maurice Tierney

Rockville Center: Monsignor Emmet Fagan, Joe Barbaro
Syracuse: Monsignor Charles Fahey, Jack Balinsky

C. Council Program Plan and Evaluation

The more comprehensive planning effort began with review of the 1980-1981 year.

Accomplishments included:

- advocacy with regard to the adoption of the Child Welfare Reform Act on April 1, 1981;
- with regard to the needs of the mentally ill, a successfully held convening of Catholic Charities services providers and publication of a wonderful statement of the Bishops in support of the needs of those who were mentally ill.
- adoption of a 15 percent increase in the basic public assistance grant effective July 1, 1981;
- support of the activities of the State Rural Housing Coalition (documented below), in whose creation the Council had been instrumental;
- a statewide report on relationships with the United Way, particularly as they chose to fund agencies who provided abortion services;
- facilitation of conversion of community residences for mentally retarded persons into ICF's (Intermediate Care Facilities);
- playing a key role in the formation of SENSES (documented below), the Statewide Emergency Network for Social and Economic Security as a successor to the Coalition for Fair Public Assistance in light of the significant cutbacks to human services program proposed by the Reagan administration;
- a report that there had been no progress toward creating a Catholic Commission on the Elderly;

It is instructive to review the overview of the Program Plans for 1981-1982, 1982-1983, 1983-1984, as follows:

- 1) 1981-1982
 - a.) Issues of major public debate = Income Security, Mental Illness
 - b.) Specific policy issues = Block Grants, Social Security
 - c.) Convenings
 - Sterilization, Contraceptives for Mentally Ill
 - Aging
 - Teen Pregnancy
 - Statewide Catholic Charities
 - d.) Relationship with government officials
 - e.) Major Ongoing Activities
 - Relationship to United Way
 - Child Welfare Reform Act
 - Rural Housing Coalition
 - Homeless

- 2) 1982-1983
 - a.) Issues of major public debate
 - Social Security
 - New Federalism

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- Block Grants
 - Employment
 - b.) Specific policy issues
 - related to mental retardation
 - related to mental illness
 - c.) Convenings
 - statewide Catholic Charities
 - Nuclear disarmament
 - Housing
 - Refugees
 - d.) Relationships with government officials
 - e.) Major ongoing activities
 - SENSES
 - f.) Council Brochure
- 3) 1983-1984
- a.) Issues of Major Public Debate
 - Public Assistance
 - Homelessness
 - b.) Specific Policy Issues
 - Housing
 - Citizen Participation
 - Alternatives to Incarceration
 - c.) Convenings
 - Statewide Catholic Charities
 - Medicaid
 - Employment
 - d.) Major Ongoing Issues
 - SENSES
 - Teen Pregnancy
 - Mental Retardation
 - Mental Illness
 - e.) Relationships
 - Through Committees

D. Committees

The work of the Council in this time led to the establishment of four standing groups to help it focus on specific areas of concern.

1. Aging

From the earliest work of the Council, focusing Church concerns on issues relating to older persons had been a concern of the Council from the encouragement particularly of Charlie Fahey of Syracuse.

There had been held first in 1976 a statewide conference on aging. After some abortive follow-up efforts, there were organized two convenings on the elderly, April 30, 1980 downstate and May 1, 1980 upstate. From these convenings, at its

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May 7, 1980 meeting in Syracuse, the Council recommended creation of a New York State Catholic Conference Commission on the Elderly. Through its meetings on August and December 1980, the Council recommended the following purposes for such a Commission.

- development of a better collective understanding of issues relating to the elderly
- development of better ways to help isolated and lonely elderly in residential, social and parish settings
- sharing of best practice models
- state public policy advocacy
- ethical issues
- developing a mission statement for Church approach to the elderly
- planning for involvement in the 1981 White House Conference on the Aging

Furthering attention to this subject, Monsignor Fahey published in January 1982, a paper entitled “The Catholic Church and Aging – An Agenda for the Eighties”.

The Commission on the Elderly was to become a major activity for the Catholic Conference in the mid 1980’s.

2. Housing

The Council had made progress in the late 1970’s in bringing together housing staff from throughout the state, and in advocating for the establishment of the State Rural Housing Coalition.

In perhaps one of the key achievements of the Council during this time period, in tandem with the State Rural Housing Coalition, Governor Carey signed into law on August 8, 1982 the Rural Rental Assistance Bill providing \$7.6 million in rental assistance for projects developed through the Farmer’s Home Section 515 program.

As part of the 1982-1983 program plan, it was agreed that Jim Cashen would take the lead along with Al Velto and Monsignor Don Sakano of New York to pull together a housing convening. This session, held on December 6, 1983, was to be the formal creation of the Housing Committee of the Council. The committee held an important two-day convening at Valatie on June 16, 17, 1984.

3. Mental Retardation

So also was born in this timeframe the Committee on Services to Mentally Retarded Persons. On November 28, 1980 then OMRDD Commissioner (and later Director of State Operations) Jim Introne, made a presentation to the Council about conversion of community residences to ICF’s as a way to draw down federal Medicaid funds and enhance service delivery. At its meeting on August 16, 1982, the Council formally outlined creation of this committee, with founding

members Monsignor Emmet Fagan, Monsignor Tom Cribbin and Sister Bernadette Downes from Brooklyn, Bill Privett from Rochester, and Sister Nora Bottcher from Rockville Center. At its first formal meeting on December 8, 1982, the committee began its practice of regularly meeting with leadership from OMRDD.

4. Mental Health

The Council was also to become heavily involved in advocacy for and service provision to persons who were mentally ill. The Community Support System initiative became effective November 1, 1979. As examples of Charities involvement, Catholic Charities agencies in Binghamton and Utica were to become shortly thereafter the CSS core agency because those county governments were unwilling to do so.

In March 1980, under the leadership of Sister Mary Rose McGeady from Brooklyn, the Council sponsored a convening in Syracuse of those interested in services to the mentally ill. One result of this convening was publication on December 1, 1980 of a New York State Catholic Conference Statement on The Care and Treatment of those Suffering from Mental Illness. In part because of this statement and ongoing advocacy from the Council, the State Communities Aid Association established in October 1981, the Statewide Mental Health Action Network.

Following on another ad hoc convening on May 1982, the Council authorized at its August 16, 1982 meeting the formal creation of the Mental Health Committee, under the leadership of Monsignor Ron Bill from Syracuse, Mary Jane Smith from Albany and Sister Mary Rose. The committee presented its first recommendations to the Council at the December 8, 1982 meeting. Like its counterparts, the committee was to meet regularly with leadership from the State Office of Mental Health.

E. Ongoing Activities

1. Public Assistance

During this time period, there was probably no more significant accomplishment of the Council and Conference than the key role they played in obtaining a 15 percent increase in the basic public assistance grant effective July 1, 1981.

Many years later, in September 1995, in the wake of passage of federal welfare reform legislation, Senator Moynihan read into the congressional record from the floor of the Senate that there had been over the years in-season and out-of-season no more consistent advocate for the poor than Catholic Charities and the Catholic Church. This commitment was never more evident than in the late 1970's and the early 1980's.

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The basic grant component of public assistance benefits was increased in 1974. Given the high inflation rate in the mid and late 1970's, the need for a further increase to keep pace with inflation was apparent. At the February 25, 1978 Council meeting, Jim Cashen asked for any suggestions as to ideas for effective advocacy for an increase. With no action on an increase in the previous year, the Council voted at its February 28, 1979 meeting to support a day of public lobbying for an increase.

With still no increase in the 1979 session, on May 2nd, Charlie Mulligan, Joe Barbaro from Rockville Center, and Dorothy Coyle from New York were asked to develop a position paper on the issue and Jim Cashen was asked to explore with State Communities Aid Association the possibility of developing a coalition advocacy effort. On October 15, 1979, the Council agreed to pay a stipend to Mike Dowling from the Fordham School of Social Work and Jay Crimmins to develop a position paper "to document the need for an increase in the public assistance grant in New York State in 1980".

Then things took off with great urgency:

- on December 13, 1979 the Council approved creation of a coalition
- in January 1980, the Council and SCAA jointly published the Dowling/Crimmins document entitled "The Adequacy of the Public Assistance Grant in New York State".
- on January 18, 1980, the Executive Committee of Bishops approved Conference participation in the coalition effort
- on January 29, 1980, Jack Balinsky, Director of Onondaga County Catholic Charities in the Syracuse Diocese, and a member of the Council since 1977, was hired as staff to the coalition on a two-day a week basis, with the full support of then Diocesan Director Monsignor Ron Bill, with funding provided by Diocesan Charities agencies and other coalition partners.
- on February 7, 1980 the Steering Committee of the Coalition for Fair Public Assistance held its first meeting, under the leadership of Tom McKenna, Executive Director of SCAA. Other key coalition leaders were David Liederman and Zippora Twersky from the Federation of Jewish Philanthropy, Bert Beck and Peggy Kerry (Sister of Senator John Kerry) from Community Service Society, Nick Bollman from the Community Council of Greater New York, and Maggie Ames from the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies.

So was begun an intensive advocacy effort which resulted a year later in the 15 percent increase effective July 1, 1981.

The full story of this advocacy effort is documented in a paper published in 1982 by Tom McKenna and Jack Balinsky detailing the approach and success. Sufficient for here are a few highlights:

- the Bishops were very personally involved throughout the effort

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- regional coalitions were created throughout the state, largely through staff leadership from Catholic Charities
- the coalition engaged the services of a well connected public relations consultant Howard Rubenstein
- through Bishop Sullivan and others there was outreach to the business community
- as an example of effective grassroots advocacy, Father Charlie Mulligan in Rochester was able to obtain endorsement of the effort from every single Parish Council in the Diocese, and delivered petitions with signatures from 10,000 parishioners to the steps of the state Capitol in Albany.

The role of Bishop Joseph Sullivan in this effort cannot be understated. He was ordained Bishop in November 1980. Governor Carey came to the ordination and told the Bishop that as an “ordination present” he would include a 15 percent basic grant increase in his proposed budget, and he did.

With the victory won, and with recognition of the very effective collaborative efforts, in the wake of the draconian Reagan budget proposals, the coalition agreed to continue in existence and to focus on both federal and state issues relating to service to the poor. Nick Bollman and Jack Balinsky conceived the new name for the coalition, the Statewide Emergency Network for Social and Economic Security – (SENSES). The Charities Directors were to stay heavily involved for the next several years and Jack would continue as Coordinator until 1984.

2. Statewide Annual Convening

At its meeting on September 9, 1981, the Council authorized creation of a committee “to consider the feasibility of a statewide convening of Catholic Charities representatives.”

Flowing from the work of this committee, the first three Statewide Annual Convenings were held during this time period.

May 12, 13, 1982 - Valatie

Major presentations included:

- Social Analysis from a Theological Perspective – Father Michael Schulties, S.J.
- Delivery of human services in the 1980’s – Monsignor Charles Fahey
- Human services at the federal, state and local levels – impact of budget cutbacks, role of Catholic Charities – Jack Balinsky
- National Conference of Catholic Charities – Monsignor Jim Murray, Sister Serena Branson, Tom DeStefano
- Also, twelve different workshops were held on specific issues

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May 10, 11, 1983 = Valatie

Major presentations included:

- The Catholic Church in a Pluralistic Society - Father Tom Harvey, President, National Conference of Catholic Charities
- Delivering human services in a time of retrenchment – Father Charles Mulligan, Joe Kowalchik
- Parish and Christian service – Father Phil Murnion
- Where is the Charities movement in New York State – Sister Serena

(Note: As the Council later reviewed this convening, there was expressed the hope that the subgroups of the Council could be convened simultaneously at future sessions.)

May 8, 9, 1984 - Syracuse

Major presentations included:

- Theology of Advocacy and Service – Father Tom Harvey
- The Challenge of Peace – Bishop Thomas Costello
- Major Issues Facing New York State, Influence of the voluntary Sector – Ilene Margolin, Deputy Secretary for Human Services, NYS
- Charities Yesterday and Today – Monsignor Emmet Fagan

Nearly 100 persons from Charities leadership in the eight Dioceses participated in these convenings. In many ways, they represented the coming of age of the Charities Movement in New York State.

3. Statewide Annual Health and Human Service Event

Over the years, even before the formal creation of the Council of Catholic Charities Directors, members of the State Catholic Committee had sought to develop relationships with leaders in state government in a variety of ways. One such vehicle was the gradual evolution of the Annual Health and Human Services Dinner. Charlie Fahey recalls one such wonderful event, held at Bob Whelan's house (State Health Department Commissioner) where Bob and Rhea Eckel Clark entertained those present as an instrumental and vocal duo. By the mid 1970's, the event was regularly held as a dinner at the Chancery 465 State Street, often with both serious and humorous presentations by state government officials, especially Bob Whelan. In January 1981, for a variety of reasons, including concern about the appearance of lavishness in times of fiscal difficulties, the Council made the decision that henceforth the event would be held as a late afternoon/early evening reception.

4. Other Activities

In addition to the major developments described above, the following activities also deserve mention:

- beginnings of relationship with Congress, through a Congressional delegation reception held in the context of the White House Conference on Aging and also a meeting with Senator Moynihan on March 6, 1980 to discuss welfare reform, Title XX ceiling, foster care, housing and establishment of an HEW Office on Families.
- the Council carried out during this time two different surveys on utilization of government contracts to gain more understanding of the relationship of charities and government.
- in 1978, through participation on the State Department of Social Services Advisory Committee, the Council argued successfully that the State Department of Agriculture and Markets Department should have responsibility for coordinating programs and services to migrant laborers. The Council also advocated for an increase in the state minimum wage for farmworkers.
- in 1981 and 1982 through the leadership of Charlie Mulligan and Moe Tierney from Rochester, and assistance from Father Steve Gratto, the Council brought much needed attention to the situation of Haitian refugees detained at Raybrook. This advocacy led to the creation within Brooklyn Catholic Charities of the Emergency Coalition for Haitian refugees and was precursor to heavy Charities involvement in advocacy for immigration reform which resulted in the Simpson-Mazzoli bill in 1986.

(Mention needs to be made here of Jim Cashen's involvement with refugees as an example of his personal commitment. Early on, Jim negotiated for an arrangement where fifty or so refugees would come to an apple farm in Columbia County where they would live and work. Unfortunately, the arrangement fell apart and alternative housing was needed immediately. Jim boarded seven workers in his farmhouse. Jim would also speak of later involvement with Bayard Rustin and Bishop Bevilacqua on refugee issues.)

- in 1982 and 1983, the Council through the Conference first articulated budget priorities and adopted counter-budget revenue recommendations. In 1983, the Conference established the Advisory Committee on Government Fiscal Affairs to more fully examine revenue issues. The first formal Conference budget letter with revenue and expenditure recommendations was sent to all legislators on March 27, 1984.
- in August 1982 in response to the growing crisis of homelessness in state, Council representatives met with representatives from the State Department of Social Services to discuss residences for adults.
- interesting, in light of later developments, at its October 28, 1982 meeting, the Council decided not to establish a childcare committee.

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- the Council was heavily involved in the report of the State Catholic Conference on Teen Pregnancy in December 9, 1982 which articulated recommendations to various Church entities for working with this target group.
- in early 1983, the Council was instrumental in the establishment of the Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation as a vehicle to allocate funds for abstinence programs, which Governor Carey agreed to make available when the Conference expressed concern about the large budget increases given to Family Planning organizations. In May 1984, the Council received a report on the first round of grants made by MECF.
- echoing earlier discussions in relation to state employment grants and foreshadowing later discussions, the Council again discussed the establishment of a Statewide Catholic Charities Corporation, “to give us the capacity to act as a single unit when it is appropriate”, and reviewed a job description for the position of Executive Director of such a corporation. This idea was abandoned because of concerns of governance expressed by the Conference and the Bishops.
- prompt payment on state contracts first became a major issue in late 1983.
- at the same meeting, the Council approved recommendations for appointments to the various State Block Grant Advisory Committees which were being established
- on May 15, 1984, Moe Tierney delivered to the Council a formal report of the Employment Committee.

5. Council Brochure

It was perhaps symbolic of the fact that under Jim Cashen’s leadership, the Council had “come of age”, that one of the very last accomplishments during his tenure was publication of a Council brochure. The following section from the brochure describes the status of the Council at that time.

2. *The Council’s Functions*

The Council has two primary functions: policy development and service delivery enhancement.

A. *Policy Development*

Specifically the Directors:

- *Review existing and proposed legislation, regulations and policy directives relating to the operations of Catholic Charities agencies.*
- *Carry out detailed analysis and research where necessary to fully understand the ramifications of policy directives; and*
- *Meet with key government officials and human services professionals.*

On the basis of this information, the Directors then develop appropriate public policy recommendations. In a related function, the Council makes recommendations to the Governor and legislative leadership concerning appointments to advisory committee and public service offices.

B. Service Delivery Enhancement

The Council works to enhance the service delivery capabilities of individual diocesan agencies by:

**Allowing for the sharing of program information at the Director's level*

**Monitoring developments in service delivery areas;*

**Appointing committees on areas of common interest (e.g. employment, housing, mental health) to meet on a regular basis, which allow Catholic Charities agency employees the opportunity to discuss common problems at the local diocesan level, share program activities and knowledge, conduct staff analysis, meet with government officials, organize convenings on their functional areas of concern, and develop policy recommendations to Charities directors;*

**Convening a statewide conference on an annual basis, modeled after the NCCC at the national level, to educate staff and provide a forum for broad discussion of policy issues.*

F. Jim Cashen – Other Activities

In addition to his other prodigious achievements, Jim Cashen was responsible also in his tenure for creation of two other entities within the Conference structure. Largely through his own initiative, he reached out to those within the catholic community to form the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, which focused on sentencing issues and treatment of prisoners. The work of this committee, described elsewhere, resulted in creation in 1982 of the Bishops' Pastoral on Criminal Justice. At the request of Charles Tobin, Jim also shepherded through the birthing process what was to become the New York State Healthcare Council. He then staffed the new group for several years until he left the Conference.

G. Conclusion

Before leaving the description of the Cashen era, a word about the members of the Council in this time period. Jim Cashen described this time as “the Golden Age” of the Catholic Charities Directors.

For twenty years, from about 1965-1985, the work of Catholic Charities was blessed by the leadership of outstanding individuals from each of the Dioceses, most of whom were present for much of this time.

Working from south to north and west:

- Monsignor Emmet Fagan was in many ways the glue that held the group together, drawing on his professional social work expertise, and his willingness to serve as facilitator for National Conference of Catholic Charities activities as well as state activities.
- Monsignor James Murray brought a keen intelligence and his professional training as a lawyer to the work of the Council. Within his Diocese, he was known as “the Billion Dollar” man, given his responsibility for nursing homes. He was also throughout the years a strong advocate for Irish immigrants.

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- Like Monsignor Bill Toohy before her, and Vinnie DeFazio after her, Dorothy Coyle made significant contributions to the Council, especially in review of legislation, in her Council tenure from 1969-1984.
- At a meeting about day care in the mid 1950's, representatives from Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese asked Monsignor Mugavaro who was the "brash young kid" he had brought with him. So began the leadership career of Bishop Joseph Sullivan, who helped the State Council and national organization to understand the mission of Catholic Charities in changing times. He later held many leadership positions in Catholic health and social welfare activity, and was for many years the USCC liaison to the national organization.
- Tom DeStefano who was appointed Diocesan Director in Brooklyn in 1979 represented the coming to the Council of a person who had not only a faith-filled love of the Church, but also a tough professional managerial/social work approach. He was a person who knew programs and had great political acumen.
- One of the first women to integrate the Fort Orange Club in Albany (at a Catholic Committee Dinner), Millie Shanley was the backbone of the legislative work of the Council from its inception until she joined the staff of the Catholic Medical Center in 1992. She had provided assistance to Charles Tobin during the Constitutional Convention, and was a leader in developing policy and program initiatives.
- Like the Bishop of Albany, the Diocesan Director of Catholic Charities in Albany plays a special role with state government. No one was better suited for this position than Sister Serena Branson, who came to Albany in 1974 as the first woman Director of Catholic Charities, after a long and distinguished career, which included developing the Astor Home and Kennedy Center. Especially in her relationships to Governor and Mrs. Cuomo and her beloved Health Commissioner David Alexrod, she gave the Council broad access to state government. She also played a unique leadership role with other members of the Council.
- Monsignor Charles Fahey was and is a visionary. His colleagues have said of him, if you wanted to know in broad-brush strokes where society would be in twenty-five years, and how it would get there, there was no better counselor than Charlie. He, too, played a major role in helping Catholic Charities at the state and national level to respond to changing times. He was a visionary also in helping the Church to address the needs of elderly, including aging priests and religious.
- Monsignor Ron Bill became Diocesan Director in Syracuse in 1979. He had been the regional Director in the Southern Tier, and had been responsible for Catholic Charities taking the lead role in providing community-based mental health services in Broome County. He also served as a Chaplain in the Armed Forces, ultimately rising to the rank of general. He was to serve as Council Chairperson from 1984-1987.
- Monsignor Bob Lawler of Ogdensburg was and is a prince and a gentleman. His recruiting and support of Al Velto was critical to enabling the Council to play a leading role in housing advocacy in New York State.
- Father Charlie Mulligan came somewhat later into the Council, appointed to his position in 1977. Initially reluctant to participate, when he came "on board", he provided significant leadership in further organizing and focusing the work of the

Council, and in urging the national Catholic Charities family to integrate service and advocacy activities.

- “In for a penny, in for a pound” described the loyalty to the Council of Monsignor John Conniff. He was always a supporter of Council discussions, and brought significant credibility to his own agency, but also the Catholic Charities movement through his always successful fund drives. He was most entertaining at dinner, often joining Joe Sullivan and Emmet Fagan in song, and bringing to the Council “the Ballad of Sigmund Freud”. (see Appendix II) Tom DeStefano remarked in summing up his experiences with the Council, “It was the dinners that made it such a wonderful experience”.

Over the years, the Council was blessed with many outstanding leaders whose contributions are chronicled elsewhere in this history, but at no other times in its history did the Council benefit from the consistent leadership presence of individuals like these. They gained support from one another, especially at the dinners. But they also individually and collectively made a significant difference in helping guide Catholic Charities at the state and national level through most challenging times.

No discussion of the work of the Council of Catholic Charities Directors would be complete without mention of Bishop Howard Hubbard of Albany. A native of Troy, Father Hubbard had worked as a “street priest” in the south end of Albany and was the founder of the Hope House drug treatment agency. With what some felt was behind the scenes assistance from Sister Serena, he was appointed Bishop of Albany in 1977.

Like the Diocesan Director of Catholic Charities in Albany, the Bishop of Albany plays a special role in the relationship of Church and state government and in Catholic Conference advocacy. Perhaps there could have been no better person to play such an influential role over these last twenty-five years. Driven by the mission of the Church, Bishop Hubbard has been a tireless advocate for the poor and vulnerable. With great political acumen, he has navigated successfully the challenging waters of Church-State interaction. As Chairperson of the Public Policy Committee he has been a force for unity within the Church of the State, as well as a leader in the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. Cardinal O’Connor well described his approach: “iron fist in velvet glove”.

Over the years, Bishop Hubbard has spoken in an articulate, forceful and reasoned way on many issues, too numerous to mention here. Perhaps most notable has been his advocacy against the death penalty. He has often stated publicly that when those who follow us 100 years from now look back and ask where was the voice of the Church on this barbaric practice (as many now question the role of the Church in relation to the holocaust), he wants the Church voice to be on record “loud and clear”. Through his efforts the voice of the Church has been heard “loud and clear” on the death penalty, and on many other matters affecting the poor and vulnerable. His work has significantly enhanced the effectiveness of the Council.

CHAPTER FIVE

JACK BALINSKY 1984-1990 – (The Committee ERA)

A. Introduction

When Jim Cashen announced in February 1984, that he was resigning to become a Commissioner of the New York State Commission on Quality Care, the Council appointed a Search Committee comprised of Sister Serena, Tom DeStefano and Charlie Mulligan to work with Alan Davitt to hire a replacement. It seemed that Jack Balinsky was a natural candidate for the position: he had been a member of the Council since 1977 and had had statewide advocacy experience for the previous four years as Director of the Statewide Coalition for Fair Public Assistance from 1980-1981, and Statewide Coordinator of the successor organization SENSES since March 1981, both positions held on a part-time basis while he continued in his role as Director of Syracuse Area Catholic Charities. The process went along unremarkably. Jack was formally interviewed at the Statewide Convening in Syracuse in May, and apparently with some last minute assurances from Bishop Head of Buffalo, inspired by Monsignor Conniff, Jack was hired by Alan Davitt, to begin work formally on July 1, 1984.

So was ushered in the Committee Era of the work of the Council of Catholic Charities Directors. As indicated earlier, these overall designations of major focus in a time period are somewhat arbitrary, and the work of the Council was multi-faceted in this time period. Nonetheless, the distinguishing hallmark of this time period was the emergence, expansion, and effective contributions of the various Council Committees. The Council decided to strengthen the work of its committees during this time particularly to work with the Executive Branch of state government, because it was clear that in the Cuomo administration, as in the Carey administration, top leadership in human services was open to working with the Church in a time when there was to be significant development of and expansion of the human services delivery infrastructure in the state.

The work of the Council during this period is described in the following sections:

- Organization of the Council - Membership
- Annual Events
- Advocacy for Economic Security Priorities
- Cross-Cutting Service Delivery Issues
- The Work of the Committees

B. Organization of the Council - Membership

Three generalizations can be made about the organization of the Council during this time period.

1. Leadership

Continuing the legacy of Charlie Mulligan's leadership, the Chairperson of the Council played a much stronger role in directing the activities of the Council than

in the past. The Council was blessed to have the leadership of Monsignor Ron Bill, Diocesan Director from Syracuse from 1984-1987, and then Father Steve Gratto, Diocesan Director from Ogdensburg from 1987-1990.

2. Stability of Membership

On July 1, 1984, the Council membership by Diocese was:

Archdiocese of New York: Monsignor Jim Murray, Father Jerry Walsh, Vinnie DeFazio.

Albany Diocese: Sister Serena Branson, John Rutnik

Brooklyn Diocese: Tom DeStefano, Peter DellaMonica, Millie Shanley

Buffalo Diocese: Monsignor John Conniff, Monsignor Henry Gugino

Ogdensburg: Monsignor Bob Lawler

Rochester: Father Charles Mulligan, Moe Tierney

Rockville Center: Joe Kowalchik (-1995), Father John Gilmartin (1995-)

Monsignor Alan Placa

Syracuse: Monsignor Ron Bill, Brian Walton

During this six-year period, only these few changes occurred:

- in 1995 Father Steve Gratto replaced Monsignor Lawler as Diocesan Director in Ogdensburg, and joined the Council.

He was to make significant contributions to the Council as Chairperson of the rural Issues Committee and Council Chairperson from 1987-1990.

- After the brief two-year tenure of Joe Kowalchik, Father John Gilmartin became Diocesan Director in Rockville Center in 1985. He brought an extensive background in parish social ministry, and was to become a strong advocate for this ministry at the state and national level. He served as Council chair from 1991-1993 and would later serve as a member of the Catholic Charities USA Vision 2000 Task Force.

Through a three-year plan created by Bishop Clark and Father Mulligan in Rochester, Father John Firpo became Diocesan Director in 1985, after two years at Catholic University and a year in transition. In his Council tenure, including his service as chairperson from 1990-1991, he was a strong advocate for providing time for Council members to share and discuss common practical experiences.

Father Bob Stephenson became Diocesan Director in Syracuse in 1987. Through his close rapport with Bishop O'Keefe, he helped the Council remain connected with the thinking of the Bishops in the state.

3. Fine-Tuning

During the last three years of this time period, the Council made three minor changes with regard to its way of doing business. The genesis of each of the changes was a feeling on the part of some Directors, particularly the three newest Diocesan Directors, that the agendas for meetings were too overwhelming and there was need for more time for sharing. The changes were:

- beginning in September 1987, when Father Gratto became Chairperson, the Executive Secretary was to develop and send in advance with the meeting materials a written Executive Secretary's report, updating Council members particularly on the work of the committees, as way of cutting down agenda time at the meeting. This process seemed to work well with opportunity provided at the beginning of the meeting for questions Council members might have about the written reports.
- at that same meeting, it was agreed under the leadership of John Gilmartin, that the Council would give over 15 percent of the time at each meeting to discuss "programs, policies and issues" faced in common by Charities Agencies.

One important such discussion was held at the Council meeting on December 3, 1989, led by Monsignor Henry Gugino who was Chairperson of the Standing Committee of Directors of the National Conference of Catholic Charities Directors. The Council addressed the changing nature of the national organization, now known as Catholic Charities USA. From this discussion the Council urged continuing focus on advocacy.

- at a special meeting of the Diocesan Directors held in New York City on September 8th and 9th, 1989, it was agreed that Council membership would henceforth be limited to Diocesan Directors and the Legal Committee (DeFazio, Placa, Shanley), providing the Diocesan Directors more opportunity for discussion and interaction.

C. Annual Events

Various annual events sponsored by the Council were continued, created and/or strengthened during this timeframe, as follows:

1. Annual Convenings

Six Annual Convenings were held in this timeframe:

Rockville Center – March 19, 20, 1985

Major events at this convening included presentations by Bishop Sullivan about the Bishop's Pastoral on the Economy, by Father Tom Harvey and Jack Balinsky about Catholic Charities at the national and state level, and by Father Don Sakano about the proposed National Conference of Catholic Charities Statement on

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Housing. Functional area convenings were again held, and for the first time, social action staff from the various Dioceses came together for a joint meeting.

Buffalo – May 6, 7, 1986 – Christ the King Seminary

Major addresses at this session were given by Sister Maria Riley from the Center of Concern on the Feminization of Poverty, by Father Harvey on the national scene, by Monsignor Bill on state issues, and by the Legal Committee on emerging legal concerns.

Rochester – March 30, 31, 1987 – Sheraton Hotel

Documents from the planning process for this convening help to give a sense of what the Council was thinking in preparation for the fifth annual event.

It was indicated that the purposes of the convening were:

1. to provide key leadership staff throughout the state with an opportunity to learn about, discuss and think about the Catholic Charities mission at a national, state and local level.
2. to be an occasion at which each committee can both have a business meeting and also participate in a session designed to broaden its horizon.
3. to provide an opportunity to review the proposed policy statement and prepare in other ways for the upcoming national conference.

Particularly with regard to the second purpose, each of the committees was charged with making a presentation to the group as a whole which would include:

1. major social policy issues which the committee is addressing
2. how the efforts of the committee might link with the work of the Council
3. how the work of the committee fit in with the overall mission of the Catholic Conference.
4. suggested follow-up action steps

In addition to presentations by each of the committees, the programs included a presentation by Dennis and Judith O'Brien on a volunteer perspective of Catholic Charities. Dennis was President of the University of Rochester, and Judith was a volunteer active in Catholic Charities. In addition, Father Harvey gave his traditional annual update, and the keynote presentation on the second day was given by Monsignor Jack Egan, founder of the Catholic Committee on Urban Ministry, on Catholic Charities and Social Action.

Ogdensburg June 6, 7, 1988 – Alexandria Bay

At this session, the keynote presentation was given by the three G's: John Gilmartin, Steve Gratto, and Henry Gugino on "Catholic Charities in Partnership in the 1990's". It was followed by a panel presentation on trends in population, service need and delivery, on which Barbara Conley from Brooklyn Catholic

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Charities, addressed children and youth issues, Jack McCrea from Transitional Learning Services in Syracuse addressed issues relating to special needs populations, and Mary Jo Giambelluca from Buffalo addressed issues relating to older persons. Father Harvey also gave his annual presentation.

From this convening and in this time period, two events occurred which were to somewhat alter the shape of future convenings.

First, in the evaluation of the session, a number of committee representatives expressed opinion they would rather be free to do their own work, rather than having to give up valuable committee time to larger contextual issues. This reaction led the Council to say perhaps there ought to be a clearer focus on an over-all theme.

Second, at this time it became known that the New York Civil Liberties Union had circulated within state government a memorandum challenging from a Church-state separation perspective the constitutionality of some of Catholic Charities service provision.

These events led to an early decision about the 1989 Annual Convening that it would be focused on the central theme of Church-state relationships, and as way of gaining good government official participation, it would return to Albany.

Albany, April 17, 18, 1989 – Hilton

The 1989 Statewide Annual convening is probably the most memorable. The session was focused on Church-state issues and the presentations were outstanding. They were given by Father Tom Harvey, Father Bryan Hehir, noted theologian and public policy analyst working at USCC, Mark Chopko, General Counsel of USCC, and Evan Davis, Counsel to Governor Cuomo.

As described more fully below, the decision had been made to conjoin the Annual Human Services Reception with this event, and the room was filled as Governor Cuomo presented Bishop Frank Mugavero with an award conceived by the Charities Directors to recognize his long service to Catholic Charities and the state.

Albany, May 7, 8, 1990 – Hilton

Given the outstanding success of the 1989 event, the Council determined to basically repeat the format in 1990. Chosen as unifying themes were two related topics: Council efforts at developing a policy on families, and discussion about Governor Cuomo's Decade of the Child initiative.

The convening began with an inspiring talk by a Jesuit priest, Joe Towle, who was basically a street priest in the Bronx, entitled "The Impact of Theological Reflection on Families as it Relates to their lived experience in today's Society".

This talk was followed by a presentation from Bishop Sullivan on current demographic issues related to families.

Committee workshop discussion focused around a Draft Policy on Families developed during the year, and described more fully below.

The program was concluded by a presentation from Mike Dowling, the Deputy Secretary to the Governor for Human Services on the Decade of the Child, and, in his valedictory address to the Council, a response by Jack Balinsky.

Once again, there was overwhelming participation in the Annual Human Services Reception which followed immediately, as Sister Serena was presented the Bishop Mugavero award by the Council. Her many friends in state government came to wish her well in receiving this award and for her announced retirement. From this point on the Council would regularly confer the Mugavero Award at an Annual event. Appendix III lists those persons on whom the Council has conferred the Bishop Mugavero Award since 1989.

2 Annual Human Services Reception

As described in a previous Chapter, for a variety of reasons the Council made the decision in early 1981 to transform the Annual Health and Human Services dinner into an Annual Reception. From 1982 to 1987, this reception was held at the Chancery in Albany on the Wednesday night of the December Charities/Public Policy meeting week. After a gradual decline in participation by government officials through the 80's, concern was expressed after the 1988 event that a new format should be found. Hence, the decision to conjoin the event to the Statewide Annual convening in 1989 and 1990. As indicated, participation in those two events was excellent, primarily because of the awards given to Bishop Mugavero and Sister Serena.

Before leaving discussion of the Annual Human Services Reception, it should be pointed out that this setting was often the vehicle through which individual Charities Directors and government officials had discussions which led to subsequent program development. There are two examples from this time period.

From initial discussion at the reception in 1986, there was ultimately the decision in January 1988, that Catholic Charities of Rockville Center would be the first administrator in the state of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, now known as the highly successful FAN program on Long Island.

Probably the most significant outcome from any Annual Reception occurred as a result of discussion at the 1988 reception. That previous Sunday there had appeared in the New York Times an article about the so-called Boarder Babies who lived in a children's ward at a New York hospital, because they had been born to mothers who were drug addicted or HIV positive and had no one to care for them.

Sister Maureen Joyce, Director of Community Maternity Services, read the article and decided Albany Catholic Charities could do something about this. She and Sister Serena first buttonholed DSS Commissioner Cesar Perales, who referred them to Doctor Axelrod, since the children were in a hospital setting.

The response was immediate and overwhelming. Soon, more than 200 Boarder Babies were in foster care situations with families in Albany through Catholic Charities.

The situation for children who were HIV positive was somewhat different. Inspired by a meeting with Dr. Margaret Haggerty, heard of the Children's Unit at the hospital, Sister Maureen determined that Catholic Charities could take on that challenge also. With wonderful support from an older woman neighbor, Catholic Charities purchased and gained permission to open a six-bed agency operated boarding home for children who were HIV positive. All this came to pass in less than a year. Some of those youngsters are still living today. Many died of AIDS, but are warmly remembered, and had a quality of life that would have been impossible had it not been for the risk-taking leadership of Sister Maureen and Sister Serena.

3. Congressional Delegation Meeting

There had previously been a growing recognition of the importance of the Federal government to the work of the State Council. Representatives of the Council had met with Senator Moynihan in 1978 and again in 1980. A Congressional delegation reception had been arranged in the context of the 1981 White House Conference on Aging.

Now there was a decision, given the impact of the Reagan administration and the focus on economic security priorities, that it would be important for the Council and Catholic Conference to meet annually with the New York State Congressional Delegation as a formal event in an effort to establish closer relationships with the United States Senators and House members from the state. During this time period, there were four such events:

February 7, 1985 – Congressional Delegation Breakfast

The first such event was held in the Capitol Building, and prepared in consultation with staff from Catholic Charities USA and USCC, was highly successful and attracted about three quarters of the delegation. Sharon Daly remarked at the time that this was an outstanding turnout for such an event. Presentations were given as follows:

Overview: Bishop Joseph Sullivan
Budget: Tom DeStefano
Means Tested Programs: Jack Balinsky
Medicaid: Millie Shanley
Employment Issues: Father Pat Boyle

An individual meeting with Senator Moynihan was held later in the day.

March 19, 1986 – Congressional Delegation Breakfast

Basically, the same format was maintained the next year with presentations given as follows:

Overview: Cardinal John O'Connor
Budget: Sister Serena
Housing: Father Don Sakano
Pro-Life: Father John Firpo
Children in Poverty: Millie Shanley
Omnibus Anti-Poverty: Monsignor Ron Bill

March 23, 1988 – Bishops' Meeting

The meeting scheduled for February 11, 1987 was cancelled because Congress went on winter recess. It was hoped that a national meeting could be arranged in the context of the Bishop's meeting that fall, but the next event did not occur until the Bishops' meeting in March 1988. Sister Serena and Father Sakano represented the Council at this session, at which the Cardinal gave a presentation on immigration and pro-life issues, and Bishop Sullivan addressed housing and welfare reform issues.

September 27, 1989 – Bishops' Meeting

The next formal interaction occurred in the context of the State Bishops' meeting. At this session, presentations were given on the Earned Income Tax Credit, welfare reform and SSI.

As a result of these sessions, by the end of the decade, the Council and Catholic Conference had a considerably strengthened relationship with The State Congressional Delegation.

D. Advocacy for Economic Security Priorities

As had been the case in the early 1980's, Advocacy for Economic Security Issues had been designated the first priority in the Annual Program Plan. Economic security issues mentioned in the program plan over this six-year period included: Public Assistance, Housing, Economic Development, Medicaid, Tax Reform, Immigration, and Access to Healthcare.

Advocacy with regard to housing and immigration are described in the section on committees. The tax reform effort is described under the work of the Advisory Committee on Government Fiscal Affairs.

Here are described efforts relating to employment and economic development, public assistance efforts, and efforts relating to healthcare.

1. SENSES: employment, economic development

In 1983, the Council had established an Employment committee under the leadership of Moe Tierney from Rochester. After a few meetings, however, the committee came to the conclusion that SENSES, of which the Council was a member, was effectively developing and advocating for employment and economic development issues and therefore this committee went out of existence.

Since both the economic development advocacy at both the federal and state level and to a large extent public assistance advocacy at the state level were carried out through SENSES, it is important to trace the relationship of the Council to SENSES over this six-year period.

As previously indicated, the Statewide Emergency Network for Social and Economic Security (SENSES) was the successor organization to the successful work of State Coalition for Fair Public Assistance, created to maintain the extraordinary collaborative efforts which had been forged through the coalition and to provide a vehicle for advocacy on federal issues in light of President Reagan's priorities, as well as state issues. The Council was intimately involved with SENSES from its beginning, as contributions from individual Diocesan Catholic Charities agencies were a large part of the budget, and Jack Balinsky served as the Statewide Coordinator of SENSES, on a part-time basis, from its inception in April 1981 until he became Executive Secretary of the Council in July 1984.

With Jack leaving the position, SENSES hired its first full-time Executive Director effective July 1, 1984. He was Rus Sykes who had a long record of advocacy, especially at the federal level, and was then working at FRAC (the Food Research and Action Center in Washington). Rus was chosen from a competitive national search process and brought a great deal of intelligence, energy and experience to further professionalize the work of SENSES. In the early part of this time frame, the Council was very pleased with the work of SENSES and played a leadership role in many SENSES activities.

Nonetheless, as with any coalition effort, there developed certain stresses and strains in the work of SENSES and the relationship between the Council and SENSES. At its April 23, 1986 meeting, the Council rejected the proposal that SENSES become a membership corporation, with the Council as one of the members. On the other hand, at its December 12, 1986 meeting, the Council embraced the suggestion from Rus Sykes that it was time to reenergize local coalition efforts and pledged staff support to do so. And, at its meeting on August 27, 1987, the Council renewed its commitment to SENSES for the July 1988-June 1989 program year.

Mike Burgess, who had worked for Albany Catholic Charities and had much other experience in Albany, became Executive Director of SENSES in October 1987. Rus Sykes had decided to take a full-time position with State Communities Aid Association, one of the long-time partners of SENSES.

Strains about the consensus governance approach became more serious in spring 1988 because of a controversial position taken by SENSES vis-à-vis Senate Majority Leader Warren Anderson, and because of differences on advocacy about Medicaid abortions. Despite efforts to work out differences through the fall and winter of 1988-1989, the Council came to the conclusion in March 1989, that it was withdrawing from membership in SENSES effective June 30, 1989. It pledged its willingness, however, to work cooperatively with SENSES and its member agencies on mutually agreed upon projects.

2. Public Assistance Advocacy

The relationship of the Council to SENSES was a determinative factor throughout all this time as to how the Council approached advocacy for public assistance.

Obviously, the Council as a co-founder of the Coalition for Fair Public Assistance, had been a major player in the effort that resulted in the 15 percent basic grant increase effective July 1981.

By 1984, the Council and SENSES were concerned about the need for another increase. As a basis for this continuing advocacy both the Council and SENSES used an excellent document produced by Linda R. Wolf-Jones of the Community Service Society: "Women and Children Last: The need for an increase in the basic Public Assistant Grant." Over the next several years, the Council with SENSES continued this advocacy with no positive result.

With the relationship with SENSES having become more tenuous in the fall of 1988, the Council ratcheted up its independent advocacy for a grant increase. At a meeting held on November 30, 1988, a newly formed ad hoc group, chaired by Bill Przulucki from Albany, discussed:

- distribution of 10,000 brochures on fair public assistance throughout parishes in the state;
- an advocacy "Resource Manual" that Bill had put together;
- parish-based efforts already underway in the Albany and Rockville Center Dioceses.

Through this effort, and many others over a period of time, Governor Cuomo included a 15 percent increase in his 1989-1990 state budget proposal. The Council and Conference were heavily involved in a "full court press" in the last days of the budget debate through participation in an interfaith press conference and taking a full-page ad in the Legislative Gazette in support on an increase. The increase was included in the approved budget.

Nonetheless, the Council continued to believe that more needed to be done. With the withdrawal from SENSES, the Council established for the first time on June 29, 1989 a Permanent Public Assistance Committee chaired by Bill Przulucki. At the behest of this committee, Council leadership met (unsuccessfully) on August 30, 1989 with Department of Social Services Commissioner Cesar Perales to

request that he include another increase in his budget proposal to the Governor. At its meeting held in Chicago on October 6, 1989 the Council pledged to give “high profile” to this issue for the coming year, and the Public Assistance Committee determined at its meeting on November 30, 1989 to develop another educational brochure. Thus, at the end of this time period, the Council was still very focused on this matter.

In a related matter, in June 1990, the Council endorsed recommendations developed by the Conference Advisory Committee on Women’s Issues and approved by the Public Policy Committee with regard to principles for implementation of welfare reform in New York State.

3. Healthcare

Throughout this timeframe, there were three major areas of activity with regard to healthcare.

On May 31, 1985 in Syracuse, the Council and the New York State Catholic Conference Healthcare Council sponsored a Joint Health Convening. Keynote addresses were given by Sister Margaret John Kelly on Collaboration and Monsignor Charles Fahey on Responses to an Increasing Frail Population. As a result of this convening, a recommendation was made to the Bishops that each Diocese establish a crosscutting Diocesan Health Commission to enhance effectiveness in advocacy and service delivery.

Second, as outlined above, healthcare was an issue mentioned at each of the Congressional Delegation meetings held during this time.

Third, in 1988 and 1989, the Council and Conference became heavily involved in the discussion about extending eligibility for the Prenatal Care Assistance Program (PCAP) to families with incomes 185 percent of poverty level. This proposed expansion had been blocked for several years by the Conference and others because it was feared that such an expansion might lead to an increased number of abortions. As a contribution to internal discussion of the matter, Jack Balinsky, on behalf of the Council, in February 1989, developed a research paper in support of the notion that this legislation would not cause an increase in abortions. Through leadership from Cardinal O’Connor, Alan Davitt and Father Ken Doyle (working with Senator Marchi), the Conference was able to negotiate legislation that would not include abortion services in the expansion of the program and this legislation was passed in 1989.

Mention should be made of the effective advocacy of Father Ken Doyle who worked as Director of Government Relations for the Catholic Conference from 1985-1989. Trained as a lawyer, a former editor of the Evangelist, and returning to Albany after a stint as Director of Communications for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Ken brought to this position enthusiasm, ability and experience. He was personally responsible for many legislative victories during his tenure with the Conference. One chronicle of his achievements, a presentation

given at the September 1989 Public Policy Committee meeting by Jack Balinsky, is included as Appendix IV.

E. Cross-Cutting Service Delivery Priorities

1. Introduction

During this time period, the primary vehicle through which the Council addressed the many service delivery priorities outlined in the annual program, was through the work of the individual committees. These activities are described in detail in the next section.

The Council also addressed, however, so called crosscutting service delivery priorities. Two such issues which were addressed in larger coalition efforts were contract issues and workforce issues.

In addition, during this time period, there were several internal cross-cutting issues which were addressed in the Council, recognizing there was need to integrate more fully the work of the disparate committees.

- internal workforce issues
- State Task Force on Children and Youth
- Elderly and Frail Individuals
- Family Policy
- Integration of Drug and Alcohol Services

2. Contract Issues

Already in 1985, issues relating to contract renewal and delay were of concern. Led by Jack Balinsky from the Council, and Sue Hager from the United Way, representatives from several not-for-profit groups held meetings in late August 1985 with John Sweeney from the State Department of Social Services, Peter Pezzola from OMRDD and Richard Jaros from OMH about these issues.

From these initial meetings, as there was increasing concern, there were meetings with the Governor's office, Comptroller Edward Regan and the Division of the Budget.

Finally, in the fall of 1988, there was established with staff support from Thea Hoeth and Marty Conroy in the Office of Management and Productivity, the Governor's Task Force on Contract Delays.

In the spring of 1989, this Task Force, of which Jack Balinsky was a member, undertook three major activities:

- a survey of contract delays
- a training session for state employees about not-for-profits at which Alan Placa and Jack Balinsky were the two major presenters.
- a training session for 300 not-for-profit agency representatives in New York City at which Jack was also a principal presenter.

While advocacy on this issue had been focused primarily on the Executive branch, there had also been work with the State Legislature. This advocacy had resulted in passage by the State Legislature of a bill on contract delays. On July 31, 1989, by mutual agreement between the Governor's office and legislative leaders, this bill was withdrawn and the Governor issued a much stronger Executive Order on Contract Delays. Subsequently, Jack Balinsky and Sue Hager were named as the two representatives of the Advisory Board overseeing implementation of the Governor's Executive Order.

3. Workforce Issues

Beginning even in late 1985, there was concern in the Council and in other not-for-profit agencies about the low wages of voluntary agency workers and growing disparity between salaries of state workers and voluntary agency workers. There was created a salary parity coalition, although some on the Council and other agencies were concerned that this approach was a two edged sword. A reason the state relied on voluntary agencies was effective service delivery at lower cost. Nonetheless, the work of the coalition led to modest increases for workers in OMRDD and OMH programs being included in the 1986-1987 state budget.

Again, concern was raised in the fall of 1987. In response, the Council appointed an Ad Hoc Task Force on Workforce Issues chaired by Tom DeStefano which met three times in early 1988, and made recommendations to the Charities Directors with regard to internal workforce management issues, and participation in external coalitions.

These recommendations became the springboard of what was to become known as the Human Services Salary Coalition, whose leaders were the Council, the United Way of New York and the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. The coalition sponsored a highly visible summit on workforce issues held in the state capital on December 6, 1989 at which Bishop Joseph Sullivan was the keynote speaker. The coalition continued its advocacy through a joint press conference held on March 1, 1990 and in many other ways and did achieve some further modest gains for voluntary sector workers in the 1990-1991 state budget.

4. Internal Cross-Cutting Priorities

a) Internal Workforce Issues

The work of the DeStefano committee led to a session held on May 24, 1988 in Syracuse. This Seminar on Workforce Issues was open to Charities Directors, Fiscal Officers, Personal management staff and other leaders. There were three major topics. Leadership from Brooklyn, Syracuse and Rockville Center made presentations on approaches to developing salary scales. The Fiscal Officers Committee made a presentation on fringe benefits. The Legal Committee made a presentation on legal issues related to employment.

b) State Task Force on Children and Youth

In late 1987 the Governor appointed a Task Force on Children and Youth under the leadership of Jim Purcell to study ways the state could more effectively organize to serve these populations. Following a meeting held on March 22, 1988 with state leadership involving the Family and Children's Services Committee, Mental Health Committee and Committee on Mentally Retarded persons, the Council approved at its November 30, 1988 meeting six pages of recommendations to this group.

c) Elderly and Frail Individuals

Following on a joint meeting in April 1989 of the Elderly Services Committee, Mental Health Committee and Committee on Services to Mentally Retarded persons, the Council approved at its May 12, 1989 meeting a series of recommendations relating to more fully integrating efforts to serve frail persons.

d) Drug and Alcohol Services

The story of evolution of the work of the Drug and Alcohol Committee is told more fully in the next section. One theme recurring throughout all its work, however, was recognition that just as there was a strong pattern of denial about abuse of alcohol and other drugs within society, so was there similar denial within our Catholic Church family. Following on the publication in May 1989 of the Catholic Conference Statement on Abuse of Alcohol and Other Drugs, and the major Conference held in June 1989, the Council directed several committees to work during the 1989-1990 year to develop a series of recommendations for better internal integration of drug and alcohol services into our Catholic Charities work. Involved were the following committees: Drug and Alcohol, Family and Children's Services, Housing, Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Rural Issues. At its meeting on May 14, 1990, the Council accepted the paper developed by this group outlining these recommendations..

e) Family Policy Paper

Recognizing the need for a central organizing theme for the 1990 Annual Convening as described above, and recognizing also the generic need to better integrate the work of the committees, the Council commissioned these same committees to develop during the 1989-1990 program year a Family Policy Paper. Beginning with a planning session involving committee leaders held on October 11, 12, 1989, the group developed and presented at the 1990 annual convening the Family Policy Paper.

F. Committees

1. Introduction

A major focus of the work of the Council between 1984 and 1990 was the continuation of existing committees, the creation of new committees and the enhancement of the effectiveness of all the committees.

There were four committees whose primary function was internal, to be of support to the Council and Catholic Charities Directors in the work in their Diocese. They were: Fiscal Officers, Futures Committee, Legal Committee and Social Action Planning Committee.

The following committees were focused on public policy advocacy, as well as sharing of program information and insights: Drug and Alcohol, Elderly Services, Family and Children Services, Housing, Legalization, Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Rural Issues. (Note: The work of the Public Assistance Committee, which was created in 1989, is described in the section on Economic Security.)

For these committees, while there were obviously individual differences in activity, there were standard approaches taken on an annual basis:

- meetings with appropriate Executive branch leaders, especially in the fall, to discuss departmental budget recommendations which had been developed by the respective committees in May.
- review of the Governor's proposed budget and development of budget recommendations for meeting with appropriate legislative committees and for inclusion in annual Catholic Conference Omnibus Budget letter (first such letter sent March 1987)
- development of departmental budget recommendations in May
- preparation for and participation in spring Statewide Annual Convening
- addressing policy issues specific to the functional area of concern to the committee
- completing in May an annual committee evaluation
- and, throughout, agenda time for sharing issues and concerns about programs and practices

In the following sections, the work of each of the committees is described. In each case, the date the committee was organized is identified and its genesis is described. Then listed by Diocese, is membership of the committee, generally in chronological order if there was more than one Diocesan representative during this timeframe. For the internal support committees, there then follows a narrative description of their activities. For the public policy oriented committees listed (in roughly chronological order) are the issues addressed and then note is made of specific accomplishments.

2. Internal Support Committees

a) Catholic Charities Fiscal Officers

Inception – 4/30/86

After much discussion about issues in contract management, the Charities Directors thought it would be helpful to have their fiscal officers come together to discuss these matters. It was agreed that at the initial session Joe Guaranello from Brooklyn would make a presentation. Although he was not able to come, the material he prepared was presented successfully by others. At this session, it was agreed that there should be a meeting in the fall to discuss principles and practices of determining overhead in contracts. From then until 1990, the committee met twice a year.

Committee

Chairperson: John Rutnik, Albany

Archdiocese of New York: Jeff Haber, Vinnie DeFazio, Robert Pearson, Eugene Powers

Albany: John Rutnik, Earle Kelsey, Guy Ricci

Brooklyn: Peter DellaMonica, Marie Meyer

Buffalo: Mike Avanzato, Ted Lesinski

Ogdensburg: Dennis Demers, Kathleen Morby

Rochester: Jack Trickey, Moe Tierney, Linda Williams, Gordon Holbig

Rockville Center: Mike Cortegiano, Laura Cassell

Syracuse: Bob Patterson, Kathy Ruscitto, Joe Slavik, Tony Conestabile

Contracts Management

The first two years of the work of the committee were devoted to contract management issues. Based upon presentations made at the January 27, 1987 meeting by Peter DellaMonica, Bob Patterson and Marie Meyer, the committee adopted on April 28, 1987 a statement on Principles of Overhead. Following subsequent presentations over several meetings by individual Diocesan representatives, and discussion of the 100 percent reimbursement issue, and internal contract management issues the Council adopted at its January 20, 1988 meeting a position statement on Government Contract Reimbursement.

Salary and Benefit Issues

The committee then turned to sharing expertise on salary and fringe benefit issues. At the May 24, 1988 Management Training Seminar open to Charities Directors, Fiscal Officers, Personnel Directors and other top Charities leaders, there were presentations by Syracuse, Brooklyn and Rockville Center on approaches to developing a salary scale, a

presentation by John Rutnik on fringe benefit issues, and a presentation by the Legal Committee on legal issues relating to employment.

Contracts Survey

Much of the work of the committee in 1989 was devoted to developing, refining, and collecting and analyzing information on the extent to which Catholic Charities agencies across the state had government contracts.

The broad brush stroke results of the survey were interesting. Across the state, Charities agencies had about \$400 million in government contracts. Of this amount, \$300 million went to child caring agencies in the Archdiocese and Brooklyn. Of the remaining \$100 million, about half went to Brooklyn Catholic Charities and the other half went to the other seven Diocesan Catholic Charities agencies. By source, funds came as follows:

DSS - \$20 million
OMH - \$28 million
OMRDD - \$18 million
Medicaid - \$18 million

Final Meeting

At its final meeting, held on March 8, 1990, the committee followed up on the contracts survey and heard presentations on issues relating to unreimbursed overhead.

b. Futures Committee

Inception – 2/4/87

At this meeting, at the suggestion of Father Steve Gratto, Monsignor Gugino, Vinnie DeFazio, Millie Shanley and Steve came together to set a charter for the work of the committee.

The purposes of the work of this committee were:

1. to provide information to the Charities Directors to help with their internal planning
2. to enable the Council to anticipate what would be the major issues of public policy debate
3. to facilitate the development of materials which could be useful for testimony on public policy issues

Membership

Chairperson: Father Steve Gratto
Archdiocese: Vinnie DeFazio
Albany:

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Brooklyn: Millie Shanley
Buffalo: Monsignor Henry Gugino
Ogdensburg: Father Steve Gratto
Rochester:
Rockville Center: Father Alan Placa
Syracuse: Brian Walton

Issues Addressed

Welfare Reform

At its March 25, 1987 meeting the committee developed principles for evaluation of welfare reform proposals.

Futures Seminar – November 12, 1987, Fordham

The committee planned and oversaw this event designed to help Council members, other Charities leadership and other not-for-profit leaders to address future issues in human services delivery. Major presentations were given by Art Webb, OMRDD Commissioner, on Future Human Service Trends and Monsignor Charles Fahey on Church Environment Issues.

Futures Focus

At its January 20, 1988 meeting, the Council accepted the recommendation of this committee that its work focus on the following four issues:

- workforce issues (much later happened as described in the sections above)
- client focused service delivery
- joint advocacy with the business community (there were subsequent discussions with Ed Reinfort from the State Business Council and agreement to a joint advocacy effort on day care and pre-K issues, but nothing really materialized)
- parish social ministry (many subsequent discussions led to developing a questionnaire on parish social ministry sent to Dioceses in spring 1990)

Seminars at Council Meetings

As a result of the work of this committee and the decision that 15 percent of the time of Council meetings, would be given over to issue area discussions, during 1988 and 1989, seminars at Council meetings were held on such topics as relationship to Catholic Colleges, parish social ministry, new programs such as Formation for Christian Ministry, and relationship to Catholic Charities USA.

Futures Convening

The work of the committee was concluded with its sponsorship of a second Futures Seminar held at Fordham on February 7, 1990. Keynote addresses were given by Father Avery Dulles: *Catholic Charities in the*

Light of Theology and Jack Balinsky: *The American Catholic Church in the Third World.*

c. Legal Committee

Inception – November 7, 1984

At the July 2, 1984 Council meeting it had been agreed that Millie Shanley, Vinnie DeFazio and Father Alan Placa would form a Council Legislative Committee. At its early meetings, the Committee determined that it was more properly a Legal Committee, addressing issues in support of the Council and Catholic Charities in the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches of government. So was born a happy synergy of three outstanding and committed individuals who were to make enormous contributions to the Council in this time period with much lasting impact.

Membership: Vinnie DeFazio, Father Alan Placa, Millie Shanley

Issues Addressed

Over this six-year period, the committee addressed numerous issues as follows:

NCCC Attorney Association

Beginning with a letter to NCCC Executive Father Tom Harvey on September 26, 1985, the committee on behalf of the Council advocated for creating within NCCC a Catholic Charities Attorney Association. As a result of this advocacy, there were two meetings held for Catholic Charities attorneys, one in February 1988 and one in April 1989. Because of concerns about participation and because of the transformation to Catholic Charities USA, these were the only two such meetings held.

Support to Council and Committees

Over the years, the committee provided advice on these issues:

- AIDS employment issues
- private adoptions
- confidentiality of childcare records
- 1986 immigration law and implications for New York State hiring
- HUD Community Development Grants and religious practices
- response to NYCLU concerns about religious practices in government funded programs
- at will employment
- asbestos issues
- exemption from Charities registration requirements
- and many others

Westlaw

As a harbinger of the future, the committee recommended and the Council agreed and there was installed at Brooklyn Catholic Charities on October 3, 1986, the Westlaw service, a new computer legal research technology, which was effectively used over the next several years.

Management Training Seminars

In the fall of 1988, the committee organized three management training seminars on legal issues for Catholic Charities leadership staff: Rochester on October 25th, New York City on November 17th and Albany on November 29th. On the agenda were the following items:

- confidentiality
- child abuse
- record-keeping
- malpractice
- organizational concerns - corporate structures, Boards
- insurance matters
- employment law

Subsequent to the sessions, the committee distributed a 35-page document of the proceedings to participants, and also developed a manual on Contracting with State Government.

The committee also planned a second round of such seminars devoted entirely to legal issues relating to employment, but these sessions never came to pass.

Court Cases

The committee provided legal advice and consultation on such cases as Fisher vs. Regan and Wilder vs. Bernstein.

d. Social Action Planning Committee

Inception, November 22, 1985

Membership, Father Brian O'Shaughessy from Albany and Paul Welch from Syracuse

Narrative

Over the last quarter century, one of the critical issues facing Catholic Charities in the country has been the relationship of Catholic Charities agencies to Catholic social justice advocates. Clearly in the 1972 Cadre Report, advocacy to transform the social order was recognized as an important part of the mission of Catholic Charities. Amidst some tension, during the 1970's and 1980's, individual Diocesan Catholic Charities agencies went about the business of integrating advocacy activities into their on-going work in a variety of ways.

During this time period, the Council sought to develop a joint advocacy effort as a way of promoting this integration on a state level. Following on a presentation to the Council by Father Brian O'Shaughnessy and Paul Welch on November 22, 1985, the Council agreed at its meeting on March 1986 to pursue a joint advocacy project. Later that year, it was determined the issue would be day care. On March 25, 1987, it was decided to delay the effort because the timeframe was too short and the issue too complex. After another delay the subsequent year, on May 7, 1989, it was agreed this project would not go forward and the fuller integration of Catholic Charities and advocacy efforts was better to be pursued at the local level.

3. Policy Oriented Committees

a. Drug and Alcohol Committee

Inception 9/17/86

Membership

Chairperson: John Coppola

Archdiocese: Rev. Ben Taylor, Sally Shields

Albany: John Coppola, Father Peter Young, Cathy Nichols Berman

Brooklyn: Mercedes Clompton, Gayle Ryder DiRienzi

Buffalo: Judy Vogtli

Ogdensburg:

Rochester: Carolyn Portanova, Carl Hatch

Rockville Center: Dr. Tony Giambalvo, Rev. Peter Sweisgood

Syracuse: Father Bob Stephenson

Narrative

The Drug and Alcohol Services Committee came into being through the persistence of John Coppola. After his initial proposal through Sister Serena for creation of this committee was turned down, John asked Bishop Hubbard to intervene to create for him an opportunity to make a presentation to the Council as a whole. He and Carolyn Portanova from the Restart program in Rochester made this presentation to the Council at its meeting on September 17, 1986. As a result of the presentation, it was agreed that there would be a convening for persons from Catholic Charities around the state involved in alcohol and substance abuse treatment and prevention programs to be held in the context of the Statewide Annual Convening in Rochester on March 30,31, 1987.

This session was held and as a result it was agreed that a committee would be created. From this beginning, though, the focus of this committee was to be different from the other public policy oriented committees. The committee did provide a forum for sharing of information, such as about the Federal Drug Free Workplace Act enacted in 1989, and also was

involved in advocacy most notably in support of the consolidation of DAAA and DSAS into OASAS.

From the beginning though, the major focus of the work of the committee was to advocate internally within the Church to educate leadership about drug and alcohol issues and call the Church to action. The key outcome of the March 1987 convening was a proposal to develop a paper outlining recommendations on how various Church entities should address these issues.

The results of the efforts of this committee over the next three years were substantial. At its May 1989 meeting, the Public Policy Committee adopted a comprehensive statement on how the Church as a whole could and should respond to problems of drug and alcohol abuse. The Catholic Conference then held a convening at which the keynote speaker was Lieutenant Governor Stan Lundine, to bring together top leadership from various Church entities to focus proactively on these issues. And as a result of these discussions and interactions with government, a year later in September 1990, a new corporate entity was launched with a contract from state government to develop drug and alcohol treatment facilities in Church entities across the state. Members of the new corporation, called the DuLac Community Development Corporation, were Bishop Sullivan, Monsignor Fahey, Bob McAuliffe and Millie Shanley. Jack Balinsky left his position with the Council to become Executive Director of the DuLac Community Development Corporation effective September 1, 1990.

The Church had come a long way in five years from the early requests of John Coppola for attention to this important issue.

b. Elderly Services Committee

Inception: May 28, 1986

Membership

Chairperson: Mary Jo Giambelluca

Archdiocese: Winn Lally, Eleanor Ramos

Albany: Sister Lauren Vander Mark, Mike Burgess, Marty Haase

Brooklyn: Stephanie Raneri

Buffalo: Mary Jo Giambelluca

Ogdensburg: Patsy McCaughin

Rochester: Sister Anne Malloy, Irene Coveny

Rockville Center: Vicki Ashton

Syracuse: Father Bob Stephenson, Pat Modell, Bill Leighton, Joe Slavik, Marty Sorenson

Narrative

The Elderly Services Committee was born out of the work of the New York State Catholic Conference Commission on the Elderly. The Commission on the Elderly, staffed by the Third Age Center at Fordham under the leadership of Monsignor Fahey, had come into being in 1984 as a three year effort to help educate the entire Church about issues related to aging. Its work is described more fully elsewhere.

At its meeting on May 28, 1986, the Council determined that there should be a statewide convening of those in Catholic Charities around the state involved in providing services to older persons. The purpose of the convening would be to review the Final Report of the Commission on Elderly, and also a parish "how to" manual that the Commission had developed. Again, it was agreed that this convening would be held in the context of the statewide convening held in Rochester on March 30, 31, 1987.

At the session in Rochester, presentations were given by Monsignor Fahey, Sister Anne Malloy and Mary Jo Giambelluca. The group identified 14 areas that the Council should address through creation of an Elderly Services Committee and the Council concurred.

Issues Addressed

Over the next three years, the committee addressed several issues including:

- policy recommendations on EISEP (Expanded In-Home Service to the Elderly Program)
- advocacy for an SSI increase
- issues relating to abuse of older persons
- adult day care services
- issues affecting older persons with disabilities
- special needs of older persons in rural areas
- enhancement of social day care
- parish involvement in EISEP

Accomplishments

There were three major accomplishments of the committee in this three year period.

- intensive and effective advocacy on EISEP
- successful advocacy for a \$40 million increase in the SSI program
- receiving in May 1988 an advocacy award from the State Office on Aging

c. Family and Children's Services Committee

Inception: September 19, 1984

Membership

Chairpersons: Laura Mae Thomas, Barbara Conley (1987)

Archdiocese: Sister Pat Deasey, Ann Diallo, Joe Hughes, Sister Rose Logan, Sister Paulette Lomonaco, Luis Medina, Sister Una McCormack, Sister Cecilia Schneider, Sister Andrea Stim

Albany: Agnes Mary Donlon, Gilda Morales

Brooklyn: Rev. Fred Strianese, Bob McMahan, Mary Sean Foley, Rita Meaney, Barbara Conley

Buffalo: Len Haefner

Ogdensburg: Sister Rita Gleason, Sister Carol Rogers, Mary Beth Ryan, Paula Wilson

Rochester: Catherine Wobus, Sister Alicia Schur, Joe Weider, Mary Jo Crimi

Rockville Center: Sister Catherine Mezza Cappello, Sister Dolores Myers, Mary Riemers

Syracuse: Marie Buckley, Carol Downs, Elsie Vagnoni, Don Gayuski, Pat Glazer

Narrative

At the request of Monsignor Murray, Sister Una McCormack made a presentation on childcare issues to the Council at its September 19, 1984 meeting. From this presentation, it was agreed that those interested in Family and Children's Services from Catholic Charities agencies across the state would come together in the context of the Statewide Annual Convening to be held in Rockville Center on March 19, 1985. From this session, the committee was created and held its first formal meeting on May 9, 1985. Over the next five years, the committee addressed numerous issues and had many successes.

Issues Addressed

- advocacy for salary increase for entry level workers
- teen pregnancy services
- funding for aftercare, post adoption services
- basic needs for families
- child abuse
- involvement in Wilder vs. Bernstein implementation
- Catholic Conference Omnibus Youth Services Bill
- residential care administration
- economic security issues
- PINS diversion
- the work of the Child Welfare Standards Advisory Committee

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- homeless issues
- private adoptions
- Child Welfare Reform Act
- AIDS services
- central registry – child abuse
- OMH children’s issues through a presentation by Marissa Isaacs of OMH
- role of Family Court
- day care issues
- juvenile justice issues
- pre-k for developmentally delayed youths
- Family Policy Paper

Accomplishments

In addition to the integral involvement in the cross-cutting issues outlined above:

- significant contributions to Catholic Conference Omnibus Youth Services Bill proposal of 1986
- impact on implementation of the Child Welfare Reform Act in New York State
- significant and extended advocacy to establish parameters for private adoptions in the state
- development of and advocacy for a position paper on Aftercare and Independent Living
- took the lead role in development of the Family Policy Paper adopted by the Council in 1990

d. Housing

Inception: May 1983

Membership

Chairperson: Father Don Sakano

Archdiocese: Father Don Sakano, Sister Karen Kunkel, Dottie Meehan, Robert Paul

Albany: Roger and Maria Markovics, Bob Sahm, Hilary Lamishaw

Brooklyn: John Tynan, Roseanne Haggerty

Buffalo: George Hezel, Monsignor Henry Gugino

Ogdensburg: Al Velto, Father Steve Gratto, Anne Boulter

Rochester: Tom Carey, Allyn Smith

Syracuse: Paul Welch, Brian Walton, Peter White, Fred Zolna

Narrative

It is probably in the housing arena that the Council has accomplished the most in terms of effective advocacy over the last twenty-five years. For

many reasons: the need, the influence of the Church, the dearth early on of other advocates, and inspired committee leadership, this committee and the Catholic Conference more generally helped build the current affordable housing program infrastructure in the state.

Previously mentioned was the key role that the Catholic Charities Directors and in particular Al Velto played first in creation of the Statewide Rural Housing Coalition and then passage in 1982 of the Rural Rental Assistance Act.

The work of the Housing Committee during this time was even more important.

Issues Addressed

- first committee to send a budget letter to a state department (DHCR)
- Home Ownership Convening, November 1984
- development of Housing Trust Fund and Affordable Housing programs
- Homeless Housing Assistance program
- advocacy for increases in Rural Rental Assistance program
- advocacy for creation and continued funding of Neighborhood Preservation companies and Rural Preservation companies
- Just Cause for Eviction
- mobile home tenants issues
- emergency services
- significant input to 1986 National Conference of Catholic Charities Statement on Housing
- SRO Supportive Services program
- advocacy for a dedicated revenue service for housing programs
- advocacy for use of tax surplus for housing
- input to Governor's Task Force on Housing
- advocacy for community land trusts
- advocacy for Housing Bond program

Accomplishments

It is literally the case that during this time period New York State put in place 90 percent of what today is the housing infrastructure in the state. By its involvement with the Governor's Office, DHCR leadership, and the legislature, this committee, and more generally, the Catholic Conference had much to do with shaping this evolution. The Homeless Housing Assistance Program, The Housing Trust Fund and Affordable Housing Program are still today (now along with Investment Tax Credits), major engines of production. The impact on the Governor's Housing Task Force in 1988 was to broaden involvement of not-for-profits in housing production and also to target a greater percentage of state funds to a lower income group. The creation of the SRO Supportive Services Program was

important in and of itself, but also groundbreaking in showing the importance of merging services with housing. Support of NPC and RPC groups has expanded production opportunities and assured continuing advocacy for tenant rights. Promoting just cause for eviction legislation and protections for mobile home tenants were also significant. And, of course, many members of the Housing Committee were themselves heavily involved in development projects in their own Diocese. In the housing arena, the Church has had a major positive impact on the quality of life for the vulnerable population in New York State.

e. Legalization

Inception – May 18, 1987

Membership

Chairperson: Moe Tierney, Greg Zuroski (1990),

Archdiocese: Father Pat Boyle, Francisco Domingo, Joe Buttigieg, Father Kevin Sullivan

Albany: Father Phil Cioppa

Brooklyn: Carlo DeRege, Robert Mundy

Buffalo: Mike Talluto, Sister Kathleen Rimer

Ogdensburg: Dennis Demers, Joe Kelly, Paula Wilson

Rochester: Moe Tierney, Greg Zuroski, Angie Boella, Bill Privett, Ed Patane, Jim Delaney

Rockville Center: Joe Buttigieg, Mary Ann Dantuono, Bill McNamara

Syracuse: Tom Bazydlo, Mary Pat Clark, Kathy Ruscitto, Dawn Allen, Father Bob Stephenson, Monsignor Ron Bill, Mary Clark

Narrative

As indicated in the previous section, the Council, led by Charlie Mulligan and Moe Tierney, had become involved in immigration legislation issues in the early 1980's, first in relation to Haitian detainees and then in relation to Simpson-Mazzoli.

At the March 25, 1987 meeting, Moe Tierney recommended that it would be important to bring people from across the state together to discuss implementation of the legalization opportunities created by Simpson-Mazzoli passed the year before.

Through a convening held on May 18, 1987, the committee came into being with three purposes:

- 1) to provide those within Catholic Charities involved in this work across the state an opportunity to come to know one another.
- 2) to provide linkage among those ministering to migrant workers.
- 3) to develop a policy paper on legalization issues

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Over that summer, the committee worked in intense fashion and on August 3, 1987 finalized a paper on recommendations on legalization for the Charities Directors which had these sections:

- 1) recommendations for direct service activities by Charities agencies, including the need for adequate staff.
- 2) recommendations on immigration policy reform at the state and national level.
- 3) recommendations to hold convenings at the national, state and local levels.

In the fall, it was agreed that this group would hold convenings on semi-annual or annual basis. Four such meetings were held:

- a) May 1988
The agenda focused on an update on the legalization program, advocacy for federal immigration legislation, services to undocumented persons and the “Canada connection”.
- b) June 1989
The agenda included presentations by Bruce Bouchard on state funded programs, by a CLINIC representative on this national program, and a discussion about illegal aliens in New York State.
- c) October 1989
The agenda included follow-up to the June presentations, presentations by Diocesan representatives on their activity, and discussion of the Kennedy/Simpson Bill and provision of government benefits to those in the process of legalization.
- d) May 1990
There was a convening in New York City on federal legislation.

f. Mental Health Committee

Inception May 16, 1982

Membership

Chairperson: Richard Colabella, Tim Connor (1984)

Archdiocese: Sister Mary Thurlough, Sister Ann Schneiders, Ann Diallo, Vinnie DiFazio, Alan Bernstein

Albany: John Connors, Sister Mary Rose McGeady, Mary Jane Smith, John Nasso

Brooklyn: Richard Colabella, Fran Arcoleo

Buffalo: Chris Pina

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Ogdensburg: Monsignor Bob Lawler, Father Steve Gratto
Rochester: Mark Fuller, Gil Weakland, Gail Wagner
Rockville Center: Mike Petrizzi, Ann Russo
Syracuse: Tim Connor, Lori Accardi, Dennis Manning, Diane Dimeo

Narrative

Along with the committee on services to mentally retarded persons, this committee had been the first committee formally established by the Council. As outlined above, the Council had played a key role in service delivery, education and advocacy for persons with mental illness in the wake of deinstitutionalization in the late 1970's. Through the excellent work of this committee, significant interaction with government, service delivery, and education in the community continued.

Issues Addressed

- community residence availability
- reorganization of OMH
- Task Force on Consolidation of Local Funding
- CSS Program Advisory Committee
- Contracts Management issues
- RCCA's
- MR-MH issues
- emergency services for families
- Mentally Ill Chemical Abusers (MICA)
- services in rural areas
- children's services
- services to older persons
- CFR (Consolidated Fiscal Reporting)
- CSS-like program for children
- overhead reimbursement issues
- 5.07 plan issues
- community based residences for older persons with mental illness
- OMH planning process
- outpatient services

Accomplishments

In addition to integral involvement in the cross-cutting issues previously described, accomplishments of this committee included:

- heavy impact on development and modification of CSS eligibility requirements
- joint work with the committee on Mentally Retarded Persons in producing the Statement on Policy Recommendations on Persons with dual MR-MH Diagnosis
- successful advocacy for an \$800 per staff person salary increase in 1987

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- developing recommendations on “Ideal Services” setting forth principles and proposals for reforming the system of Mental Health services in New York State

g. Committee on Mentally Retarded Persons

Inception: May 16, 1982

Membership

Chairperson: Monsignor Tom Cribbin

Archdiocese: Fred Apers, Sister Sheila O’Friel, George Horton, Vinnie DeFazio, Judy Kydon

Albany: Gary Siegel

Brooklyn: Monsignor Tom Cribbin, Sister Bernadette Downs

Buffalo: Sister Josanne, Sister Rose Mary Cawley

Ogdensburg:

Rochester: Paul Pickering

Rockville Center: Sister Nora Bottcher, Sister Geraldine Bowes

Syracuse: Don Gayuski, Debbie Fogarty, Judy d’ Amore

Narrative

Much of what was written about the Mental Health Committee can be said also of the Committee on Mentally Retarded Persons. In May 1984, there was some discussion with the change in Council staff of combining the MH and MR committees. Monsignor Cribbin argued strongly against this proposal and the work of the next six years was to prove him right. This committee also through regular meetings with the Commissioner and other leadership staff at OMRDD, as well as the legislature, had much influence in the development of the system of community-based services for mentally retarded and developmentally disabled persons in New York State.

Issues

- administration of ICF programs
- respite care programs
- day care services
- provision of generic healthcare services to this population
- advocacy in relation to the proposal to develop specialized residence units of the grounds of developmental centers
- family support programs
- 632 regulations
- meetings with leadership from the Bureau of Children’s Services
- CFR (Consolidated Fiscal Reporting)
- relationships with chaplains in state institutions
- Client Bill of Rights

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- regulatory issues
- MR homeless population
- issues relating to overhead reimbursement
- issues relating to the mentally retarded population in the criminal justice system
- ethical issues
- issues relating to the death of clients

Accomplishments

In addition to the integral participation of this committee in several of the cross-cutting priorities described above, specific accomplishments of this committee included:

- education of the Council on issues relating to this population through excellent presentations given by Monsignor Cribbin and George Horton to the Council at its May 5, 1986 meeting focusing on: recertification issues, aging out of ICF's, spiritual needs, special residence units, and family support programs
- significant input into improving the recertification process
- along with the Mental Health Committee, development of and advocacy for recommendations in the policy statement on persons with dual (MR-MH) diagnosis
- successful advocacy for a salary increase of \$ 800 per staff person in 1987

h. Rural Issues Committee

Inception: September 19, 1984

Membership

Chairperson: Father Steve Gratto

Archdiocese: Eleanor Knack, Sister Barbara Lenning, Father Mike Gannon

Albany: Cathy Nichols, Sister Evelyn McCarte, Tom Gillespie, Sister Rachel Ricciardelli

Brooklyn:

Buffalo: Len Haefner

Ogdensburg: Father Steve Gratto, Sister Maureen Welch

Rochester: Giovina Caroscio, Kevin Hennessey

Rockville Center: Father Al Hofler, Dennis Demers

Syracuse: Sister Mary Jane Wilcox, Sister Nancy Schmidt, Mary Caulkins, Sue Becker

Narrative

The Rural Issues Committee was created in response to the establishment by state government in the early 1980's of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources as a vehicle through which the Council and Catholic Conference could have input into development of the State's rural agenda. During this time period, the committee worked in three areas: recommendations to the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, convening of Catholic Charities staff involved in service delivery in rural areas, and advocacy on specific policy issues.

Legislative Commission on Rural Resources

The initial activity of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources during 1984 and 1985 was to hold a series of hearings throughout the state on different areas of concern: health, human services, housing, etc. Through the work of the committee in developing recommendations across all facets of life in rural New York State, on behalf of the Council, Sister Serena presented testimony at the final hearing of the Legislative Commission held on December 5, 1985. In this testimony, she urged creation within state government of an Office of Rural Development, promoted the important role of the voluntary sector in rural communities, and advocated for a proposal on rural networking and case management developed by this committee.

Convenings

Through the Rural Issues Committee, the Council sponsored two major convenings in Syracuse bringing together those in Catholic Charities around the state involved in rural service delivery.

The first convening was held in Syracuse in September 30 and October 1, 1985. Walter Grazier from USCC who spoke offered his opinion that this was the first such rural issue convening in the country. About 40 participants attended.

The second convening was held in Syracuse, on October 8 and 9, 1986, also with about 40 participants. Major presentations were given by Steve Gratto, Ron Brach, Executive Director of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, Sister Serena, (The Role of Parish Outreach in Rural Ministry), and Tim Palmer, Executive Director of the State Rural Housing Coalition on grant-writing.

From this convening, it was agreed that the committee would move from the "annual convening model" and operate as other Council committees with a smaller group and more regular meetings. It was agreed that initial agenda items for the work of the committee would be:

- issues relating to migrant workers

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- training in writing Campaign for Human Development grants for rural areas
- a presentation on the Leviticus fund as a source of capital funding

Issue Area Advocacy

In its rubric operating as a committee, the group addressed several issues.

Regularly, Father Gratto would convene a lobby day on a series of bills the Council supported.

The committee focused specifically on a bill to establish a State Office of Rural Affairs, which with able assistance from Conference lobbyist Father Ken Doyle, was passed and signed into law in 1986. The committee participated in the major convenings which launched the Office of Rural Affairs on August 17, 1987, and worked with Executive Director Joe Gerace to organize a series of convenings around the state to initiate the work of the office.

The committee also was successful in the establishment in 1988 of Demonstration Grants on Rural Networking and Case Management, a concept originated three years prior by the committee.

Finally, the committee focused its work on interaction with state agencies. Sister Serena was appointed a member of the Department of Social Services Advisory Committee on Rural Issues. The committee also met in December 1989 with representatives of the State Office of Transportation.

G. Conclusion

The Council had an enormous impact on shaping state human services policy in New York State in the late 1980's through its own work and the work of the committees taken collectively. From the moral perspective of the preferential option for the poor, and from the hands on lived experience of working with vulnerable individuals and families, Catholic Charities leaders had significant impact working with government leadership in a period of growth that resulted in establishment of the basic infrastructure of service delivery that would guide government operations for the decades to come.

CHAPTER SIX

JOE BUTTIGIEG – 1990-1998 – (Focus On Economic Security)

A. Introduction

At its special meeting held at Stella Maris Retreat House in Skaneateles on August 1, 1990, the Council recommended to Alan Davitt that he hire Joe Buttigieg as Executive Secretary of the Council of Catholic Charities Directors. Alan did so.

For nearly a decade, Joe had worked for Catholic Charities agencies. From 1987 until the time of his appointment he served as Director of Immigration and Refugee Services for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York. Prior to that he had worked for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rockville Center. From 1986-1987, he served as the Diocesan Coordinator for Cultural and Ethnic Affairs. Prior to that he had worked as the Regional Administrator of the Westbury Community Life Center. Happily, in addition to this experience, Joe brought with him considerable computer skills which were to serve the Council and Conference very well.

From the very moment of his appointment, Joe and Council faced a dramatically changed situation.

In the external environment, the Governor announced in August that there was a considerable budget shortfall and cuts would be necessary even in the current fiscal year. So was ushered in a time of fiscal difficulty that was to last for several years. In response, as detailed below, the Council made the immediate decision also to prioritize and focus its activities on defending the rights and needs of poor and vulnerable individuals and families through advocacy for economic security programs.

At the same time, there was considerable change also within the Council and Conference itself. Alan Davitt had already announced that he would be retiring from his position as Executive Director of the State Catholic Conference at the end of June 1991, and the Council felt it needed to “get its act together” in preparation for working with a new Director. The three newest members of the Council, Father John Gilmartin from Rockville Center, Father John Firpo from Rochester and Father Bob Stephenson from Syracuse voiced a desire to more actively influence the work of the Council. At its June 1990 meeting, the Council deferred on selecting a new chairperson until there was a thorough review of Council purposes, priorities and practices. So was born the self-study process.

B. The Self-Study Process

Shortly following the June 1990 meeting, the Council agreed to meet at Stella Maris on August 1st. It was agreed that the first meeting in the “self-study process” would be “to discuss the mission, purposes and structure of the Council of Catholic Charities Directors.” The session was facilitated by Sister Ann Bryan Smollin from Albany. This

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was also the first Council meeting for Sister Maureen Joyce, who had been hired to replace Sister Serena Branson as Diocesan Director of Catholic Charities in Albany.

As recorded by Father Steve Gratto, at this session, the Council established these items as the purpose and mission of the Council.

- An organized way to influence the Public Policy of the New York State Catholic Conference.
- An organized way to review other items that are not incorporated into the Public Policy agenda.
- An organized way to discuss and deal with other items that apply to the body of directors of Catholic Charities agencies in New York State.
- A method for networking with other providers, coalitions, and groups on matters of interest, and a method of stimulating and fostering an internal networking of Catholic Charities staff and personnel, board and volunteers, throughout the state.
- An opportunity to strategize on how to apply the preferential option for the poor to impact on public policy. To also be informed in policy decisions by Catholic social teaching and to elaborate on and contribute to Catholic social teaching.
- A forum within which we can look to the future.
- An organized way to come to specific action as a consequence of our meetings.
- An organized way in which the Directors of Catholic Charities develop their own ownership of a statewide agenda.

- It was also agreed that there was need to further discuss the role of committees and to meet with committees around four items:
 - * The role of committees in fulfilling the mission and purpose of the Council.
 - * The establishment of standing committees and/or ad hoc committees.
 - * The utilization of a chair from the Council of Catholic Charities Directors for the committees rather than a chair separate from the Council
 - * The utilization of other networks to accomplish some of the same tasks and activities that the committees carry out

- It was also agreed that committee meetings would be suspended pending this dialogue.

At its September 25th self-study day, the Council further clarified a process for dialogue with the committees, and asked to meet with the chairpersons “to reflect on the critical issues and tasks that each specific committee addresses, as well as the over-all structure of the committees.”

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Each of the committee chairpersons was asked to prepare for this session a statement of its priorities. They were presented as follows:

Priorities by Committee:

Fiscal Officers Committee: (John Rutnik, Chairperson)

1. Annual meeting would be enough and that possibly the committee could come together on an ad hoc basis around a specific task given by the Council of Catholic Charities Directors.

Drug and Alcohol Committee: (John Coppola, Chairperson)

1. Follow-up of the Bishops' Statement concerning the establishment of Diocesan Task Forces.
2. Access to treatment, the provision of treatment on demand, and the siting of programs.
3. The criminal justice issue with a high percentage of the persons who are presently incarcerated who have drug and/or alcohol related problems.

Housing Committee: (Bob Sahn, presenting)

1. The overriding issue being that the New York has no real state housing policy. The committee would provide a point of view on how housing programs should be run in the state.
2. That the committee would look at DSS support programs.
3. What would be needed to be added on to the budget such as AIDS Housing or Mobile Homes, depending upon the particular needs at the moment.

Elderly Services Committee: (Mary Jo Giambelluca, Chairperson)

1. SSI increase with the goal for SSI payments to reach the poverty level.
2. The EISEP Program. The need to improve the per capita rate, which is not presently sufficient for this program.
3. Adult Day Care/Social Day Care. Standards have been developed for this program, but there remains a need for a dedicated funding stream.

Family & Children's Services Committee: (Barbara Conley, Chairperson)

1. The committee was heavily involved in the development of a Family and Children's Policy which was passed by the State Legislature last year and identified the need to assist in the implementation of this policy during the coming year.
2. The need for capital improvements for foster care agency plant rehabilitation since some agencies are over 100 years old.
3. Concern that drug and alcohol services available to families and children had been so overly regulated by DSAS that there was considerable concern that the

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dollars allocated would never be able to be implemented due to regulatory complexity.

Mental Health Committee: (Lori Accardi, Chairperson)

1. Strong state budget advocacy to maintain the continuum of housing, clinical and community support services.
2. Advocacy for mental health services for children including implementation of the “CSS look-a-like” program for children.
3. Advocacy for the development at the diocesan level of pilot programs for target populations such as:
 - a. dually diagnosed: mentally ill/mentally retarded;
 - b. mentally ill chemical abusers;
 - c. mental health services for the elderly;
 - d. homeless mentally ill.

Legalization Committee: (Mary Ann Dantuono, Chairperson)

1. Continuation of education, particularly with regard to employer sanctions and the discrimination that resulted from it as well as pending immigration reform that was being considered on the state level.
2. Restrictions to public assistance benefits. The whole issue of the variety of benefits available or unavailable to persons who are either undocumented refugees, new immigrants, persons who went through the Legalization Program, etc.
3. Care of the undocumented and the need for development of new models of service. An example was given of the Plattsburgh experience where assistance is provided with the out-migration to Canada of persons who may be undocumented in the United State. Also mention was made of the Diocese of Rockville Center in which parishes and concerned persons are working on issues of housing and other needs presented by the undocumented population.

Ad-Hoc Public Assistance Workgroup: (Bill Przylucki, Chairperson)

The workgroup was originally charged to work on the basic grant increase. Awaiting charge from Council.

Committee on Mentally Retarded Persons:(Report read by Tom DeStefano from Monsignor Tom Cribbin)

1. Elimination of unnecessary regulations in the area of services to persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.
2. Advocacy for clients not covered by the Willowbrook decree.
3. Needs of low functioning clients, both school age and adult.

Following the feedback by the committee chairpersons Father Firpo asked the committee chairpersons for their reflections and suggestions on the Annual convening. Overall the

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convening on Church-State was well received and people felt they were exposed to something to which they would not normally be exposed. In addition it seemed that the meeting held in Ogdensburg assisted people in developing a greater sense of connectedness.

The Council of Catholic Charities Directors were then asked for their feedback concerning what they had been presented with by the committee chairpersons. The following feedback was given:

- The committees have put in a great deal of work in the development of some very good recommendations and there is now a need to strategize on the implementation of some of the recommendations.
- The Council of Catholic Charities Directors needs to give more feedback to the committees possibly by having individual Directors join particular committees.
- There is a need to look at and define who is sent to committees so that policy makers are present rather than mixing policy makers and direct service providers.
- The committees have felt influential with State Legislators, Commissioners, and Directors and the Charities Directors cannot lose focus on how important that is. And that the Charities Directors need to insure that the committees remain focused on a common agenda with the Council of Catholic Charities Directors.
- The committees did not have anything to say about what the State Catholic Conference said was their task. That the committees were essentially involved in a number of areas such as policy, program implementation, support to each other etc., and the Charities Directors needed to see in what way the committees can operate on their own to achieve the purposes that are helpful to the members such as support; assistance with implementation; etc., and in what way the Charities Directors need to be involved when the Committees deal with policy issues.
- The committees seem to have an understanding of the collaborative nature of their work with the Council of Catholic Charities Directors.
- The knowledge and expertise of the people present was evident and impressive.

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The Council had a phone conference call on November 6, 1990 to further discuss functioning of the committees, agreeing in this session that the Council would appoint a liaison to work with each committee, and then at its December 12, 1990 meeting agreed to the following finalization of committee functioning.

Committee	Liaison	Charge
Ad Hoc Income Security Work Group	Msgr. John Conniff Father Stephen Gratto	This group will be the point group for the Council to develop the strategy for lobbying for income security issues. Special emphasis needs to be placed on doing good research on who is the HR population. Appointed to this work group at the meeting were: Mary Ann Dantuono; Mary Jo Giambelluca; Bill Przulucki; Bob Mundy Others to be appointed.
Drug & Alcohol	Sister Maureen Joyce	Continue to meet with increased involvement with the Charities Directors. Policy issues around the implementation of the Bishops' pastoral on Chemical Dependency.
OMRDD	Mr. Thomas DeStefano	Continue relationship with Commissioner.
Legalization	Ms. Vincenza DeFazio	Meet for a time limited basis to explore the effects of the new Immigration law and the discrimination resulting from employer sanctions and report back to Council the results of exploration.
Housing Committee	Rev. John Firpo to have a phone conversation with Chairperson	Purpose of the phone conversation is to see if there is a common agenda between that committee and the Council.
OMH	Ad Hoc by Council	
Family & Children Services	Ad Hoc by Council	
Rural Issues	Ad Hoc by Council	
Elderly Services	Ad Hoc by Council	

At this session, it was also agreed to cancel the Statewide Annual Convening which normally would have been held in May 1991.

Through these actions, the self-study process was completed.

An interesting footnote: At its December meeting, immediately after finalizing the self-study, the Council heard a presentation from Mike Dowling, Deputy Secretary to the Governor for Human Services, on the state's Budget Reduction Plan, focused on:

- Hospital Medicaid Reimbursement
- Reductions in Education Aid
- Layoffs and Furloughs of State Workers
- Members items

C. Structure and Functioning of the Council

1. Introduction

Against this background, presented in this Chapter is the work of the Council in terms of its membership and regular on-going activities, its focus on three issues relating to economic security, and the work of the committees.

2. Council Leadership and Membership

At the August 1, 1990 session, Father John Firpo was elected as Council Chairperson and Father John Gilmartin was elected as co-Chair. With the resignation from his Diocesan position of Father Firpo in November 1991, Father Gilmartin became Chairperson. Sister Maureen Joyce was elected in July 1992 as co-chairperson for 1992-1993 and was elected chairperson in September 1993, a position she was to hold until June 1999. At that same meeting, Monsignor Gugino was elected Vice-Chair and it was clarified the chairperson must be a Diocesan Director.

From fall 1990 through June 1998, Council membership was as follows. It should be noted that at the July 31, 1992 meeting, it was agreed that Council membership would be expanded to include the Diocesan Director and one other member from each Diocese, as well as members of a newly created Government Affairs Committee. (Where no dates are listed, the individuals were members of the Council throughout this entire period.)

Archdiocese of New York:	Monsignor James Murray Father Kevin Sullivan
Albany:	Sister Maureen Joyce Sister Peg Sullivan Kathy Greico (1992-1993) Bill Przylucki (1993-) Karen Dehais (1994-)
Brooklyn:	Tom DeStefano Elise Gotimer (1993-) Carlo DeRege (1996-)
Buffalo:	Monsignor John Conniff (-1995) Monsignor Henry Gugino

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Ogdensburg:	Mary Jo Giambelluca (1995-) Father Joe Sicari (1996-) Father Steve Gratto (-1995) Sister Donna Franklin (1995-) Pamela Wilson (1995-) Anne Boulter Davis (1996-)
Rochester:	Father John Firpo (-1991) Paul Pickering (spring 1991 and 1993-) Jack Balinsky (1992-) Carolyn Portanova (1992-1993) Tony Barbaro (1993-)
Rockville Center	Father John Gilmartin Paul Kirdahy (-1992) Dan McGowan (1992-1996) Mary Ann Dantuono (1993-1996) Laura Cassell (1996-) Donna O'Brien (1996-)
Syracuse:	Father Bob Stephenson Brian Walton Dennis Manning (1994-)

3. Overview of Council Functioning 1990-1998

Introduction

It was indicated above that the major focus with regard to the work of the Council was advocacy with regard to economic security priorities. These efforts, particularly relating to budget advocacy, income security and welfare reform issues, are described in the next section, and the work of the committees in the subsequent section. As a context for those sections, here we present a brief year-by-year overview of the work of the Council.

1990-1991 – Growing Pains

As detailed above, the Council basically spent the first half of the year in the self-study process. Also, as described above, the Council had just finished this process when it invited Mike Dowling to come to the December 12th meeting to detail the Governor's four-pronged budget reduction program. Advocacy for the remainder of the year focused on diverting these cuts away from the poor. Against this background, in reviewing its activities at the end of the year, it described itself as "distracted" from implementing the plans made in the self-study.

One positive accomplishment of the year, however, was continuing participation by Joe Buttigieg in the Advisory Board on State Contracting, and the ultimate passage on July 11, 1991 as part of the budget in "veto-proof" form legislation on prompt contracting, similar to that which had been vetoed the previous year by the Governor.

1991-1992 The Advent of John Kerry

John Kerry, who had been a pro-life Democrat state legislator from Maine, was hired as Executive Director of the Catholic Conference effective July 1, 1991. At the September 17th meeting of the Council, John presented “A Vision for the Catholic Conference” and described his plans for a Public Policy Education Network. In general, he envisioned a Conference that would be more concerned with budget issues, would focus on the legislature, and would seek to develop grassroots advocacy. John would come back to meet with the Council in a special meeting held on May 13, 1992 to discuss specific issues and concerns about the establishment of the Public Policy Education Network.

So began the relationship of the Council to John Kerry. As indicated at the outset, a key influence on the work of the Council at any time are the personality and priorities of the Executive Director, and John’s presence would certainly influence the work of the Council for ten years. He brought energy and a new vision and approach. At the same time, there were to be tensions and issues between John and the Council over the years, particularly about the best way for the Catholic Conference to relate to the Executive Branch of Government.

Also of note in this program year was an effort of the Council to “fine-tune” its charge to the work of the various committees. At its November 16, 1991 meeting, the Council approved a three-fold charge to the committees:

- 1) development of supporting data for the issues currently on our agenda
- 2) development of recommendations to the Council on issues that emerge during the legislative session, that:
 - have a chance of being enacted
 - are not on our agenda
 - benefit the poor
- 3) development of issues for next year’s legislative agenda

During the spring of 1992, at the request of the State Public Policy Committee, the Drug and Alcohol Committee and the Council addressed an issue which had come to major national prominence: needle exchange. Despite the recommendation for support made unanimously by the committee and Council, the Public Policy Committee chose to recommend to the Bishops a position of opposition.

The year closed on a tragic note. On June 3, 1992, Vinnie DeFazio, who had been a Council member for eight years and had made enormous contributions in her quiet behind the scenes way, was killed in a pedestrian-bus accident on her way from morning Mass to work. Monsignor Murray delivered a moving eulogy at her funeral Mass three days later. The Council would in the fall decide to create in her honor an award given annually by the Council for contributions made to the Council or the Church more generally in a more quiet, behind the scenes fashion.

1992-1993 – Getting Organized Again

At a special meeting held at Father Stephenson's house in Fulton on July 31, 1992, the Council made several decisions which evidenced a new energy and focus for the coming year. This meeting provides occasion to mention yet another new generation of Council leadership.

Sister Maureen Joyce had been appointed Diocesan Director in Albany in 1990. For many years she had been the Executive Director of Community Maternity Services, and had been involved with the State Catholic Conference through the Teen Pregnancy Task Force and in many other ways. She, too, would become effective in the special role of the Albany Director in relating to state government leadership, both in the Cuomo administration and also in the Pataki administration. She would serve as Council Chairperson from 1993-1999, and exert significant influence on the direction of its work.

Jack Balinsky was appointed as Diocesan Director in Rochester in 1992, after two years with the DuLac Corporation, and would bring his experience as former staff person of the Council.

Throughout the late 1970's and 1980's, Monsignor Henry Gugino had ably assisted Monsignor Conniff and significantly contributed to the work of the Council. He would be appointed Diocesan Director in Buffalo in 1995, and would serve as Council Chairperson from 1999-2001, prior to his untimely death in 2002.

Decisions made at the July 31, 1992 meeting were:

First, re-election of Father Gilmartin as chairperson and election of Sister Maureen as co-chairperson. Second, on the recommendations of a "Social Policy Committee" comprised of Elise Gotimer, Mary Ann Dontuono and Kathy Greico, it adopted a six point advocacy priority agenda for the coming year:

- 1) development of supportive housing for people who are HIV positive.
- 2) provision of substance abuse services for drug and alcohol addicted pregnant women and women with children.
- 3) provision of perinatal care services to babies with special needs due to maternal substance abuse and/or alcohol abuse during pregnancy.
- 4) advocacy for State Earned Income Tax Credit.
- 5) advocacy for federal Earned Income Tax Credit.
- 6) advocacy for increase in local funding for drug and alcohol services, prevention and education.

(It was clear from this action that the work of the Drug and Alcohol Committee over the last five years had paid off.)

Third, creation of a Government Affairs Committee that would be a part of the Council and would perform analysis for the Council on legal, regulatory and

judicial issues. Initial members were Elise Gotimer, Mary Ann Dantuono, Kathy Greico and Paul Pickering. Later, others were added to the committee including, Bill Przylucki, Father Kevin Sullivan, Mary Jo Giambelluca and Carlo DeRege. Their efforts over the years were to be most supportive of the work of Joe Buttigieg and helped focus the attention of the Council.

Fourth, based upon input from the committees, the Council approved work plans for the committees as follows:

Mental Health

- 1) Continue to work on Community Reinvestment Bill
- 2) Examine DSS memo on Managed Care for Special Populations.
- 3) Examine state budget and advocacy around same.

Drug and Alcohol

- 1) Work with CCUSA policy paper development.
- 2) Monitor and assess areas for involvement on consolidation of two agencies.
- 3) Monitor state budget and program bills to advise Catholic Charities Directors.
- 4) Follow-up on position papers developed during the past year.

Mental Retardation – Developmental Disabilities

- 1) Meet with Commissioner on programmatic issues.
- 2) Implementation of Medicaid waiver.
- 3) Foster sensitivity to rate appeals.
- 4) Constant effort at easing regulations.

Housing

- 1) Supportive housing for people with AIDS (HIV+)
The committee will investigate various prototypes and study pro formas for capital and operating costs. Committee recommends legislation to create adequate funding stream to cover these costs.
- 2) Operating and Social Service Subsidies
The Committee has long recognized the inability to provide for public assistance households as well as people who need intense social service support in state assisted housing without additional subsidies. The committee will continue to illustrate the problem through case studies and advocate for new programs to address these problems.
- 3) Local Tax and Zoning Policies
The committee will examine instances where localities have established barriers to low-income housing. The committee will explore legislative remedies.
- 4) Economic Development

The committee will seek new ways to bring jobs and economic mobility to housing for low and moderate-income housing. Successful models will be studied and new recommendations on legislation initiated.

- 5) Retirement Communities
The committee will collect information on housing projects that are designed and programmed to serve the independent as well as frail older persons.
- 6) Housing for ex-offenders
The committee will begin to look into ways to provide housing and related social services for persons in the criminal justice system.

Income Security

- 1) Research and recommend to the Council of Catholic Charities Directors ways to promote income security through job creation. This includes identifying practical possibilities for public and private partnerships and economic development targeted to the economically poor and vulnerable. The committee proposes to work closely with the Council's Housing Committee to achieve this goal, as innovative opportunities are beginning to surface in the housing arena.
- 2) Provide the Council with necessary information to formulate a position on bringing public assistance benefits for families to 100 percent of poverty when combined with food stamps and raising the standard of need for public assistance while allowing recipients to fill the gap between a new standard of need and actual benefits with wages and other income.
- 3) Remain open to assisting the Council in implementing 1992-1993 legislative objectives and performing follow-up to the committee's previous year efforts as necessary and appropriate.

Finally, the Council determined after a hiatus of two and a half years, to reinstitute the Statewide Annual Convening and Annual Human Services Reception. Following on the model used by the Council in 1989 and 1990, these sessions were combined and held at the Omni in Albany on December 9, 1992.

The "convening" was held in modified form and consisted of two presentations. The first was given by Father Fred Kammer, who had recently been appointed as President of Catholic Charities USA, on his vision for the organization. He focused on four areas of concern: support to the field, advocacy, development and membership. There was then a more lengthy presentation by Stuart Lefkowitz from the State Department of Social Services about Medicaid managed care. In his presentation, Stuart detailed provisions of Chapter 165 of the Laws of 1991 providing that: "there would be developed throughout the state a Medicaid managed care system with the ultimate goal of enrolling 50 percent of the Medicaid population in a managed care system."

At the subsequent reception, the Mugavero Award was presented to Monsignor Charles Fahey who had been Diocesan Director in Syracuse, was then Director of the Third Age at Fordham, and was a recognized national expert on issues of

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Church, healthcare and aging. It was most fitting that the first Vinnie DeFazio award was presented to Millie Shanley, long-time attorney for Brooklyn Catholic Charities who had just left her position to become counsel for Catholic Medical Center, who had worked closely with Vinnie for nearly a decade, and who showed Vinnie's style of quite, behind-the-scenes contribution.

Other items of note that occurred during this year were:

- 1) There was a negative decision from the Appellate Court on *Hope v Perales*, stating that the denial of abortion services to PCAP recipients with income in the 100 percent-185 percent of poverty level was unconstitutional, threatening an important legislative accomplishment of the Catholic Conference three years earlier.
- 2) New York Civil Liberties Union raised an issue of the constitutionality of funding through the Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation, which was later resolved in favor of the Church position.
- 3) The Council focused on issues of long-term care, hearing presentations from Sue Kelly from State DSS, and Jim Introne, Chairperson of the Governor's Task Force on long-term care reform.
- 4) The Legislature finally passed the Mental Health Community Reinvestment Act, after much advocacy by the Council and other groups.
- 5) The Council designated representatives to a Catholic Conference Universal Healthcare Task Force.

1993-1994 – Collaboration with Healthcare

A major focus of Council activity in 1993-1994 was on collaboration with Catholic Healthcare providers, in light of national discussion about this approach in which Bishop Joseph Sullivan was a key national leader.

At its meeting on October 27, 1993, the Council heard a presentation from Sister Ellen Lawlor, President of St. Peter's Hospital in Albany and Chairperson of the New York State Catholic Conference Healthcare Council on possibilities of collaboration. This presentation led to formation of a planning committee and ultimately a joint convening between Catholic Charities and the Healthcare Council.

It was decided that such a convening would be conjoined with the Statewide Annual Convening and the Annual Human Services Reception. These sessions were held on April 12th and April 13th at the Omni in Albany. They were to foreshadow the much more significant "New Covenant" activities launched nationally three years later.

On April 12th, activities began with a presentation by Ed Orzechowski from Catholic Charities in Washington, D.C. about Vision 2000, and then a workshop format to provide input to the process. It should be noted here that both Tom DeStefano and Father John Gilmartin were members of the CCUSA Vision 2000 Task Force and significant contributors to this work.

This session was followed by the Annual Human Services Reception. Concern was expressed again, as it had been after the December 1992 reception, about the lack of presence of Commissioners.

On a positive note, the Bishop Mugavero award was conferred to Robert McAuliffe, an attorney from Syracuse who had a long record of contribution both to Syracuse Catholic Charities and to the State Catholic Conference, including substantial work with Charles Tobin. After Charles' retirement, Bob had become "guardian of the Catholic Charities Corporate Charter".

The Vinnie DeFazio Award was given to Monsignor Thomas Cribbin from Brooklyn. He had been a leader in developing programs for persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities since the first days of deinstitutionalization. As chairperson of the Council MR committee, he was a recognized force in influencing state government.

More than 100 persons attended the joint Charities-Healthcare convening the subsequent day. Major presentations were given by Bishop Sullivan: "Collaboration and Church Culture", Patricia Cahill CEO of the Archdiocese of New York Healthcare System; "Motivation for Collaborative Church Efforts" and Mike Dowling from the State Administration on "Health Reform in New York State". Subsequent workshop sessions were organized by Dioceses and it was suggested that on-going joint planning task forces be established in each Diocese.

There were other events of note which occurred during this program year.

- 1) There appeared in the Albany Times Union on February 14, 1994 a syndicated column by Anna Quindlen decrying the Catholic Conference for opposing expansion of school-based clinics because of concerns about provision of reproductive health services to teenagers. There was subsequent public support of her position from other human services advocacy groups, such as the State Communities Aid Association, with which the Council had been partners over the years in advocating for economic security priorities. There had been some distancing from these organizations since the withdrawal of Catholic Charities from SENSES in 1989, but this moment drove a wedge which made subsequent collaborative advocacy much more difficult.
- 2) The Charities Directors and Catholic Conference determined in February 1994 to support legislation which would require the disclosure of HIV confidential information about infants to parents or adoptive parents.
- 3) On May 6, 1994, the Housing Committee sponsored a highly successful conference on Retirement Communities held at the Nottingham, a Loretto facility in Syracuse.
- 4) An Ad Hoc Foster Care Committee made recommendations to the Council about revisions in foster care and adoptive home regulations, gay adoptions, and children's services legislation.

- 5) At its meeting on May 25, 1994, the Council determined to support advocacy for creation of a State Commission on the Deaf.

1994-1995 – Transition-the Election of Governor Pataki

Obviously, the dominant event of the 1994-1995 program year was the election of Governor George Pataki in November 1994. Shortly after the election, the Conference made the decision to suspend almost all constituent group meetings to focus on developing a report to the leadership of the incoming Pataki administration. The New York State Catholic Conference Transition Report to Governor Pataki was submitted on January 12, 1995. It outlined in detail the institutional presence and contributions of Church entities in the state, and identified Catholic Conference priorities and recommendations on the broad scope of its concerns. From this transition effort, there was also created within the Conference “model program forms”, where each Diocesan Catholic Charities agency was to submit information on three programs in which the new administration might have interest.

Whereas there were many different approaches taken by the new administration, a direction which had high impact on the work of the Council and Conference was Governor Pataki’s support of the death penalty. Conference advocacy shifted to limiting the impact of new death penalty legislation signed by Governor Pataki.

Also, whereas previous Governors had been open to meeting with a variety of Church leaders, Governor Pataki made it clear early on that he only wanted to meet with Bishops.

The coming of a new administration gave new urgency to the Annual Human Services reception, and with it the Statewide Annual Convening. At the November 30, 1994 Council meeting, it was affirmed that the goals of the annual reception were:

- 1) To provide an opportunity for State Commissioners and Council members to engage in meaningful discussion and exchange of information.
- 2) To provide Commissioners with a sense of Catholic Charities – what it is, and what they expect.
- 3) To provide an opportunity for informal dialogue.

It was agreed that a joint Statewide Annual Convening and Human Services Reception would be held on May 31, 1995, at the Schuyler Inn in Menands.

In the morning session at that convening, led by Dennis Manning from Syracuse, participants in the convening addressed in small groups “story booking sessions” around these three questions:

- 1) How does Catholic Charities respond to the current environment?
- 2) What will Catholic Charities look like in 2000 as a managed care provider?

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- 3) What will Catholic Charities look like with parish social ministry in 2000? (This question is interesting, because the Council had wanted to address formally questions about parish social ministry for some years, but had been unable to find a way to do so.)

John Carr from USCC made a presentation at lunch entitled “The Role of Catholic Charities in these Times.”

At the lunch, annual Council awards were given to Monsignor John Conniff and Paul Sauerland.

As recipient of the Mugavero Award, Monsignor Conniff was recognized for thirty years of service as Diocesan Director of Catholic Charities in Buffalo and to the Council since its inception. He had been a steadying hand in the many transitions and issues faced by the Council over the years, and had recently retired from his position.

The Vinnie DeFazio Award was given to Paul Sauerland, a long time staff person for Catholic Charities of Rockville Center. A person himself disabled by blindness, Paul had made significant contributions to the Catholic Conference Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities.

The early afternoon was devoted to preparation by the committees for meetings later that afternoon with appropriate state government executive branch leaders. These meetings were followed by the reception. In general, it was felt that this event was a good way to connect with the new state administration.

Another major initiative of this program year was the work of the Council Special Task Force on Pregnant and Parenting Teens on AFDC. In the light of discussions about welfare reform on the federal and state level, it was felt that the Council should further develop its thinking on this important target population. The committee was chaired by Pat Fox from Rochester. Committee members were:

Archdiocese of New York: Sister Diane Prusinski
Albany: Sister Mary Ann LoGuidice
Brooklyn: Sister Barbara Suessman
Buffalo: Valencia Wayne
Ogdensburg: Anne Boulter Davis
Rochester: Pat Fox
Rockville Center: Sister Kathleen Gorman, Wendy Riley
Syracuse: Cindy Falise, Joe Fanelli, Shari Kimball

In its final report to the Council on February 1, 1995, the committee recommended focusing on prevention by instilling self-reliance and responsibility in three ways:

- 1) building parenting skills

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- 2) connecting families with resources
- 3) participating with and helping parents parent.

Other activities of note during the year:

- 1) Sister Serena and Mary Jo Giambelluca were designated as Catholic Conference representatives to the White House Conference on Aging
- 2) Joe Buttigieg continued to participate in the Human Services Salary Coalition
- 3) The Council decided to do another state government contracts survey to understand the dimensions of our participation with government.

1995-1996 – Managed Care

A major focus of Council efforts during 1995-1996 was on the area of managed care. For purposes of continuity of presentation, the Council focus on this area is described fully in the 1996-1997 section.

Besides this focus on managed care, other matters which the Council addressed in 1995-1996 included:

- 1) An August 7, 1995 meeting in which representatives from New York State joined other Catholic Charities participants from the northeast for a meeting in Albany devoted to further developing the Vision 2000 plan for Catholic Charities USA.
- 2) Continuing focus on the work of the Human Services Salary Coalition
- 3) Continuing effort to finalize the government contracts survey
- 4) Presentation by Jack Balinsky of a White Paper on Urban/Suburban Concerns loosely modeled after Bishop Pilla's Church in the City initiative in Cleveland
- 5) Presentation by a statewide group from within the Catholic community involved in ministry to migrant farmworkers of a comprehensive set of recommendations for Church response to this vulnerable population. (This effort was led by former Rochester Charities Director Charlie Mulligan).
- 6) Development of a letter with recommendations on Block Grant administration to be sent to County Executives
- 7) Agreement to joint sponsorship of the Catholic Charities USA meeting to be held in Rochester in 1999, and agreement as to what joint sponsorship meant in terms of finances, program development and logistics

And, the Council held a joint Statewide Annual Convening/Human Services Reception, based upon the model of the previous year. The meetings were held on May 29, 1996 at the Schuyler Inn. Father Fred Kammer from Catholic Charities USA gave the keynote presentation on "Ethical Issues in Managed Care".

The Bishop Mugavero Award was given to one of his early protégé's-Bishop Joseph Sullivan. Bishop Sullivan's legions of contributions to Catholic Charities, the Catholic Church and the community are well known.

The Vinnie DeFazio Award was presented to Mary Ann Dantuono, an attorney on staff at Catholic Charities at Rockville Center who was leaving to return to private practice. Her contributions to the work of the Council, particularly through the Government Affairs Committee, had been substantial.

Again, in the afternoon, there were preparatory committee sessions, meetings with Executive Branch leadership, followed by the Annual Human Services reception.

1996-1997 – Welfare Reform and Managed Care

The work of the Council was dominated in this year by two issues – welfare reform and managed care. Involvement in welfare reform is described fully in the section on economic security advocacy. Here is described the Council's focus on managed care from its earliest beginning.

As previously indicated, Chapter 165 of the laws of 1991 established a Statewide Medicaid Managed Care program with a goal of enrolling 50 percent of Medicaid recipients. Already in November 1992, the Council was expressing concern about the impact of managed care on participants in the PCAP program and school-based health clinics. As described above, the Council gave considerable time at its December 9, 1992 Statewide Annual convening to a presentation by Stuart Lefkovic from State DSS on Medicaid Managed Care. In October 1993, the Council made recommendations that for special needs populations, Medicaid Managed Care pertain to "health only" and that for other services consideration be given to designated "Essential Community Services Providers" as defined in the Clinton Healthcare Reform initiative. And, in early 1995, the Council decided it could best utilize information from the Catholic Health Association as a guide to Catholic Charities involvement in providing managed care services.

With the filing of the application by the Pataki administration for an 1115 Medicaid waiver on March 17, 1995, attention to Medicaid Managed Care issues increased dramatically. (The Conference had a week earlier submitted its comments on the draft application.) At its April 6, 1995 meeting, the Council heard a special presentation on the waiver application by representatives from the State Department of Health. In what was to be a decisive moment, Monsignor Alan Placa made a presentation on June 9, 1995 at the Annual meeting of the Bishops of the state with the Public Policy Committee on Medicaid Managed Care that was to be the impetus for the creation of Fidelis Care of New York, the Bishops' statewide HMO, in January 1997.

It should be noted here that the Catholic Conference and in particular Joe Buttigieg played a critical role in the establishment of Fidelis. At the last night of the session when legislation to implement the Medicaid Managed Care waiver was being discussed, there was an impasse over reproductive health services. The

Catholic Conference was seeking to obtain for Fidelis exemption from providing contraceptive services. There was concern about the impact of such a clause on tubal ligations. Joe remembered that in a footnote to state regulations was the statement that tubal ligations were not included in the definition of contraceptives. His memory saved the day and legislation friendly to Fidelis was passed.

Beginning with the September 12, 1995 meeting, the Charities Directors began a series of meetings and discussions about the role of Catholic Charities in the provision of Medicaid Managed Care in New York State which largely consumed the attention and agenda time of the Council for the next two years. At that meeting, the Government Affairs Committee recommended that individual Diocesan Catholic Charities agencies study their role in provision of managed care in their communities. At a special meeting in December 1995, Jack Balinsky presented to the Council a draft Certificate of Incorporation for Catholic Charities Managed Care Services of New York State, Inc. (thus continuing the discussion about creation of a Statewide Operating Corporation). At the January 31, 1996 Council meeting, Brian Fitzsimmons from the Archdiocese made a presentation about Network Behavioral Health. Shortly after Fidelis was formally created in January 1997, Mark Lane, its President and CEO made a presentation at the February 5, 1997 Council meeting about Fidelis in general and behavioral health services in particular. The Council held a special meeting on February 28, 1997 entirely devoted to Medicaid Managed Care. Unable to attend the meeting, Kevin Sullivan wrote that he thought Capital Behavioral Health and Network Behavioral health had much to offer, and that collectively the Charities Directors did not have the capacity to create a statewide managed care organization.

Continuing the series of meetings on this topic, the Charities Directors again met with Mark Lane from Fidelis on April 10, 1997, focused on the following agenda:

1. What will Options (a behavioral health provider under contract with Fidelis) provide
2. Catholic Charities desire for preferred provider status
3. What do we need to know from Options

On May 16, 1997, the Charities Directors again devoted their entire agenda to managed care issues. The agenda included another presentation by Mark Lane, focused on “definitions” and the role of Fidelis, presentations by New York Behavioral Health and Network Behavioral Health, and a discussion about “where do we go from here”. This session led to a special Executive session of the Diocesan Directors on June 4, 1997 which led to agreement on these principles and short-term action steps:

Principles for Development of a Statewide Catholic Sponsored Delivery Network for Behavioral Health

1. Catholic Charities affirms a commitment to participate in developing and being a meaningful player in managed behavioral health service delivery on a statewide basis.

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2. Catholic Charities will have representation on the governance structure of any statewide behavioral health network.
3. A statewide behavioral health network will utilize Catholic sponsored providers on a preferred provider basis.
4. Any statewide behavioral health network will build on existing structures and capitalize on the strengths in each diocese.
5. A statewide behavioral health network will have a relationship with Fidelis Care New York for Fidelis Medicaid Managed Care enrollees and other lines of business developed by Fidelis.

Short Term Action Steps

1. Principles governing the development of statewide behavioral health network will be disseminated.
2. Data will be assembled for each diocese regarding the behavioral health market share of Catholic sponsored entities.
3. Healthcare Council leaders in each diocese will be interviewed for their vision of the evolution of health networks in general and behavioral health in particular.
4. A joint meeting of Healthcare Council and Charities Directors will be convened to discuss common strategies.
5. A letter of engagement will be drafted for a potential consultant to perform certain deliverables including, but not limited to, an objective analysis of the pros and cons of statewide MSO and delivery models.

The two-year discussion about the role of Catholic Charities in the provision of managed care came to conclusion at the September 3, 1997 Council meeting.

The following excerpt from the minutes of that meeting best describe the process and conclusion.

“Jack Balinsky gave the members the following recap of the Council’s efforts relative to behavioral health for managed care. In December of 1995 the Council spoke about the need to form a statewide behavioral health entity that would allow collaboration of all Catholic behavioral entities as well as non-Catholic entities to complete the network. With the creation of Fidelis Care the Directors decided to put the creation of a separate behavioral network on hold. This would allow the Directors to see what Fidelis was going to do in this area and to support the efforts of Fidelis. As an interim measure Fidelis subcontracted out the insurance and management services organization (MSO) functions for behavioral health, due to the number of other taxing organizational issues it faced.

The Council developed an orderly planning process requiring collaboration with the Catholic Health Care Council, on the development of a Catholic Behavioral Health Plan. Subsequent to that meeting Fidelis purchased Better Health Plan, which has its own subcontract with Integra for Behavioral Health. Additionally, a request came before the Fidelis board to have Network Behavioral Health serve as the insurer and MSO for Fidelis in the 5 counties and boroughs of New York City

covered by the Archdiocese of New York. Faced with the possibility of having three insurers and MSO's for behavioral health, which would significantly add to the administrative overhead, the Fidelis board set up a subcommittee. The subcommittee will make a permanent recommendation to the board on how Fidelis should structure behavioral health in the future.

The Council considered three basic options and then a number of variations off those three options. The three basic options were, 1.) The Charities Directors could organize, structure and create their own behavioral health network. 2.) Fidelis could develop the capacity to take on internally the management and insurance functions for behavioral health. 3.) Charities agencies could join New York Behavioral Health which is in its seminal phase with the coming together of New York Behavioral Health and Capital Behavioral Health.

The members discussed the pros and cons of the various options. Considering this discussion the members determined that Fidelis should take on the task of being the insurer and manager of behavioral health care as it is for the basic health care plan. The members developed the following points to convey to the Fidelis board:

- Given the complexity of the issue and potential for the precedent setting nature of short term decisions, it is recommended that planning for behavioral health should be done in an orderly fashion and take into consideration the positions and interests of the Charities Directors, Healthcare Council and other essential constituents. This recommendation is made with full understanding of the pace of change in the market place. Nonetheless, substantive issues require resolution.
- Given the importance of Charities agencies in behavioral health, the Council of Catholic Charities should be considered a substantive and equal voice in formulating and implementing policies and models governing behavioral health.
- Given the principles endorsed by the Council of Catholic Charities in June (above), any model should be measured against these principles.
- Given the influence and control of the individual Dioceses in the structure of Fidelis Care New York, it is essential that behavioral health follow the same model of Fidelis and that Fidelis manage behavioral health system development in order to fairly represent the interests of the Dioceses. Any managed service function should foster the care of the poor, further the teachings of the Church and make necessary investments in improving the health of the vulnerable.
- Given the need for the long term and systematic analysis of the evolution of behavioral health in New York State, an on-going Advisory committee should be convened within Fidelis Care New York to include members of the Council of Catholic Charities and Healthcare Council.

After all this discussion, Fidelis in the short term maintained contracts for provision of Behavioral Health Services with both Integra and Options, and over the next few years moved to insuring these services itself.

In retrospect, several of the Charities Directors felt that too much time and energy had been devoted to this discussion about managed care, and that it was time to return to the business of advocating for the poor. Nonetheless, there were many positives from this involvement. The entire discussion helped Catholic Charities agencies to focus on credentialing counselors, particularly in rural areas. Also, this was good experience and opportunity for Catholic Charities to learn about outcome-based contracts, which were becoming more prevalent in behavioral health, welfare reform and refugee services.

1997-1998 - Transition

In January 1998, Joe Buttigieg announced that he was resigning from his position as Executive Secretary of the Council to take an administrative position with Albany Catholic Charities effective March 2, 1998. Even with able assistance from other Conference staff, Council and committee efforts were diminished somewhat in spring 1998, by this decision. A search committee was formed to work with John Kerry to hire a successor.

Beyond this major event, the work of the Council continued to focus on managed care and on income security issues as described elsewhere.

In addition, during this year the Council focused on these matters:

- 1) Of great concern was language which appeared in a state contract for provision of Adolescent Pregnancy Services which mandated:
“That the program does not include religious education, nor will individuals delivering services be requested or allowed to incorporate religious teaching into the program. In addition, teens will be informed of all services open to them.”
Eventually, again after much negotiation, agreement was reached about appropriate language, but here again was an example of the delicate balance between Church and state, particularly with regard to services to teens and reproductive health issues.
- 2) At its December 3, 1997 meeting, the Council heard a more detailed presentation about planning for the 1999 CCUSA Annual meeting in Rochester.
- 3) At its meeting on January 8, 1998, the Council created an Ad Hoc Family and Children’s Services Committee “to assist the Conference and Council in securing the end to the Family and Children’s Services Block Grant.”
- 4) In February, the Council supported what was ultimately successful advocacy for the Child Health Plus Insurance program.
- 5) At the April 1, 1998 meeting, there was discussion of a request from Conference staff to assist in creating a “Catholic services data book”.

- 6) At the Schuyler Inn, on May 27, 1998, there was a statewide convening (no reception was held this year) focusing on the internal relationship between the Council and committees. Individual committee sessions were held in the morning, and then in the afternoon there was a general session with the Council where the status and priorities of each committee were discussed. Father Kevin Sullivan presided at Mass. The Mugavero award was to be presented to Monsignor James Murray in recognition of his long time service to the Council as Diocesan Director in the Archdiocese, and in honor of his retirement. Since Monsignor Murray was not present, the award was actually presented to him the subsequent March at the Annual Human Services Reception.

D. Major Advocacy Issues – Economic Security

1. Budget

As indicated previously, the 1980's had been a time of great expansion of state support for human services. Catholic Charities leadership had played a major role partnering with state government in developing an expanded infrastructure of human service delivery.

Fall 1990 was the time of a dramatic change in the state's fiscal situation which dramatically altered the focus of the work of the Council. On November 11, 1990, the Governor issued Budget Bulletin 1110 "directing all State Departments and Agencies to put a freeze on spending and prepare budget cuts of 3 percent, 5 percent and 7 percent. As indicated above, Mike Dowling from the Governor's office made a presentation at the December 12, 1990 Council meeting describing the four major areas of budget cutbacks.

So began a new era for the Council – devoting considerable time, energy and effort to deflecting budget cuts away from the poor. Happily, there was in place an effective team to lead the Council response in Joe Buttigieg and John Kerry. Joe came to his position with considerable computer and analytical skills, and each year would develop sophisticated analyses of the Governor's proposed budget, legislative alternatives and the final adopted budget. With John Kerry's focus on developing relationships with the legislature, Joe and John (Senate) or Joe and John's brother David (Assembly) would each year visit every state legislator to discuss the Conference's budget priorities. These visits would be complemented by the Annual Catholic Conference omnibus budget letter, which focused on expenditure and revenue (until 1995) priorities. Finally, such Conference leaders as Bishop Hubbard, Bishop Sullivan, Sister Maureen Joyce and John Kerry himself would testify annually at legislative budget hearings.

With regard to budget advocacy during this time period, of specific note were:

- 1) inclusion in the October 29, 1990 budget letter of budget reform recommendations developed by the Alliance for State Budget Reform (of

- which the Catholic Conference was a founding partner), as well as specific revenue enhancement recommendations.
- 2) efforts to mitigate a budget reduction plan of \$875 million in the last quarter of State Fiscal Year 1991-1992.
 - 3) specific advocacy with regard to the 1995-1996 budget about Medicaid cuts and removal of the carve out from managed care for the special needs population.
 - 4) continuing advocacy from 1995-1998, first against establishment of and then for termination of the Block Grant for Children's Services
 - 5) advocacy in the 1996 session for restructuring and restoring Block grants
 - 6) analysis of the very complex situation in 1996 when each house developed their own legislative budget.

It is ironic that for the first time in his tenure, when doing budget analysis for the 1998-1999 state budget, Joe Buttigieg was able to report that because of the very strong economy, the Governor's budget proposal presented "no major funding threats to the poor". In the previous seven years, in behind-the-scenes and largely unrecognized ways, Joe and the Council, and John and the Conference had made a major contribution in savings hundreds of millions of dollars in services and programs for the poor, perhaps the most significant accomplishment of the Council in this time period.

2. Income Security Advocacy

Introduction

In this state fiscal climate, just as important for the needs of poor and vulnerable individuals was continuing advocacy on income security priorities.

The work detailed here was able to be carried out in large part because of the able work of the Income Security Committee, chaired by Bill Przulucki from Albany. Created in 1988 as the Ad Hoc Committee on Public Assistance, it had been renamed the Income Security Committee during the self-study process in 1990.

Membership on the committee included:

Archdiocese of New York: Father Kevin Sullivan, George Horton

Albany: Bill Przulucki, Kathy Grieco

Brooklyn: Robert Mundy, Monsignor Howard Basler, Jeanne Diuillo

Buffalo: Monsignor John Conniff, Mary Jo Giambelluca

Ogdensburg: Anne Boulter-Davis

Rochester: Kevin Hennessey, Chris Wilkins

Rockville Center: Mary Ann Dantuono, Christine Reiman, Chuck Cutolo, Michele Delmonte

Syracuse: Brian Walton, Dennis Manning

1990-1991

Again, as with the announced state budget crisis, an event in 1990 significantly impacted the work of the Council in its advocacy with regard to income security. The New York State Court of Appeals ruled in the Jiggetts Case on July 5, 1990 that the current shelter allowance levels did not meet the State Constitutional requirement of adequacy. Unfortunately, what was thought to be a boon for those in need, turned out to be an impediment because state government leadership was to take the position they couldn't act until the resolution of Jiggetts.

Following on a meeting with state DSS Commissioner Cesar Perales on September 10, 1990, where he admitted that a basic grant increase was needed, but that he could do nothing because of Jiggetts, Bill Przylucki made a presentation to the Council on March 7, 1991, outlining an approach to creating a grassroots advocacy strategy for income security issues.

Meanwhile, the Council was already fighting a rear guard action against reductions proposed in the Governor's 1991-1992 budget. The successful advocacy during the budget debate which came to conclusion on July 11, 1991 resulted in defeat of these proposals:

- 1) condition eligibility for those under 18 or 21 on continuing residence with a parent or guardian
- 2) eliminate Home Relief payments when the amount was \$25 or less
- 3) sanctions for non-participation in alcohol and substance abuse programs
- 4) payment of shelter allowance directly to the landlord
- 5) limitation of Home Relief payments to 90 days
- 6) imposition of a 60-day residency requirement

1991-1992

During the 1991-1992 program year and the 1992 budget debate, the Council and committee met with DSS leaders such as Commissioner Mary Jo Bane and Ann Skuda, and focused on such issues as public assistance grant consolidation, the Home Relief Employment Assurance program, State Earned Income Tax Credits, and the Child Assistance Program.

1992-1993

For the 1992-1993 program year the Council focused its proactive voice and advocated for a two-pronged economic security agenda.

- 1) Economic Security for all New Yorkers
 - Earned Income Tax Credit
 - Job Creation
- 2) Welfare Policy
 - public assistance grant increase to poverty level

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- SSI increase
- make Child Assistance Program statewide

During this advocacy session:

- 1) the Council expressed considerable concern that other advocacy groups were more willing to accept “the least bad of bad alternatives”
- 2) the Council agreed to support a “fill-the-gap” proposal if the benefit level was 100 percent of the poverty level, jobs were created for those able to work, and health and child care benefits were adequate.
- 3) effective with the adoption of the state budget on July 6, 1993, the Council won a major victory when the Child Assistance Program was indeed established on a statewide basis.

1993-1994

For the 1993-1994 program year, the Council again advocated for a two-pronged economic security agenda.

- 1) Making Work Pay
 - minimum wage increase
 - adoption of Earned Income Tax Credit
 - increase in child care funding
- 2) Welfare Policy
 - raise grant levels to the poverty level
 - job training program increase
 - full funding for Child Assistance program

During this advocacy year:

- 1) the Council reviewed a statement from Catholic Charities USA on federal welfare reform
- 2) heard a presentation on federal welfare reform by Rus Sykes from SCAA
- 3) heard an initial presentation from Mike Dowling on the State Jobs First program

1994-1995

In 1994-1995 program year, given that the debate over welfare reform was heating up at the national level, the Council focused more on federal issues. At the recommendation of the Council, the Bishops of the state developed a Statement on Principles to Guide Welfare Reforms released on April 13, 1995. They were:

- 1) protecting human lives
- 2) strengthening family life
- 3) encouraging and rewarding work

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- 4) preserving a safety net for the vulnerable
- 5) building a public/private partnership to overcome poverty
- 6) investing in human resources

During this time frame also, the Council asked the Income Security Committee to begin to develop position papers on three aspects of federal welfare reform: adequacy of benefits, focus on the person and transitional phase issues. The Council also developed a set of principles for appropriate implementation of Work Fare programs.

1995-1996

In the 1995-1996 program year, as the country and state awaited enactment of welfare reform, there was little activity at the state level. With regard to a proposed state block grant, John Kerry testified at a legislative hearing on November 13, 1995, presenting the six principles which the Bishop had articulated in their April 1995 statement.

1996-1997

The 1996-1997 program year was the time of the most intense Council advocacy on welfare reform issues, because with the adoption of federal welfare reform legislation, the focus then turned to adoption of a state plan.

At its meeting on October 1, 1996 devoted entirely to welfare reform, the Government Affairs Committee (Sullivan, DeRege, Giambelluca, Przulucki, Pickering), focused on these issues relating to state implementation of the federal legislation:

- 1) denial of benefits to a child conceived while the family is on public assistance
- 2) penalties on states for failure to reach work participation goals
- 3) limitations on food stamp eligibility
- 4) family day care providers vs. day care centers
- 5) for-profit provision of foster care

Based upon discussion of these issues and a meeting with Jim Clyne from the Governor's Welfare Reform Task Force, the committee offered the following recommendations for Conference priorities on Welfare Reform.

- 1) enactment of legislation that would provide assistance to children conceived while their mothers were on public assistance
- 2) creation of a state only welfare program that would make eligible those who the federal legislation makes ineligible (immigrants, persons convicted of a drug felony, etc.)
- 3) availability of safe and appropriate day care that is screened by not-for-profits

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- 4) the availability of work that respects the dignity of the individual which allows families to move out of poverty
- 5) possible use of the Child Assistance Program as the mainframe model for welfare reform in New York State.

At its meeting on November 6, 1996, the Council considered these recommendations in light of a CCUSA paper on issues in state implementation.

Joe Buttigieg did a lengthy analysis of the New York Works and Safety Net proposal put forward by Governor Pataki on November 13, 1996 to implement federal welfare reform in New York. Areas of concern expressed, in light of Council review were:

- 1) benefit levels decrease at predetermined times
- 2) county waiver availability
- 3) safety net non-cash voucher program
- 4) for-profit involvement
- 5) use of surplus for other purposes
- 6) removal of Medicaid coverage from adults who do not meet work requirement
- 7) benefits to only a limited number of legal immigrants
- 8) denial of cash benefits to children born of parents in receipt of public assistance

In its 1997 legislative agenda, relating to welfare reform, the Conference advocated for:

- 1) granting benefits to children conceived while their mother is receiving public assistance
- 2) providing coverage to immigrants, drug offenders and those no longer eligible for federal disability program
- 3) creating private and public sector jobs

Throughout the 1997 legislative session, the Catholic Conference issued a number of welfare reform alerts, updating its constituency on the status of discussions, and urging advocacy for its priorities. On February 4, 1997, the Catholic Conference participated in a joint statement "Religious Leaders Respond to New York Works". On May 29, 1997, the Catholic Bishops issued another statement on welfare reform, again emphasizing their six principles articulated two years earlier, and relating them to the current debate.

Clearly, the Catholic Conference had a significant impact on this major debate. "Victories" in the final bill adopted in July 1997, included:

- Preserves current benefit levels and includes a 42 percent income disregard which allows individuals and families to keep 42 percent of their earnings before they begin to lose benefits.

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- Establishes a 5-year time limit on cash benefits under TANF and a 2-year time limit for single adults in Home Relief.
- At the end of the time-limit both families and single adults will move into a safety-net program that will voucher rent payments and make 20 percent of the whole grant available in cash with the remainder of the benefit available through an Electronic Benefit Transfer Card which will be phased in over 5 years during which time Home Relief recipients will continue to receive all their benefits in cash.
- Statewide standards are essentially preserved with some options available to counties opting into certain services.
- Day care is guaranteed to children up to age 13, up from the Administrations original proposal of up to age 6. There is also a significant increase in funding for day care.
- There is no expansion in Learnfare, no family cap, and children will not have their case closed if their parent does not comply with work rules.
- State purchased Food Stamps will be available to immigrants at county option.

1997-1998

Following an adoption of legislation in July 1997, the Council and Income Security Committee in 1997-1998 focused attention on monitoring the impact of this proposal and exploring new opportunities for welfare to work programs. Jack Balinsky shared with the Council information about Operation Alert, a Rochester Catholic Charities effort to monitor the impact of welfare reform.

E. Committees

1. Introduction

As indicated in the section on the Council self-study, the work of the committees was suspended in the fall of 1990. The Council then decided they would continue as Standing Committees the Drug and Alcohol Committee, the Housing Committee, the Mental Health Committee, the Committee on Mentally Retarded Persons, and the Income Security Committee and convene other committees on an ad-hoc basis.

The work of the Income Security committee is detailed in the section on economic security advocacy.

Also, the work of the Government Affairs Committee has been described in the section on the annual activities of the Council

With regard to ad hoc committees, there were only three such groups convened during this time frame. The first was a group working on immigration/legalization issues that came together twice in fall 1990, relating to employer sanctions and work with staff from Migration and Refugee Services at USCC.

Second, those who had been members of the Elderly Services Committee came together in 1990 and presented to the State Office on Aging recommendations on managed access to service, and in 1993 to make recommendations on local access to long term care.

A third group was formed in 1996 to assist with the repeal of the Family and Children's Services Block Grant.

Here is described the work of the four other Standing Committees. As in previous Chapters, for each committee, is listed membership during the time period, issues addressed and accomplishments.

2. Drug and Alcohol Committee

Membership

Chairperson: John Coppola, Council Liaison: Sister Maureen Joyce
Archdiocese of New York: Sally Shields, Ray Allen, Frances Maturo
Albany: John Coppola, Cathy Nichols Berman, Diana Swingle
Brooklyn: Carlo DeRege, Trish Cook, Gil Ortiz
Buffalo: Dr. Judy Vogtli
Ogdensburg: Father Steve Gratto
Rochester: Carl Hatch, Amy Denenberg
Rockville Center: Kathy Ayers
Syracuse: Dennis Manning

Issues Addressed

These included:

- monitoring accountability legislation
- work with the newly established DuLac Corporation on development of treatment facilities on Church sites
- implementation of the policy paper developed in 1989-1990 on integration of chemical dependency services into ongoing program and education efforts
- meeting with Art Webb from DSAS on Treatment Campuses, and DOCS Treatment Annexes
- clean needle issue – needle exchange
- budget issues, ongoing
- four of the issues adopted as 1992-1993 Council priorities: services for addicted, pregnant women, perinatal services for infants born of addicted mothers, local assistance funding, prevention funding
- work on development of CCUSA policy paper on alcohol and substance abuse
- consolidation of DAAA and DSAS into OASAS
- managed care issues for special needs populations
- family support committees

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- the concept of Essential Community Services Provider in relation to Medicaid managed care
- 1115 waiver
- contract issues
- in 1996 again, needle exchange
- Block Grant funding – impact on New York City prevention programs
- new program funding opportunities in wake of state welfare reform implementation
- criminal justice issues

Accomplishments

During this time period, this group continued to be one of the most effective Council committees. Their key contributions included:

- advocacy for establishment of Diocesan interdisciplinary task forces
- nurturing and supporting the work of the DuLac Corporation which had been established through their earlier work
- in an ironic way assisting Catholic Charities USA in its approach to position papers. The group had done so much work in reviewing the draft position paper, and it had been so poorly written, that there could be no agreement on the floor of the CCUSA Congress about the document. This experience led CCUSA to rethink the entire Congress and position paper process
- successful advocacy to get drug and alcohol issues into the mainframe of the Council agenda

3. Housing Committee

Membership

Chairperson: Father Don Sakano, Council Liaison: Jack Balinsky
Archdiocese of New York: Father Don Sakano, Dottie Meehan, Sister Ann Murray, Robert Paul
Albany: Roger/Maria Markovics, Robert Sahn
Brooklyn: John Tynan
Buffalo: George Hezel
Ogdensburg: Anne Boulter-Davis
Rochester: Tom Carey
Rockville Center: Bob Murphy
Syracuse: Fred Zolna

Issues Addressed

Over this time period, they included:

- funding for production programs
- SONYMA funding
- SRO support services program
- shelter allowance

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- supportive housing for persons with AIDS
- local tax and zoning policies
- retirement communities
- housing for ex-offenders
- tenant protections
- mobile home tenant issues
- a workshop on affordable home ownership
- federal law income housing tax credits
- legal issues relating to landlord/tenant (client) relationship when the client has special needs

Accomplishments

As previously reported, the Housing Committee had had a long positive track record of proactive advocacy.

Its major focus in this time period was advocacy for establishment of federal low income tax credits, and then sharing within the committee of strategies and procedures for using these tax credits in production programs.

The committee also turned its attention to the nuts and bolts of operating housing programs for persons with special needs focusing on the AIDS population, legal issues in the landlord/tenant relationship when the tenant (client) has special needs, and continuing advocacy for the SRO support services subsidy.

It sponsored a successful seminar on Retirement Homes in May 1994. After the 1995 legislative session, the activities of the committee were put on hold.

4. Mental Health Committee

Membership

Chairperson: Richard Colabella, Council Liaison: Father John Gilmartin, Dan McGowan

Archdiocese of New York: Joe Hughes, Alan Bernstein

Albany: Helen Hayes

Brooklyn: Richard Colabella, Gail Ryder-DeRienzi

Buffalo: Dr. Lisa Brothwell, Chris Pino

Ogdensburg: Pamela Wilson

Rochester: Mark Fuller, Paul Preston, Tony Phillips

Rockville Center: Ann Russo, Donna Murphy-O'Brien

Syracuse: Lori Accardi

Issues Addressed

During this time period, the committee focused on these issues:

- response to "Ideal Services Paper" developed in the late 1980's
- community reinvestment

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- managed care – special needs population
- children’s issues
- review of white papers developed by OMH Commissioner Surles
- ongoing budget advocacy
- long-term care for people with mental illness (Loretto model)
- review and input to Governor’s Task Force on long-term care
- implementation of Mental Health Community Reinvestment Act after its passage
- adult home legislation
- medicaiding of the CSS program (1/1/95)
- 1115 Medicaid waiver
- implications of welfare reform on persons who are mentally ill
- relationship to Fidelis

Accomplishments

A major accomplishment of the committee during this time period was successful advocacy for the Mental Health Community Reinvestment Bill, and subsequent monitoring of its implementation.

The committee was particularly helpful to the Council in dealing with issues of managed care, both in its impact on persons who were mentally ill, but also from a service delivery perspective.

With the fuller implementation of managed care, it became clear that the work of this committee needed to be closely coordinated with the Drug and Alcohol Committee, and in 1997, they were merged to form the Council Behavioral Health Committee.

5. Committee on Mentally Retarded Persons

Membership

Chairperson: Monsignor Thomas Cribbin, Council Liaison: Tom DeStefano
Archdiocese of New York: Sister Mary Thurlough, Fred Apers, Terry O’Neill,
Judy Kydon, Dr. Ann Williams
Albany: Gary Siegel
Brooklyn: Monsignor Thomas Cribbin, Sister Bernadette Downes, Fran Commer,
Brother Joseph Moloney
Buffalo: Sister Rose Marie Cauley, William Willis
Ogdensburg:
Rochester: Paul Pickering
Rockville Center: Gail Wholl, Diane Ammirati
Syracuse: Judy d’Amore, Brian Walton

Issues Addressed

During this time period, the committee focused on the following issues:

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- ongoing meetings with OMRDD leadership
- ongoing budget advocacy
- part 679 clinic regulations
- Medicaid waiver implementation
- managed care
- long-term care
- privatization
- emergency care
- hospital
- case management
- regulatory issues
- CSEP implementation
- site development initiative
- quality care issues
- issues relating to sexuality in provision of services
- downsizing of community residences
- criminal background checks for employees
- Fidelis – Well Qualified Plan
- welfare reform implementation

Accomplishments

Initially through the personhood of Monsignor Cribbin and in the longer term through the competence of the committee and the magnitude of service provision, this committee enjoyed the closest working relationship with the Executive Branch of state government. With OMRDD Commissioners Art Webb, Elin Howe and Tom Maul, there was significant interaction and the committee had very significant input into every area of policy and program development.

F. Conclusion

Throughout the 1990's, with strong support from Joe Buttigieg, the Council continued to respond effectively to the external environment affecting human services delivery. After an early transition period, the Council focused successfully on budget advocacy on behalf of the poor, and a series of issues relating to economic security. In the middle 1990's, the Council gave major priority to addressing the most significant change in the arena of service delivery – the advent of managed care. While the work of the committees had been somewhat diminished because of the focus on these major priorities, the Council was poised in June 1998, to respond to new policy and program opportunities in the wake of welfare reform and a much improved state economy.

CHAPTER SEVEN

DAVID HAMILTON – 1998-2001 – (Transition)

A. Introduction

At the recommendation of the Council of Catholic Charities Directors, John Kerry hired David Hamilton as Associate Director for Catholic Charities at the New York State Catholic Conference effective November 2, 1998. At the time, David had been working as chief legislative policy analyst for the National Association of Social Workers NYS Chapter. He had a Masters Degree in Social Work from UCLA and earlier in 1998, had earned a doctorate in social policy from Virginia Commonwealth University. David brought with him a keen analytic mind that would be helpful with budget analysis, and a research and policy orientation that would help the Charities Directors place their advocacy efforts in a larger policy context. Despite the fact that he was the first staff person since Jim Cashen not hired from within the Charities system, he quickly learned the work of Charities. His focus was more, however, on the professional social work component of Charities than on the Church ministry component.

Already when David was hired, the Council was in transition. A significant factor in this transition effort was the emergence of yet another generation of leaders.

Sister Donna Franklin was appointed Diocesan Director in Ogdensburg in 1995. Once again the Daughters of Charity responded to the request for assistance from a Diocesan Bishop (Paul Loverde). Her early years in this position were focused on her Diocesan agency and attending to her mother's health problems. In this time frame, she became a much more active member of the Council, helping the Council to focus especially on rural issues and issues relating to family farmers. She was a significant participant also in the discussions that led to the transition process.

Dennis Manning was appointed Diocesan Director on March 1, 1999, after serving as Utica Regional Director for several years. He brought extensive background in mental health services delivery. His quiet questioning of the role of the Council helped bring about this transition approach.

After serving for many years as Chief Fiscal Officer of Catholic Charities of Rockville Center, and serving on the Council in that capacity and in her interim role, Laura Cassell was appointed Diocesan Director on December 1, 1999. With her financial background and analytic approach, she joined with Dennis as a major force in shaping the Council of the future. She would later serve as Council Chairperson beginning July 1, 2003.

Monsignor Kevin Sullivan first joined the work of the Council as a member of the Public Assistance Committee in 1988. Throughout the early 1990's, he obtained a doctorate in healthcare administration at NYU while continuing to work at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese. He was named Chief Operating Officer and joined the Council in 1995. He was named Diocesan Director in November 2001. He would provide substantial leadership at the state and national level throughout his entire tenure.

These new leaders had input into transition activities of the Council in later 1998.

In the summer and early fall, in light of new challenges and program opportunities with an improved state economy, and with the increasing specialization in human services delivery, the Council had made the major policy decision to re-institute and reinvigorate the committees.

The work of the Council in this time period is presented in the following sections:

- re-establishment of committees
- membership
- relationship to Catholic Conference
- ongoing activities
- work of the committees
- transition

B. Re-establishment of the Committees

Once the decision had been made to re-establish the committees for the reasons described above, the Council focused its efforts on planning a joint kick-off event for all of its committees, to be held at the Schuyler Inn in Menands on October 30, 1998.

The agenda for the day began with introductory overviews on the work of the Council by Council Chair Sister Maureen Joyce and on the expectations for functioning of the committees by Jack Balinsky. Next came individual Diocesan caucuses in which Diocesan Directors could share with committee members appointed from their Diocese their own personal expectations. The individual committees then met over lunch to establish priorities and a work plan for the year, and then this information was shared with the larger group as the concluding session of the day. David Hamilton was kind enough to begin his employment tenure three days early to attend this session.

The committees that met then included:

- Behavioral Health (the combination of what had been Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health Committees)
- Elderly Services
- Family and Children's Service
- Housing
- Immigration
- Mental Retardation
- Parish Social Ministry (yet another effort to establish this group)
- Rural Issues
- Welfare Reform (formerly Income Security)

The charge to these committees, articulated by Jack that day, and reaffirmed in a letter sent to all Council Committee Chairs a year later was to:

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- identify issues and make recommendations to the Council of Catholic Charities Directors regarding items which may be appropriate to form the Conference's legislative agenda
- serve as a resource for the Conference in communicating with members of the legislature and Executive Department regarding the probable effect of pending legislation or regulations on services and programs operated by Catholic Charities or on clients of Diocesan Catholic Charities
- advise and inform the Council of Catholic Charities Directors as it assists the Catholic Conference's Public Policy Committee in responding to the Executive Budget, and:
- assist the Public Policy Education Network at the Conference and Diocesan levels in activities directed toward educating and mobilizing constituents for legislative advocacy, including particularly attendance at the Public Policy Forum

Committees were reminded that they were advisory to the Council: any actions or policy recommendations had to be approved by the Council of Catholic Charities Directors prior to implementation.

C Membership

Sister Maureen Joyce served as Chairperson from 1993-1999. A veteran leader, located in Albany, and well connected to state government leaders in many ways, she had been the "heart and social" of the Council for the six years she had served as Chairperson.

At a Charities Director's celebration held on October 1, 1999 in Rochester in the context of the Catholic Charities USA Annual Meeting, the Council thanked Sister Maureen for her leadership, presenting her a plaque inscribed: "Partners in Serving the Poor. In Gratitude and Appreciation to Sister Maureen Joyce, RSM Council Chair 1993-1999."

At the May 21, 1999 meeting, Monsignor Henry Gugino was elected as Chairperson, and it was left to his discretion as to whether to appoint a Vice-Chairperson. While no appointment was made, Jack Balinsky was to serve as defacto Vice-Chair for the next two years.

During this three-year period, Council membership was as follows:

Archdiocese of New York: Monsignor James Murray, Father Kevin Sullivan
Albany: Sister Maureen Joyce, Karen Dehais, Bill Przulucki, Joe Buttigieg, Sister Peg Sullivan
Brooklyn: Tom DeStefano, Carlo DeRege, Elise Gotimer
Buffalo: Monsignor Henry Gugino, Mary Jo Giambelluca, Father Joe Sicari
Ogdensburg: Sister Donna Franklin, Anne Boulter-Davis, Pamela Wilson
Rochester: Jack Balinsky, Tony Barbaro, Paul Pickering
Rockville Center: Father John Gilmartin, (-1998) Laura Cassell, Donna Murphy-O'Brien (1998-1999), Paul Engelhart (1999-)
Syracuse: Father Bob Stephenson (-1999), Brian Walton, Dennis Manning, Paul Currie (1999-2001), Joe Slavik (1999-2001)

D. Relationship to Catholic Conference

As indicated earlier, throughout its entire existence, the Council of Catholic Charities Directors was a creature and constituent sub-group of the New York State Catholic Conference. The earlier narrative has focused more on the independent work of the Council. In addition to this work, much of the work of the Council was in relation to and in support of the work of the Conference. As illustrative of this work which occurred over the entire life of the Council, description is given here in some detail of these activities during this time period.

1. New York State Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee

At every Council meeting throughout its existence, the Council would review, and where appropriate develop recommendations on agenda items for the Public Policy meeting typically held the subsequent day.

During this time period, there were two on-going issues in which the Council was heavily involved which would serve as examples of this interaction.

The first was the issue of needle exchange or clean needles. It will be recalled that when this issue first surfaced in 1992, the Drug and Alcohol committee and the Council had both unanimously recommended to the Public Policy Committee support of this measure, but the Public Policy Committee had determined to recommend to the Bishops opposition to this measure.

The issue surfaced again at the September 1998 Public Policy Committee meeting when Bishop Hubbard reported that at a meeting held that summer in Chicago of Church representatives involved in AIDS issues, concern had again been raised about Church opposition to this kind of program, because there was growing evidence of success.

The Public Policy Committee agreed to address the matter again and Jack Balinsky was appointed Chair of a five person ad hoc committee to facilitate this exploration. At its December meeting, the Public Policy Committee heard a presentation from a Rochester moral ethicist, Marvin Mich, who made a case as to why the program could be morally justified based on the principle of proportionality. At its January meeting, the Public Policy Committee heard a presentation in opposition given by the Chief of Medicine at Harlem Hospital, who presented evidence as to the ineffectiveness of the program and who termed this approach a prescription for "racial genocide". Once again, despite the unanimous recommendations of the Behavioral Health Committee and Council in support of this program, based upon the presentations and an article in opposition written by Cardinal O'Connor, the Public Policy Committee determined to keep a position of opposition, with the understanding this issue would again be revisited. In its conference call on April 29, 1999, the Behavioral Health Committee heard a presentation from Jack Balinsky on these events, and determined to focus on further research on this issue.

A second matter in which the Council was heavily involved in advising the Public Policy Committee was the matter of facilitated enrollment programs for the Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus programs. Recall that based upon a successful outcome of the challenge to the PCAP program in *Hope v Perales* affirming the constitutionality of not providing abortion services to persons from 100-185 percent of poverty, the Conference had advocated successfully for the Child Health Insurance program. In late 1998, the state proposed creation of a Family Health Plus program which unfortunately would include provision of objectionable services. While recognizing the many benefits of the program, the Bishops had reluctantly expressed their opposition to creation of the program.

In spring 2001, this matter came again before the Council and Public Policy Committee. An ad hoc committee of the Public Policy Committee Chaired by Bishop Mansell from Buffalo was charged with making a recommendation not about Family Health Plus, but rather whether Catholic agencies could be involved in “facilitated enrollment” programs for both the Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus programs. The position of the Council was one of support for the Family Health Plus program based upon moral principles of proportionality, recognition of the need for outreach, and continued advocacy for removal of objectionable services from the programs. The decision of the Public Policy Committee was that “facilitated enrollment” was a misnomer, and that this was really an outreach program which was morally permissible.

These are but two examples of the many ways in which the Council gave input into the deliberations of the Public Policy Committee over the years.

2. Development of State Catholic Conference Legislative Agenda

By the early 1980’s, the development of the State Catholic Conference legislative agenda had become a standardized and routinized process. By June 30th of any given year, any constituent group (including in the 1990’s individual Diocesan Public Policy Committees) had the opportunity to suggest any new issues for the agenda, with the requirement that a draft issue paper be submitted as part of the recommendation. Over the summer, a Legislative Agenda Committee with representatives from each of the constituent groups would meet and finalize a draft agenda by late summer, which was then reviewed by constituent groups before presentation to the State Public Policy Committee at its early September meeting, for review and then approval by the Bishops at the end of September for publication at the beginning of the next calendar year.

Over the years, the Council had considerable input to this process. From the earliest establishment of the committees, one of their central functions was review and revision of existing issue papers based upon recent developments, and suggestion of new issue papers.

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Illustrative of this activity is a memo sent by David Hamilton on June 29, 1999 to the Council summarizing input by the Council and committees to development of the Conference 2000 Legislative Agenda.

This memo stated:

Papers that are revised from the 1999 agenda include:

- Increased access to English Literacy Programs
- Health Care for Immigrants
- Protecting the Rights of Migrant Farmworkers
- Support for Undocumented Persons
- Expanding Supports for Working Families
- Improved Access to Affordable Transportation
- Increase the Availability of Affordable Housing for Low and Moderate-Income Families
- Subsidized Child Care for Working Families
- Essential Services for Vulnerable Persons
- Community Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities
- Community Mental Health Services
- Access to Behavioral Health Services for Children at Risk of Abuse or Neglect

Papers that are new, or completely rewritten from 1999, include:

- Parity for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Benefits
 - Meeting the Needs of Aging New Yorkers
 - Investing in the Human Services Work Force
 - Services for Persons with AIDS/HIV
 - Emphasizing the Dignity of Work
 - Investing the TANF Surplus to Reform Welfare and to Move Individuals from Welfare to Work
 - Meeting the Needs of rural New Yorkers (overview)
- The following papers were submitted by the Rural Issues Committee:
- ◆ Transportation in Rural Areas
 - ◆ Economic Development in Rural Areas
 - ◆ Housing in Rural Areas
 - ◆ Access to Social Services and Health Care in Rural Areas

For your information, 1999 papers that were deleted or incorporated into other papers, include:

- Funding to ensure adequate training, supervision and materials for workfare participants
- Creation of a government-sponsored public-private job development initiative to enable welfare recipients to find and keep jobs
- Creation of an employee assistance program and a mentoring network to assist those transitioning from welfare to work
- Expansion of the State Earned Income Tax Credit to 30 % of the federal earned income tax credit.

In addition to providing annual input into the content of the Conference legislative agenda, the Council in the late 1990's began to have increasing concerns about the process and format of the Legislative Agenda. With regard to process, several times, but unsuccessfully, the Council recommended that there be a longer review period of the draft agenda.

With regard to format, as a result of lengthy discussion at the Council meeting on September 6, 2000, the Council suggested that the Legislative Agenda be published with sections based upon the seven major principles of Catholic Social Teaching, using each principle as an introduction to that particular section. Joe Buttigieg and Jack Balinsky drafted a document illustrating how this might be done. Two positive outcomes came from this suggestion. First, it was recognized that the state agenda was weak on environmental issues, and efforts were made over the next several years to strengthen the agenda in this regard. Second, it was agreed that in addition to the Annual Legislative Agenda, there would be a published a longer document describing more fully the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching and detailing some examples of public policy issues relating to these priorities. This document entitled "Pursuing Justice" became a very useful tool for parish social ministry committees and others.

3. New York State Catholic Conference Forum

In March 1986, at the suggestion of Bishop Hubbard, who observed that so many other groups had annual large lobby days that the Catholic Conference was conspicuous by its absence in this regard, the Catholic Conference organized its first annual legislative lobby day or Public Policy Forum. Over the subsequent twenty years, the Council and its members were major contributors to the success of these annual events. Often Catholic Charities leaders had major responsibility for organizing participation from their individual Dioceses, and many such participants were drawn from Catholic Charities staff and parish social ministry volunteers. The Council annually made determinations of what would be the "targeted" objectives for human services for which the group would lobby on this day. Targeted objectives for the 2000 Forum were:

- expansion of supports (day care, housing, transportation, health, etc.) for working families
- investment of TANF funds in the working poor
- eliminate Family and Children's Block Grant
- rural services, including healthcare, education, employment and social services
- access to services for people who are vulnerable because of age, addiction or disability

Often, Charities Directors joined with other constituent group leaders for meetings with top state legislative leaders. Usually, the Council had a representative also at the Cardinal's press conference on lobby day. Sister Maureen Joyce was a regular during her years as Council Chair.

4. Bishops' Meetings

Another area of contribution of the Council to the Conference came through the annual meeting in June of the Bishops of the state with representatives of the Public Policy Committee. Usually, at these sessions, there would be educational presentations, and usually the Council Chair would make this presentation. For example, in this time period, Monsignor Gugino gave the presentation each year. In June 1999, he spoke on welfare reform, addressing two questions:

- What has happened to former recipients?
- Are supportive services and training being provided adequately to families still on welfare?

This meeting was an important event in the history of the State Catholic Conference, and therefore, the Council, because it was the last such meeting at which Cardinal O'Connor presided.

John O'Connor had been appointed Archbishop of New York in 1984, and made a Cardinal the subsequent year. From the first, he was an outspoken advocate for the poor and vulnerable and a staunch Church spokesperson on life issues.

Throughout the 1980's, much of his attention was focused on internal Church affairs and New York City issues. With the Webster Supreme Court decision in 1989, inviting states to develop legislation which would further restrict abortions, Cardinal O'Connor became much more involved in the work of the Catholic Conference. The increased focus on the abortion issue led to some tension between the Church and state government which may have had impact on the effectiveness of advocacy on other issues. Nonetheless, the Cardinal continued to champion those in need, and had a special place in his heart for persons with AIDS, expressed in his night-time visits to the AIDS ward at St. Clare's Hospital. It is fitting that at this his last meeting, he called the Church to renewed advocacy of Rockefeller Drug Law Reform.

At the June 2000 meeting of the Public Policy Committee with the Bishops, Monsignor Gugino again spoke on welfare reform with a presentation entitled "Defining successful welfare reform as ending poverty, not reducing caseloads".

Finally, in June 2001 given President Bush's major program, he addressed issues relating to the "Faith-Based Initiative".

5. Criminal Justice Issues and Revenue Issues

Although the Catholic Conference established separate groups to address criminal justice issues and revenue/tax issues, the Council over the years engaged in considerable collaborative activities with those groups.

The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee was established in 1971. For many years, there was close cooperation in that the staff person for the committee was the Charities staff person: Jim Cashen, Jack Balinsky and Joe Buttigieg.

Illustrative of this long-time cooperation during this time period, was the establishment of a joint meeting between the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the Behavioral Health Committee held on May 20, 1999. It was agreed that the common advocacy agenda for both groups was reform of the Rockefeller Drug Laws, expansion of alternatives to incarceration, and improvement of services within prisons, particularly for persons with mental illness.

It was out of advocacy from the Council (and information provided by other human services advocacy groups, particularly the State Communities Aid Association), that the Conference Advisory Committee on Government Fiscal Affairs was established in 1983. Again, there was long-standing close connection in that Jack Balinsky staffed the committee from 1983-1990, and then chaired it until its activities were “put on hold” at the request of Cardinal O’Connor in 1995.

Nonetheless, the work of the committee was helpful to the Conference even during this time period. In the late 1980’s, the Conference had been a moving force in creating the Alliance for State Budget Reform. Ten years later, the issues were the same, and in December 1999, the Bishops issued a statement for budget reform, citing the severe impact the state’s chronically late budgets had on delivery of health, education and social services. In this statement, the Bishops set forth “a framework for developing timely budgets which met the economic needs of the least among us”. Proposals included:

- A consensus revenue forecasting process to determine available revenues, along with budget contingency plans and sufficient reserve funds to guard against revenue shortfalls;
- Allowing additional time for budget deliberations by either advancing the date of the Executive’s budget submittal, or delaying the start of the fiscal year;
- An increased role for rank-and-file members of the legislature, through the use of conference committees made up of majority and minority members from both houses;
- Enhancing public involvement in the process, by making conference committee meetings public, and simplifying both the budget format and financial planning.

E. Council Activities

1. Annual Human Services Reception and Awards

At its December 10, 1998 meeting, the Council raised again the question of holding an annual human services reception. No reception had been held since the May 27, 1996 event at the Schuyler Inn, held in conjunction with committee meetings. The Council decided to reinstate this annual practice, stating that “the goal of the reception is to increase familiarity of the Commissioners with the public policy agenda of the Conference, particularly the effect of budgetary

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decisions and regulatory proposals upon Catholic Charities operated and affiliated agencies and those they serve”. It was decided to hold the reception at the State Catholic Conference office the evening before the Public Policy Forum, March 8, 1999. Similar receptions were held on March 27, 2000, and March 12, 2001. Although there were some concerns about lack of participation of state representatives, particularly commissioners, generally it was felt these were successful events. In evaluating the 2000 event at the May 24th meeting, the council determined “there is need to develop a specific agenda and program to focus remarks and activities”. The program for the 2001 event was indeed more focused.

Monsignor Murray had been the recipient of the 1998 Bishop Mugavero Award. The DeFazio award was last given to Mary Ann Dantuono in 1996. At the Council meeting held on April 19, 1999, it was agreed that the DeFazio award winner should:

- 1) have a distinguished record of employment (at least 10 years with Catholic Charities)
- 2) be involved at the state or national level on issues of concern to Catholic Charities and the Church
- 3) typically, has been a hard working “behind the scenes” staff person

At a dinner gathering for past and present Catholic Charities leadership from New York held on October 1, 1999 in the context of the Catholic Charities USA Annual meeting in Rochester, Monsignor John Gilmartin was recognized as the 1999 Bishop Mugavero Award winner and Maurice Tierney, long-time Rochester Catholic Charities staff member, who had contributed much to the Council, was recognized as the Vinnie DeFazio Award winner, although neither were able to be present that evening.

After some continuing discussion about the awards, it was agreed that the Council should return to the practice of presenting the awards in the context of the Annual Human Services reception with the presentation of awards at the March 12, 2001 reception. The Bishop Mugavero award was presented to Sister Una McCormack, long-time Executive Director of the Children’s Home Bureau in New York, who was retiring. The Vinnie DeFazio Award was presented to Mary Jo Giambelluca of Buffalo. She was a Council member who had first become involved in Council activities in 1980 as the Western NY regional coordinator of the Coalition for Fair Public Assistance and who also had served as Chairperson of the Elderly Services Committee in both its incarnations. At this session, the Council also recognized Father Bob Stephenson for his service as Diocesan Director of Catholic Charities from 1987-1999.

2. Catholic Charities USA 1999 Annual Meeting

The 1999 Annual Meeting of Catholic Charities USA was held from October 1-4, 1999 in Rochester. Major speakers at the Conference were Millard Fuller,

founder of Habitat for Humanity, Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Sister Joan Chittister.

The Council had agreed in 1996 to serve as joint sponsors of the event. Under the able leadership of Conference Coordinator Pat Fox from Rochester, who had made several presentations to the Council over the previous two years, the Council had input into program and logistics for the Conference, as well as helping to support the event financially.

3. Budget Advocacy

A hallmark of Council activity during the Hamilton era was budget advocacy. David's considerable analytic skills helped the Council to have a detailed understanding of the budget and provided a foundation for effective advocacy. There follows a description of specific advocacy activities.

On December 4, 1998, the Catholic Conference submitted its Annual Budget letter to the Governor, articulating again the six principles the Bishops had previously set forth as a framework for welfare reform.

Within this framework, the Conference and Council advocated for these budget priorities:

- job development
- child care
- expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit
- health insurance accessibility
- availability of benefits for legal immigrants
- elimination of the Family and Children's Services Block Grant
- funding for implementation of the Adoption and Safe Families Act
- maximizing funding for the Mental Health Community Reinvestment Act
- implementation of the New York Cares program to expand residential opportunities for mentally retarded and developmentally disabled persons
- increase in funding for services for pregnant women

As usual, this letter was followed by budget testimony before the legislature on the Governor's proposed budget. John Kerry testified on the Mental Hygiene and Public Assistance components of the budget, and Sister Maureen Joyce presented the Conference position on the human services budget. There was developed a standard format for these presentations which articulated Church presence throughout the state and placed Conference recommendations in the context of Catholic Social Teaching.

Further advocacy included a statement released by the Bishops calling for "a fair, just human services budget, that respects the dignity of the human person and supports working families". On March 31, 1999, David Hamilton sent out a budget alert, focusing on these priorities:

- appropriate use of TANF surplus

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- increase of the Earned Income Tax Credit to 30 percent of the federal level
- public/private jobs initiatives
- elimination of the Family and Children's Block Grant
- Mental Health Community Reinvestment Funds
- support for the New York Cares initiative

The budget finally adopted in August 1999 included many of these priorities.

Relating to the 2000-2001 state budget, a major priority of the Conference and Council was the appropriate use of funds from the tobacco settlement. A letter was sent to the Governor and legislative leaders urging that "tobacco settlement funds be used to provide access to needed health and human services programs, and not to replace existing government funding". A second Conference priority, emphasized in a Conference statement on the budget issued January 7, 2001 was "use of TANF funds to reduce poverty."

During this session, Bishop Ignatius Catanello from Brooklyn presented Conference testimony on the mental health budget, Bishop James McCarthy from the Archdiocese presented testimony on the human services budget, including TANF, and Monsignor Alan Placa presented the Conference position on the Medicaid budget.

Significant achievements with regard to this advocacy came with inclusion in the budget passed on May 5, 2000 of these Conference priorities:

- a 1.5 percent salary increase for staff of not-for-profit agencies in the mental hygiene field
- expansion of funding for social adult day care
- additional \$300,000 for the Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation
- \$500,000 for evaluation of TANF funding, which the Bishops had addressed in their annual meeting with the Governor

It should be noted that in analysis of the budget passed, the Council raised again the notion of advocacy for an equitable tax policy in the state.

Once again, the Conference and Council began advocacy for the 2001-2002 state budget by issuing its budget letter on November 20, 2000. Notable in advocacy this year was that the Conference endorsed for the first time the Fair Budget Campaign, which included revenue as well as expenditure recommendations. The two major issues the Conference focused on in this budget session were advocacy for salary increases for the voluntary sector and advocacy for use of the TANF surplus. Because the state budget had not yet been enacted, the Conference issued these recommendations with regard to TANF on May 28, 2001:

"In order to assist those individuals who face the greatest difficulty in transitioning from welfare to work, the Catholic Conference urges New York to invest the TANF surplus to address the following concerns:

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- The public assistance grant has not been increased since 1990. Since 1975, the grant has fallen from 110 percent to 51 percent of the federal poverty line (\$13,880 for a family of 3). The Catholic Conference recommends restoring the grant to its 1975 value, beginning with increasing the basic grant to restore the value lost since 1990.
- Develop reliable information about what has happened to families and children who left welfare. The Catholic Conference supports initiatives to engage in scientifically rigorous studies of current welfare recipients, as well as tracking individuals leaving welfare to determine whether they have met the state's goal of moving them out of poverty.
- Provide a level of financial assistance that allows families to live with dignity while they move toward work. As welfare caseloads have been reduced, our Catholic agencies report increased demand for emergency assistance. Based upon our experience, the Catholic Conference recommends increasing the public assistance grant and shelter allowance so as to provide basic necessities and increased access to safe, decent housing.
- Assist those still on welfare that have multiple needs, such as substance abuse or mental illness, combined with poor educational and employment histories. Some individuals will always require government assistance and others will need intensive case management services in order to assess their needs and ensure delivery of supportive services necessary to transition into jobs that provide a living wage.
- Help individuals acquire the skills and education necessary to progress in the work force. New York should invest in training and education programs that provide skills necessary for the changing economy. The jobs available for those leaving welfare must pay a living wage and include benefits or subsidies that enable the worker to maintain access to affordable, quality child care, health insurance, and transportation.
- Explore innovative uses for TANF surplus, including access to safe, affordable housing for individuals and families below 200 percent of the poverty level. Recent economic studies indicate that families struggle to find quality housing in all parts of New York State. High housing costs can also lead to difficulty in meeting heating and food costs. We urge you to provide economic relief, lest parents are placed in the morally untenable position of choosing between housing, heat and food.
- While TANF funds cannot be used for "bricks and mortar" programs, such as the Homes for Working Families program, etc., it can be used for housing subsidies. In light of the high cost of housing in many parts of New York State, the state must continue to invest in programs that provide access to capital for not-for-profit developers of housing for low and moderate income families."

The budget still had not been enacted by June 30, 2001.

4. Ongoing Council Activities

During this period, the Council addressed many other significant issues including:

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- Family Loan Program
At the request of Father Kevin Sullivan, David Hamilton researched and the Council shared information about the Family Loan Program
- Church-A Bridge Between City and Suburb
Jack Balinsky shared with the Council a presentation he had given to the Catholic Leadership Forum in Rochester on November 20, 1998 entitled: The Church – A Bridge Between City and Suburb.
- Government Affairs Committee
Given the effective functioning of the other committees, the Council determined at its meeting on March 8, 1999 that the Government Affairs Committee was no longer necessary
- Information Services Committee
Through the leadership of Karen Dehais from Albany, the Council convened an Ad Hoc Committee on Information Services. It would convene annually around the following topics:
 - a) selection and procurement of computer hardware and software
 - b) use of specific software applications
 - c) electronic transmission of information
 - d) electronic communication issues
- Medicaid Dental Rates
At its meeting on May 26, 1999, the Council heard a presentation from Albany attorney BJ Costello on litigation he was pursuing relative to Medicaid Dental rates.
- Charitable Choice
The Council appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to relate to the state in its activities surrounding Charitable Choice legislation and programs. Members were: Tim McMahon, Bill Przylucki, Carlo DeRege, Dick Koubek and Sister Donna Franklin.
- Kendra's Law
At its meeting on December 1, 1999 the Council heard a presentation and gave input on the implementation of Kendra's law, relating to provision of mental health services.
- Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation
The Council continued to have discussions about its relationship to the Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation. When Sister Peg Sullivan resigned her position on December 31, 1999 to take a leadership position in her community, Karen Dehais replaced her as Executive Director. In a related matter, the Council discussed at this time issues about implementation of abstinence education programs.
- Lobby Law
The Council received information about the new Lobby Law that was passed in the December 1999 special session, the first of many discussions that would ensue on this matter.
- Commissioner Lynch Award
At the recommendation of the Council, the Conference conferred an award for service on Joseph Lynch, Commissioner of the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal at the March 28, 2000 Public Policy Forum. Joe Lynch had been a supporter of Catholic Charities housing

- efforts both in his state position and also in his previous position working in the HUD office in Buffalo dating back to the late 1960's.
- September 6, 2000 Meeting
At this meeting, the Council heard presentations from Richard Nathan of the Rockefeller Institute about the implementation of welfare reform and also from a representative from Prison Families of New York. The Council determined that the best way to respond to a request from the Conference for data was to use CCUSA annual report statistics, took a position advocating for additional funding as the jurisdiction for PINS was increased to age 18.
 - October 25, 2000 Meeting
The Council heard concerns expressed about proposed regulations relating to governance in OMRDD which had been issued in April, listened to a presentation on a proposal for funding of child welfare programs in the aftermath of the elimination of the Family and Children's Services Block Grant (for whose elimination the Council had successfully advocated), and reviewed materials related to a new economic security approach – Family Self-Sufficiency. The Council was later to take a position of opposition to the proposal for funding child welfare programs.
 - Bishop's Jubilee Statement
At the recommendation of the Council, the Bishops issued a Jubilee Day Statement in honor of persons with disabilities.
 - Catholic Campaign for Human Development
At its meeting on April 4, 2001, the Council agreed that there ought to be discussed annually issues relating to possible multi-Diocesan proposals to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.
 - Draft Bishop's Statement
At its May 27, 2001 meeting recognizing that December 31, 2001 would mark that end of five years of implementation of welfare reform, and that some families would lose federal benefits, the Council reviewed a draft statement for the Bishops on welfare reform and poverty.

F. Committee Activities

1. Behavioral Health Committee

Committee Membership

Chair: Carl Hatch; Liaison: Dennis Manning, Karen Dehais

Archdiocese of New York: Joe Hughes, Frances Maturo, Alan Bernstein, Father Robert Pagliori

Albany: Karen Dehais, Cathy Golas

Brooklyn: Gayle Ryder-DiRienzi, Eileen Dwyer

Buffalo: Dennis Walczyk, Brian O'Herron

Ogdensburg: Pamela Wilson

Rochester: Carl Hatch, Jeff Eaton, Tony Barbaro

Rockville Center: Ann Russo, Kathy Ayers-Lanzilotta, Father Charles McCarren, Denis Deners

Syracuse: Lori Accardi

Issues Addressed

Over this three-year period, the committee addressed these issues:

- joint advocacy on criminal justice issues including reform of the Rockefeller Drug Laws, alternatives to incarceration, and improving conditions and services for prisoners with mental illness
- licensing and reimbursement issues with OASAS
- the impact of welfare reform on chemical dependency services, including sliding scale fees
- insurance parity for mental health services
- CORE legislation introduced by Senator Libous, relating to governance issues
- needle exchange
- salary increase issues
- special needs RFP's in relation to managed care
- mental health licensing issues
- AIDS issues
- Kendra's law implementation
- in a meeting with Commissioner Stone on 10/13/99, these issues: shared staffing, "step-down" services, intensive case management, rent issues, Medicaid caps
- assisted outpatient treatment
- rural issues
- Family Health Plus
- workforce issues
- prevention issues
- HIPAA issues

Accomplishments

The Behavioral Health Services Committee was one of the more active and effective of the Council committees during this time period. It met regularly with top leadership from OASAS and the Office of Mental Health, and had significant input into budget and salary issues. It also had input into the legislative process, as exemplified by testimony given by Kathy Ayers-Lanzilotta to the Senate Committee on alcoholism and drug abuse on May 25, 2000 on the Impact of Welfare Reform on Delivery of Chemical Abuse Services, and testimony given by David Hamilton before the Assembly Committee on alcohol and substance abuse, on assessing funding for substance abuse services.

2. Elderly Services Committee

Membership

Chair: Mary Jo Giambelluca; Liaison: Mary Joe Giambelluca
Archdiocese of New York: Eleanor Ramos

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Albany: Sister Lauren Vandermark, Maura Barrett
Brooklyn: Stephani Raneri, Donna Corrado
Buffalo: Mary Jo Giambelluca, Kathy Pharris
Ogdensburg: Patsy McCoughin
Rochester: Irene Coveny
Rockville Center: Liivia Westervelt
Syracuse: Brian Walton, Eleanor Curr

Issues Addressed

Issues addressed by the Committee during this time period included:

- HMO's impact on seniors
- middle-income retirement housing
- adult day care
- rural issues
- federal issues including Social Security and Medicare
- social model day care
- SSI – state increase
- proposed cuts in home care
- CSE and EISEP program issues
- NORC (naturally occurring retirement committees)
- meetings with leadership of the State Office on Aging
- assisted living
- EPIC outreach
- Senator Bruno's proposal for an EPIC plus program
- support of legislation to put limits on prescription drug costs

Accomplishments

The two major accomplishments of the committee in this time period both came in 2000: obtaining an increase in SSI rates, and securing additional funding for adult social day care. Toward the latter achievement, Kathleen Pharris testified about Social Model Adult Day Care before the Assembly Committee on Aging on February 1, 2000.

3. Family and Children's Services Committee

Membership

Chair: Marjorie McLoughlin; Liaison: Father Kevin Sullivan
Archdiocese of New York: Marjorie McLoughlin
Albany: Sister Mary Ann LoGuidice
Brooklyn: Barbara Conley
Buffalo: Kathy Pharris, Gayle Sunshine
Ogdensburg: Susan Jones-King, Mary Beth Bova
Rochester: Karen Emerton
Rockville Center: Howard Duff
Syracuse: Brian Walton, Bob Maloney

Issues Addressed

During this time period, the committee addressed the following issues:

- advocacy for elimination of the Family and Children's Services Block Grant
- child care issues in welfare to work programs
- endorsing the Child Care that Works Coalition platform
- with regard to state implementation of the Adoption and Safe Families Act, advocacy on these issues:
 - * support background checks
 - * exclude kinship care from expedited termination
 - * waiver to establish kinship
 - * not allow previous involuntary termination
 - * waiver for use of Title IV-E funds for substance abuse
 - * concurrent kinship adoption
- children's mental health issues
- advocacy for Healthy Families program
- budget issues
- support for baby abandonment legislation, but with enhancements
- criminal justice issues
- new proposal for Child Welfare Services funding after termination of block grant

Accomplishments

The high watermark of the work of the committee was its input into the implementation of the Adoption and Safe Families Act in New York State. Throughout the work of the committee, there was tension as there had been in the first incarnation of the committee between those concerned about institutional child care issues and those concerned with more broad-based community issues. It was agreed at the Council meeting held on February 20, 2001, that the committee would be disbanded and that a replacement committee would "focus on the broad range of issues affecting children and families in New York State, e.g. child care, poverty, tax credits".

4. Housing

Membership

Chair: Jack Balinsky; Liaison: Jack Balinsky
Archdiocese of New York: Monsignor Don Sakano
Albany: Noel Olsen, Maria and Roger Markovics, Deborah Danm-O'Brien
Brooklyn: John Tynan
Buffalo: George Hezel, Janet Meiselman, Bernadette Harlan
Ogdensburg: Patricia Frirchs, Hamidah Sadler
Rochester: Jack Balinsky, Allyn Smith
Rockville Center: Paul Chedda
Syracuse: Paula Currie

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Issues Addressed

During this time period, issues that were addressed included:

- Diocesan models of programs
- A 4330 – Business Tax Credit for Housing
- initiatives put forward by Vito Lopez, Chairman of the Assembly Housing Committee
- state low income housing tax credits
- budget issues and regular meetings with legislators
- Governor’s Assisted Living Report
- rural housing issues in concert with Rural Issues Committee
- proposed transfer of HHAP program from Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to DHCR (committee recommended no position and the transfer did not take place)

Accomplishments

As in its previous incarnation, the committee was quite active and effective.

The committee sponsored a major convening on assisted living held on May 10, 2000. Participants came from the Council, from the Elderly Services Committee and also included other interested parties. Presentations were given by Pamela O’Brien of OMH on current assisted living programs and the Governor’s proposals, Emily Hawley from the Episcopal Home in Rochester on their program, and Joe Pofit from Albany Catholic Charities on their programs under development.

The committee was also active in legislative testimony. On November 10, 1999, Monsignor Sakano gave testimony before a joint hearing of the Assembly Housing and Ways and Means Committee on the Affordable Housing Crisis. On March 16, 2001, Paula Currie testified before a joint hearing of four Senate Committees on the Assisted Living Reform Act. And, on July 30, 2001, Jack Balinsky testified before a Congressional Committee on Health and Housing initiatives for senior citizens in the 21st century.

5. Immigration Committee

Membership

Chair: Ann Brittain; Liaison: Monsignor Henry Gugino
Archdiocese of New York: Roseann Micallef, Mario Russell
Albany: Joe Buttigieg
Brooklyn:
Buffalo: Ann Brittain
Ogdensburg:
Rochester: Ed Patane
Rockville Center: John Bingham
Syracuse: Kip Hargrave

Issues Addressed

During this time period, the committee addressed the following issues:

- farmworkers rights
- legalization of undocumented persons
- healthcare for immigrants
- adult English literacy programs
- budget issues
- individual Diocesan activities
- welfare reform

Accomplishments

Unfortunately, this was not one of the most effective Council committees. During this time, there was some conflict between upstate Catholic Charities programs and the Bureau of Immigration and Refugee services in state government, which overshadowed discussion of other issues.

6. Committee on Mentally Retarded Persons

Membership

Chair: Paul Pickering; Gary Siegel; Liaison: Paul Pickering
Archdiocese of New York: Fred Apers, Judy Kydon, Ann Williams
Albany: Gary Siegel
Brooklyn: Father Joseph Pancari
Buffalo: Sister Rose Cawley
Ogdensburg: Susan Jones-King, Mary Beth Bova
Rochester: Paul Pickering
Rockville Center: Diane Ammirati
Syracuse: Fran Hall

Issues Addressed

Issues addressed during this time period included:

- representation (Paul Pickering and Gary Siegel) on the OMRDD Task Force on Real Property
- the CORE bill introduced by Senator Libous (we opposed)
- NYS Cares initiative
- Developmental Disabilities Planning Council RFP on rural services
- work force issues
- tobacco settlement money use
- legislation on community development for persons with disabilities
- Medicaid service coordination
- well-qualified plans in managed care

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- requirements for Memorandum of Understanding in the NYS Cares program
- regular meetings with OMRDD staff, including especially Commissioner Maul
- meetings with Fidelis on the Well-Qualified Plan program application
- nurse practitioners
- housing issues
- Commissioner's Task Force on Workforce Issues (David Hamilton our representative)
- surrogate decision-making legislation for mentally retarded persons

Accomplishments

This committee continued to be one of the most effective committees, thanks particularly to the leadership of Paul Pickering and Gary Seigel.

Regular meetings with Commissioner Maul insured that Council views were given major consideration in policy formulation.

7. Parish Social Ministry Committee

Membership

Chair: Joe Buttigieg; Liaison: Joe Buttigieg
Archdiocese of New York: Dotty Meehan
Albany: Joe Buttigieg
Brooklyn: Sister Ellen Patricia Finn
Buffalo:
Ogdensburg: Patrick Lyons
Rochester: Kathy Dubel
Rockville Center: David Nelson
Syracuse: Dennis Manning, Amy Fleming

Narrative

Like its predecessor committee that never really was able to develop a clear focus, this committee also struggled to develop a mission and agenda. It agreed at its April 29, 1999 meeting to address these issues:

- models of parish engagement
- coordination of public policy advocacy
- encouragement to parishes to participate in agenda setting
- CCUSA regional training
- CCUSA Annual Convening

It agreed that it would focus on implementing recommendations of other committees and provide feedback to other committees.

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Without the committee having established a clear agenda, the Council decided at its meeting on January 17, 2001 to disband the committee.

8. Rural Issues Committee

Membership

Chair: Tim McMahon; Liaison: Sister Donna Franklin, Jack Balinsky
Archdiocese of New York: Father. Michael Gannon
Albany: Tom Mayer, Kathie Greenblatt
Brooklyn:
Buffalo: Margaret Mayer
Ogdensburg: Father. Terry LaValley, Winny Sachno
Rochester: Tim McMahon
Rockville Center: Sister Rose Sheridan
Syracuse: Jane Coddington, Sister Maureen Burns, Sister Kathleen Heffron

Issues Addressed

During this time period, the committee addressed the following issues:

- status and functioning of the State Office of Rural Affairs (only a phone number left; no staff)
- transportation
- housing
- Northeast Dairy Compact
- rural mental health issues
- Rural Revitalization Act
- Rural Housing Coalition
- Child Health Plus
- managed care
- Welfare to Work
- Development Disabilities Planning Council Rural Services RFP
- budget issues
- PAVE program
- TANF issues
- Family Health Plus
- meetings with Legislative Commission on Rural Resources

Accomplishments

Through the energetic and enthusiastic leadership of Tim McMahon, this committee accomplished much.

Not the least of the accomplishments was the opportunity for committee members, often not too connected with their own Diocesan leadership because of geographic distance, to share ideas and concerns and gain support.

Early on, Tim McMahon, on behalf of the committee, made a presentation to the State Public Policy Committee on rural issues and concerns, focusing on transportation, service delivery, housing and access issues. This presentation was a key factor in elevating the status of advocacy for rural issues to that of being a targeted priority each year at the Catholic Conference forum.

The committee was also effective in its ongoing relationships with such state government entities as the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, the Division of Housing and Community Renewal, and the Department of Labor (on such initiatives as PAVE and Wheels to Work).

9. Welfare Reform Committee

Membership

Chair: Bill Przulucki; Liaison: Bill Przulucki
Archdiocese of New York: George Horton, Wendy Ramadar
Albany: Sister Alethea Connolly, CSJ
Brooklyn: Monsignor Howard Basler, Jeanne Diulio
Buffalo:
Ogdensburg: Kathleen Matthis
Rochester: Chris Wilkins, George Ferrari
Rockville Center: Richard Koubek
Syracuse: Kathy Mahoney, Brian Walton

Issues Addressed

During this time period, the committee addressed the following issues:

- devolution of government responsibilities from the state to the county level
- identify job training and educational initiatives across the various Dioceses
- collection of data on impact of welfare reform
- food stamp waiver
- develop a primer for Catholic Charities Directors to use with staff and public to advance economic justice
- Charitable Choice
- TANF implementation
- Living Wage
- Low Income Housing Tax Credits
- Rockville Center survey on impact of welfare reform
- self-sufficiency standards
- impact of families losing federal benefits after five-year limit
- Empire State jobs program, supported by the committee
- minimum wage
- use of TANF surplus

Accomplishments

Like most in the not-for-profit advocacy community, this committee was overwhelmed by the enormity of issues associated with welfare reform.

Like others, it struggled to find a vehicle to collect data and truly analyze the impact of welfare reform, without ever successfully coming to grips with this challenge.

By spring 2001, it had found its footing somewhat in advocating for appropriate use of TANF surplus funds. David Hamilton provided a summary of committee recommendations at a TANF Conference on May 15, 2001 at Hudson Valley Community College. The thinking of the committee was also represented in the budget recommendations on TANF described in the section on budget advocacy.

This committee carried on in this difficult time the tradition of advocacy for those most in need.

G. Transition

At its September 6, 2000 meeting, two years into the revitalization process of committees, the Council determined that it was time to evaluate the functioning and effectiveness of committees. As it turned out, this decision was to lead to a yearlong focus on evaluating not only the work of the committees, but also the work of the Council itself.

After the September meeting, David Hamilton, on behalf of the Council, wrote to the committee Chairpersons asking that they come to the October 25, 2000 meeting prepared to address the following questions with regard to their individual committees:

- what is the charge to and function of the committee
- evaluate the role and responsibility of the committee
- recommendations as to the process and procedures for addressing cross-cutting issues among committees
- what are other opportunities for committee functioning, e.g. best practice models

Based upon the presentations made and discussion, the Council made these decisions with regard to the functioning of the committees:

- with regard to the Behavioral Health Committee, it was agreed to establish a separate AIDS committee, and to remove from their agenda attention to preventive services (this decision was later rescinded as the committee argued that these services were an important part of their mission)
- as previously indicated, the decision was made to discontinue the work of the Family and Children's Services Committee, and to reconstitute a new committee with a broader, community-based focus.
- the Rural Issues Committee was commended for a job well done

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- the Elderly Services Committee was commended for its effective work on social day care
- it was recognized that the work of the committee on Mentally Retarded Persons continued to be very effective, in part because of the ongoing relationship with Commissioner Maul
- the Housing Committee was commended for its advocacy with regard to assisted living
- it was suggested to the Welfare Reform Committee that work needed to be done to focus their efforts
- discussion about the work of the Immigration Committee was deferred because the Chairperson Ann Brittain was delayed in Buffalo because of a flight problem

Discussion about the functioning of the committees continued at the January 17, 2001 Council meeting. At that meeting, it was affirmed that there would be established a separate AIDS/HIV committee, that the Parish Social Ministry Committee would be discontinued, and that there would be appointed a new Children's and Families Service Committee with a broader community-focused agenda.

Discussion about the committees also led to a broader discussion about the purpose and functioning of the Council itself. At the March 12, 2001 meeting, a committee was appointed to address the fundamental questions of the mission and purpose of the Council. This committee included Laura Cassell, Dennis Manning, and Jack Balinsky.

This committee made a presentation at the April 4, 2001 meeting of the Council. Their vision, which was accepted, was that the Council had five purposes:

1. **Advise** NYSCC on Public Policy
2. **Receive** committee reports
3. **Advocate**
How: a. through local and statewide network activities
b. through direct contact as a group with policy/decision-makers
c. through David's office
For example: 1) Family Health Plus
2) 5-year welfare cap – what is our strategy?
3) Immigration amnesty issue
4) implementation of Bishops' Criminal Justice Statement
4. **Information Sharing and Support** of each other's ministries through dialogue, analysis and mutual assistance.
1) Parish Social Ministry – focus on development
2) CCUSA updates
3) Best practices – include education component with explicit connection between Catholic Social Teaching and issues
For example: a) issue of professional obligation vs. contract requirements vs. Catholic Social Teaching
b) Catholic Social Teaching and diversity
c) employment risk management – legal vs. moral responsibility

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5. Nurture our own **spiritual growth** and that of our staff, our boards and benefactors

Based upon this presentation and discussion, these further decisions were made by the Council at the April 4, 2001 meeting:

- that the Council membership would consist of the Diocesan Director and up to two additional Diocesan representatives
- that it was essential that the Diocesan Director participate, and that, if this was not possible, the Diocesan Director would send a representative
- that there would be one vote per Diocese
- that the program year would be considered to be September 1 – August 30
- that there would be later discussion of the reinstatement of the statewide convening which had not been held since 1996
- and, that there would be a planning retreat held on August 28th and 29th to plan the Council program for 2001-2002

H. Summary

The Council had been well served by David Hamilton. His ability at budget analysis and organizational skills had helped the Council both in its advocacy in the external world, particularly on welfare reform and TANF issues, and in its internal transition and re-focusing.

CHAPTER EIGHT

EARL EICHELBERGER – 2001-2004 – (“Getting It All Together”)

A. Introduction

Earl Eichelberger was hired as Associate Director for Catholic Charities in early May 2002. He came to the Catholic Conference with a sound commitment to the Catholic Church and a wealth of experience with state government. Born and raised in Harlem, he received his Bachelor’s Degree from LeMoyne College in Syracuse and his Masters Degree in Social Work from Syracuse University. He began his state career by working at various positions within the State Division for Youth and then served for 14 years as a member of the State Board of Parole. In the two years immediately prior to this hiring, Earl had worked in Albany as a lobbyist for New York City Council President Peter Vallone. Earl had participated in a Black Catholics group with the Albany Diocese and had also been affiliated with other Diocesan efforts in different areas around the state. He would bring to the Council an intelligence, experience, positive approach and flexibility that facilitated efforts already underway to enhance the effective functioning of the Council.

It should be noted also that during this time period, three new voices were added to the work of the Council. Long time Brooklyn Catholic Charities leader Tom DeStefano was replaced by Robert Siebel as Diocesan Director in October 2001. In February 2003, Bishop Henry Mansell of Buffalo appointed two Catholic Charities veterans to leadership positions: Father Joe Sicari as Diocesan Director and Dennis Walczyk as Chief Executive Officer, and both became members of the Council.

As reported in the previous chapter, efforts had been underway in the spring of 2001 to bring greater focus and efficiency to the work of the Council. These efforts culminated in a planning retreat held in Saratoga on August 28-29, 2001. At this session, the Council adopted a work plan for 2001-2002 that was also to serve as the basic model for 2002-2003 work and 2003-2004 work. This chapter is organized according to the ten major areas of activity included in these work plans.

- Improve the function and structure of the Council as a constituent body of the New York State Catholic Conference
- Nurture the spiritual growth of the Council, committees and Charities staff
- Develop a committee structure to educate and inform the deliberations of the Council in regard to matters of policy and the provision of service
- Advise the New York State Catholic Conference on matters of public policy
- Advocate for the Catholic Conference Legislative Agenda
- Recognize outstanding contributions to the Council and social justice
- Nurture relationships with the New York State Congressional Delegation
- Share information and support of Catholic Charities ministry
- Monitor status of issues of concern
- Develop, facilitate and implement joint program activities

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And so, with efficient support from Council staff person David Hamilton, the Council moved to carry out its agenda in September 2001. Just as this plan was being initiated, changes occurred in rapid fashion. The Bishops had determined in January 2001 to undertake a study of the functioning of the Conference. There were concerns about Conference functioning and Conference finances. In the wake of this study, John Kerry resigned from his position as Conference Executive Director in July 2001. Rick Barnes, who had been on staff for several years as legal council to the Conference, was appointed as Interim Director of the Conference. Rick would take a stance of responsiveness to the Council. As the strategic planning process progressed, there was concern that funding for the Conference would be cut, and there might not be sufficient funding to maintain all of the Associate Director positions. In this environment, David Hamilton resigned effective November 16, 2001 to take a position with the Education Department in state government.

In response to David's resignation at its October 23, 2001 meeting, the Council worked with Rick Barnes (who was officially appointed as Conference Director at the Bishop's January 2002 meeting) to develop a job description. At that meeting, it was also agreed that the Conference would hire Paul Pickering on a two-day a week basis to provide staff support to the Council. Paul had worked in various positions in Catholic Charities of the Rochester Diocese since the late 1970's, the last twenty years as Executive Director of Catholic Charities Community Services. Paul had been a member of the Council briefly from January-June 1992, when he had served as interim Diocesan Director of Catholic Charities in Rochester. He had rejoined the Council as a representative from Rochester in 1993, and had served as Chair and later liaison to the Council Committee on Mentally Disabled Persons.

His responsibilities for this interim period were to include:

- provide support to the Council and its subcommittees
- oversee analysis of the state budget
- provide analysis of legislative and regulatory proposals of concern to the Council
- engage in such other activities as needed to support the work of the Council

At the January 16, 2002 meeting, the Council approved a recommendation developed by Paul and Council Chair Jack Balinsky, that the committees be assigned three tasks for the remainder of the 2001-2002 program year:

- provide input on recommendations to the legislature about the Governor's proposed Executive budget
- participate in the Statewide Annual Convening with Father Bryan Hehir, the President of Catholic Charities USA, to be held on March 11, 2002
- in May, provide input into development of the 2003 legislative agenda

For the remainder of the spring, the Council maintained a minimal level of functioning through Paul's support.

Earl's first meeting was May 22, 2002, at which Rick Barnes and Earl made a presentation about Earl's role with the Council.

Thus began the functioning of the Council during this time period.

B. Membership

Jack Balinsky served as Chairperson for the Council from July 1, 2001-June 30, 2003. Laura Cassell, who had served as Vice-Chairperson the previous two years, was elected as Chairperson for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2003.

Council members in this three-year period included:

Archdiocese of New York: Monsignor James Murray, Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, George Horton

Albany: Sister Maureen Joyce, Joe Buttigieg, Karen Dehais, Richard Marini, Bill Przylucki

Brooklyn: Tom DeStefano, Bob Siebel, Carlo DeRege

Buffalo: Monsignor Henry Gugino, Father Joseph Sicari, Dennis Walczyk

Ogdensburg: Sister Donna Franklin, Trenton Clark, Claire Poirer

Rochester: Jack Balinsky, Tony Barbaro, Paul Pickering

Rockville Center: Laura Cassell, Paul Engelhart, David Nelson, John Bingham

Syracuse: Dennis Manning, Paula Currie, Joe Slavik, Jane Coddington, Kathy Eichenlaub

C. Council Activities

1. Council Structure and Functioning

At its retreat on August 29-30, 2001, the Council had adopted a work plan for the 2001-2002 year. As indicated above with the resignation of David Hamilton, and then with staff support from Paul Pickering, the Council was able to carry out only basic activities in this program year.

At the May 22, 2002 meeting, for the first time since the August 2001 retreat, the Council addressed structure and functioning issues. It agreed to again hold a planning retreat in Saratoga on September 3-4, 2002, which would include not only developing a work plan for 2002-2003, but would also address a possible covenant relationship among Diocesan Directors, would have a spiritual component, and would allow for a preliminary meeting to discuss common concerns about provision of services to Hispanic migrant farmworkers across the state. It was also agreed at this meeting to explore the possibility that two groups that had acted as Advisory Committees to the Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee would become committees of the Council.

Jack Balinsky began the Council planning retreat on September 3, 2002 by giving his overview of the environment in which the Council would work during the year, focusing on these issues:

- the continuing effect of 9/11/01

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- the priest sex abuse scandal
- a sagging economy
- likely war in Iraq
- a likely mid-year state budget crisis

In addition to reaffirming the basic work plan and priorities adopted the previous year, the Council came to these agreements relative to the structure and functioning of the Council:

- there had been reached agreement with all parties that the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee would now become a committee of the Council
- it was agreed that Jack would write a new charge statement for the Family and Children's Services Committee
- it was agreed that John Bingham would write a new charge statement for the Immigration Committee
- it was agreed that the Rural Issues Committee would assume responsibility for addressing issues related to migrant farmworkers
- in response to a concern that had been raised by the Committee on Mentally Retarded Persons at the May 2002 Council meeting, it was agreed that Earl would develop a position statement on our policy with regard to joining coalitions
- it was reported that it had been determined that the Conference Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities should remain as an Advisory Committee to the Public Policy Committee and not merge with the Council Committee on Mentally Retarded Persons
- it was agreed that the Council would develop a brochure describing the work of Catholic Charities agencies in the state

At the planning retreat held on September 2-3, 2003, the Council once again reaffirmed the basic framework for the work of the Council. In addition these decisions were made:

- it was agreed that future leadership of the Council would be:
 - * 2003-2005 – Laura Cassell
 - * 2005-2007 – Dennis Manning
 - * 2007-2009 – Monsignor Kevin Sullivan
 - * 2009-2011 – Father Joe Sicari
- with regard to effectuating better relationships with state government officials, and enhancing participation at the Annual Human Services reception, it was agreed that the Council would invite to meetings Commissioners or Directors from these state agencies:
 - * Division of Housing and Community Renewal
 - * Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services
 - * Office of Children and Family Services
 - * Office of Mental Health
 - * Office of Aging

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- Jack Balinsky reported that he, Earl and Walt Wojtowicz were embarking upon a project to develop a history of the State Catholic Conference, including organizing and digitizing the Charlie Tobin files. Walt, who had had previous connectedness to the Albany Diocesan Social Justice Commission and who was a retired engineer from General Electric, had become involved at the Catholic Conference as a volunteer to create the Council brochure envisioned the previous year. Having completed that project, he had expressed a willingness to assist with the Conference history project.
- it was agreed to send a letter to Committee Chairs outlining a framework for their work for the coming year, including:
 - * a fall meeting at which each committee would adopt a work plan for the coming year and make recommendations for the Governor's Executive budget proposal
 - * a winter meeting to review the Governor's Executive Budget, and make recommendations for the Conference's Omnibus budget letter to all Legislators
 - * participation in the March 8, 2004 Statewide Annual Convening
 - * a spring meeting, at which recommendations would be made for issues to be included in the 2005 Catholic Conference Legislative Agenda
- with regard to the Council and Conference legislative agenda, it was agreed that the Council would develop integrated, cross-cutting priorities relating to housing and behavioral health services

2. Nurturing Spiritual Growth

The Council undertook activities to nurture the spiritual growth of its members in these ways:

- at the August 2001 retreat, Bishop Hubbard from Albany gave presentations on the role of Catholic Charities and the qualities of a Catholic leader
- at the 2002-2003 planning retreat, Monsignor Sullivan celebrated Mass and gave an inspiring homily on the work of Catholic Charities
- it was agreed that Mass would be celebrated at one additional Council meeting each year
- Council members were assigned responsibility for the opening prayer at meetings on a rotating basis

3. Committees

The overall work of each of the individual committees is described in the next section in this Chapter

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With regard to the interaction of the Council and its Committees, it was agreed at the 2001 planning retreat and reaffirmed each of the next two years that at each meeting:

- there would be a presentation made by the Chairperson of a committee, and if possible a related presentation from the state government agency most closely associated with the work of that committee
- any Council member could raise for discussion any issue addressed by a committee as reported in the minutes of meetings which would be made available to Council members
- any committee liaison could raise an issue from the work of his/her committee for discussion and decision by the Council

Agenda items related to the work of the committees during this time period included:

- at the October 23, 2001 meeting, the committee heard a presentation from the Committee on Mentally Retarded Persons focusing on these issues:
 - * budget concerns
 - * audits being undertaken by the State Attorney General
 - * units of service discussion
 - * Healthcare Decision Making Act for Mentally Retarded Persons

(at this meeting the Council also reaffirmed its decision to establish a separate committee to focus on HIV/AIDS issues.)

- At its meetings in spring 2002, the Council addressed the work of the Immigration Committee. It was agreed to ask Governor Pataki to write a letter to the President urging “reopening the borders” after September 11, 2001. It was also agreed that there should be a meeting with representatives of the State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance about state funding for programs. As a result of this series of discussions, John Bingham from Rockville Center was appointed as the new Chairperson of the committee and the committee charge was revised.
- At the May 22, 2002 meeting, it was reported that the HIV/AIDS committee had held their first meeting in the context of a national Catholic meeting on AIDS/HIV.
- The agenda for the December 4, 2002 Council meeting focused on agriculture issues. The Council held presentations given in person or by video from:
 - * George Dardess from Rochester Catholic Charities who gave an overview of “the situation of agriculture in New York State”
 - * By video, John Lincoln and Julie Suarez from the Farm Bureau presented concerns of farmers
 - * By video, Aspacio Alcontrera presented the legislative agenda of CITA, a farmworkers organizing and advocacy agency

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- * The Council heard a presentation from Nathan Rudgers, Commissioner of the State Department of Agriculture and Markets
- * Rural Issues Committee Chairperson Tim McMahon presented committee priorities

- Based upon these presentations, the Council at its January 15, 2003 meeting, made these decisions about agricultural issues:
 - * to apply for a statewide grant to CCHD for advocacy on migrant issues
 - * to advocate for the re-creation of the Minimum Wage Council within the State Department of Agriculture and Markets
 - * to support the Unibill on migrant farmworker issues
 - * to encourage individual Dioceses to become “covenanting” partners with Rural and Migrant Ministry
 - * to support holding the annual National Catholic Rural Life Conference in New York State (the decision was made to do so, but the Conference was later cancelled because of lack of participation)
 - * to support federal legislation for amnesty for undocumented farmworkers
 - * to advocate for changes in eligibility requirements for the Family Health Plus program to increase eligibility of family farmers

- At its January 15, 2003 meeting, the Council heard a presentation from Office of Mental Health Commissioner Jim Stone
- At its May 21, 2003 meeting, the Council heard a presentation from Mary O’Reilly and Bob Seibel about the work of the Family and Children’s Services Committee
- At its December 3, 2003 meeting, the Council heard presentations about the work of the Behavioral Health Committee. Committee Chairperson Carl Hatch outlined committee priorities, and asked for Council support for mental health parity legislation and also a “beer tax”. Leesa Redemacher and Bob Myers from OMH updated the Council on their current priorities
- At the January 14, 2004 meeting, the Council heard presentations from committee Chairperson, Deborah Damm O’Brien and DHCR Commissioner Judy Colagero on state housing issues
- At the March 31, 2004 meeting, Commissioner Bob Doar of the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance addressed current income security priorities
- Throughout 2003-2004 program year, the Council devoted much attention to implementing its decision at the September 2003 planning retreat to develop two cross-cutting legislative priorities: housing and behavioral health. At their fall 2003 meetings, both committees developed a process for completing this task. Earl Eichelberger wrote in November 2003 to each of the other committee Chairpersons asking for input in these two areas about best practice models and legislative priorities. Based upon this input, both the Housing Committee and Behavioral Health Committee

then put together working papers. These papers were the basis of discussion at the March 8, 2004 annual convening in which a representative from the Housing Committee and Behavioral Health Committee met with each of the other committees to gain further input. Based on this further input, the two committees then developed an integrated agenda for presentation to the Council at this May 2004 meeting as the basis for inclusion in the 2005 Catholic Conference legislative agenda, and the framework for a series of legislative advocacy activities by the Council in 2004-2005

4. Support to the New York State Public Policy Committee

The Council provided support to the State Public Policy Committee by annually providing input into developing the Conference legislative agenda, identifying targeted objectives for the Public Policy Forum, and providing advice on agenda items discussed at Public Policy meetings.

- with regard to the legislative agenda and targeted objectives, they remained during this time frame basically the same as those outlined in the previous Chapter
- with regard to input into specific agenda items:
 - * at the September 6, 2001 meeting, the Council recommended approval of a Bishop's Statement on Welfare Reform, as the five-year time limit for federal eligibility approached (adopted)
 - * at the same meeting, the Council recommended support for inclusion of legal immigrants in the Family Health Plus program (adopted) and Council proposed recommendations for TANF reauthorization
 - * the Council organized a special issues presentation on agriculture issues by representatives of the Farm Bureau, (Kevin Bauman and Julie Suarez) at the May 23, 2002 meeting
 - * on behalf of the Council, Jack Balinsky gave a presentation on Rural Issues at the annual meeting of the Public Policy Committee with the Bishops of the state held on June 21, 2002 addressing these rural issues:
 - + rural character of New York State
 - + Public Policy Committee priorities
 - flexibility in service delivery
 - transportation
 - housing and economic development issue
 - Medicaid dental rates
 - + migrant issues
 - + Farm Bureau involvement and issues
 - * At the December 4, 2002 meeting, the Council recommended that there be future special issues presentations on environmental justice issues (accepted) and educational equality (not accepted)

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- * Kathy Dubel from Rochester Catholic Charities made a special issues presentation at the April 10, 2003 meeting which led to the strengthening of this priority within the Catholic Conference legislation agenda
- * The Public Policy Committee approved at its May 22, 2003 meeting, re-establishment of the Advisory Committee on Government Fiscal Policies at the recommendation of the Council

5. Advocacy for Legislative Agenda

The Council engaged in activities advocating for the Conference legislative agenda in several ways:

- through the September 28, 2001 statement “An Urgent Plea for our State’s Poor and Vulnerable from the Catholic Bishops of New York State” urging:
 - * a seamless transition for those no longer eligible for federal benefits
 - * responsible investment of TANF funds
 - * study of the effects of welfare reform
 - * expansion of allowable education activities for those receiving TANF benefits
- annual testimony about state budgets addressing issues such as:
 - * appropriate use of TANF funds
 - * increased funding for HIV/AIDS programs
 - * continuation of the Mental Health Reinvestment Act
 - * funding for affordable housing
 - * increased funding for alcohol and substance abuse services
- participation in a series of meetings and discussions leading to the development of the Catholic Action Network

6. Annual Convening, Human Services Reception, Awards

During this time period, the Council resumed the practice of conjoining the Statewide Annual Convening, Annual Health and Human Services Reception and presentation of the Mugavero and DeFazio Awards.

At the Statewide Annual Convening held at the Convention Center on March 12, 2002, Father Bryan Hehir, CCUSA President delivered the keynote address, Sharon Daly from CCUSA gave a workshop on lobbying, each committee made a presentation on their priorities to the group as a whole, and committees met with appropriate legislative committees relative to budget priorities. Father Hehir and the Diocesan Charities Directors were introduced at an Assembly session.

On both March 11, 2003 and March 9, 2004, the Statewide Annual Convening was held at the Crown Plaza. On March 11, 2003, presentations on the state fiscal

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situation were given by Frank Mauro from the Fiscal Policy Institute and Rus Sykes from the SCAA, and there were committee presentations as well. The day concluded with a reflection by Monsignor Kevin Sullivan.

At the March 9, 2004 session, the keynote address on Faithful Citizenship was given by John Carr from the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. As a step toward developing an integrated legislative agenda around housing and behavioral health issues, during the breakout sessions, representatives of those committees met respectively with the other committees to get input for the developing agenda. Once again, there were then presentations by each committee to the group as a whole.

In general, the Council felt very pleased with these sessions organized by a committee, chaired by Tony Barbaro, and including Bob Siebel and Kathy Eichenlaub.

In each year, the Annual receptions were held in the late afternoon of the day of the convening. In 2002, the event was held at the Catholic Conference office, the other two years at the Crown Plaza. In each year, the evaluation was that we had to work harder to gain greater state government participation, that we needed to tighten the focus of our presentations, and that we should continue to review whether this was the right venue for award presentations.

Council awards were given as follows:

- 2002 Mugavero Award: Sharon Daly, Catholic Charities USA
- 2002 DeFazio Award: Maura Welch, Syracuse teen and activist on child labor issues
- 2003 Mugavero Award: Tom DeStefano, retired Brooklyn Diocesan Director
- 2003 DeFazio Award: Margaret Driscoll, Rochester Diocese Catholic Worker activist
- 2004 Mugavero Award: Monsignor Robert Lawler, longtime Ogdensburg Director
- 2004 DeFazio Award: Monsignor William Toohy, Archdiocese Charities Attorney (former supervisor of Vinnie DeFazio)

7. Congressional Delegation Relationships

The Council determined in its planning retreat in September 2002 to reinstitute its practice from the 1980's of organizing an annual Congressional Delegation meeting in Washington.

The first such session was held on May 15, 2003. The Council had "off the floor" meetings with Senators Schumer and Clinton because the Senate that day was engaged in "votarama" on the President's tax cut proposals.

Through the good offices of Monsignor Kevin Sullivan and his connection with state Congressional Delegation Dean Charlie Rangel, the Council hosted a

breakfast in the Capitol for members of our Congressional Delegation, focusing on these issues: TANF reauthorization, Medicaid, housing, and immigration.

The Council returned to Washington on February 11, 2004. There were more productive “in-office” meetings with Senators Clinton and Schumer. The Council made presentations at an interesting “mandatory” delegation meeting on housing, TANF and immigration

8. Information and Support

The Council engaged in several activities in this area of concern:

- there were several meetings and conference calls addressing issues in relation to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development including:
 - * inter-diocesan proposals
 - * role of Diocesan Director with CCHD staff
- Sister Maureen Joyce and Jack Balinsky met with MECF staff to clarify the relationship between the Council and the Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation.
- The Council had two sessions with representatives of the Diocesan attorneys
 - * at the session held on January 16, 2002, issues addressed included: the lobby law (there was agreement that there should be a uniform state approach), Charitable immunity legislation, and discussion of the Attorney General’s proposed bills on regulations for not-for-profit agencies.
 - * at the session held on January 15, 2003, there were presentations on background checks in light of the Charter for Protection for Children and Youth adopted by the Bishops of the United States the previous July, the lobby law, Charities registration, and litigation submitted in the wake of passage in the previous year of the Women’s Health and Wellness bill with a narrow conscience clause.
- based upon a Conference call with Rochester attorney Mike Cooney on October 6, 2003 and a training session held on January 14, 2004, it was determined that Diocesan Catholic Charities agencies would register under the lobby law
- at the May 26, 2004 Council meeting, Buffalo representative Father Joe Sicari and Denis Walczyk gave a presentation about a parish survey and follow-up activities they had undertaken.

9. Issues Monitoring

Often on the agenda during this time period were reviews of the status of these ongoing issues:

- the Women's Health and Wellness Bill
This major issue requires elaboration. Stretching back to 1998, there had been considerable debate over this legislation, which contained many positive features from the perspective of the State Catholic Conference. Unfortunately, however, the bill contained a mandate that employers providing prescription drug coverage, must include contraceptive coverage. As with other legislation, there was provision for a "conscience clause" that would exempt employers for whom this provision would be morally objectionable. The debate turned on the scope of the conscience clause.

It was this debate that brought the first formal visit in March 2001, of Edward Cardinal Egan from New York to Albany to lobby for the Church position. (He had been appointed in May 2000 to replace Cardinal O'Connor.) The Catholic Conference continued to be able to avert passage of this legislation during the 2001 session.

In 2002, however, with the Church position weakened by the national sex abuse scandal, the bill was passed and signed with a narrow conscience clause. Dioceses, parishes and some Catholic schools would be exempt from mandatory provision of contraceptive coverage, but Catholic Charities agencies and Catholic hospitals would not. This was a major defeat for Catholic Conference advocacy. Litigation was filed on December 31, 2002 through work done by Catholic Conference attorneys. After a negative initial decision, the case is now before the Appellate Division.

- as described above, the Lobby Law
- Surrogate Decision-Making
- the Catholic Advocacy Network
- Rockefeller Drug Law reform
- Faith-based initiatives
- Compliance with regulatory norms (at the December 3, 2003 meeting, there was available an overview of these issues developed by Rochester attorney Mike Cooney.)

9. Joint Activities

The Council engaged in two joint activities in this time period:

- on October 22, 2001, there was a joint meeting in Utica with the Catholic Healthcare Council

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- in the context of the joint national meeting of Catholic Charities USA and the Catholic Health Association held in Chicago in early August, 2002, there was a joint “affinity session” which focused on assisted living priorities

D. Committee Activities

1. Behavioral Health Committee

Members

Chair: Carl Hatch; Liaison: Dennis Manning, Karen Dehais, Paul Engelhart
Archdiocese of New York: Alan Bernstein, Frances Maturo, Anne Tomasso,
Father Robert Pagliari
Albany: Karen Dehais
Brooklyn: Gayle Ryder-DiRienzi, Eileen Dwyer
Buffalo: Brian O’Herron
Ogdensburg: Pamela Wilson, Karen Miscavage
Rochester: Carl Hatch, Tony Barbaro
Rockville Center: Denis Demers, Kathy Ayers-Lanzilotta
Syracuse: Dennis Manning, Lori Accardi

Issues Addressed

Issues addressed included:

- budget issues
- legislative issues
- World Trade Center aftermath
- HIPAA
- lack of adequate funding support for mental health programs
- Criminal Justice issues, including Rockefeller Drug Laws and incarcerated mentally ill persons
- workforce issues
- dedicated beer tax
- maintaining public/private partnerships in the delivery of human services
- parity in insurance (Timothy’s Law)
- funding for medical universities to include mental health and chemical dependency education in their curriculum
- support of Drinking Driver Rehabilitation program

Accomplishments

The Behavioral Health Committee continued its proactive relationships with the Office of Mental Health and Office of Substance Abuse Services.

During 2003-2004 it took a lead role in developing an integrated legislative agenda for Behavioral Health Services

2. Criminal Justice Committee

Members

Chair: Monsignor Dennis Duprey; Liaison: Father Joe Sicari, Dennis Manning
Archdiocese of New York: Ken Hoffarth, Rudy Cypser, Betty Cypser
Albany: Jim Murphy, Alison Coleman
Brooklyn: Michael Guglielmo, Deacon Nathaniel Smith
Buffalo:
Ogdensburg: Monsignor Dennis Duprey
Rochester: Rik Fowler
Rockville Center: Brother Jack Moylan
Syracuse: Bill Cuddy, Frank Woolever

Issues Addressed

The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee had been established in the early 1970's as an Advisory Committee to the State Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee. For a variety of reasons, it was agreed that the group would become a committee of the Council effective September 2002. It adopted this statement of purpose in fall 2002:

The Criminal Justice Committee will advise the NYS Catholic Conference and the Public Policy Committee in the area of criminal justice issues. The application of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching to the criminal justice system is central to the work of the committee. The first principle, the "dignity of every human being" is of particular import when discussing the treatment of criminal offenders. The committee advances the concept of "Restorative Justice" and an emphasis on compassion and forgiveness. Inspired by the example of Jesus, the committee strives to support policies that seek "to restore all to the wholeness and fullness of life". The committee will promote action on behalf of the church and public sector that is of benefit to victims, offenders and society as a whole.

Issues addressed included:

- Rockefeller Drug Law reform
- death penalty
- work release
- humane prison confinement
- tuition assistance for inmates
- alternatives to incarceration
- treatment of sick and elderly prisoners
- gun control
- special housing units
- community reintegration of offenders
- prison rape federal legislation
- budget issues
- mental health issues in correctional facilities
- competent defense for the indigent
- "Restorative Justice"

Accomplishments

This committee spent some time adjusting to its new status as a committee of the Council of Catholic Charities Directors, rather than an Advisory Committee to the Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee.

A significant contribution was testimony given by Brother Moylan on January 14, 2004 before the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Mental Health on “Disciplinary Confinement and the Treatment of Mentally Ill Prisoners”.

3. Elderly Services Committee

Members

Chair: Mary Jo Giambelluca; Liaison: Laura Casell, Father Joe Sicari
Archdiocese of New York: Eleanor Ramos
Albany: Maura Barrett
Brooklyn: Donna Corrado
Buffalo: Mary Jo Giambelluca, Kathy Pharris
Ogdensburg: Patsy McCaughin
Rochester: Irene Coveny, Lou Ann Haney
Rockville Center: Liivai Westervelt
Syracuse: Eleanor Carr

Issues Addressed

Issues addressed included:

- assisted living
- benefits checkup
- PACE
- Olmstead Implementation Council
- alternatives to nursing home placements
- respite care
- services for frail elderly
- naturally occurring retirement committee
- legislative issues
- budget issues
- Medicare and prescription drugs for the elderly
- grandparents serving as primary caregivers

Accomplishments

The primary focus of the committee was on assisted living programs and the implementation of the Olmstead Laws.

On July 9, 2002 Earl Eichelberger made a presentation to the New York Citizen’s Commission on Aging on the New York State budget and aging issues.

4. Family and Children's Services Committee

Members

Chair: Mary O'Reilly; Liaison: Bob Siebel
Archdiocese of New York: James Marley, Mary Ellen Ros
Albany: Sister Mary Ann LoGuidice
Brooklyn: Mary O'Reilly
Buffalo: Gayle Sunshine-May, Tish Brady
Ogdensburg: Mary Beth Bova, Leon Dickinson
Rochester: Karen Emerton
Rockville Center: Howard Duff
Syracuse: Bob Maloney, Kathy Eichenlaub

Issues Addressed

As discussed previously, this committee was newly reconstituted in early 2003. The charge to the committee was articulated as follows:

The Family and Community Services Committee will focus upon neighborhood and community-based services for children and their families. The committee will identify and advocate for issues related to access to health care, day care, early intervention, hunger and nutrition outreach, delinquency prevention, and other programs that provide service to poor and vulnerable families.

The committee shall be comprised of Catholic Charities staff from each of the eight Dioceses of New York State, who have expertise in the provision of community-based services to children and their families. The committee will assist the Council of Catholic Charities Directors in analyzing policy documents, and recommend advocacy priorities.

The committee will meet four or five times a year and initial meetings will clarify focus and direction of the committee.

Issues addressed include

- at a September 15, 2003 meeting with Larry Brown, Deputy Commissioner from the Office of Children and Family Services, issues addressed were:
 - * NYS Program Improvement Plan to achieve compliance with the National Child and Family Service Review standards
 - * "100 Longest Waiting Children"
 - * family mediation
 - * independent living
 - * registration for school age childcare programs (passed to resolve an issue with Syracuse Catholic Charities neighborhood center programs)
 - * meeting the needs of children with serious mental health problems

History of NYSCCCD
1966 through 2004

- at the same meeting, the committee discussed the following issues with a representative of the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
 - * populations needing long-term assistance – families with a disabled parent, families where a parent is an illegal immigrant, families where the parent is unavailable and care is provided by a member of the extended family
 - * increase in the shelter allowance as of November 2003
 - * SSI enrollment increase
 - * the need for more aggressive food stamp outreach
 - * the need to study what happens to those who leave the welfare roll
- proposed safe mentoring legislation

5. HIV/AIDS Committee

Members

Chair: Joe Kerwin; Liaison: Sister Maureen Joyce

Archdiocese of New York: Carolyn Castro

Albany: Joe Kerwin

Brooklyn: Ted Rado, Kenneth Yaboh, Fran Kommor

Buffalo:

Ogdensburg: Leon Dickinson, Trenton Clark

Rochester: Jane Hallinan

Rockville Center: Kathy Ayers-Lanzilotta, Michael Engrassia

Syracuse:

Issues Addressed:

Issues addressed included

- state budget issues
- National HIV/AIDS Ministry Conference
- discussions with Housing Works
- legislative agenda issues
- the need for continuing public awareness of the seriousness of the HIV/AIDS situation

Narrative

Throughout this time period, this newly formed committee struggled to find its purpose and agenda. At the May 2004 Council meeting, it was agreed that the role of this committee would be addressed at the September 2004 retreat.

6. Housing Committee

Members

Chair: Deborah Damm-O'Brien; Liaison: Jack Balinsky

Archdiocese of New York: Monsignor Don Sakano

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Albany: Roger and Maria Markovics, Deborah Damm-O'Brien
Brooklyn: John Tynan
Buffalo: George Hezel, Bernadette Harlan
Ogdensburg: Winnie Sachno
Rochester: Jack Balinsky, Allyn Smith
Rockville Center: Paul Chedda
Syracuse: Paula Currie

Issues Addressed

Issues addressed during this time included

- assisted living issues
- budget issues
- meetings with leadership from the Division of Housing
- community stability home ownership tax credit and community revenue
- federal housing issues: 202, Section 8, Housing Trust Fund
- rural housing issues
- Olmsted Law information

Accomplishments

During this time frame, the Housing Committee was one of the most active and effective Council committees. Accomplishments included:

- development of testimony presented on July 31, 2002 to the Congressional Committee on affordable housing and health care for the 21st century
- development of an agenda for assisted living which was the focus of the joint meeting with the Healthcare Council in Chicago on August 3, 1992
- advocacy with regard to the implementation of the Olmstead law in New York State
- taking the lead in developing an integrated, cross-cutting housing agenda during the 2003-2004 program year
- preparing a presentation on affordable housing for the February 11, 2004 Congressional Delegation meeting

7. Immigration Committee

Members

Chair: Ann Brittain, John Bingham; Liaison: Monsignor Henry Gugino, Joe Buttigieg
Archdiocese of New York: Marco Russell, Joe Buttigieg
Albany: Joe Buttigieg
Brooklyn: Carlo DeRege
Buffalo: Ann Brittain
Ogdensburg:
Rochester: Ed Patane, Patti McCarthy
Rockville Center: John Bingham, Carmon Maguilon
Syracuse: Kip Hargrove

Issues Addressed

Issues addressed included:

- at its meetings on July 10, 2001, the committee addressed the following priorities:
 - * it determined to review current programs, structure, and government funding
 - * it agreed to identify new opportunities and emerging needs
 - * and to develop proposals to address emerging needs
 - * and to seek collaborative opportunities among Diocese
- budget issues
- legislative issues
- issues in the wake of 9/11
- issues relating to rural and migrant workers
- relationship to CLINIC at the federal level
- licensing of immigration consultants
- legalization of undocumented persons
- developing a proposal for a statewide Council advocacy effort on legalization
- advocacy for the Ag Jobs Bill and Dream Act
- healthcare for undocumented immigrants

Accomplishments

The committee was heavily focused in 2001-2002 on funding decisions by state government for immigration programs

As the Council focused more on migrant and legalization issues, including a joint proposal to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development about legalization issues, the committee assumed a more central role in the work of the Council.

During 2003-2004, the committee focused significant attention on advocacy for the Ag Jobs Bill and the Dream Act

8. Committee on Mentally Retarded Persons

Members

Chair: Gary Siegel; Liaison: Paul Pickering

Archdiocese of New York: Fred Apers, Judy Kydon, Dr. Ann Williams

Albany: Gary Siegel

Brooklyn: Father Joe Pancari

Buffalo: Sister Rose Cauley, Rosemary Walter

Ogdensburg: Mary Beth Bova, Claire Poirier

Rochester: Paul Pickering

Rockville Center: Diane Ammiriti

Syracuse: Fran Hall

History of NYSCCCD
1966 through 2004

Issues Addressed:

Issues addressed included:

- Healthcare Decisions Act for Persons with Mental Retardation
- budget issues
- euthanasia assisted suicide
- HIPAA
- healthcare for mentally retarded persons (organized Healthcare Task Force)
- Units of Service Task Force
- Clinical Task Force
- governance regulations
- meeting with Sheila Carey, Executive Director of the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
- traumatic brain injury issues
- representative payee-Social Security Act

Accomplishments

The committee continued to have a strong and positive relationship with Commissioner Tom Maul from the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

9. Rural Issues Committee

Members

Chair: Tim McMahon, Kathie Greenblatt; Liaison: Sister Donna Franklin
Archdiocese of New York: Father Mike Gannon, Sister Joanne Dregg
Albany: Kathie Greenblatt

Brooklyn:

Buffalo: Margaret Mayer

Ogdensburg: Sister Donna Franklin, Father Terry LaValley, Winnie Sachno,
Father Christopher Fusco, Monsignor John Murphy

Rochester: Tim McMahon, Laura Opelt

Rockville Center: Sister Rose Sheridan, Patricia Oliverio, Veronica Fellerath

Syracuse: Sister Maureen Burns, Jane Coddington, Sister Kathleen Heffron

Issues Addressed

Issues addressed included:

- migrant worker issues including wages, housing, rights to collective bargaining
- Dairy Farmers Bill of Rights
- presentation to Public Policy Committee
- budget issues

History of NYSCCCD
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Accomplishments

Tim McMahon made a presentation to the New York State Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee on rural issues on May 2002.

Through the work of the Rural Issues Committee, advocacy for rural issues remained a targeted priority throughout this three-year period.

10. Welfare Reform Committee

Members

Chair: Richard Koubek; Liaison: Bill Przulucki, Kathy Eichenlaub
Archdiocese of New York: George Horton, Wendy Ramadan
Albany: Bill Przulucki
Brooklyn: Monsignor Howard Basler, Jeanne Diulio
Buffalo:
Ogdensburg: Kathleen Mattis
Rochester: George Ferrari
Rockville Center: Richard Koubek
Syracuse: Brian Walton

Issues Addressed

Issues addressed during this time period included:

- minimum wage
- TANF reauthorization
- budget issues
- legislative agenda

Accomplishments

The committee continued the tradition of Catholic Conference advocacy on income security by preparing a statement for the Bishops urging adoption of minimum wage legislation in July 2002.

CONCLUSION

Over the thirty-eight years between the formalization of the Catholic Charities Committee in November 1966 until June 2004, the world changed dramatically.

The decade of the 1960's brought dramatic changes in secular society in the United States. Implementation of the changes decided upon in the Second Vatican Council profoundly changed the role of the Church. The world of human services became ever more professionalized and specialized.

Throughout these changes, the Catholic Charities Directors in New York State continued to listen to the "signs of the times". The work of the Council of Catholic Charities Directors evolved substantially in response to these changes.

Yet, there were constants.

The Charities Directors responded in their own Dioceses to changing needs. They continued to give high priority to collaboration with other faith-based and volunteer providers.

They continued to view their role as being a partner with state government in developing processes and programs to respond to those in need.

They remained truly a "voice of hope" for and with the poor and vulnerable.



Appendix I

Diocesan Directors of Catholic Charities

Archdiocese of New York
Msgr. Robert F. Keegan 1920-1947
Msgr. Patrick A. O'Boyle 1947-1948
Msgr. Christopher J. Weldon 1948-1950
Msgr. James J. Lynch 1950-1956
Msgr. George Guilfoyle 1956-1966
Msgr. Edward D. Head 1966-1973
Msgr. James J. Murray 1973-2001
Msgr. Kevin L. Sullivan 2001-

Diocese of Albany
Rev. Vincent DePaul Archambault 1914-1917
Rev. Joseph Scully 1917-1926
Rev. William C. Keane 1926-1945
Rev. John G. Hart 1945-1953
Rev. Wilfred Chamberlain 1953-1957
Rev. John R. Sise 1957-1968
Rev. Richard J. Downs 1968-1974
Sister Serena Branson, D.C 1974-1990
Sister Maureen Joyce, RSM 1990-

Diocese of Brooklyn
Rev. William J. Rice 1899-1911
Rev. Francis J. O'Hara 1911-1930
Rev. J. Jerome Reddy 1930-1960
Rev. Francis J. Mugavero 1960-1968
Rev. Joseph M. Sullivan 1968-1979
Thomas A. DeStefano 1979-2002
Robert L. Siebel 2002-

Diocese of Buffalo
Rt. Rev. Msgr. John C. Carr 1923 - 1934
Rev. William H. Meegan 1934 - 1938
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Eugene A. Loftus, P.A. 1939 -1953
Rt. Rev. Msgr. William L. Wozniak 1953 - 1965
Rev. Msgr. John J. Conniff, P.A. 1965 - 1995
Rev. Msgr. Henry J. Gugino 1995 - 2002

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Diocese of Ogdensburg
Msgr. James J. Lacey - 1922 to 1942
Msgr. Joseph F. Luker - 1942 to 1959
Msgr. Robert L. Lawler, P.A.- 1959 to 1986
Rev. Stephen Gratto - 1986 to 1994
Pamela Wilson (Interim) - 1994 to 1995
Sr. Donna M. Franklin, D.C. - 1995 to present

Diocese of Rochester
Rev. Walter A Foery 1930 to 1937
Msgr. Gerald C. Lambert 1937 to 1952
Rev. Arthur Ratigan 1952 to 1963
Msgr. Donald Mulcahy 1963 to 1971
Rev. William Charbonneau 1971 to 1973
Rev. Joseph D' Aurizo 1973 to 1977
Rev. Charles Mulligan 1977 to 1985, Diocesan Director, Office of Social Ministry
Rev. John Firpo 1985 to 1991, Diocesan Director, Office of Social Ministry
Paul Pickering 1991 to 1992, interim Diocesan Director, Office of Social Ministry
Jack Balinsky 1992 to present, Diocesan Director, Catholic Charities

Diocese of Rockville Centre	
(Rev.Msgr.) Charles E. Bermingham, Diocesan Director	1957 - 1965
(Rev.Msgr.) Edward L. Melton, Diocesan Director	1965 - 1967
(Rev.Msgr.) Gerald J. Ryan, Diocesan Director	1967 - 1970
(Rev.Msgr.) Robert Emmet Fagan, Diocesan Director	1970 - 1983
a. Joseph S. Barbaro, Executive Director	1976 - 1982
b. Joseph J. Kowalchik, Executive Director	1983 - 1985
(Rev.Msgr.) John D. Gilmartin, Diocesan Director	1985 - 1999
a. Paul E. Kirdahy, Ph.D., Executive Director	1986 - 1991
b. Daniel J. McGowan, Executive Director	1991 - 1995
Laura A. Cassell, CEO	1999 to present

Diocese of Syracuse	
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Alexis L. Hopkins	1923 - 1929
Rev. Edward J. Davern	1929 - 1933
Rev. J. James Bannon	1933 - 1942
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph B. Toomey	1943 - 1958
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Daniel E. Lawler	1958 - 1967
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles J. Fahey	1967 - 1979
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Ronald C. Bill	1979 - 1987
Rev. Robert B. Stephenson	1987 - 1999
Mr. Dennis J. Manning	1999 to present

Appendix II

The Ballad of Sigmund Freud (as written by Msgr. John Conniff)

Well it started in Vienna not so many years ago,
When not enough of folks were getting very sick,
That a starving young physician,
Tried to better his condition,
By discerning what made his patients tick,
He adopted as his credo: down repressing, up libido,
And that was the start of Sigmund Freud.

CHORUS

Oh, Dr. Freud! Oh, Dr. Freud!
How we wish you had been differently employed,
But the set of circumstances still enhances the finances,
Of the followers of Dr. Sigmund Freud.

Well they analyzed the dreams of the teens and libertines,
They substituted monologue for pills,
And instead of toting bed pans,
They wore analytic dead pans,
Those ambitious Doctors Adler, Jung, and Freud.

CHORUS

Well the big three have departed, but not the cult they started,
It is being carried on by a goodly band,
And to trauma, shock, and war shock,
Someone's gone and added Rorshack,
And the thing has got completely out of hand.

Appendix III

**COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIRECTORS
AWARD RECIPIENTS**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Bishop Mugavero Award</u>	<u>Vinnie DeFazio Award</u>
1989	Bishop Francis Mugavero	
1990	Sister Serena Branson	
1991	No Awards Given	
1992	Monsignor Charles Fahey	Ms. Millie Shanley
1993	No Awards Given	
1994 Cribbin	Mr. Robert McAuliffe	Monsignor Thomas
1995	Monsignor John Conniff	Mr. Paul Sauerland
1996	Bishop Joseph Sullivan	Mary Ann Dantuono
1997	No Awards Given	
1998	Monsignor James Murray	
1999	Monsignor. John Gilmartin	Mr. Maurice Tierney
2000	No Awards Given	
2001	Sr. Una McCormack	Ms. Mary Jo Giambelluca
2002	Ms. Sharon Daly	Ms. Maura Welch
2003	Mr. Thomas DeStefano	Ms. Margaret Driscoll
2004	Monsignor Robert Lawler	Monsignor William Toohey

Appendix IV

Presentation Given by Jack Balinsky At Public Policy Committee Meeting September 22, 1988

“Father Doyle has just completed an extensive and excellent summary of effective Catholic Conference advocacy during this past legislative session. As is customary for him, conspicuously missing from this presentation was the word ‘I’.

“To underscore just how important Fr. Doyle’s work is to the Catholic Conference, I want to share with the Public Policy Committee an advance copy of material on the chapter on ‘Effective Lobbying’ in the book I am writing

“The first vignette from this chapter is the meeting that Fr. Doyle arranged for Maria Markovics, an excellent housing advocate from Catholic Charities in Albany and himself to request that Senator Gene Levy introduce legislation on ‘good cause for eviction’. Those of you who have been around Albany a while would recognize that this isn’t exactly that most popular issue in the Senate. You can understand Maria’s shock, then, when the meeting ended with the Senator agreeing to introduce the legislation. She later confessed her greater amazement that the conversation was all about horse-racing.

“In similar fashion, Rus Sykes, our colleague from SCAA came away from a joint meeting with the very powerful Senate Finance Chairman, absolutely astonished that the Senator had agreed to sponsor legislation increasing Medicaid income eligibility levels to the poverty level. This was a momentous event and a crucial moment in the successful three year advocacy to secure passage of this landmark legislation. When I later asked Rus why Senator Marchi had agreed to sponsor the legislation, he shook his head in wonderment and confessed, ‘I don’t know; the entire conversation happened in Italian’.

“Finally, I call to mind a meeting that I had at the end of this past session with Ken and a staff member from the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, to discuss a bill we had introduced on human services networking which had been bottled up in the Committee for two years. Again, to my surprise, when the computer spit out the bills passed by the Assembly on the last day of the session, this one was among them. This time, the conversation at the meeting had focused on the need for a priest at the Legislative Office Building to make easier access for staff members to confession and Mass.

“The moral of this story: It is clear that to be a successful lobbyist you need to be (in reverse order) a HOLY, ROMAN, HORSE TRADER. Ken Doyle fills the bill.”