

**Health, Human Services & Housing Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** February 1, 2023 – 5:45 PM  
**LOCATION:** KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chair Uchitelle  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Jay Mahler  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit and Stewart  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Director Doyle – Department of Planning; Commissioner Iapoce & Deputy Commissioner Wood – Department of Social Services; Commissioner MacDonald – Department of Mental Health; Director Koppenhaver (via telephone) – Office for the Aging; Director Dawson – Youth Bureau; Deputy County Executive Contreras – County Executive’s Office

Chair Uchitelle called the meeting to order at 5:57 PM. He stated that he was appreciative of the work that prior Chair Walter accomplished and looked forward to continuing the committees good work.

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**Motion No. 1:** **Moved to approve the Minutes of December 7, 2022 Regular Meeting**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Lopez  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Nolan

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Minutes Approved**

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**Resolutions for the February 14, 2023 Legislative Session:**

Chair Uchitelle advised the members that he would be taking Resolutions out of agenda order to try to best accommodate the Department heads who were in attendance, starting with the Department of Social Services.

**Resolution No. 16:** Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-Municipal Agreement With New York State Department Of Health For Early Intervention Services – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution authorizes the Chair to enter Early Intervention Provider Agreement with the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Early Intervention, for the Early Intervention Program for the period April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2028 to identify and evaluate as early as possible those infants and toddlers whose health and development are compromised and provide appropriate therapeutic and support services and interventions to improve child and family development.

**Motion No. 2: Moved Resolution No. 16 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Nolan  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit

**Discussion:**

Commissioner Iapoce introduced Deputy Commissioner Wood who explained about the program and the shift that took place five years ago. She added that the UC DSS does the initial service coordination for families, averaging about 40 cases per month, but because the county only receives 49.5% back in Medicaid reimbursement the county makes more money through the agreement.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 17:** Amending The 2023 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Additional Allocation Of Funds From The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services To Continue Safe Harbour Programming – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution accepts \$43,350 in funding from the NYS OCFS for the continuation of the Safe Harbour program for 2023.

**Motion No. 3: Moved Resolution No. 17 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Nolan  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle asked Commissioner if he would give some background on the Resolution. Commissioner Iapoce advised the members that the County joined a pilot in 2015 to participate as a Safe Harbour County in NY. He added that the purpose was to arrive at educating, raising awareness and implementing preventive services in our county and to be responsive to children and youth that were identified as being trafficked or vulnerable to trafficking. In 2019 the county graduated the pilot now continue to receive an allocation from OCFS. And at that point, the county entered into an MOU with Crime Victims Assistance Program with the DSS allocation going to one of Probation’s staff who is crime victim’s counselor.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7

**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 18:** Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$114,983.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves a \$114,983 contract amendment with Family of Woodstock to increase the not-to-exceed amount for emergency assistance via the telephone hotline and walk-in services for 1/1/23 – 12/31/23.

**Motion No. 4:** **Moved Resolution No. 18 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Stewart  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Nolan

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle asked Commissioner Iapoce if he could provide some background for the amendment to the contract. Commissioner Iapoce responded that the increase resulted from a meeting with Family where they identified an need to provide after hours car coordination and transportation services. The increase creates two positions, a case manager position from 4 – 10 PM 7 day/week and a case manager physician from 5 – 10 PM 7 days/week.

Legislator Erner asked if the there would be reporting on the frequency transportation services were utilized. Chair Uchitelle echoed the reporting question. Commissioner Iapoce responded that his office would be collecting data on transportation. Chair Uchitelle thanked Commissioner Iapoce and the Executive’s staff for providing backup information on salaries paid to the individuals providing the service through the contract and added that he would like to see the salary information collected as part of the county’s standard procurement process. He mentioned that he began the conversation last year and would forward to the Executive’s staff an example of an attachment that could be incorporated into the procurement process without delay. He stated that salary information will come up again in other resolutions on the agenda and asked that supporting information be provided when the resolutions are submitted moving forward.

Commissioner Iapoce responded that the Living Wage Law triggered a number of changes in the conversations they have when entering into contracts for services and stated that a form he could produce for vendors would be helpful.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 19:** Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$75,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves a \$75,000 contract with Family of Woodstock for the operation of the Independent Living Program to prepare youth ages 14-21 for adult life after discharge from foster care for 1/1/23 – 12/31/23.

**Motion No. 5:** **Moved to Resolution No. 19 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Nolan

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle asked commissioner Iapoce to provide some background. Deputy Commissioner Wood responded that the contract provides independent living services for youth ages 14 – 21 to help them transition to living when discharged from foster care, including enrollment in education or vocational education programming. Legislator Petit asked if the county was experiencing a shortage in foster care homes. Deputy Commissioner Wood responded that the county finds it difficult to find families that can take sibling groups, and older children. She added that there will be more recruitment efforts in the future. Commissioner Iapoce added that the pandemic made recruitment especially challenging and was hopeful that it would bounce back. He added that some foster homes became unavailable because they turned into adoptive homes resulting in permanency for the child. Deputy Commissioner Wood added that the federal government is making a push through Family First legislation to have more kinship foster homes and more permanency planning to keep kids out of residential placement.

Legislator Erner asked how the 10 anticipated participants figure is arrived at and how the self-sufficiency matrix is determined. Deputy Commissioner Wood responded that the number is the historical average of how many they’ve had in care and that the matrix is determined by the state. Commissioner Iapoce added that it’s a terrific program that involves many group activities like cooking that forges lasting relationships among participants. He added that they continue relationships with participants post high school and work with a few in college. Legislator Stewart asked if there was an education requirement. Deputy Commissioner Wood responded that there is an education provision, whether high school, post high school vocational, GED, etc. She added that there are different funding sources available that they can use for college scholarships.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 20:** Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$221,430.62 Entered Into By The County – Legal Services Of The Hudson Valley – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution the execution of a \$221,430.62 contract with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley to provide low income tenants with information, resources, services and support, including legal representation when facing eviction.

**Motion No. 6: Moved to Resolution No. 20 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Nolan  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Erner

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle stated that there was a confusing circumstance with the Resolution, explaining that Resolution No. 498 adopted at the October 2022 Legislative Session approved a contract for eviction legal services for an amount that only differed by a few cents. He stated that the sponsors were advised to withdraw the Resolution, but he was holding it to receive clarity and confirmation that the execution of the contract could move forward without delay. He asked Deputy County Executive Contreras if she could provide any explanation. Deputy County Executive Contreras stated that the Executive’s Office has been looking into the situation since it was brought to their attention and was unsure what happened between October and December to delay the contract execution. She added that DSS got the contract in December and completed the process very quickly. Commissioner Iapoce added that he thought the contract originated in the office of Recovery and Resilience and apologized if his office was responsible for the delay.

Legislator Nolan asked if the Resolution was necessary to ensure that the services are started. Legislator Petit asked if the amount before them was the same as the amount in October. Chair Uchitelle responded that it is definitely the same contract, with a note that there was a difference in 2 cents. Legislator Nolan suggested the members pass the Resolution and let the Executive’s Office sort out the discrepancies. Chair Uchitelle agreed with legislator Nolan that the committee should pass the Resolution in committee and ask legal to look into the matter before Legislative Session. He added that there will be more programs the Legislature initiates and a ensuring a smooth handoff to the executive branch is critical.

Commissioner Iapoce advised the members that he had initiated conversation with the attorney in charge at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley in October to let them know that they would be working together as soon as the contract was executed. Chair Uchitelle expressed his frustration with the delay considering the serious housing crisis in the county and the individuals who may have been able to avoid eviction had they had access to legal help.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

**Resolution No. 21 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$200,301.00 Entered Into By The County – United Way Of Ulster County Inc. – Department Of Social Services**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves a \$200,301 contract with United Way of Ulster County to provide life skills counseling services to referred youth and their family through the Family and Youth Empowerment Partner for the Division of Coordinated Children’s Services.

**Motion No. 7: Moved to Resolution No. 21 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Nolan  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit

**Discussion:**

Commissioner Iapoce advised the members that he had received an email from Legislator Petit inquiring if DSS collaborates with the Youth Bureau and DSS. He stated that they do on a regular basis, but explained that the contract pertains to a discrete population of youth identified as high risk of potentially being placed outside of their family. Deputy Commissioner Wood added that they also work with youth outside of the residential setting such as those in secured detention or unsecured detention, typically involved in the mental health and judicial systems like PINS, JDs. She stated that the worker goes to the homes to work with the families as well as the youth. Youth Bureau Director Dawson added that the Bright Futures Initiative also works with high risk youth.

Legislator Erner asked why county vehicles are used for the transportation services. Deputy Commissioner Wood responded that for insurance and liability reasons and because the program is reimbursable through OCFS it was determined that the worker should drive a county vehicle. Chair Uchitelle added that as the county continues to electrify the fleet it will reduce the number of combustion vehicles on the road.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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Chair Uchitelle advised the member that the copy of the Resolution and Proposed Local Law in front of them has been amended, adding that he would be reading the title ad amended.

**Resolution No. 7 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 2 Of 2023, A Local Law Designating Affordable Housing As An Ulster County Public Purpose, To Be Held On Tuesday, March 14, 2023 At 7:15 PM**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution sets a public hearing on Tuesday, March 14 at 7:15 PM to allow the public to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2023.

**Motion No. 8: Moved Resolution No. 7 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Erner  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Nolan

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle advised the members that he has been working on the Proposed Local Law with Legislative Counsel, Planning Director Doyle and the County Attorney’s Office to craft the law. He added that it is a necessary step to allow the county to address housing in ways similar to health and economic development

activities. He asked Planning Director Doyle if he had anything to add or clarify. Director Doyle thanked the legislature for their attention to housing and for advancing housing as a designated county purpose. He advised the members that the definition of affordable was crafted to, hopefully, prevent the law from needing future amendments and allows the county to leverage state and federal funding for affordable housing purposes. He added that the law allows the use of county dollars towards housing initiatives, eliminating the need to go through development corporations, for example.

Legislator Petit thanked Director Doyle for the explanation. Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED As Amended As Presented with Proposed Local Law As Amended As Presented**

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**Resolution No. 11** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Grant Application With Required Assurances For The Medicare Improvements For Patients And Providers Act (MIPPA) With The New York State Office For The Aging – Office For The Aging

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution authorizes the Chair to execute the application with the New York State Office for the Aging for the MIPPA program, for the term beginning September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023 to reimburse the County for MIPPA expenditures incurred by the Ulster County Office for the Aging in the amount of \$19,202.

**Motion No. 9:** **Moved Resolution No. 11 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Nolan  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle recognized Office for the Aging Director Koppenhaver who was joining by telephone. Director Koppenhaver thanked the members for allowing her to join by phone. She advised the members that MIPPA stands for Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers adding that the contract funds a person who speaks to Seniors about Medicare Savings Plans. She stated that there have been many changes over the past few years which has made many more Seniors eligible.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 12** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$122,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Home Healthcare, Inc. – Office For The Aging

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves a \$122,000 contract with Family Home Healthcare, Inc. to provide in-home personal care assistance for seniors in order to meet NYS requirements for recipients of Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) or the Community Services for the Elderly Program (CSE) for 4/1/23 – 3/31/24.

**Motion No. 10:** **Moved Resolution No. 12 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Nolan  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Stewart

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle asked Director Koppenhaver to speak to how the budget amendments the Legislature adopted to assist UC OFA tied into the services contracted for in the following Resolutions. Director Koppenhaver explained that OFA moved money into the contract agencies in these resolution for personal care aides level two so OFA could hire more of their own aides for homemakers services, which she said is a bigger need in the county. She added that nursing advice and direction is provided through the contract which the UC OFA cannot. She stated that the office is currently interviewing homemakers aides.

Chair Uchitelle stated that the intention of the budget amendments was to attempt to create in-house service provider positions and asked if OFA intended to move in that direction. Director Koppenhaver responded that they can bring certain positions and services in house, but that they will continue to need contracts with licensed agencies to provide other services.

Legislator Petit questioned how much of the hourly rates stated in the contract was for administrative fees and not going towards the care aide’s salary. She added that she would prefer to hire more aides. Director Koppenhaver explained that because the county is not a licensed agency they cannot provide the administration that the contracted nurses provide. She added that the aides that she have been interviewed stated they were currently making \$17-\$19/hr, which is in line with the Medicaid rate.

Legislator Stewart asked if the contracted agencies provide healthcare for their employees. Director Koppenhaver responded that they are offered the basic care required under the Affordable care Act. He added that he felt it was important that the people providing care should have adequate healthcare.

The members briefly spoke about the structural changes that would be needed to bring all of the OFA contracted services in house. Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any further questions and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 13** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$90,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Home Health Care & Companion Agency, Inc. – Office For The Aging



**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves a \$90,000 contract with Home Health Care & Companion Agency, Inc. to provide in-home personal care assistance for seniors in order to meet NYS requirements for recipients of Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) or the Community Services for the Elderly Program (CSE) for 4/1/23 – 3/31/24.

**Motion No. 11:** **Moved Resolution No. 13 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Petit  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Nolan

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle stated that the contract provided the same services as the prior one and asked if there were any questions. Hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 14 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$145,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Willcare, Inc. D/B/A Willcare – Office For The Aging**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves a \$145,000 contract with Willcare to provide in-home personal care assistance for seniors in order to meet NYS requirements for recipients of Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) or the Community Services for the Elderly Program (CSE) for 4/1/23 – 3/31/24.

**Motion No. 12:** **Moved Resolution No. 14 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Nolan  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle stated that the contract provided the same services as the prior two and asked if there were any questions. Hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 15 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$172,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Health Research, Inc. – Department Of Health**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves a \$172,000 contract with Health Research Inc. for overdose data to action (OD2A) funding from the Center for Disease Control for 9/1/22 – 8/31/23.

**Motion No. 13:** **Moved Resolution No. 15 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Stewart

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Erner

**Discussion:**

Deputy County Executive Contreras advised the members that the federal funding received through the contact will go towards a full time peer recovery advocate. Legislator Petit questioned if this was the same funding as that through Columbia University. Deputy County Executive Contreras responded that was different funding and this grant was pass through from federal to NYS Health Department. Legislator Nolan stated for the record that she volunteers with an agency that could qualify for funding and questioned whether recusal was required. Chair Uchitelle recommended Legislator Nolan consult legal counsel.

Legislator Erner asked if someone could explain the surveillance versus prevention activities. Department of Mental Health Commissioner MacDonald stated that although this was not her contract she though perhaps it was referring to the information that they get from HIDTA on overdoses in the area so they can allocate resources in impacted areas.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any other questions and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 7

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 22 – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Office Of Addiction Services And Supports – Department Of Mental Health**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution authorizes the Chair to execute the State Aid Funding Authorization for the period beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023, in the amount of \$1,167,247.00, with the NYS OASAS to support chemical dependency, prevention and recovery services.

**Motion No. 14:** **Moved Resolution No. 22 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Stewart

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Corcoran

**Discussion:**

Commissioner MacDonald advised the members that this was their annual OASAS funding allocation to pay for programming like the Able House, vocational programming through Gateway, the Too Good For Drugs program in schools through Family of Woodstock. Chair Uchitelle asked what the term Ulster County

Community mental Health Services refers to. Commissioner MacDonald responded that is how the sates designates the county as the local governmental unit, adding that her title is the Director of Community Services. Legislator Petit explained she would be voting no because Rehabilitation Support Services was named in the contract.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any other questions and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** Legislator Petit  
**Votes in Favor:** 6  
**Votes Against:** 1  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 23** – Amending The 2023 Ulster County Budget To Accept Increased Funding From The New York State Office Of Mental Health For Child And Family Emergency Services And Community Support Programs – Department Of Mental Health

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution accepts \$321,516 in increased funding from the NYS OMH for Child and Family Emergency Services and Community Support Programs.

**Motion No. 15:** **Moved Resolution No. 23 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Nolan  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit

**Discussion:**

Commissioner MacDonald advised the members that NYS OMH has provided an additional allocation of funding specific for kids in crisis. She added that the bulk of the funding is for the home based crisis intervention program which involves a therapist working with youth and families in their home. She commented that the program is very successful and is always full and the additional funding will allow the county to add another case manager to expand the caseload. Legislator Erner asked for clarification on a few terms listed in contract Attachment A. Commissioner MacDonald provided a brief explanation and said she would get back to Legislator Erner on a clarification on a connection to Kendra’s Law.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any other questions and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 24** – Amending The 2023 Ulster County Budget To Approve Reclassification Of A Financial Analyst Position To A Manager For Fiscal Operations Position – Department Of Mental Health

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution reclassifies a Financial Analyst position in the UC Department of Mental Health to a Manager of Fiscal Operations and increases the salary by \$16,633 for 2023 to reflect the change.

**Motion No. 16:** **Moved Resolution No. 24 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Nolan  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Corcoran

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle advised the members that the reclassification was the result of a desk audit. Commissioner MacDonald stated that the audit was requested after the Department of Mental Health became a stand alone Department from the Department of Health. Chair Uchitelle informed the members that the audit was completed after the 2023 budget was adopted. Legislator Petit stated that the Department of Mental health used to be a large department in the county and said that she hoped this was an indication of planned expansion as more programs are offered.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any other questions and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 25 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$115,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Cornerstone Family Healthcare – Department Of Mental Health**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves a \$115,000 contract with Cornerstone Family Healthcare to provide street outreach, harm reduction education, syringe exchange access, linkage to medication for opioid use disorder, naloxone distribution, case management, and transportation to intake/admission appointments as needed for high-risk individuals living with SUD and OUD.

**Motion No. 17:** **Moved Resolution No. 25 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Petit  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Nolan

**Discussion:**

Commissioner MacDonald advised the members that this service was inspired by a service previously provided through the Healing Communities grant through Columbia University. When that funding was no longer available the county’s strategic action team identified the street outreach services as a priority to reinstate. Chair Uchitelle asked for clarification on the funding source as it was identified as “other” on the Resolution. Commissioner MacDonald responded that it is settlement money, which is in a county account but not the DMH budget.

Chair Uchitelle stated that when he sees people in crisis or in need of assistance he typically reaches out to DSS or Family of Woodstock. He added that mental health issues are a part of what many people are struggling with and that DMH might have more appropriate resources in some instances, and that some individuals prefer not to engage with DSS. He asked if referrals could be made to her office. Legislator Petit asked if there was a mental health hotline in the county, and asked if the county’s mobile mental health unit evaluates and makes referrals. Commissioner MacDonald responded that the Cornerstone contract serves as a connection to people where they are to provide them with some basic comforts and advise them of the services that are available when they are ready to engage.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any other questions and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 74** – Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 11 Of 2022, A Local Law Amending Chapter 166 Of The Code Of The County Of Ulster Providing For The Administration And Enforcement Of The New York State Uniform Fire Prevention And Building Code

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution adopts Proposed Local Law No. 11 of 2022.

**Motion No. 18:** **Moved Resolution No. 74 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Nolan  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Lopez

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle thanked legislator Corcoran for his work on the law and asked if there were any questions and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Old Business**

Chair Uchitelle advised the members that the two items under old business are both Resolutions of his. He stated that he has still not heard from the Board of Ethics in response to members requests pertaining to the Good Cause Eviction Law and asked Deputy County Executive Contreras if she might be able to get an update. Legislator Erner offered that the members could petition the state to take the measure up. Chair Uchitelle agreed and stated that the committee would revisit that.

Regarding Resolution No. 461, he advised the members that he felt there were a more thorough and precise ways of allocating money to housing that they were looking into, as well as other fund balance policy discussions being had. He stated that upon successful execution of those initiatives, he would withdraw the resolution. Legislator Petit asked if the fund balance policy was part of the Charter. Chair Uchitelle responded that it was a standalone policy and recommended that anyone with policy recommendation reach out to Chair Bartels to be incorporated into the broader discussion.

Chair Uchitelle moved on to Housing Working Group updates.

Legislator Nolan stated that the Emergency, Transitional and Homeless working group identified few things that could be changed other than supporting legislation being advanced by other groups. Legislator Nolan commented that there were good discussions and public participation, but that ideas like tiny houses or impermanent structures did not work well with providing services and stability.

Legislator Lopez stated that the Workforce and Middle Income Housing group felt preempted by the Executive's plan. He added that wasn't necessarily a bad thing, but resulted in the group revisiting their original goal and pivoting to something that will work with the Executive's plan.

Chair Uchitelle commented that it sounded like those two groups were reaching a natural conclusion and wanted to transition to a longer term structure for the way the county engages the community in discussions around housing.

Legislator Erner agreed and stated that the Low Income and Affordable Housing group has identified the state as a target on a number of items including: tenants opportunity to purchase, right to counsel, indoor air quality, bed tax and short term rentals, real estate transfer tax mentioned by the Comptroller, restrictions by hotels and motels regarding temporary housing. Chair Uchitelle stated that he had been in contract with Planning Director Doyle and his staff regarding the implementation of the funds allocated in the 2023 budget to assist landlords in making improvements and recognized Deputy County Executive Contreras. She advised the members that the County Executive's Office is doing a deep dive into emergency housing to identify real solutions, including the caps that hotels/motels have placed on emergency stays. She added they are looking at federal and state legislation as well as things that can be controlled locally. Chair Uchitelle thanked her for the update.

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Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any new business. None was offered. He asked the members if they would be amenable to changing the meeting start time to 5 PM moving forward. The members agreed to the change. Chair Uchitelle welcomed Legislator Stewart to the committee and asked if there was any other business. Hearing none;

**Adjournment**

Motion Made By: Legislator Lopez  
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

No. of Votes in Favor: 7  
No. of Votes Against: 0

**TIME:** 7:29 PM  
Respectfully submitted by: Deputy Clerk Mahler  
Minutes Approved: March 1, 2023