

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

DATE & TIME: March 2, 2022 – 5:30 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meetings, Meeting ID: 844 7216 6878
By Phone Dial (646) 558-8656
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Eve Walter
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit & Uchitelle
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Maloney, Commissioner Iapoce, Amy Borden & Liz Provenzano – UC DSS, Commissioner Smith – UC Health Department, Acting Director McDonald – UC Mental Health Department, Director Koppenhaver – UC Office for Aging, Director Cozzupoli – UC Veteran Services Agency, Director Doyle – UC Planning Department, Deputy Executives Contreras & Rider – UC Executive’s Office, S. Deacon Bill Mennenga – New Paltz Redeemer Lutheran Church

Chair Walter called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

Motion No. 1: Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the February 2, 2022 Meeting

Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes APPROVED

Resolutions for the March 16, 2022 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 99: Amending Capital Project No. 597 ARP Housing - For The Purchase & Renovation Of 21 Elizabeth Street Group Home, City Of Kingston – Amending The 2022 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Public Works (Buildings & Grounds)

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends Capital Project No. 597 to add \$700,000 for the purchase and renovation of property at 21 Elizabeth Street in Kingston to provide supportive housing.

Motion No. 2: Moved Resolution No. 99 FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 106: Appointing And Reappointing Members To The Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc., Board Of Directors

Resolution Summary: This resolution appoints Legislators Maloney and Gavaris and reappoints Legislator Petit, Roberts & Uchitelle to the Ulster County Community Action Committee Board of Directors for a term commencing immediately and terminating on December 31, 2023.

Motion No. 3: **Moved Resolution No. 106 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 139: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 4 Of 2022, A Local Law Enacting A Drug Take Back Program in Ulster County, To Be Held On Tuesday, April 19, 2022 At 7:30 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing to provide the public the opportunity to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2022 on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 7:30 PM

Motion No. 4: **Moved Resolution No. 139 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See attached transcript

Motion No. 5: **Motion TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 139**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan & Walter
Voting Against: Legislators Petit, Uchitelle
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 2

Disposition: Resolution POSTPONED

Resolution No. 140: Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Child Abuse Or Neglect Prevention And Treatment Act (CAPTA) Comprehensive Addiction And Recovery Act Of 2016 (CARA) Funds From The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends to 2022 Budget to accept a \$70,000 increase in federal Child Abuse or Neglect Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA) funds to help improve response to families and infants affected by substance use disorders, both alcohol and drugs.

Motion No. 6: Moved Resolution No. 140 FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 141: Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the 2022 Budget to properly transfer State, Federal and other grant obligations for fiscal year 2021 and 2022 to allow processing and payment in the year 2022.

Motion No. 7: Moved Resolution No. 141 FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 142: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$705,188.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a revenue contract with Family of Woodstock in the amount of \$705,188 for the period October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2022 to provides services which may include street outreach, shelter, rapid re-housing and eviction prevention activities to help communities prevent,

prepare for and respond to COVID-19 among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance.

Motion No. 8: **Moved Resolution No. 142 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 143: Authorizing The Interim Commissioner Of The Ulster County Department Of Mental Health To Enter Into An Intermunicipal Agreement With NYS Office Mental Health To Accept Funding From COVID Emergency Relief Funding For The Community Mental Health Services (MHBG) Block Grant Program - Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Interim Commissioner for the Ulster County Department of Mental Health to execute the intermunicipal agreement with the NYS OMH for the purpose of accepting a grant in the amount of \$25,000 from the COVID Emergency Relief Funding for the Community Mental Health Services (MHBG) Block Grant Program to build a System of Care Infrastructure in Ulster County.

Motion No. 9: **Moved Resolution No. 143 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 144: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$185,000.00 Entered Into By The County – The Hudson Valley National Center For Veteran Reintegration, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with the Hudson Valley National Center for Veteran Reintegration, Inc. in the amount of \$185,000 to increase funding for the Veterans peer-to-peer program from January 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022.

Motion No. 10: **Moved Resolution No. 144 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 7

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 145: Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Reflect Additional Funding From New York State Department Of Health For The Epidemiology And Laboratory Capacity (ELC) COVID-19 Enhanced Detection Grant – Department Of Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the 2022 Budget to reflect notification from the New York State Department of Health of release of \$1,000,000 of the Restricted Emergency Placeholder Funding to support enhanced detection expansion of COVID-19 surveillance and prevention.

Motion No. 11: **Moved Resolution No. 145 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 7

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolutions ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 146: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$105,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Home Health Care, Inc. – Office For The Aging

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract with Family Home Health Care Inc. in the amount of \$105,000 to provide in-home personal care assistance for April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023.

Motion No. 12: **Moved Resolution No. 146 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Corcoran

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit & Uchitelle

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 7

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 147: Adopting And Issuing A Negative Declaration Under 6 NYCRR Part 617 State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) By The Ulster County Legislature For The Construction Of A Veterans Cemetery To Be Located At 381 Plains Road New Paltz New York – Veterans Service Agency

Resolution Summary: Pursuant to SEQRA and the Regulations, this resolution adopts and issues the Negative Declaration under SEQRA for the construction of a veteran’s cemetery in the Town and Village of New Paltz to be located at 381 Plains Road.

Resolution No. 148: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into The Necessary Agreements With The New Paltz Rural Cemetery For The Purposes Of Providing A Veterans Cemetery To Be Located At 381 Plains Road In The Town And Village Of New Paltz – Veterans Service Agency

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to enter into the grant of an easement by NPRCA to Ulster County and a Memorandum of Understanding between NPRCA and Ulster County.

Motion No. 13: Moved TO BLOCK Resolution Nos. 147 & 148
Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolutions BLOCKED

Motion No. 14: Moved BLOCKED Resolutions FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolutions ADOPTED

Chair Walter moved on to Old Business on the Agenda. The members continued discussion of contracts the county currently holds with Health Alliance and possible alternate providers.

See attached transcript

Chair Walter reminded the members that she has scheduled a special meeting on March 30th dedicated to discussing housing policies and goals. She advised the members that, time permitting, she would like Interim

Director McDonald to discuss current and planned Mental Health programs and services at the April meeting. The members discussed holding the May meeting at the Ellenville Regional Hospital.

See attached transcript

Chair Walter asked the members if there was any other business. See attached transcript

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Lopez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 7:10 PM

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk Mahler
Approved: April 11, 2022

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ABSENT: None
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OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Maloney, Commissioner Iapoce, Amy Borden & Liz Provenzano – UC DSS, Commissioner Smith – UC Health Department, Acting Director McDonald – UC Mental Health Department, Director Koppenhaver – UC Office for Aging, Director Cozzupoli – UC Veteran Services Agency, Director Doyle – UC Planning Department, Deputy Executives Contreras & Rider – UC Executive’s Office, S. Deacon Bill Mennenga – New Paltz Redeemer Lutheran Church

Chair Walter

All right. Welcome, everyone to the Health Human Services and Housing Committee meeting for March 2, 2022. Call the meeting to order. I'll start with a motion to approve the February 2 2022 minute meeting minutes.

Legislator Nolan

So moved.

Chair Walter

Legislator Nolan. Second? Legislator Petit. All in favor?

Legislator Petit

Second

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Okay, any opposed? Perfect. The first Resolution. Just to note, it was added on to our committee later. So if you opened an earlier agenda, you may not see it, but it is relevant to ours. So that's Resolution number 99. Amending capital project 597 for AARP housing, the purchase and renovation of 21 Elizabeth Street, group home, have a motion to discuss.

Legislator Nolan

I'll move it

Chair Walter

Legislator Nolan. Second Petit.

Legislator Petit

Second

Chair Walter

Okay, any discussion? Legislator Erner.

Legislator Erner

Thank you Chair Walter. I just want to say how much I support this. This is in my district. This whatever we decide to do with it sounds most likely to be for families who are currently unhoused or unstably housed. It's right next to school is a real lifesaver here in Kingston, and thank you.

Chair Walter

Any other comments?

Legislator Nolan

I would like to have my name added to it as a co sponsor, please.

Chair Walter

Certainly.

Legislator Nolan

Or it's referred to us but are we all sponsors?

Chair Walter

Technically it's myself and Legislator Lopez. But you can certainly be added. As Can anyone else. Um, any other comments? I'd also like to express my enthusiasm towards this project. It's a very important step towards many steps that we hopefully will be taking. I'll just use this moment, I'll remind you again at the end of the meeting that we are going to have a special housing meeting at the end of this month. So we can explore what those next steps really could look like. So with no, nothing further, all in favor Resolution number 99.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Walter

Opposed? And abstentions? Okay, thank you. It passes. Resolution 106 appointing and reappointing members to the Ulster County Community Action Committee Board of Directors. A motion to discuss

Legislator Petit

I'll make that motion

Legislator Lopez

Second

Chair Walter

Petit. Second Lopez. Any discussion? So there are several individuals on this committee who are also on that committee. Is that correct? All right. I guess there's no further discussion. So all in favor Resolution number 106? Any opposed? Abstentions? Okay, unanimous. Just pause while someone enters the room. Next, we have Resolution 139. Setting a public hearing on proposed local law number for 2022 local law enacting a drug take back program in Ulster County. A motion to discuss

Committee Members

Aye.

Legislator Nolan

Move it

Chair Walter

Nolan,

Legislator Erner

Second

Chair Walter

second Erner. Okay. Discussion. Legislator Petit,

Legislator Petit

thank you. This Resolution of the purpose of it is to actually have the pharmacies start taking back the drugs. And it is a state law. However, it's kind of fallen flat. I don't believe we have many if any pharmacies within Ulster County that have containers. We do have containers at our law enforcement offices and that that's virtually all of them. In fact, I had spoken with Sheriff Figueroa who was kind enough to take a picture of the one at the at the Center on, was is that, route 32? And he goes oh look, it's full. However, not everybody is comfortable going into a police station to drop off their their pharmaceuticals.

Also when the big chains and even in some of the smaller pharmacies Have them in there, when people go into renew or pick up other prescriptions, it's more convenient for them to drop off. we really need to get these, these, this medicine off of the streets, you know, out of the make sure they don't fall into the hands of our young people, I believe statistically, when our kids start to experiment with pharmaceuticals, you know, it's easy enough to get it out of their, you know, grandma's cabinet, or, you know, or if somebody gets her hands on any any other way. So this is just the proper way to dispose of them.

Also, environmentally. For years, the standard practice has been to flush these things down the toilet. And that that was per the DEC, we found since then, that part of the process with wastewater getting put back into once it's been treated into our surface water systems, we're finding that it's not taking out those pharmaceuticals, and it's impacting the the ecosystem. So it is really something that we need to get on the books here in Ulster County, and find a way to enforce it to make sure that the pharmacies are putting in these collection units.

Chair Walter

Legislator, I'll start with committee members, and then I'll go to you Legislator Maloney. Legislator Nolan and then Erner

Legislator Nolan

yes, thank you Chair Walter. Um, yes, this is a an initiative. I don't know whether Legislator Petit would would have been here I think make perhaps but that Ulster County worked on for the state level and actually brought forward, um legit encouraged the bringing forward of legislation at the state level to accomplish this. Um, I think the public hearing is the place where we can get some sense of whether or not the law as written it has everything it needs, whether we want to have any kind of follow up if there are not pharmacies complying. I think there are pharmacies that do have these take backs. And maybe we can as part of this outreach, try to gather a list of those that do and already have it and and applaud those pharmacies for having done this already.

Chair Walter

Legislator Erner.

Legislator Erner

Thank you, Chair Walter, following up with Legislator Nolan about some changes the public may want to have I just have a few typos in the proposed local laws, current language, is this a place where we can make those or recommend to make those?

Chair Walter

I think it's probably best that you just reach out to the sponsors. So that they can make those corrections.

Legislator Erner

Okay, and I have one, that's not a typo, but I would like to bring it to the committee's attention, which is under Section Five collection item B2, it says all drug take back program operators shall notify other potential authorized collectors of the opportunity to serve as an authorized collector. And that seemed

Legislator Maloney

I'll explain some of that when I go there's a legal aspect to this that I was going to give a spiel on the other half of it.

Legislator Erner

Okay, my only concern was that that seems very broad. But that's the end of my comments. Thank you,

Chair Walter

Legislator Uchitelle

Legislator Uchitelle

Yeah, my comment might get answered as well. But I was just curious about the the violations. I see section six says violations pursuant to section 12 of this chapter. But I unless I'm miss reading what that means regarding this chapter, the that's the last page and ends on section 10. So that's I'm just curious about that. Because it sounds like that's what it's going to come down to if the pharmacies are already ignoring it.

Chair Walter

So I'll get you Legislator Maloney in a second, but I just want to say a couple of words of my own, and then I'll go outside the committee. So I'm, I'm a completely supportive of prescription take back. Personally, I've been working for a year and a half on this process or maybe more. I've been keeping up with the when it was Senator Metzger on what the process where we were on the state and then with Senator Hinchey, and including drafting an amendment to their Resolution on a state level so that we could move this along a lot farther. So I have you know, 100% I am behind the idea.

My concerns are that there's a law in place, and it has a process. And I don't know if Dr. Smith can speak to it or we need our attorneys. But right now there's, first of all, the expectation is that it's the producers of the medications that must come up with the plan. There was a lot of pushback from the environmental movement originally when this got put forth because of how these plastics would be disposed of. So the expectation was not on the pharmacies, but on the companies. That said the amendments to the Resolution that are currently at the New York State level in the assembly and in the Senate, are putting it the onus on the pharmacies, if there's not a plan in place, from these companies, but I just I'm concerned about how this interferes or is impacted by the state rules and regulations. I will say that there are only two pharmacies in Ulster County that do it on their own one in Kingston and one in New Paltz.

That the Department of Health, I will say publicly at the New York State level, dragged their feet on this for a very, very long time in implementing it, and even if you read the law very carefully, it gives a ridiculous amount of time for these companies to comply. So again, I'm just and maybe legislative Maloney, as I'm sure has plenty to say on this. But in terms of the legality of this, when there's a there's a process in place, there's a current review happening. And again, the legality with the expectation is that it's the companies that produce these medications must come up with the plan. Anyone else on the committee have comments? Okay, Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

Okay. And maybe me and Laura planned on giving a dual opening, and I didn't get kicked to me. So I was going to talk about the legal aspect. You mentioned the state, the state enacted, you know about 18 or 19. They're drug take back. And it's really unfortunately not worth the paper that it was written on. Because they gave choices basically, they said every pharmacy in the state has to have a drug take back plan. And then they listed things that would appease this law. One of the things was an envelope that you can pay \$2 for at the pharmacy, which no one's going to do. And and and you do it every time you want to do it, and then you mail it in. And every virtually every pharmacy did not know there was one in New Paltz.

I knew there was one pharmacy in Kingston one of the big might be one of the big box stores that has a pharmacy is actually actually has their their drug take back. So but every other pharmacy has chosen to choose that option of this envelope that no one even knows anything about. So that's where that's why what what Legislator Erner was saying was some of the language seems confusing, even Legislator, Uchitelle brought up some things. I was gonna say that tonight, that we had to basically portion out certain parts of the state, but we had to use a lot of the state language so as to build upon it, I had several conversations with a Department of Health, a lawyer up in Albany, making sure we were just building upon and not violating any aspect of that.

One of the reasons some of this gets so wordy, is because in that state law, I believe the intent behind it was they don't want to we don't want to be the cause of rising drug costs. So if we make a pharmacy, spend money, they're going to pass it along by charging more for drugs, I think is the theory. So part of the state law says if you choose, I mean, I'm using basic, layman's terms, but if you choose to check the box of having a drug take back box, then the money anything you do with your program, you have to charge it to a manufacturer. And the state apparently has the percentage of what Pfizer and all these other big manufacturers do in our state. And then they have to reimburse the pharmacies for the money, it costs them for the drug take back all that state language has been cut and pasted and put into this legislation.

So at times what Phil is finding is a mistake here there and that's why I started out. I don't think any of it's going to be substantive so we can fix it as we go to the public hearing. But if there is going to be a couple of things and me and Laura talked about today, anything you see email us because there was a lot for Chris Ragucci to get in because we were also taking out. I think they didn't refer to it as hospice. But one of the things they were describing in there, I think they were talking about hospice and then the smaller pharmacies, we didn't want to do it to the little apothecaries and and give them a all this hassle, we thought we could do quite a bit of good by just having the big the big ones, they and they're also going to know how to do it because they're doing this in other states and they're doing this in other parts of the state probably. So they're going to they're going to be able to navigate this rather easily.

Like with the plastic bag law, we weren't real worried about Target and Walmart complying their corporations, they all 100% of the of the box stores in the big grocery stores all complied with plastic bags. So we weren't as worried about enforcement with that. And I'd be shocked if there was a Rite Aid and it's easy, there's only 20 of them or whatever. So we're going to be able to go and see who's got a drug drop off box enforcement I didn't think needed to be a real concern up front. If it ends up being, then I think we could we could go and amend it in the long run, I don't think it's going to be I don't think Rite Aid or target or any these places are going to look for that kind of, you know, public scrutiny if they're going to refuse to provide a drug drop off box when the county is telling you you have to.

So I don't know if that answered a lot of the questions. But that's that's what we're dealing with with, we have to the state says if you do it, if you have a drug drop off, you have to do this. So we're just saying yet you do have to have the state made it an option. We're saying you have to do it. But now the state has all this language that you have to follow. So we're just passing it along. It's all there.

Chair Walter

Thank you. Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Nolan

Yeah, I think we're gonna need to stay closely in contact with counsel for this and questions of supersession. One suggestion I would have, and again, not sure that it needs to be done before the public hearing good consideration, I think to say a medication take back or med take back. So if the sponsors would give that some thought. I think it's it's confusing to people what what the term drug means and we might not want to use it for this

Chair Walter

Legislator Erner.

Legislator Erner

Thank you. And Legislator Maloney, thanks for bringing up the part about not burdening the smaller, excuse me, pharmacies. With that in mind, though, it occurs to me that if folks are going to the big chains to drop off their drugs, they might do their shopping there. And they might have otherwise gone to the smaller pharmacy. So maybe want to think about a way of still incentivizing people to continue supporting their neighborhood pharmacy if that's where they choose to, to go.

Chair Walter

Thank you. So again, you know, my concern is also that if some of these plans are under review, right now, at the State Department of Health, it's not quite clear what happens if we come in with some expectation of these organizations that are under review right now to begin. I'd also add that, since the original legislation, there's been in scientific improvement in that there are bags in which people can dispose of their medication safely, it actually and again, Dr. Smith, if you're there can help correct me if I'm wrong, but you put the medication in the bag there Marc's showing it, and it actually destroys it and makes it safe to get rid of.

I know that the amendments at the state level are to include these bags, and potentially even using the opioid settlement money towards this end. But again, I would really want to know, in terms of the legality, since there is that state level and the some of these pharmacies are under review right now with their plans, how this even works for the county to feasibly undermine those efforts. Not because I would want this, you know, I'm looking for this to happen as quickly as possible. But I just, I questioned just sort of how that process works. And I don't know if Dr. Smith, if you're on and you know anything about the our current pharmacies, and where they are in the process.

Dr. Carol Smith

To be honest with you, Legislator, Walter, it's been a bit of time since I actually was involved in this initiative. So I know there were a couple of pharmacies, private one, independent ones that came forward that were willing to participate. There was a grant several years ago that was going to help to subsidize their costs involved in it. And I do know that the Governor, former governor did sign the bill and that it has been sitting in the state DOH waiting for some of these issues to be resolved. So in terms of which ones have I thought Nekos was one of them originally, but I would have to go back and look at that but you know, as far as the big box chains of course, they were the ones that were pushing back with the quote unquote, reason of the added cost and whatever. And I think at one time, the county also proposed perhaps giving these bags and some subsidy toward these bags. But that never really came to pass either. But I do know that it has been stalled and waiting for some clarification on some of these legal issues, including who ultimately is the person or the entity as it were responsible for subsidizing this cost. Is it the manufacturer, and not the Rite Aid or the CVS or Walgreens? So, Yeah, but again, it's been in stalled for now, three years, I think it is. And to tell you the truth, I'm not sure how much you know how far they've progressed in some of these issues legally,

Chair Walter

it'd be helpful if we could find out more about whether the application process has begun by our local pharmacies and when they are in that status if it's true. just because that would help it be a very big difference if they haven't even started their application process versus they're in the middle of it right now. Legislator Petit.

Legislator Petit

Thank you. Just a couple of follow up points. I mean, that those bags, you know, could be great. They're compostable. But I think, you know, those of us in the environmental field, understand that, what do you do when you can compost something is you throw it in the garbage, because it's going to compost in there, eventually, the toxins from these pharmaceuticals are still going to be leaching out, you know, whether you put it into a compost pile, or you put it into the garbage container. And, you know, as far as the opioid lawsuit funding that we have, I mean, that's a substantial amount of money. We have about 33 pharmacies in Ulster County, you know, again, the larger ones under the existing law should have their expenses paid in full by the manufacturers. But these units are \$1,650 each, it's not substantial. And we can certainly get those for under \$7 million. So I still think we should be moving forward with the the public hearing.

Chair Walter

Just to clarify, they there's, it's no longer the case that the chemical reaction removes the impact of those when you put them in the bags. And actually, just to reiterate, the biggest delay in the state level for getting this started was from the environmental group, because they were exceedingly concerned about what was going to happen to these empty plastic containers. So you know, just putting that out there that that is, it's not just taking these products, but then what do you do with the products afterwards? And that's a big part of the the plan. I'm gonna let Legislator Maloney go because he's been waiting patiently Legislator Uchitelle, and then we'll go to you.

Legislator Maloney

Just a couple of quick points. I've also heard environmental concerns. I mean, it's, uh, I'll take your word for it. But that I mean, I'm not sure they've all been answered. And it's not really a to, you know, burying them makes me uncomfortable, especially if they don't end up. You know, if you don't if something's compostable, that doesn't end up in a compost pile doesn't compost correctly. So but the other thing was, it was mentioned that well, the state is working on something, any if the state ever enacts anything, you know, plastic bag was another good example, because the state was was eventually going to do it. I didn't think was a reason for us not to do it. And sometimes they do take forever, and they don't do something. But if the state did something that that always supersedes what we do here. But I think it'd be a positive to have these, and I'm fine with with medication drug does have a different kind of connotation to it I think. I'd be willing to amend that. But this is a public hearing. This is for a public hearing. So this will be a real good opportunity to hear from the private sector, environmentalists, from from different groups and different organizations and people about how they feel about this.

Chair Walter

Thanks. And just again, I want to clarify the state has enacted it and they have begun the process. Unfortunately, the language allows it to be very the the time period they have to come up with a plan, the time period for the plan to be reviewed. All is extensive. So that's why I'm looking for us to know where our pharmacies are with the plan because it could be just to your point Legislator Maloney, it could be tomorrow that we hear this, it's been approved for these pharmacies or it could be five years from now and I think it'd be very useful to know where they are because it has been it is a law. And it did take DOH two years to enact it, but they haven't officially enacted it. They have requested these plans already. So it is it is some level of the process for sure. So that's why I'm just seeking some more. I think we need some clarification as to where they are Legislator Uchitelle

Legislator Uchitelle

Yeah, I realize that we're we're, you know, bringing it forward to a public hearing, which I totally support and will vote in support of tonight. But I do think that for the prior to the public hearing, we should at least address some of the inconsistencies like the like, I totally hear the, although I disagree with the position that a violation is not like a violation of fine is not necessary, I think, I think we should do it. And I think if we think they're going to comply, then all the all the more reason to do it, it'll never come up. But I'd rather I'd rather do it. The fact that it references a section 12, but doesn't include a section 12 isn't something that I'm comfortable bringing forward to the public. So I'll vote for it tonight, rather than make an amendment off the cuff, but I would like I'll follow up with Legislators Petit and Maloney. You know, if you're on board, and we can omit it from the floor at session, to make sure that what goes to the public is one that addresses this. Thank you.

Chair Walter

So I'll just ask if also anyone from the executive's office or Dr. Smith, or, you know, have any input to put to add to this conversation of having a county level local law? No, okay. I couldn't tell Dr. Smith, if you're about to going for the unmute, or whether you're just leaning forward. Okay. Um

Legislator Nolan

maybe I can jump in, I normally would like to see something in a better shape before it goes to public hearing along the lines that Legislator Uchitelle was suggesting, in this case, there may be some public benefit by having a hearing about these medication take back programs, because getting the word out about them is a good thing. And so if the sponsors here, you know, are open to going to a public hearing and having things come up and then some rewrites some potentially substantive rewriting after the public hearing, and they prefer to go that way I can support this for that purpose. I do think it's, it should be in much better shape before we enact it. But I'm not opposed tonight. Although I would also, if somebody thought we should hold it back I, that would, that would be my preference. Um it's not It's not urgent to do it this month. But it it does have a benefit of alerting the public

Chair Walter

Legislator Uchitelle. Oh, is your hand just still up?

Legislator Uchitelle

Sorry. My hand was still up. I trying to get used to this.

Chair Walter

Yeah.

Legislator Uchitelle

Using the tools instead of just shouting out.

Chair Walter

So I will be you know, I agree with Legislator Nolan. I am concerned because there's a lot of missing information. In terms of again, the process that we have going on right now in the state, what would really be involved in this oversight should this law pass? And and I think those elements are important to be included in a local law, but because this is going to go to laws and rules anyway, from the perspective of public health. And since I support this in concept, you know, I, I will support it. But I'll say like, I feel like we have to do our due diligence on this.

Because it is, you know, there is the state process. Which I wish was faster and have already, you know, already been implemented. But I you know, I think it's there's a lot of questions I still have about how this would work and how this works in conjunction. Legislator Lopez,

Legislator Lopez

yeah. What's the urgency in moving forward right now? You know, that I, what everybody has said, is that, yeah, they want to move forward. But they have a number of issues, that it's not ideal at the moment, but why not hold it over for a month? Until we can actually have, you know, some, some substantive answers, you know, to the concerns that we all seem to share?

Chair Walter

Well, I mean, some of you, if want to make that motion and we'll see how the room feels or

Legislator Maloney

Chair, could I just say one quick thing here

Chair Walter

Sure Legislator Maloney

Legislator Maloney

laws and rules if if we can also hold it there. If you pass to public hearing here. I'd be willing to amend the title and enforcement and fix up. All I could that Phil was pointing out I saw what Abe and Phil were talking about the other day. And I was gonna say it. If I was able to say it earlier, there is some issues with the wording I got it back from Chris Ragucci basically right as it went in me and Laura did the whereas and a lot of the resolves. And we left the the legal part to Chris.

After doing all the research and feeling like the approach, we had the approach, right, which was we basically are adding on to the state, we have to add all the state language, I explained everything Chris, he thought it. And then Chris, you know, is working on a million different things, I noticed a couple of things that had to be fixed up. If all three of those boxes aren't checked by laws and rules, I'll be asking to postpone and give us a month to fix up the language. But I'll ask by the time laws and rules rolls around, I will be asking to postpone if we don't, if we I'm happy to change the name, the title I the enforcement I'm happy to add a small amount of enforcement similar to some other policy laws that we have on the books and find that the some of those obvious mistakes with the cutting and pasting from the state as we were taking things out, adding up, you know, making it turn in from state to county with some of the descriptions and then taking certain parts out that were not going to be part of this. There was three different types of pharmacies that were involved in the state legislation. We're only doing one. So there was a lot of cutting and pasting and changing. So give me give me and Laura to laws and rules. Otherwise we'll I'll be I'll be asking for the postponement there to give us a month.

Chair Walter

Are you committed to finding out more to inform us about where this currently actually is?

Legislator Maloney

Yeah, I talked, nobody, sure the council I talked to up in Albany didn't didn't seem to think that that there was going to be an issue. I'll make some I'll make some calls up there. Now, I'm still under the impression that they're still giving the option for this envelope like they're still not mandating. Are you saying Albany is about to mandate this?

Chair Walter

I'm saying what they mandated was that a plan had to be created?

Legislator Maloney

Yes

Chair Walter

That plan, what they have a board that reviews the plan, and then any feedback, and then they have to be implemented. So

Legislator Maloney

Yes, but in that plan, there is one of the things is you have to check one of these boxes, they're allowing the pharmacies of, the pharmacies that a couple, the pharmacists that I know, in my hometown pharmacy, are under the impression that they're already in compliance. And they have chosen to check the envelopes box that's where we come in.

Chair Walter

Right, my understanding of it was it's much more comprehensive than that the expectation, including advertising and other things, it wasn't as simple as that, you could just check a single box. I mean, I, I read it a lot, but I read it a while ago. And it, my recollection was the plan had to be a lot more comprehensive than that.

Legislator Maloney

But with this sec, what we're talking about, they are not going to be they're going to be able to be in compliance of their drug take back plan according to the state and not have a drug take back box, which is where we come in. So even if no matter what happens in the state, I'd say the majority of these large pharmacies are still, and especially hearing that they were the ones that were fighting it to begin with, they are not going to have a medication take backs, take back box.

Chair Walter

I understand

Legislator Maloney

So that doesn't deter me at all that part of it

Chair Walter

I understand, I just add that part of having a box is how you're disposing of it, which is part of the plan. And that's something I would like to understand how that process how that's going to tie into this

Legislator Maloney

I can speak to it, the state.

Chair Walter

Sorry, go ahead, Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Nolan

So another question along the same lines would be what is the timeframe for availability of this, what I would call an in home medication composting bag. Because despite some of the concerns, if you can neutralize the medication at home, and then have it composted. That's, that should be potentially an alternative. If you would give out those bags, I don't know if they cost more than \$2 to create, but if you give out those bags in your pharmacy, I would call that compliance. Um, so it'd be good to have a idea of the timeline of that new technology.

Chair Walter

Those are out. the sheriff has them, the we have them in the county right now. I mean

Legislator Nolan

do we know how much they cost?

Chair Walter

Marc? You know how much they cost?

Deputy Executive Rider

This was a sample I got from NYSAC. I know, did we buy some Dr. Smith? We or we were given some from the state health department.

Dr. Carol Smith

We weren't given some I do believe and I don't, to the best of my recollection. It was minimal. It was almost like that was we were trying to introduce that as an initiative for the public, but we were still behind the concept that these medications could be taken to the pharmacy left into the, given to the pharmacy to be put into a special security type apparatus because there's a chain of custody involved in that. And then there would have to be a destruction of those pharmaceuticals, after it was deposited in this box at the pharmacy. And then there was a cost to that destruction as well. So these were the other elements to that program that led the box pharmacy say, wait a minute, this is going to be a cost to us and how, you know, trying to with their lobbyists or whatever pushed back on it. Nevertheless, it did get signed in. And Legislator Walter's absolutely correct. That the holdup was in the language of the law, which gave as an amount of time for these, Walgreens etc. To come back with a plan. And then the plan would be reviewed. That's where that hold up was to my knowledge in the DOH. So she's right about that, that that was part of the the point that that led to this delay.

Chair Walter

Okay, so is there a motion to postpone or oh, sorry, go ahead, Marc.

Deputy Executive Rider

I'll follow up. I think I can I can get the price if you want the price those bags?

Chair Walter

I mean I know the sheriff had many of them.

Deputy Executive Rider

Right

Chair Walter

He does he brings his van around and then he distributes them. So you know, it is, he's definitely I don't know, Legislator Uchitelle if you want to bring it up in law enforcement, public safety to or let him know. But, you know, that he is he's definitely been distributing those. And they, they are a better way to go.

Dr. Carol Smith

And, you know, if I, I'm sorry, I

Chair Walter

Go ahead

Dr. Carol Smith

If I could just make another statement that, you know, several years ago, I mean, we had a total of 19 of these take back boxes that were put into the sheriff's office as well as other PDS throughout the county. In fact, I think we were the leader in the state at the time with 19 of these boxes, but the argument was that people would feel more comfortable going to a pharmacy when they purchase their medications to bring their medications that were unused back. And that's where the thrust of this law came from. But you know, we were certainly as a county very much on board with getting these take back boxes and and the reports back to us were that they were almost always filled in record time Saugerties, you know, would tell us that they were emptying it you know rather frequently so yeah, but you know, we we've been actually we've Vin Martello has been the point person for our department on this very diligently and really trying to follow up and push it through and was always getting it, it's in, you know, development and whatnot. So the stalling and the delays definitely were coming from the DOH. Yeah. Okay, so with the promise from the Legislator, Maloney and Petit to make revisions prior to laws and rules is Legislator Lopez, do you still want to make a Resolution to postpone it? Or? I mean, you just want to

Legislator Lopez

You know, you know, what, I personally don't feel comfortable, comfortable moving forward with it. Um, you know, we're the Health Committee, and we are, yeah, we've raised concerns as the health committee as the health committee, and I think kicking it to laws and rules, we're not necessarily doing our job, I would like to see the changes that way, I have an opportunity to be satisfied with those changes and an opportunity to vote to move forward to laws and rules. And I just don't think that that yet I've, I don't have a problem with the with public hearing. I voted against very few public hearings. So you know, I just I disagree with the process of it. I just, I'm just uncomfortable moving forward kicking, it to laws and rules, and hoping that the changes that you know, that, that that were brought up, um, and the concerns are addressed by the committee, you know, I would prefer that it came back here first. So, I don't want to make a motion to postpone, I would suggest that we take no action, make those changes, you know, bring it back next month. And then if we're all satisfied with the said changes, then, you know, we can vote as committee and vote to move forward to laws and rules, so.

Chair Walter

Legislator Uchitelle and then Maloney.

Legislator Uchitelle

Yeah, I think this is, even if we move it forward to laws and rules. Well, first of all, Even if we move it forward to laws rules, it's still going to need it because it hasn't passed through this committee in the form that it'll reach the floor, it'll need a floor amendment. So you know, if for whatever reason anyone in this committee didn't feel comfortable with it, you would have an opportunity to say your piece there as well. Not that you couldn't attend laws and rules. But number two, and the reason why I feel comfortable supporting this is I feel, you know, a lot of the changes are, are not necessarily material to health and public and public public health. They're material to the format of the law. And that's exactly what laws and rules is for. So I don't feel uncomfortable. If it was a question of like, you know, what's the something something material to the actual health component, I wouldn't feel comfortable, but I think because most of it is formatting, you know, to Legislator Maloney's point that had been identified already, then I'm comfortable with it. So I would suggest we move forward.

Chair Walter

All right. I feel like the I mean, Legislator Maloney, I think you, the feel of the room

Legislator Maloney

It was, I understand where Legislator Lopez is coming from, if it does, if we aren't going to pass it on, which I'm, which is, I'm okay. It does need to be cleaned up. I prefer to be postponed rather than no action taken. That's all I'll say. But I do agree that it's pretty arbitrary. The things we've talked about changing the gist of getting the public's input, they're going to be getting in giving us input on these drug take back boxes, and what do they think but either way, I'm fine. And but I would ask for a postponement rather than just no action.

Chair Walter

Thank you. I appreciate that, Legislator, Nolan.

Legislator Nolan

I'd like to make a motion to postpone. I think, Legislator, Lopez makes good arguments. And if any member of this committee has strong reservations, and just wants to see what the law is, this is a public health law. So I'm inclined to support that. And so I would make that motion and Legislator Maloney prefers a motion to postpone. I'm happy to do it that way.

Legislator Lopez

And I'll second that.

Chair Walter

Okay. So all in favor of postponement.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Okay, any opposed?

Legislator Petit

opposed

Legislator Uchitelle

I'll vote opposed to postponement. I think it could go to, I think it could go to laws and rules.

Chair Walter

Okay. So it's postponement passes. Look forward to seeing it in new form next month, thank you. And thanks for raising, you know, continuing to raise the awareness on these kinds of things. It's all very important. Okay, next, we have Resolution 140, amending the 2022 Ulster County budget to accept an allocation of child abuse or neglect Prevention and Treatment Act. Motion to discuss. Legislator Nolan, second Legislator Uchitelle. Any discussion? um, I was just going to I have this request from if, if Mike if you don't mind with this Resolution, and the next Resolution just kind of explain the process you know, sort of what this is going towards and you know, anything else you can give us, tell us about this?

Commissioner Iapoce

Sure, what I thought I would do just in anticipation of the meeting and the nature and scope of the inquiries is just read into the meeting some written remarks about this particular Resolution, as well as the other two. I also just wanted to introduce some of my colleagues from DSS who I asked to join the meeting. Amy Borden, who is our contracts paralegal, and Liz Provenza, who is our Director of fiscal and again, just to be able to contribute to responding to your inquiries and to ensure that we're responsive to any concerns you have about some of the protocols and processes being followed. Amy is responsible for ensuring that all of our contracts are done in compliance with the county's contract protocols, procurement protocols. And Liz oversees our fiscal department in connection with ensuring that we're in compliance with all of the Comptroller and financial departments requirements that are in new world with regard to claiming, transacting any payments and everything of that nature. And they're both very involved in preparing our Resolutions and can contribute to the meeting, so I thought it would be helpful to have them here.

So Resolution number 140 is a renewal of \$70,000 of federal funding to improve local response to families and children affected by substance use disorder. This funding is utilized in a contract for a mental health professional with expertise in screening and assessment in the areas of substance abuse and its impact on families. This mental health professional works in tandem with our child protective services and preventive units to screen to facilitate referrals and assist in the development and implementation of plans of safe care for Infants who are born and identified as being affected by substance abuse and experiencing withdrawal symptoms or fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

This is a contract that is 100% supported through this funding with the 0% County share. And basically, this also comes up in Resolution number 141, which is where we have rollover of unspent grant funds from 2021 to the 2022 budget. And what happens in connection with some of our grant funding or some of the funding we received from the state and federal government is because of their fiscal years is, and when the allocations are announced, is that activities that initiated supported by such funding often span two or more calendar years.

Therefore the unspent or unencumbered funds must be amended into the subsequent years county budget. So with particular regard to this particular funding amount from CAPTA CARA, we had on a couple of occasions hired mental health professionals for the purpose of performing the services. And then shortly after entering into contracts with them, they ended up finding other employment. So that's why the funds ended up being unspent. And we were fortunate that with regard to this money, it was not clawed back. So we had the opportunity to continue to search for professionals who we could hire to perform these services. And so this is the purpose for this particular Resolution. And it also appears as a rollover amount in Resolution number 141.

Chair Walter

That's, that's great, very thorough. Does anyone have any further questions on this? I appreciate it. especially as the unexpended funds that was useful to know, since it's the same amount I didn't know, you know, whether there was less services provided in 2021. So I appreciate that. So all in favor of Resolution 140.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Any opposed? Abstentions? Okay, unanimous. Resolution 141, which is associated, which is amending the 2022 budget for the unexpended funds.

Legislator Nolan

I'll move it

Legislator Petit

I'll second

Chair Walter

Second, all right, any discussion? All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Great 142 approving the execution of a contract for 705,188 entered into the county for family of Woodstock.
Motion to discuss

Legislator Petit

I'll move it

Legislator Corcoran

Motion

Chair Walter

Petit second Corcoran, any discussion? Legislator Petit.

Legislator Petit

Thank you. Um, since we're looking at a living wage, I'm going to go there. What kind of backup do we have as to, you know, the salaries or the or the hourly wages that are getting paid? And how many people are involved in this particular contract? It's my understanding that some of these contracts have been held up in DSS because you're also waiting for that information.

Chair Walter

Um, well, I'll clarify what I was the the only information that I was concerned about that that's since been clarified is the timeline. It's this was a project that started in 2020. What I what we understand from Burt, and Johanna, you can correct us if we're wrong is that the 2020-2021 amount is, is a a reimbursable from the state. So we're getting the money back that we expended. And then we have the money to go back and 2022. So this, we have no costs of this, this is all this is all fully reimbursed. And it's just that we spent the money for back in 2020 and 2021. And we're getting that back, as well as getting the money to move continue the program in 2022. Does that does that address your question Legislator Petit or was there something else? I mean, I understand that doesn't speak to the cost of living except for the piece that for 2020 and 2021. Those expenditures occurred before that legislation was even passed. It would only really have relevance going forward in 2022 But I just wanted to explain the time period that was,

Legislator Petit

right. I'm I mean, it's still it's still a contract. And even though it's money being reimbursed to us to the state, by all appearances, it looks like we still owe family of Woodstock 700,005,000 For three contracted years. So I'm not quite sure.

Chair Walter

Just to clarify, we paid them already for 2020-2021. So we're getting that money back. And then we then then it's, and we're getting the money to pay them in 2022. So all of it is that's already been paid for with family. By us it was in our budget, we're just getting the state money now, in order to cover all of that.

Legislator Petit

Okay, in 2022, there'll be how do we verify that staff is getting paid the minimum living wage, and how many employees are actually um helping in this program, because I thought I opened up a Resolutions with backup. But I don't see that

Chair Walter

I also want to clarify that this is a there's a sub sub allocation to Catholic Charities. And the bulk of this money is going to Catholic Charities who's not being sub awarded by DSS but sub sub awarded by family for warming centers. And that's really the majority of this money is for the warming centers, which is a sub sub allocation to Catholic Charities. Just just just to make it all the more confusing for everybody. Sorry, Legislator, Nolan, did you and then I'll go to you, Marc.

Legislator Nolan

Yeah, maybe uh Deputy Executive Rider can address this. If, are we able as a county to, I guess, to set our salaries to set our reimbursement rates? And if we do that at a rate higher than the is, will the state always pay us back for what we do. i We might still be willing to do it. But I'd like to know if we are getting 100% reimbursement if we are changing salaries from what the allocated expected allocation was. And can we go ahead and accept this this way, and then work internally in the county to to increase the salaries as appropriate?

Chair Walter

Which is how we did it for the last contract. Go ahead, Deputy Executive Rider

Deputy Executive Rider

just to answer Legislator Petit's question. I mean, there's a process through the purchasing department for the living wage local law that you all put out. Vendors can request exemptions. I believe there's a requirement for certified payrolls to be submitted via the contract and to purchasing and so that process exists. And, you know, anybody who's signing a contract with us at this point is required to be under that living wage law. You know, for this one, in particular, there's a certain amount of grant funds that we can get reimbursed up to and if if our living wage law increases the amount beyond that, no, the state's not likely to to reimburse us beyond that. But I don't think that we're in that situation here.

Legislator Petit

Okay.

Chair Walter

There's also a question, I don't know, if you or your Johanna would have it now, if not, you know, potentially by Ways and Means it's just this. Since this is using Cares Act funding, and these, the this, these homeless shelters are a continued service as opposed to a one and done does that, you know, are there any issues with allowability for this type of funding for this type of project? Or how is it explained? When it's, you know, it's it's a continued service? It will, it will, it will extend past the grant? And is that allowable with Cares Act?

Legislator Lopez

I believe that was already understood in the application that was submitted to the state, but maybe Commissioner Iapocce can clarify on that, or expand

Chair Walter

And more of how we explain we're going to sustain it after the Cares Act. Thank you.

Commissioner Iapocce

Sure. So to expand on that and create, hopefully clarification, the Code Blue plan that the county submits to OTDA is something that is a standalone plan to be in compliance with Code Blue requirements. So the fact that we include the operation of a warming center in our code blue plan does not trigger any other external requirements that are arrived at from shelters. And this is not specifically emergency solutions grant COVID or cares act COVID Money. Basically what the state has decided to do, starting last year is to funnel the money that they award the county for its code blue plan, through the emergency solutions grant CV lead agency, which happens to the family of Woodstock.

So this money flows to family of Woodstock, but we actually are billed by Catholic Charities for the expenses they incur operating the warming center, which we have paid them for. And then we reimburse ourselves. So we are in our sixth year of the Code Blue plan submission, approval and funding, and they have funded 100% of our plan, expenditures over the last six years, we anticipate that they will continue to be doing so there's no indication that they will not. And basically, what was arrived at in terms of funneling the money, again, through the emergency solutions grant is why this is necessary. And our code blue plan has traditionally been submitted for a specific amount in anticipation of the number of activations we think we will have, we actually submitted a plan for winter 2021 that I believe was at an amount of about 360,000. We only ended up expending 239,000. Because there were fewer activations during winter 2021, which was milder. This year's Code Blue plan was for around I think 332. And we've had more activations, so we're probably going to end up getting billed by Catholic Charities for close to the full plan. So this is just basically how it functions. It's not impacted by any kind of shelter regulations whatsoever.

Chair Walter

Great. Thank you. Any other questions on this?

Legislator Petit

No, I just also like to point out that at the end of the contract, it does have salary and non salary costs, over 440,000 is for salary, and it says 160,000 is for direct assistance to the clients. So it would be nice if that was flipped around. Just saying.

Legislator Nolan

paying someone to take care of the person is a different budgeting category than direct assistance. So direct assistance to the clients would be things in addition to somebody who's helping them. So I think we we do need to have both. And maybe in another meeting we could discuss what goes into each of those but I, taking, paying somebody who is providing care is an important function of this contract, I would say

Chair Walter

So says the doctor

Legislator Nolan

Fair point. And prior nursing assistant

Chair Walter

All right, um all in favor of Resolution 142.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

any opposed? Abstentions? Okay. Resolution 143, authorizing the interim commissioner of the Ulster County Department of Mental Health to enter an inter municipal agreement with New York state mental health to accept COVID funding emergency relief money. A motion to discuss.

Legislator Nolan

So moved

Legislator Corcoran

Moved

Chair Walter

Nolan, second Corcoran. Any questions or comments on this one? Legislator Erner.

Legislator Erner

Just quick is the is Ms. McDonald? Are you still the interim Commissioner? Haven't we officially made you the commissioner?

Tara McDonald

No.

Chair Walter

[laughter] Alright, for further discussion. Okay. Any other? All right. All in favor of Resolution 143?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Walter

Any opposed? Abstained? Okay, so it's unanimous. Resolution 143 approving the execution of a contract amendment for 185,000 entered into the county for Hudson Valley National Center for veteran reintegration. Motion to discuss. Petit. Second.

Legislator Nolan

Second

Chair Walter

Nolan. Any discussion? All right, seeing none all in favor? Oh, sorry. was there a hand?

Legislator Petit

Yes, we do have the director from Veteran Services is here. Could we hear from him a little bit more about the project. I turned off my face

Chair Walter

Well, I think we heard about it last month with a peer to peer. It's, it's

Mark Cozzupoli

it is

Chair Walter

the same peer to peer. Right?

Mark Cozzupoli

It is the same peer to peer program, we did finally receive the full amount of funding that the grant provides from the state. So this is a homerun.

Chair Walter

Super. All right. All in favor Resolution 144.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Opposed? Abstained? Okay. Resolution number 145, amending the 2022 Ulster County budget to reflect additional funding from New York State Department of Health for COVID-19 enhanced detection

Legislator Nolan

Move it

Chair Walter

Motion to discuss, Nolan. second. Someone second

Legislator Erner

Second

Chair Walter

Erner. Any discussion on this? Marc, did we we confirm? Did you confirm that it is not related to 75 from last month?

Deputy Executive Rider

Correct. So this is just the 1 million restricted. It is for the Accucare contract, just back up because there's some Legislators who weren't on this committee or when we first got the COVID ELC grant. It was there was a million dollars that was in the restricted funds that we weren't allowed to touch until a later date. They've now released that restricted million dollars. And so this for the most part will go towards our our temp nursing, which we still have two or three that do contact tracing and everything else on a day to day basis. So this is not related to the schools.

Chair Walter

All right. Thank you all in favor of Resolution145.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Opposed? abstentions? Okay. 146 approving an execution of a contract for 105,000 entered into the county for family home health care Office of Aging motion to discuss Corcoran second, Uchitelle any discussion on this Legislator Petit and then Erner.

Legislator Petit

Thank you. This was held over from last month because there was some questions about actually hiring the two people providing the service rather than pay through an organization that is less than supportive of the residents of Ulster County.

Dr. Carol Smith

No

Chair Walter

No, no this is a different one.

Dr. Carol Smith

sorry that's incorrect

Legislator Petit

okay.

Chair Walter

Yes, we passed that one. This is

Legislator Petit

we did get that one through?

Chair Walter

Yeah. Those were [inaudible] in home health care aides. These are personal care assistants. This is a slightly different job.

Legislator Petit

Okay. I apologize, then.

Chair Walter

No, problem. Legislator Erner. You're good?

Legislator Erner

Oh, no. Just getting unmuted. Thank you.

Chair Walter

I wasn't sure what the [inaudible] meant but

Legislator Erner

oh, that was my my question, though. If Miss Koppenhaver Could you tell us more about the agency that does do this and why we use them and don't do that in house?

Susan Koppenhaver Dir. OFA

Sure, we don't have you'd have to create about 50 different personal care aide positions in the county if you wanted to cover all the positions that we actually need. So we have six I believe, contracts with different licensed agencies, arch care happens to be one of them. We don't do amendments every year for the rest of them because all the rest of them are funded by Medicaid and we follow their Medicaid rates but apparently the New York State Medicaid rate system is about two years behind for whatever reason that is and arch care does not have a Medicaid contract. So we have to do this every year for them, but they're just one of our contracted agencies that supply aids when they have them to our case managed patients and clients in their homes. There are others.

Legislator Erner

Thank you very much.

Susan Koppenhaver Dir. OFA

I hope that helps.

Chair Walter

Great. Any other for 146? All right, all in favor of Resolution 146?

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Opposed? abstentions? All right. Um maybe we could put a motion to block 147 and 148 for the Veterans Cemetery.

Legislator Uchitelle

I'll move to block

Legislator Nolan

So moved

Chair Walter

Uchitelle, second Nolan. all favor the Block.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Walter

Okay, all in favor of Resolution 147 148.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

This is just the the neg dec and the the agreements for the ongoing veteran cemetery in New Paltz.

Mark Cozzupoli

If you, I'd like to give you some back story

Chair Walter

Did you want to say something?

Mark Cozzupoli

Yes, I would like to give you some status and where we're at

Chair Walter

Oh, sure.

Mark Cozzupoli

On the Cemetery expansion if you'd like I after, we had to go through three different archaeological studies. So that's what we've been doing for the past year. And after the third phase, we finally did receive the go ahead from the New York State, historical preservation office and the Indian nations. So we did get the thumbs up, we did did our due diligence. And now we are looking to get we have a schedule set up to where we're hoping to break ground on Memorial Day.

Chair Walter

Wonderful.

Mark Cozzupoli

So that's a I don't think that's out of reach for us so it's apropos to be able to do it on Memorial Day. So we're excited about that. I want to thank all of you for all the support and backing us for all of the different phases of the archaeological project and different monies that have been added to get this going. So, thank you.

Chair Walter

Perfect. I'm gonna just take that vote one more [inaudible] Oh, sorry. Did you have something Legislator Nolan?

Legislator Nolan

It's just that's such wonderful news. I'm so glad to hear it.

Chair Walter

Great. Alright, Legislator Erner. You're on mute.

Legislator Erner

Thank you. I found some, a funny typo on the first page here where they they identified New Paltz as being in Orange County. There's, there's also some that's the engineering firm that did that. There's some also some confusion about an address that I don't think is material at all to it, but just pointing it out. For the record, we should clear that up. There was one other minor correction that I can send along at some point.

Chair Walter

Will you let them Dennis Doyle know?

Legislator Erner

Sure.

Chair Walter

Thank you.

Planning Director Doyle

Yeah, there there are. We found three. So if you find more than three, Phil, let us know. But one is there's a reference in there to Saugerties and that should be obviously New Paltz to the addresses right. But the reference is to Saugerties, there's, there's two typos in addition to that. And we did find the Orange County reference as well. So if you have more, we appreciate it. It is labeled draft and it wouldn't be finalized until the Legislature approves it. We did have a conversation with the with the clerk that the submitter revised to so it's fine to what's on file with the clerk is would be the would be the appropriate one. But they're not material to the determination.

Chair Walter

Thank you. All right, on favor of Resolution 147 and 148.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Opposed? Abstained? Okay. In terms of old business, we had talked about looking at the contracts that we have with Health Alliance to identify if any of these activities could potentially be sourced elsewhere. I'm going to share my screen this was all sent to you from by Jay, or it's in the OneDrive. I assume you all can see the contracts here. So, the first one we have is New York Connects wellness technicians. This is associated with non judgmental individual information and assistance for persons of all ages with disabilities regarding long care services, long term care services. I'll just say that we asked Dr. Smith to be aware of this and prepared to the questions, there are several questions we have. One is are other, are there other organizations that could potentially provide the service or in some of these cases maybe moving some of the service in house? And then the other would be if yes to either of those, then, you know, what could potentially next steps be? So Dr. Smith, you want to start with that first one?

Committee Members

Yes, yep.

Dr. Carol Smith

Well, the first one really is the Office for the Aging Legislator Walter.

Chair Walter

Okay. Sorry

Dr. Carol Smith

Not us. Thanks.

Chair Walter

Okay. So I will defer to the office of the aging

Deputy Executive Contreras

sorry, Legislator Walter. I think Sue might have had to jump

Susan Koppenhaver Dir. OFA

I'm still here.

Deputy Executive Contreras

Oh, you're still there

Susan Koppenhaver Dir. OFA

I'm still here. I figured that would happen.

Chair Walter

Right? Sorry Sue.

Susan Koppenhaver Dir. OFA

it's okay

Chair Walter

So So can you talk about whether this would potentially be can be delivered either again by another organization that you contract with or potentially brought in house.

Susan Koppenhaver Dir. OFA

Well, um, the two people that are currently occupying those positions would either have to be hired directly by the county. That's one possibility. The other possibility is to put it out for RFP again. I don't know if that's due right now. But if somebody else were to do this, they would have to start from ground zero for training. I think I mentioned that before. There's years of resource training and information that these folks have that they're required to go through through New York Connects who funds most of the both of these positions. And they would have to start, whoever got into it, if they were new, would have to start unless they were a New York Connects experts someplace else. So it would sort of set us back. If we had to start from ground zero, we have one full time staff member who's staff and these are the other two, one is full time one is part time.

Chair Walter

Legislator Nolan

Legislator Nolan

would there be difficulties with stabilized provision of services because of that? That is, would the county be able to keep people coming through the training in ways that would allow us to have stable staffing? Or is that a benefit that we get by using this service?

Susan Koppenhaver Dir. OFA

I'm not, I'm not sure what you mean?

Legislator Nolan

Well, when you tell me that there's a kind of a pipeline for the training of these individuals, I imagine that this firm has people applying regularly. And so they train people who might not come and do this for us in Ulster County, if we're doing it, I would be concerned that we would have that continuing influx to be able to cover for transitions when somebody leaves the position. But maybe that's just a wrong impression of mine. So I'm asking if we know about that.

Susan Koppenhaver Dir. OFA

So NY connects is a state run system through NYSOFA, and NYSOFA offers the training. So um, whoever is in this position, whether it's a staff member, or a contracted person, signs up with, you know, signs up for a training, does the trainings, is upgraded, every year does new trainings, if new information is to be had, and they're required. So whoever, again, whoever occupies the position has to go through all of the required trainings, and then keep up, bless you, with whatever they need in the future to you know, keep their skills sharp to keep them current with whatever they have to do. It's it's not something that we would lose the ability to do because that's all through NYSOFA and and all of the OFAs in the state have to do this with their New York Connects staff. So all New York Connects all New York connect staff have to do this, regardless of whether their staff are contracted,

Chair Walter

So can I just

Legislator Nolan

So maybe I can follow up

Chair Walter

Certainly

Legislator Nolan

On the flip side of that, then if that's the case, and the training happens without our having to do it, which is great. Would there be a benefit that you would see either to your office or to the county to take over the the function of hiring these people directly rather than going through a provider

Susan Koppenhaver Dir. OFA

I'm probably the wrong person you want to hear from when we talk about direct hire, I want to have all of my staff be direct hire. But that's my that's the way I like things to be done. And that includes all the aides and everything else that I don't think I'll ever get. But um, as far as this position is concerned, I'd much rather have it to be a direct hire than, than somebody but I'm certainly willing to, to entertain the idea that both of these staff could be direct hires, if they're interested.

Chair Walter

That's a great answer. Thank you. So that's, that's good. I mean, we have time because it's the term ends in 2024. And so this allows us to explore this maybe this is something we consider for the 2023 budget, Johanna's taking notes I could tell, of working with you Sue on converting these to a direct hire, and then we would just, we'd obviously would need to work with legal on our ability to end the contract with Health Alliance, it should we move in that direction.

Susan Koppenhaver Dir. OFA

Well, why would you have to end it if it comes up for an RFP again?

Chair Walter

Well, if we make it as a direct hire won't come up for an RFP, but I'm saying end it because right now they're in a contract that goes till 2024

Susan Koppenhaver Dir. OFA

Right

Chair Walter

at this stage.

Susan Koppenhaver Dir. OFA

Oh, I see what you mean. Okay.

Chair Walter

All right. The next one is more gory.

Susan Koppenhaver Dir. OFA

Thank you all. I'm slipping out. Thanks

Chair Walter

Okay. It's morgue storage and autopsy facilities. I assume I know the answer to this, Dr. Smith. But Is anyone is there anyone else who could do this besides the hospital? No. Okay.

Dr. Carol Smith

There's no other. There's no other morgue facility. There's no other morgue facility with refrigeration capability in Ulster County than the one in Health Alliance on Broadway. And I believe there are a couple of spots that are

available in Health Alliance on the broad on the saint, on the Mary's Avenue campus. But it's all under the Health Alliance umbrella. There is no other facility in Ulster County.

Chair Walter

That seemed obvious. Right. And then we have the OMH pass through for crisis intervention, inclusive of stabilization triage. I guess one of the questions, Tara, is, since we are opening a crisis stabilization center, could we divert this funding to our crisis stabilization center?

Tara McDonald

Um, I think the mechanism whether the funding and program codes would be able to be matched with crisis stabilization is not something that I know right now, because we don't currently have crisis stabilization centers that are licensed that are operating that way. But it's certainly an option. But it is specifically around individuals that appear at the ED. So it's for, it's for folks that are okay, you're here, you're you don't require hospitalization, inpatient hospitalization, but you're here, which means that you need some support. So how about we have a staff member sit down and sort of do an assessment and see how we can get you linked to support. So the hope would be that when the stabilization center is operational, less people will be going to the ED for that particular reason, and more would be going to the crisis stabilization. Because they weren't appropriate for inpatient hospitalization. But for the ones that do end up there. I'm not sure about diverting those funds for them to be supported elsewhere, although there is no inpatient hospitalization. Right, but they do

Chair Walter

Crisis stabilization could possibly transfer. If they needed inpatient, they could probably, maybe get them elsewhere just as easily. Because we don't have it here

Tara McDonald

The distinction for me that I'm right now was that if someone appears to be ED today, and the idea is that they're at an acute level, where inpatient is the safest way to be able to meet their needs, they would remain at the ED until they're able to find a bed. As opposed to the crisis stabilization center, they wouldn't have that ability to do that. So the hope is that folks that truly do need an inpatient stay, would still end up in the ED, get the appropriate assessment, and then have the the, the option of being inpatient in another nearby hospital. But the crisis stabilization center, they wouldn't have the ability to do that they still have to go over to the emergency department.

Chair Walter

I mean, assuming it would have to be more than 24 hours, because they could hold you for 24 hours at the crisis stabilization center

Tara McDonald

could hold you. Right, they could hold you but but again, I'm making, I'm hoping to make the distinction that someone who truly does require the inpatient based on the fact that their acuity is so high, they can't be met safe in the in the community would still have access and the ED would still be the most appropriate place for them to go. It's just that there's there's many individuals that we could meet their needs in different ways. It's just the ED is all that that we had. And the crisis stabilization center will take care of that issue. So I just just a

Chair Walter

Legislator Nolan

Legislator Nolan

I think this is a very helpful conversation, and suggests to me that we look at for this contract, whether we can decrease the amount of funding that is going here. I would but I think that what Ms. McDonald is saying is exactly right, we're going to have to have some facility at the emergency room at the emergency department. So whether it needs to be this level of funding, I don't have you know, I think we should maybe look at offline. And if we can switch the funds so that we're providing them at the site where we think the better care will be provided. But this is I think this will be a bigger conversation than we can do in a committee meeting.

Chair Walter

Luckily, this contract goes till 12/31. So it gives us time to sort of figure it out prior to the renewal. Legislator Petit,

Legislator Petit

thank you. And I just like to say that we do have another hospital in the county and they have taken in patients who are in distress, stabilized them, and then of course, they have to transfer out to mid Hudson regional, but, you know, we shouldn't forget that they're available and would cover the southern part of our county.

Chair Walter

Thank you. Alright, so we're definitely going to need to look at this deeper. I'll just say the right now, and I don't know, Tara, we've told you this, but the idea, the plan was assuming they're there., there're not too many Resolutions next month that we do special time just for mental health with you next month.

Tara McDonald

okay

Chair Walter

If there are too many Resolutions, then we'll make a special meeting next month, we have a special meeting for housing this month. Mental Health, we're gonna have a special either tag it on to our next meeting or have a special meeting for mental health in April, and then I think we'll dig a lot more deeper into these things.

Tara McDonald

That sounds great. Love the opportunity.

Chair Walter

Okay, the next one is the rabies treatment. And is there any other group, organization that could offer these?

Dr. Carol Smith

Well the, excuse me, the situation is that the way it works now is that an individual who's bitten by an animal would need obviously wound care, treatment, tetanus shots in addition to potentially to rabies prophylaxis vaccination and immune globulin. So they would need emergency room care to deal with the wound. And then the contract as it stands now with Health Alliance is that if the individual meets the criteria, in other words, it was

either a wild animal bite, or an animal that could not be contained and followed for 10 days or so to see if they were ill with rabies. Or if it's an animal that was trapped and we could test it for rabies. You know, if this suspicion is strong, that it's rabies, then the hospital calls us and then we go ahead and authorize the treatment for in terms of the rabies vaccination piece of it and the rabies immunoglobulin treatment.

Chair Walter

So does Urgent Care offer this?

Dr. Carol Smith

No, no.

Chair Walter

So they're the only ones who could do it?

Dr. Carol Smith

because you need it on 24/7 basis, Legislator Walter.

Chair Walter

Okay

Dr. Carol Smith

And the problem with urgent cares is that they're open various hours, but you know, at most, maybe eight to eight or whatever. So if someone is, you know, bitten during the night or evening hours, whatever that, you know, they would need 24/7 type of facility that would give them the treatment and potentially be the rabies vaccine, the hospital does, obviously bill the person's insurance for as much as they can regarding the treatment of the ED and whatnot, the balance that is picked up for the rabies vaccination by us if the insurance doesn't cover the amount needed, but it is capped at 3,000 per case, at this point, and the problem really is the access for 24/7 treatment.

Chair Walter

Thank you, Legislator, Nolan.

Legislator Nolan

This is very interesting. I think to Legislator Petit's point. Would Ellenville Regional Hospital be a possible alternative? And that this probably happens very rarely. But could we look at the data on where in Ulster County, this the bites have happened, you know, they might not be Kingston centric type of, of diagnosis. So it might be something where we could think about it for whether we can move it. And I just want to say that if anybody wants to hear the story of my consulting on a case for treating rabies in Nepal,

Chair Walter

Another time perhaps

Legislator Nolan

because [inaudible] in San Francisco, you can ask me after the meeting,

Chair Walter

Right? We've got, we got we're already here on two hours. So no more no Nepal stories today. [laughter]
Legislator Erner.

Legislator Erner

This item says 100%. State on what I'm looking at also is that is that not the case? Dr. Smith,

Dr. Carol Smith

it's it's a grant that we receive. It's not, yeah, the money comes through the state rabies grant program. So yes, we do receive money to get reimbursed for the amount that would be paid. That's a very good point. Thank you.

Chair Walter

Yeah, just just for reference, almost all of these, well, not all, about half of them are flow through money. Our issue was is it's doing business with Health Alliance, not necessarily just restricted to when we're paying for it.

Legislator Erner

Yes, I understand. I have further thoughts about that once we go through the list,

Chair Walter

right. Um, the next one we have is the methadone maintenance treatment program. So are there other organizations that can offer methadone maintenance?

Tara McDonald

There are other organizations that would be able to obtain a license to operate a methadone clinic. It would mean Health Alliance making the decision to voluntarily give up their license or possibly keep their license, but we would we could maybe support another provider in doing the service. Um, but that would be a decision that we would share in tandem with OASAS because they would have to be the, the licensing agency. And so making the decision to have multiple license multiple, a county that has multiple methadone clinics in it when there are counties that don't have any, you know, I don't know how successful that would be. But but that would be the path that we would have to take either Health Alliance would have to give it up and another operator get the license, or we would have to ask for an additional operator.

Chair Walter

Great, so for next month, do you think, you know, will, can we regroup on that on what it would entail to communicate with OASAS our interests of exploring another license in our county?

Tara McDonald

Sure.

Chair Walter

Any other on this? Okay, and radio, radiology services for tuberculosis? Are they the only ones who can offer that?

Dr. Smith

Ah, that's a good question. Probably not, um, in terms of, you know, we do have other radiologic practices in the county. I don't know how the charges would work if you went to a private entity as opposed to going through the hospital. And, I mean, that could be explored. But the answer is there are other radiologists in the county for sure.

Chair Walter

So maybe it'd be useful to know how many of these are actually done. And so we could identify another organization what they, what they would actually charge us if we did contract with them. Okay, um, and then the last one is a one we just recently had office for the aging, she's gone. Um, I don't know if anyone else could speak to this one. But this is disease prevention services. It's \$8,000. I'm not sure if this, do you know, Dr. Smith, what this covers for \$8,000? I mean, I'm see the listing that it's tracking and everything but like, it's not a person. I would imagine. It's not a person's time.

Dr. Carol Smith

What do you the I'm sorry Legislator

Chair Walter

Oh, I could share my screen again. I'm sorry. So this last one is so administrative oversight,

Dr. Carol Smith

Oh, that's Office for the Aging as well.

Chair Walter

Yeah, I know. And I realize she's gone. And that's why I was just checking if you knew or maybe Johanna knew. Because it's it's really it's for only \$8,000 if that's correct. I'm just wondering

Deputy Executive Contreras

is this not the same one that we approved last month because I see it's called Health Alliance works and I thought we we moved to Kingston works one.

Chair Walter

We did and I'm but what's confusing me is the amount Jay or are we confident that that's the right amount? Because that doesn't look like it covers in well, no, that's it. [inaudible] The NY Connects was the two people we did. Sorry, Jay, what?

Deputy Clerk Mahler

I'm always confident until you ask me if I'm confident and then I'm no longer confident. The Kingston works contract, though. What to the deputy executive was for the New York Connects program? This is

Deputy Executive Contreras

Yeah

Deputy Clerk Mahler

This is.

Chair Walter

This is different, but it's an oversight. And it's sort of odd that it's only 8,000. It's like that it's giving some stipend towards someone who's already doing something. But you know what, I'll try to reach out with Sue and try to get a better sense of who's doing how why are we paying them and could we pay maybe this can be an in house administrative oversight thing instead. But we'll reach out to her.

Alright, so we have some homework for Tara and we have some homework for Dr. Smith. Again, being we need to know whether you know the process for OASAS in terms of a second license for methadone treatment, an exploration of you know, breaking out the crisis intervention piece. Then for Dr. Smith in terms of Radiology, how many people this is actually serving so that we have a sense of what, you know, if we were to reach out to someone else, how, what kind of costs would they give us? Exploration of things like rabies intervention and and crisis stabilization? At perhaps the Ellenville Campus? Ellenville hospital, if that makes sense.

And so if we could just regroup on this, to talk about it some more. So the let me just pull up. Now, I know Legislator Erner had sent something around just a briefly ago of other things that he would like to discuss, I guess I would ask with the respect of this being two hours. And people just to having gotten that I only briefly got to look at it myself. Can you, is there a highlight of something right now? Or is there something you can sort of put on the docket that we could either add to our next meeting or have a special meeting? Or just make sure we have the true time? And not when people have been at you know, are tired from a long day and the two hour meeting? So is there anything that you feel is sort of urgent for discussion now? Or could we work on putting some specific things on the next agenda and or a special meeting? What are your thoughts on that Legislator Erner, because again, we haven't had a lot of time to look at it.

Legislator Erner

Certainly Chair Walter Yeah, in general. This can all wait I, I thought I would reserve my comments to the hospital stuff that we were just talking about then. So the whole committee should have an email that I sent early this afternoon, as you said, Chair Walter, and just in terms of hospitals in our county, and I would love to invite Legislator Gavaris to advise us about how they transformed the Ellenville hospital. We, he and I have had a conversation briefly about it. But I see it as a possible way where we can come to some peace, like we don't want to destroy our hospitals in Kingston, of course. And as we're going through and looking well, how can we divest from them, because they're not doing what we need? Like, that's real. That is a tool we can use. But I would be much happier I and I'm sure we all would if we could come to some peace. And I think Legislator Gavaris might have some useful information for us about that. And my understanding. I spoke with Mayor Noble the other day, about the hospitals as well. And so understanding that the Benedictine site is slated to become the hospital, essentially. And so seeing if we can't direct what happens to the Broadway campus more toward what the public needs, somehow or other and the other thing that I that I learned was that the that the hospital is itself, considered a state public benefit corporation. And so I'm not sure what further accountability that gives it to the public, then this committee or we had already known about, but we know of many public entities that we appoint people to and then they go and do their thing. So I'm not really sure but that's what I'll put forth here tonight.

Chair Walter

Thank you. I have to say, I think my preference over Legislato Gavaris, although he'd be welcome to come is we actually invite Steve Kelly, who is the CEO of Ellenville Regional Hospital. We also have a northern hospital.

Some of you may not realize it's very small, and we might want to hear from them as well. But yes, I think I'm sure Steve Kelly'd be very happy to come and talk about what he's doing and what he would like to do. I'm so I'm happy to extend an invitation to him. Maybe because the next meeting we're going to focus on mental health specifically, it might be more like in May, just so that we can give the time to mental health first. But I can guarantee you Steve would love to chat about what he's doing. Legislator Uchitelle were you gonna say the same thing or do you have something else?

Legislator Uchitelle

You took the words out of my mouth. Yeah, I think we should get Stevie Kelly in here. He's great. I've been so impressed every time he speaks to us.

Chair Walter

Okay, yeah. And I will say there is a plan for the Broadway campus. They call the health home. But it's not the same, it originally was going to be this idea where different organizations could all be in one entity, but now, it's different Health Alliance services all in one entity. But I think we could, at the same May meeting, perhaps invite the head of that hospital so that he can share with us what their plans are. And, you know, I think it would be great to have him here and hear, and if we have to have a special meeting about hospitals, you know, we can have that meeting too, so that we can hear what these hospitals are doing. And it'd be nice to see the white of his eyes and hear what he is planning on doing. Legislator Lopez,

Legislator Lopez

Yeah, it may be worth a trip down to the Ellenville hospital. You know,

Chair Walter

Oh, that's a great idea

Legislator Lopez

We did that years ago, you know, he gave a great tour a kind of

Chair Walter

That's terrific. We could get

Legislator Lopez

It gives, it gives you an idea like a of course he's a dynamic guy and a dynamic speaker and

Chair Walter

I love that

Legislator Lopez

And nobody represents that that hospital better than him. But to actually see the transformation that's taken place over the years. It's definitely something that they want to see in person.

Chair Walter

Should we make a May meeting be a field trip to Ellenville? That would be terrific. Jay, can we see if we can figure that out and have our May meeting over in Ellenville? Great idea Legislator Lopez, Dr. Smith?

Dr. Carol Smith

Yeah, I just want to comment they do not have an ICU at Ellenville hospital just for clarity. And they can you know, it's a limited access critical care sort of facility with maybe 20 beds, but no ICU. And if they do have an individual that needs ICU, or higher level of care, they do have to transfer them to another hospital. And it'd be interesting to see which hospitals they do transfer to. I know, in the past, they have transferred to Health Alliance ICU. And whether or not they also transfer out of the county, because certainly, you know, orange regional, which is, I forget what they're called now, but you know, there are other hospitals within driving distance, so to speak, and, and you know, for that kind of transport, but they are very limited in terms of what they can provide in terms of services right now.

Chair Walter

Thank you. We'll look forward to letting him talk about that to. Legislator Uchitelle

Chair Uchitelle

Yeah, I just I want to add that Westchester medical, you know, the Health Alliance campus doesn't have a level one trauma center. So their ICU is limited as well, and involves serious cases getting airlifted which is a very expensive thing, and also involves an extra ambulance ride, which is why I'm glad that we have an EMS conversation picking up steam at the county level. So all of these things become very real when you actually need care. And I'm glad that we're going to be digging deeper on this.

Chair Walter

Absolutely. All right. Well, thanks. Thank you, Legislator Erner for bringing this up. And we will definitely ask and also have time to dig into your your document a little bit more. I know there was mental health there, which we're definitely gonna focus on next month, and a few other things. So with that, I'll take a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Lopez

So moved

Chair Walter

I don't know who did that.

Legislator Petit

Second

Chair Walter

Lopez. Second, Petit. All in favor.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

All right. Thank you. Oh, it's a half hour shorter than last month.

Deputy Executive Contreras

Goodnight