

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

**DATE & TIME:** April 3, 2023 – 5:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chair Uchitelle  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit and Stewart  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Hewitt, Commissioner Iapoce – Department of Social Services; Commissioner Smith & Mr. Gibney – Department of Health; Commissioner MacDonald – Department of Mental Health; Director Koppenhaver – Office for the Aging; Director Doyle – Planning Department; Director Cozzupoli – Veteran Services Agency; Director Dawson – Youth Bureau; Assistant Deputy County Executive Nordstrom – County Executive’s Office; Emily Flynn, Director of Health & Wellness – City of Kingston

Chair Uchitelle called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

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**Motion No. 1:** **Moved to approve the Minutes of March 1, 2023 Regular Meeting**

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

**Discussion:** None

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

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 7

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** **Minutes Approved**

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Chair Uchitelle reminded the members that at last months meeting there was a discussion about extending invitations to the Executive Directors of the Ulster Prevention Council and Family of Woodstock to discuss the programs and services they offer. Because of the length of the agenda and the schedule change to account for the Pesach holiday, there was not enough time to give the organizations the attention they deserve. He stated that an invitation to the May would be extended. He stated that despite the agenda length, there was one piece of time sensitive business at the a=end of the agenda.

Chair Uchitelle advised the members that he would be taking a few Resolutions out of order to accommodate departments that only had one or two matters before the committee.

**Resolutions for the April 18, 2023 Legislative Session:**

**Resolution No. 145 – Confirming Appointment Of Members To The Ulster County Youth Board**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution confirms the appointment of Heaven Torres and Kyle Fallaha to the Youth Board for terms to commence immediately and terminate on 12/31/25

**Motion No. 2:** **Moved Resolution No. 145 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Nolan

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit

**Discussion:**

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

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

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 7

**Votes Against:** 0

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

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**Resolution No. 175** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$13,000.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Family Home Health Care, Inc. – Office For The Aging

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Family Home Health Care, Inc. in the amount of \$13,000 to increase funding for in home personal care assistance services through 3/31/23

**Motion No. 3:** **Moved Resolution No. 175 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Nolan

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Erner

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle recognized OFA Director Koppenhaver for a brief description of the resolution. Director Koppenhaver thanked the Chair for moving her resolution to the beginning of the agenda and explained that the amendment was necessary because more services were provided than were budgeted for. She added that the reduction in the number of people on the wait list was reduced from over 800 to just over 500.

Legislator Petit asked if individuals had to be Medicaid eligible to qualify for OFA programs. Director Koppenhaver responded that OFA does not serve Medicaid recipients. Legislator Erner asked what the starting salary was. Director Koppenhaver responded that the homemaker aides are paid \$18.20/hour, which is more than mot aides in the industry.

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

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

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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Chair Uchitelle advised Youth Bureau Director Dawson that her resolution was moved to the top of the agenda and was unanimously approved. Director Dawson thanked the members and complimented the individuals that were appointed to the Youth Board.

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**Resolution No. 176** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$30,000.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Pitingaro & Doetsch Consulting Engineers, P.C. – Veteran Services Agency

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Pitingaro & Doetsch Consulting Engineers, P.C. in the amount of \$30,000 to expand the scope of services for design, engineering and construction management services related to the Veteran’s Cemetery.

**Motion No. 4:** **Moved Resolution No. 176 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle recognized Veterans Services Director Cozzupoli to give a brief update on the progress at the Veterans Cemetery. Director Cozzupoli explained that the money for the contract amendment is contained in the Capital Project budget, but the contract with the vendor needed amending to pay for the additional service. Chair Uchitelle asked what services the contract covers. Director Cozzupoli responded that the contract is for design but also onsite construction management services. He advised the members that the cemetery was on track for a May opening date. He added that the opening would not be held on Memorial Day to not detract from annual Memorial Day services by all of the community VFWs. He added that the Legislature would be sent invitations for the opening.

Legislator Erner asked if the issues raised by the local community were addressed. Director Cozzupoli responded that he had a follow up meeting with residents to discuss their issues with some very strong lighting that had been installed. He said they redesigned the lighting and all parties are satisfied. He added that the American Flag that will be flown at the cemetery will not be lowered each a=day and therefore requires to be lit 24 hrs. a day

Chair Uchitelle praised the costs savings of the project and asked if there was any other discussion. Hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

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

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**Resolution No. 165** – Amending The 2023 Ulster County Budget To Accept Additional Funding From The New York State Office Of Mental Health For The Dwyer Veteran Peer To Peer Support Program – Department Of Mental Health

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution amends the 2023 Budget to accept funding from the NYS OMH in the amount of \$185,000 for the Dwyer Veteran Peer to Peer Support Pilot Program

**Motion No. 5:** **Moved Resolution No. 165 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle asked Commissioner MacDonald for an overview of the resolution. Commissioner MacDonald advised the members that the budget amendment is a result of state aid letters the department is receiving from the NYS OASAS. She added that the program has been running for two years. Legislator Nolan commented that peer to peer programs have shown a great deal of efficacy and is pleased that funding to continue the program has been received. Commissioner MacDonald added that the county’s providers are very involved on the statewide level and that the work in Ulster County is being used as a model for the statewide rollout. Legislator Stewart echoed Legislator Nolan’s comments.

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

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

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**Resolution No. 97** – Supporting The Re-Introduction Of The National Plan To End Parkinson’s Act And Proclaiming April 2023 As Parkinson’s Awareness Month In Ulster County

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution declares April 2023 as Parkinson’s Awareness Month in Ulster County and supports the reintroduction of The National Plan To End Parkinson’s Act in the 118th Congress

**Motion No. 6:** **Moved Resolution No. 97 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:**

Cahir Uchitelle recognized Legislator Lopez, resolution sponsor. Legislator Lopez thanked the members for signing on as co-sponsors and stated that the resolution calls on the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress to reintroduce the National Plan to End Parkinson’s and declares April Parkinson’s Awareness Month in Ulster County.

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

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

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**Resolution No. 125** – Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 2 Of 2023, A Local Law Designating Affordable Housing As An Ulster County Public Purpose

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution adopts Proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2023

**Motion No. 7:** **Moved Resolution No. 125 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle stated that the public hearing was held last month and many people attending to offer comments and support for the legislation. He advised the members that he would like to offer an amendment that resulted from one of the speakers at the public hearing. He asked the members to consider adding extremely low and very low income housing in addition to low and moderate income housing. He added that he believed that low income implies the inclusion of extremely and very low income, but did not object to the clarification.

Legislator Nolan stated her support for the clarification. Legislator Erner stated that there was a comment offered at the hearing regarding means testing stating that proof of eligibility outside of participation in a federal or state program can be difficult. Legislator Nolan suggested language referring stating a person eligible or deemed to be eligible to clarify.

Planning Director Doyle stated that the eligible language was added after Legislator Uchitelle reached out and that they believed the way it is written is expansive not restrictive.

**Motion No. 8:** **Moved to Amend Proposed Local Law No. 2 Section 2 (C) to read as follows:**

Affordable Housing: shall be generally defined as Housing on which the occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of gross income for housing costs, including utilities for persons or families **deemed to be or eligible to be deemed to be of extremely low, very low, low or moderate income** by any state or federal housing program.

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



Legislator Erner stated his support for the restoration of the amount to that included in last years budget discussions. He added that there was a technical amendment required to indicate which Commissioner specifically is responsible for accounting.

**Motion No. 10:** **Moved to Amend The 5<sup>th</sup> Resolved to add bold text as follows**  
“RESOLVED, the Ulster County Commissioner of **Finance...**”

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

**Discussion:**

Director Doyle thanked the members for the postponement and stated that he believed everyone was on the same page and valued the cooperative environment, especially with millions of dollars at play. Legislator Nolan expressed her support for the resolution, amendment and postponement. Legislator Petit asked if there would be any clarification into the law regarding where the funding is placed. Chair Uchitelle stated that he was hoping that was one of the results of the discussion with the Executive’s Office. He added that he has heard from legislators and others that there is room for clarification and marrying the Legislature’s policy and appropriating powers with the Executive obligation for operations will inform those clarifications.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any other discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the amendment.

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

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any other discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of postponing the Resolution as amended.

**Motion No. 11:** **Moved to POSTPONE Resolution No. 126 As Amended**

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

**Discussion:**

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

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

**Resolution No. 127** – Establishing A Policy To Prioritize Feeding Ulster County Residents Living In Emergency Housing

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution established a policy to prioritize feeding Ulster County residents placed in emergency housing and directs the Purchasing Director to initiate an RFP for the service within 90 days of the Resolution’s adoption.

**Motion No. 12:** **Moved Resolution No. 127 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Nolan

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle stated that this resolution came out of services a number of philanthropic organizations provided during the pandemic to help with some dire circumstances. He added that he began volunteering with Kingston Emergency Food Collaborative who delivered food to any family in need every day of the week. He noticed that many of the meals were delivered to people housed by DSS in emergency shelters/hotels. He stated that private philanthropy can’t be counted on to provide for the county’s residents in need and therefore advanced the legislation. He added that many times emergency accommodations do not have kitchen facilities and distances to food stores can be prohibitive, especially for the lacking transportation.

He explained that the resolution requires an RFP for the service be initiated. Legislator Nolan commented that the term “feeding” has a specific definition, especially in the medical community, and would suggest changing it to prioritizing food security or food stabilization. They also suggested providing the amenities that are lacking in the emergency accommodations such as refrigerators, microwaves or hot plates, and/or providing a shopping card to purchase food.

Chair Uchitelle thanked Legislator Nolan for the comments and stated that he would entertain an amendment to the title to change feeding to meals for as his intention was not to take over the entire nutritional needs of the individual. He added that he has numerous concerns with providing a shopping card including: lack of transportation, walking on unsafe/dangerous roads like Route 28, possibility of creating a benefits cliff issue by adding resources.

Legislator Erner expressed his support for the program. Legislator Stewart stated that a benefit to delivering the meals as opposed to a card is a method to guarantee that people get a nutritionally balanced meal rather than spending the card on unhealthy items. Chair Uchitelle stated that the resolution stipulates that the legislature was a seat on the RFP drafting process. Adding that he wanted to ensure that culturally appropriate food items be a criterion for the food. He advised the members that one of the meals prepared by Kingston Emergency Food Collaborative contained quinoa which many of the recipients were unfamiliar with and refused delivery of.

Legislator Petit stated that she would like the program expanded to boarding houses and seniors. Chair Uchitelle responded that unfortunately those residences do not count as emergency housing and could not be accommodated through this program as currently written. Legislator Nolan stated that they would prefer the program be more expansive than just delivering meals. They added that providing hot-plates which is done in new York City might be an idea.

Legislator Erner stated that if the members wished to go bigger a county emergency housing facility would be able to provide all of the suggested assistance. Chair Uchitelle recognized Commissioner Iapoce to offer any thoughts on the program.

Commissioner Iapoce suggested modeling the program on the meals on Wheels service which provides one meal a day, and be something that is not means tested, and is optional and fully funded by the county. He added that some clients may not be favorable to the meal delivery, and advised the members that all emergency accommodations have mini fridges and microwaves. He stated that the county can pay to have them installed if they are not provided. He stated that if the county was willing to fund the program the one meal a day would definitely help to supplement needs.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any other discussion.

**Motion No. 13:** **Moved to Amend the title to replace “Feeding” with “Meals For”**

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

**Discussion:**

Legislator Nolan stated that they are a non-paid president of an organization that provides emergency housing in the county and based on recent Board of Ethics opinions believed they should recuse from the vote. Chair

Uchitelle asked if there was any other discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the resolution as amended.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Abstention:** Legislator Nolan  
**Votes in Favor:** 6  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED As Amended**

**Resolution No. 134 – Supporting Freedom Of Choice In Relation To COVID-19 Shots**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution expresses opposition to policies that mandate COVID-19 vaccines for individuals by any local, state or federal government and encourages private businesses, institutions of education and religion, medical service providers, and non-government organizations to respect an individuals’ choice regarding vaccination.

**Motion No. 14:** **Moved Resolution No. 134 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle recognized Resolution sponsor Legislator Hewitt. Legislator Hewitt stated that he didn’t want to get into science surrounding vaccinations, he wanted to talk about choice. He added that bid pharma has

made hundreds of billions of dollars with the COVID vaccine while dictating what people do with their bodies.

Legislator Nolan stated that they were troubled by a number of things in the resolution including: addressing only COVID-19 immunizations as a special case, advocacy language in the resolution which they did not feel was relevant in terms of addressing the use of immunizations, and addressing mandates absent of the consideration of public health and medicine. Legislator Petit stated he opposition to mandating immunizations as they do not provide immunity. She added that courts found it illegal for companies to require employees be vaccinated. Legislator Lopez stated that the resolutions doesn't address lawmakers and their part in it. Allowing pharmaceutical companies to line the pockets of lawmakers who create the policies that enable the companies to generate giant profits.

Chair Uchitelle stated his opposition to the legislation. He added that it singles out a single vaccine, adding that the narrative around it has been exploited by people who thrive on misinformation. He stated that throughout the pandemic an option to test was offered as opposed to being vaccinated, which he stated was often more effective than the vaccine because it kept people home when necessary. He commented that there are schools that don't require immunizations, adding that they also have seen resurgences of diseases like polio. He said he found the resolution divisive and emphasized his opposition.

Legislator Stewart had issues with the resolution and stated that public health is within the government's purview. He echoed the Chair's comments on misinformation and expressed his frustration with statements made at session and throughout the past three years and stated his opposition to the resolution.

Commissioner Smith agreed with comments of the Chair regarding misinformation. She added that politics should be taken out of public health and stated that in general vaccination has been the greatest benefit to public health in the last century. The members briefly discussed immunization versus cure.

Legislator Hewitt stated that he did not want the resolution to be divisive and felt it could be improved. Legislator Nolan stated that the resolution should at least include all immunizations, adding that she appreciated the points about profit motive.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any other discussion and stated his readiness to call the question on the resolution.

**Motion No. 15:** **Moved to Postpone Resolution No. 134**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Nolan

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Erner

**Discussion:**

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

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

**Voting Against:** Legislator Uchitelle

**Votes in Favor:** 6

**Votes Against:** 1

**Disposition:** **Resolution POSTPONED**

**Resolution No. 135** – Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution confirms the appointment of Mike Atkin to the Community Services Board for a term to commence immediately and terminate on 12/31/26

**Resolution No. 136** – Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution confirms the appointment of Helen Cano to the Community Services Board for a term to commence immediately and terminate on 12/31/26

**Resolution No. 137** – Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution confirms the appointment of Laura Walzer to the Community Services Board for a term to commence immediately and terminate on 12/31/26

**Resolution No. 138** – Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board’s Mental Health Subcommittee

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution confirms the appointment of Dan Ahouse to the Community Services Board’s Mental Health Subcommittee for a term to commence immediately and terminate on 12/31/25

**Resolution No. 139** – Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board’s Mental Health Subcommittee

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution confirms the appointment of Mike Atkin to the Community Services Board’s Mental Health Subcommittee for a term to commence immediately and terminate on 12/31/26

**Resolution No. 140** – Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board’s Mental Health Subcommittee

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution confirms the appointment of Romero Duffy to the Community Services Board’s Mental Health Subcommittee for a term to commence immediately and terminate on 12/31/23

**Resolution No. 141** – Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board’s Mental Health Subcommittee

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution confirms the appointment of Deborah Franklin to the Community Services Board’s Mental Health Subcommittee for a term to commence immediately and terminate on 12/31/25

**Resolution No. 142** – Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board’s Persons With Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution confirms the appointment of Laura Walzer to the Community Services Board’s Persons With Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee for a term to commence immediately and terminate on 12/31/26

**Resolution No. 143** – Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board’s Substance Abuse Subcommittee

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution confirms the appointment of Helen Cano to the Community Services Board’s Substance Abuse Subcommittee for a term to commence immediately and terminate on 12/31/26

**Resolution No. 144** – Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board’s Substance Abuse Subcommittee

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution confirms the appointment of David McNamara to the Community Services Board’s Substance Abuse Subcommittee for a term to commence immediately and terminate on 12/31/26

Chair Uchitelle advised the members that Resolution Nos. 135 – 144 were confirming appointments to the Community Service Board and/or its subcommittees. He stated that Legislator Nolan would be recusing themselves from three of the Resolutions which will affect those that can be blocked together.

He asked for a motion to Block Resolution Nos. 135, 137 - 142

**Motion No. 16:** **Moved to Block Resolution Nos. 135, 137-142**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Lopez

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Nolan

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of blocking the Resolutions.

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

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 7

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** **Resolution Nos. 135, 137 – 142 BLOCKED**

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the blocked Resolutions.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution Nos. 135, 137 – 142 ADOPTED**

Chair Uchitelle asked for a motion to Block Resolution Nos. 136, 143 & 144

**Motion No. 17:** **Moved to Block Resolution Nos. 136, 143 & 144**

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

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any other discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of blocking the Resolutions.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Abstention:** Legislator Nolan  
**Votes in Favor:** 6  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution Nos. 136, 143 & 144 BLOCKED**

**Discussion:**

Legislator Petit asked if it was a conflict to have individuals from a service provider sit on the board. Commissioner MacDonald advised the members that they had checked with legal and the advice was that providers would not be able to participate in an RFP process but are not conflicted from participating in broader service discussions and from hearing public conversation about the system.

Legislator Nolan stated for the record that they are abstaining for the purposes of employment, clarifying that they are a non-paid member of a board. They added that the recent opinion of the Ethics Board is driving their decision.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any discussion on the Resolutions and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the blocked Resolutions.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Abstention:** Legislator Nolan  
**Votes in Favor:** 6  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution Nos. 136, 143 & 144 ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 157** – Amending The Ulster County 2023 Budget To Allow For The Implementation Of The Plus One Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Program With Funding Provided By The New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation Existing As A Subsidiary of the New York State Housing Finance Agency - Department Of Planning

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution amends the 2023 Budget to accept \$1,750,000.00 in funding from NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) to implement the Plus One ADU Program

**Motion No. 18:** **Moved Resolution No. 157 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle recognized Director Doyle to give a brief background. Director Doyle advised the members that the resolution accepts a grant from the state for a pilot program for building accessory dwelling units for low and moderate income homeowners. He added that they county applied jointly with the City of Kingston and RUPCO. The dwelling units need to remain affordable at or below 80% AMI for the duration the tenant will be in the lease. The members briefly discussed the relationship between this program and the recently adopted housing as a county purpose law.

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

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

**Resolution No. 158** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$1,750,000.00 Entered Into By The County – C – Department of Planning

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves a revenue agreement with Homes and Community Renewal in the amount of \$1,750,000 for the Plus One ADU Program Grant

**Motion No. 19:** **Moved Resolution No. 158 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle stated this was the contract to go along with the funding in the prior resolution. He asked if there was any other discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

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

**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 163** – Amending The 2023 Ulster County Budget To Reflect The Increase In Costs Associated With Forensic Pathology Services Provided By Westchester Medical Center (WMC) And Morgue Storage Services Provided By Health Alliance Hospital

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution amends the 2023 Budget to cover increased expenses for Forensic Pathology and Morgue Storage services by \$106,865

**Motion No. 20:** **Moved Resolution No. 163 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle asked Commissioner Smith to provide a little background on the resolution and update the committee on the challenges the DOH has been experiencing. He added that this issue will likely come up again during budget considerations later in the year. Commissioner Smith explained that the county, and many surrounding counties have been experiencing serious issues with obtaining forensic pathology providers. She added that the county contracted with WMC about six years ago for the services and they have had many staffing issues which resulted in delays. She explained that forensic pathologists are hard to come by and can pretty much demand whatever rates they want. She stated that regrettably, the shortage causes families to wait a week or more to find out the circumstances of their family members death.

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

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Lopez, Nolan, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** Legislators Erner and Petit  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 2  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 164** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Westchester County Health Care Corporation D/B/A Westchester Medical Center HealthAlliance Hospital Mary’s Avenue Campus – Department Of Health

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract with Westchester Medical Center HealthAlliance Hospital Mary’s Avenue Campus for rates anticipated to exceed \$50,000 to provide forensic pathology, histology, postmortem toxicology laboratory testing and morgue services for 5/1/23 – 4/30/24

**Motion No. 21:** **Moved Resolution No. 164 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle stated that the resolution was the contract corresponding to the prior resolution. He asked if there was any other discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Corcoran, Lopez, Nolan, Stewart and Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** Legislators Erner and Petit  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 2  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 166** – Amending The 2023 Ulster County Budget To Accept Additional Funding From The New York State Office Of Mental Health For A 2.5% Cost of Living Adjustment For Eligible Programs And For A Stipend Increase For Supportive Housing Beds – Department Of Mental Health

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution amends the 2023 Budget to accept an additional \$328,953 in funding from the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) for increased funding due to both a 2.5% Cost of Living adjustment for eligible programs, and for a stipend increase for supportive housing beds

**Motion No. 22:** **Moved Resolution No. 166 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle stated that the resolution represented a COLA adjustment and was revenue from the state. He asked if there was any other discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

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

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**Resolution No. 167** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$81,252.00 Entered Into By The County – Gateway Community Industries, Inc. – Department of Mental Health

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment in the amount of \$81,252 to increase NYS OMH funding for supported housing community services, treatment apartment, vocational rehabilitation, comprehensive personalized recovery oriented services with clinic, transformed business model, vocational internship program and transportation

**Motion No. 23:** **Moved Resolution No. 167 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle stated that the contract was 99% state and 1% county funded. He asked if there was any other discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

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

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**Resolution No. 168** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$32,880.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – PEOPLE: Projects to Empower and Organize the Psychiatrically Labeled, Inc. – Department of Mental Health

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment in the amount of \$32,880 with PEOPLE to increase NYS OMH funding for advocacy and support services, and supported housing for psychiatrically labeled individuals

**Motion No. 24:** **Moved Resolution No. 168 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle stated that the contract was 3% county funded. He asked if there was any other discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

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

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**Resolution No. 169** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$49,320.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Rehabilitation Support Services, Inc. – Department of Mental Health

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment in the amount of \$49,320 with Rehabilitation Support Services, Inc. to increase NYS OMH funding for community residential services, supported housing community services, and non-Medicaid care coordination





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

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

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**Resolution No. 173** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Intermunicipal Agreement With The Town Of Saugerties To Provide The Services Of A Domestic Violence Investigator To The Ulster County Family And Child Advocacy Center – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution authorizes the Chair to execute an inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Saugerties to engage the activities of investigators assigned to the County’s Family and Child Advocacy Center in the amount of \$75,000

**Motion No. 29:** **Moved Resolution No. 173 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:**

Chair Uchitelle asked Commissioner Iapoce if there was anything he wanted to add. Commissioner Iapoce advised the members that the agreement is in keeping with the policy in place for the past 29 years, that an IMA is entered into with law enforcement for an officer as part of an investigatory team with a social worker. Legislator Erner asked why the resolution was not being considered in the law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee. Legislative staff explained that the Health, Human Services & Housing Committee has purview over contract with DSS.

Chair Uchitelle asked for clarification on the absence of IMAs with Ellenville and new Paltz as has been the case previously. Commissioner Iapoce responded that conversations are ongoing with those departments on whether they can provide an officer.

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

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

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**Resolution No. 174** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$1,200.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Nicholas Kamen – Department of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment in the amount of \$1,200 with Nicholas Kamen to increase funding for behavioral health clinical services in collaboration with the county’s child protective services unit

**Motion No. 30:** **Moved Resolution No. 174 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Stewart

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit

**Discussion:**

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

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

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 7

**Votes Against:** 0

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

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Chair Uchitelle advised the members that Resolution No. 132 under Forthcoming Resolutions on the Agenda was withdrawn by the sponsor. Under Old Business Chair Uchitelle advised the members that he was no action and considering withdrawing the resolutions as the matter has been not going well in the courts for lower municipal action.

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Chair Uchitelle stated there as one more item on the agenda that came from a suggestion by Legislator Erner. He advised the members that the incident to be discussed occurred in Ellenville when he was the Chair of the Law Enforcement Committee, but the body cam footage was just released, the response involved a mental health call and he was glad to have the opportunity to follow up.

He invited Mental Health Commission MacDonald to update the members on the mobile Mental Health Response team. Commissioner MacDonald advised the members that the county funded a contract to have a dispatcher who was a clinician as part of the mobile mental health team sit alongside and help the 911 dispatchers learn to divert calls for individuals suffering from a behavioral challenge to the mobile mental health team. She stated that it is about the third cycle of contracting with ACCESS who has had an incredibly difficult time finding staff willing to sit in the 911 center. She added that the inconsistent hours a clinician was available did not lend itself to altering the workflow of the dispatchers. She advised the members that the regional rollout of 988 will present opportunities. She added that Dutchess County Health Line take callers from Ulster County, about 40/month, and are successfully linking them to services, including mobile mental health and the mental health offices.

Legislator Erner asked for an explanation of the differences between 911, 988, and 844. She explained 911 is the traditional line to call when assistance is needed, adding that there is a position for a clinician to be there to help dispatchers determine if diversion to mobile mental health is advised. 988 is the National Suicide Hotline, regional call center in Dutchess. The 844 number is directly to mobile mental health who will talk through an issue or decide to go out to the community, but is only available 10 – 10 Monday – Friday, 365 day/year.

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Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any other old or any new business and hearing none;

**Adjournment**

Motion Made By:           Legislator Stewart  
Motion Seconded By:      Legislator Erner

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

**TIME:**                     7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted:   Deputy Clerk Mahler  
Minutes Approved:         May 3, 2023