

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

DATE & TIME: May 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, Nolan, Petit and Stewart
ABSENT: Legislator Lopez
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Hewitt, Commissioner Iapoce – Department of Social Services; Commissioner Smith & Mr. Gibney – Department of Health; Commissioner MacDonald & Katrine Carney – Department of Mental Health; Director Koppenhaver – Office for the Aging; Director Doyle – Planning Department; Director Litwin – Recovery & Resilience; Deputy County Executive Contreras – County Executive’s Office; Executive Director Michael Berg – Family of Woodstock, Inc; Director Baxter – Ulster Prevention Council, Executive Director Macnamara & Alicia S. – Samadhi

Chair Uchitelle called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

Motion No. 1: **MOTION to APPROVE the Minutes of April 3, 2023 Regular Meeting**

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

Discussion:

None. Hearing none, Chair Uchitelle called for a vote to approve the minutes.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Chair Uchitelle advised the members that Executive Director Baxter from the Ulster Prevention Council and Executive Director Berg from Family of Woodstock were in attendance to give brief presentations to the committee.

Executive Director Baxter provided the members with an overview of the Ulster Prevention Council, including the operation and curriculum of school- and community-based prevention programs Too Good For Drugs, Too Good For Violence, Teen Intervene, and The Circle, which support the health and safety of Ulster County youth, with a primary focus on middle and elementary school aged students. Additionally, Director Baxter discussed parent engagement, restorative justice and informational events led by the Ulster Prevention Council, and available grant funding to continue these programs.

Executive Director Berg provided the members with an overview of the meals served to individuals in emergency housing shelters, the work and housing search requirements and sobriety protocols that residents in emergency housing must abide by, a county commitment to increase the per diem for room rentals, recent wage increases for Family of Woodstock employees, the extent to which the organization can enforce cleanliness amongst service-users, and the relationship between the Ulster County Department of Social Services (DSS) and Family of Woodstock.

Legislator Petit clarified with Executive Director Berg that Family of Woodstock pays for housing at a faster rate than DSS.

Executive Director Berg discussed the benefits of rental assistance as opposed to emergency housing, the lack of furniture storage for service-users, existing and upcoming programs to address food insecurity, the support Family of Woodstock could use in funding its homelessness, domestic violence, restorative justice, childcare and adolescent services and criminal justice programs, and the need for equitable spread of services throughout the county.

Chair Uchitelle modified the order of the Resolutions to accommodate departments with time conflicts.

Resolutions for the May 16, 2023 Legislative Session:

Resolution No. 277 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$25,000.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Jewish Family Services Of Ulster County Inc. – Office For The Aging

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment in the amount of \$25,000.00 with Jewish Family Services of Ulster County to extend the term of agreement for enhanced case management services to keep Office for the Aging clients safely in their homes by connecting them with supports and services through June 30, 2024. 100% County.

Motion No. 2: **Moved Resolution No. 277 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Office of the Aging Director Koppenhaver to provide the members with an overview of the case management services this Resolution provides for service-users in need of Medicaid approval.

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, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 273 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$797,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Samadhi Center Inc. – Department of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: Approves the execution of a contract in the amount of \$797,000.00 with Samadhi Center Inc. to operate an outpatient and substance use disorder withdrawal and stabilization services program for a term from January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023.

Motion No. 3: **Moved Resolution No. 273 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Department of Mental Health Commissioner MacDonald to provide the members with an overview of the four comprehensive outpatient service programs this Resolution provides for service-users with substance use disorders to support their recovery or harm reduction. Chair Uchitelle recognized Deputy Executive Contreras to contextualize current and possible funding sources to support and continue this work.

Legislator Petit inquired if this program is different from that which is offered by the Crisis Stabilization Center, and if there are additional certifications to shorten the timeline of Samadhi’s billing capabilities. Chair Uchitelle recognized Samadhi Director McNamara, who clarified that this program is an OASAS outpatient clinic, different from the Samadhi Outreach Center, and that Samadhi is undergoing the credentialing process and are currently billable.

Legislator Erner inquired if Samadhi has any presence at 122 Clinton Avenue, to which Director McNamara answered no. Legislator Ener also asked how people can be connected to this program, and Commissioner MacDonald replied that these services are accessible directly or through county case management.

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, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Abstention: Legislator Nolan
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 288 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$1,500,000.00 Entered Into By The County – RUPCO, Inc. – Department of Planning

Resolution Summary: Approves the execution of a contract in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 with RUPCO for the implementation of an affordable rental upgrade campaign including marketing, eligibility determination, work scope, and contractor management and monitoring from June 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024. 100% County.

Chair Uchitelle reminded the members that the contract implements the program which was adopted by the committee and Legislature the previous month. Director Doyle gave a brief summary of the program highlighting that the unit may not be used as a short term rental.

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, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 275 – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Department Of Health, Bureau Of Immunization – Department Of Health

Resolution Summary: Authorizes the Chair to enter an agreement with NYS DOH Bureau of Immunization in the amount of \$457,380.00 to provide funds to continue the Immunization Action Plan to increase childhood immunization and adult immunization rates through education and public awareness campaigns, for the period April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2028.

Motion No. 6: **Moved Resolution No. 275 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Discussion:

Commissioner Smooth explained that funding is received from the state and is intended to promote vaccination through education. It does not fund the vaccination itself but does partially pay for nursing staff. Legislator Hewitt asked who the main educational body of the campaign will be. Dr. Smith responded that the Department of health will be. The members briefly discussed the move away from vaccine clinics to doctor office and pharmacy based services.

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, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 276 – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract And Any Amendments To The Contract With The New York State Department Of Health To Continue The WIC (Women, Infants And Children) Program – Department Of Health

Resolution Summary: Authorizes the Chair to enter an agreement with NYS DOH in the amount of \$4,350,500.00 to continue the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program for pregnant women, breastfeeding women, postpartum women, infants and children who are receiving supplemental foods or food instruments under the Program, and the breastfed infants of participant breastfeeding women, for the period October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2028.

Motion No. 7: **Moved Resolution No. 276 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Stewart

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion:

Commissioner Smith briefly described the program history. 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, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 217 – Amending Capital Project No. 598 – Crisis Stabilization Center – Amending The 2023 Capital Fund Budget - Closing Costs For The Purchase Of 368 Broadway - ARPA - Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

Resolution Summary: Amends Capital Project 598 – Crisis Stabilization Center to increase the \$2,000,000.00 allocated amount for purchase of the property and closing costs by \$56,442.18.

Motion No. 8: **Moved Resolution No. 217 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion:

Director Litwin explained that the Resolution was reviewed by the ARPA Committee and was passed by them. He explained that the resolution reflects the additional amount necessary for closing costs to complete the purchase of the building. Chair Uchitelle asked if the additional money is coming from ARPA funds. Director Litwin confirmed yes. The members briefly discussed who would be responsible for the maintenance, renovation, etc. moving forward. Deputy County Executive Contreras responded that once ARPA funds are expended the operation of the Crisis Stabilization Center will be housed in the Department of Public Works.

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, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 274 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$74,985.00 Entered Into By The County – Ellenville Regional Hospital – Department of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: Approves the execution of a contract in the amount of \$74,985.00 with Ellenville Regional Hospital to create a collaborative workgroup to implement harm reduction and education program as part of the Opioid Spike Response Protocol for a term from January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023. 100% Other.

Motion No. 9: **Moved Resolution No. 274 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Discussion:

Commissioner MacDonald advised the members that the contract is for outreach and stated that Ellenville Regional Hospital is the leader in rural health surrounding opioid use disorder. Legislator Stewart stated that he appreciated the contract with Ellenville Hospital to ensure services are spread throughout the 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, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 270 – Confirming Reappointment Of Members To The Community Services Board’s Persons With Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee

Resolution Summary: Confirms the reappointment of Jeanette DeBeaumont, Anne Flanagan Kelly and Maureen Sheehan to the Community Service’s Board Subcommittee on People with Developmental Disabilities for terms to expire on December 31, 2026.

Motion No. 10: **Moved Resolution No. 270 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Discussion:

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

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 271 – Confirming Appointment Of Member To The Community Services Board’s Substance Abuse Subcommittee

Resolution Summary: Confirms the appointment of Lisa McDonald to the Community Service’s Board Subcommittee on Substance Abuse for a term to expire on December 31, 2026.

Motion No. 11: **Moved Resolution No. 271 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

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, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 222 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Abilities First, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 223 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Advanced Therapy, P.T., O.T., S.L.P., Psychologist, Registered Professional Nurse (RN), PLLC – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 224 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Caterina Agnello – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 225 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – AM Speech Services PLLC– Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 226 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – NYARC, Inc. DBA The ARC Greater Hudson Valley – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 227 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – NYSARC, Inc. DBA The ARC Mid-Hudson – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 228 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Renata Basile Crimi – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 229 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Best Friends Services Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 230 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Claudia Calaceto – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 231 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Center For Spectrum Services – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 232 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Communicate To Connect, Inc – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 233 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Caryn Cornielle – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 234 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Sarah Corrigan – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 235 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Kristen Culjak – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 236 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Michelle Eckert – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 237 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Kelly Ann Ferrara – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 238 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Frank M. Volz, Jr., PhD DBA Dr. Frank M. Volz, Jr. And Associates – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 239 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Gelsomino And Davis Speech, Occupational, Physical Therapy Services, PLLC – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 240 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Alexandra Hafner – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 241 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Inspire: Orange County Cerebral Palsy Association, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 242 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Katskill Kids PT, SLP, Psychology, RN, OT & LMSW, PLLC – Department Of Social Services

- Resolution No. 243** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Laura Kochon – Department Of Social Services
- Resolution No. 244** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Therese Lane – Department Of Social Services
- Resolution No. 245** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Learning Together Inc. – Department Of Social Services
- Resolution No. 246** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Liberty Resources Psychology, Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy, PLLC – Department Of Social Services
- Resolution No. 247** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – LK Therapy PT, OT And SLP, PLLC – Department Of Social Services
- Resolution No. 248** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Mid-Hudson Valley Early Education Center – Department Of Social Services
- Resolution No. 249** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Carolyn M Machonis, O.T., PLLC DBA Milestones For Munchkins – Department Of Social Services
- Resolution No. 250** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Moving Mountains Occupational Therapy, P.C. – Department Of Social Services
- Resolution No. 251** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Joanna Nadoolman – Department Of Social Services
- Resolution No. 252** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Doreen O'Keeffe – Department Of Social Services
- Resolution No. 253** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Family And Educational Consultants, LLC DBA Partnership For Education – Department Of Social Services
- Resolution No. 254** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Jennifer Prue – Department Of Social Services
- Resolution No. 255** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Gina Pugliese – Department Of Social Services
- Resolution No. 256** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Allyson Shannon – Department Of Social Services
- Resolution No. 257** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Judy Shapiro – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 258 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Sharon Jolly & Associates Audiology, Speech Language Pathology, Psychology, LMSW, PT & OT, LLC – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 259 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – SLP Communication Foundations, PLLC – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 260 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Jesse Smith – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 261 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Social Circle Speech And Language, LLC – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 262 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Therapy Partners In OT, PT And Speech-Language Pathology, PLLC DBA Thrive By 5 OT, PT, And Speech-Language Pathology – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 263 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Mary M. Wilsey – Department Of Social Services

Resolution No. 264 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Wraparound Services Of The Hudson Valley, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Nos. 222 – 264 Summary: Thes Resolutions adopt contracts with various vendors for Rates Anticipated to exceed \$50,000 to provide preschool education services to children with disabilities through programs approved under Section 4410 of the NYS Education Law and in compliance with Part 200 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Chair Uchitelle advised the members that Resolution Nos. 222 - 264 are all for contracts for preschool education services which may include speech language pathology, audiological services, interpreting services, psychological services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, counseling services, etc.

Chair Uchitelle asked for a motion to Block Resolution Nos. 222 – 264.

Motion No. 12: **Moved to BLOCK Resolution Nos. 222 - 264**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

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, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: RESOLUTION NOS. 222 - 264 BLOCKED

Discussion:

Commissioner Iapoce introduced Deputy Commissioner Wood how formerly served as the director of early intervention services in the county. Deputy Commissioner Wood gave the members a brief overview of the program and the county's responsibility to provide services to preschool age children. Legislator Erner mentioned that an Appendix A for programs specifics, but in each case the document was blank and asked if copies could be provided. The members briefly discussed the term of the contract and the relation to payments, and how many vendors were returning or new. Legislator Petit asked if these services were only for DSS recipients. Deputy Commissioner Wood responded that children in need of services are sometime identified through other DSS service, the program is for all preschool age children.

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

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: RESOLUTION NOS. 222 - 264 ADOPTED

Resolution No. 265 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$72,500.00 Entered Into By The County – James McGuinness & Associates, Inc. – Department of Social Services

Resolution Summary: Approves the execution of a contract amendment in the amount of \$72,000.00 with James McGuinness & Associates to extend the term of agreement for software support for the Preschool Special Education Services program, including processing of Medicaid claims. New Contract Amount: \$238,250.00. 59.5% State, 40.5% County

Motion No. 13: Moved Resolution No. 265 FOR DISCUSSION

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

Discussion:

Deputy Commissioner Wood briefly explained that the software supports the preschool education program, including data collection and billing.

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

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION NOS. 266 - 269 ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 272 – Appointing Member To The Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc., Board Of Directors

Resolution Summary: Confirms the appointment of Legislator Gina Hansut to the UC Community Action Committee, Inc. Board of Directors for a term to expire December 31, 2023 due to Legislator Petit’s resignation.

Motion No. 15: **Moved Resolution No. 272 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle advised the members that the resolution was appoint a Legislator to the board. He asked if there was any discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 126 – Dedicating Funding To Housing Justice

Resolution Summary: Dedicates \$20 million to the Housing Justice Assigned Fund from 2022 unassigned fund balance.

Motion No. 16: **Moved Resolution No. 126 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle stated the County Executive’s recent announcement about the creation of a Housing Action Fund was exciting and that he has asked for a presentation on the fund to be made at a special meeting of the committee. He asked for postponement of the resolution to allow the Executive to describe her proposal. Legislator Petit expressed her frustration with the delay in adopting Resolution No. 126 and policies to start addressing the housing crisis. Deputy County Executive Contreras assured the members that the Executive’s Office is working on solutions and acknowledged the members frustration.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any other discussion and hearing none asked for a motion to postpone the Resolution.

Motion No. 17: **Moved to POSTPONE Resolution No. 126**

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

Discussion:

Legislator Petit stated that she was opposed to postponement. 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, Nolan, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: Legislator Petit
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 1
Disposition: **RESOLUUTION POSTPONED**

The members briefly discussed the details of the special meeting.

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

Resolution Summary: Establishes a policy requiring the issuance of a Request For Proposal (RFP) on behalf of Ulster County to seek a vendor who shall assess need and prepare and deliver meals daily to all residents placed in Emergency Housing hotels and motels within Ulster County.

Motion No. 18: **Moved Resolution No. 127 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle commented on the complexity of the emergency housing situation. He added that he has had conversations with the county executive’s team since initially introducing the resolution and that there are some legitimate questions about the logistics of administering this program. He added that the matter became more complicated with one of the largest hotel venues being deemed unsuitable.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any other discussion and hearing none asked for a motion to postpone the Resolution.

Motion No. 19: **Moved to Postpone Resolution No. 127**

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

Discussion:

Legislator Petit expressed her frustration with postponement. Chair Uchitelle responded that he understood and appreciated her frustration but wanted to allow time for the County Executive's review of the emergency housing situation to move forward before initiating a new program. He added that he would like the conversation to remain in the Health, Human Services and Housing Committee as opposed to Ways and means where the measure would likely stall. Deputy County Executive Contreras acknowledged the members' frustration and stated that emergency feeding will be part of the assessment. Legislator Nolan agreed with postponing the resolution as more information is gathered. They complemented Chair Uchitelle with requesting postponement so the conversation could remain in the committee. The members and Deputy County Executive Contreras briefly discussed the possibility of members visiting some emergency housing locations.

Commissioner Smith briefly discussed the Department of Health's role in permitting temporary residences and advised the members that there are 98 permitted residences in Ulster County. She added that of the 98 facilities 25 are currently housing clients under emergency housing. Legislator Petit reiterated her frustration and stated that there is a clear immediate need, adding that people can't eat retroactively. She referred to a recent call from Legislator Erner recalling an account of a family that did not have shelter and had not eaten in three days.

Legislator Nolan commented that when they hear of a family in that circumstance their question and concern is how to connect them to services that currently exist and to identify how and where they were unable to make that connection. Chair Uchitelle pointed out that the policy being advanced in the resolution would not capture that family. Commissioner Iapoce agreed with Legislator Nolan that services for a family in the situation described currently exist. He added that there are often challenges when navigating around individual preferences and choices when attempting to engage and secure emergency shelter or other services. He stated that the DSS does not place individuals in facilities that are not permitted. He continued by saying that recent events have risen awareness and a recognition that emergency housing and transitional housing is a collective responsibility. He stated his desire for each municipality to have a community shelter and transitional housing facility. He also offered that the system was not designed to permanently house people, which is one of the reasons the county has reached the stressor point. He advised the members that pre COVID people were housed for 3 weeks to 45 days and then transitioned to a permanent affordable housing unit. The lack of available affordable housing has created periods of extended stays in emergency facilities. He closed his comments by speaking to the dedication of the DSS staff who deal with crisis situation daily.

Legislator Petit commented that she hoped the closing of the one emergency housing facility serve as a warning to others. She commented to Commissioner Iapoce that he and his office are not the system and apologized for their frustration with the situation and the system. Deputy County Executive Contreras echoed Commissioner Iapoce's comments and stated the importance of not being reactive. Commissioner Smith emphasized that the temporary facilities were not built for the long term nature of placements, and have seen increased wear and tear. Legislator Nolan asked if there was something that could be done to encourage the permitted facilities that are not currently housing people to begin doing so. The members briefly discussed outreach, attempts and challenges with the facilities.

Legislator Erner expressed his frustration and anger at the situation and that those who are in need of the services are not in the room debating the quality and accessibility. He added that he felt hotels were given too much leeway and leverage to refuse to place individuals. The members and Commissioner Iapoce discussed interactions with hotels and clients and the many challenges that both can pose.

Chair Uchitelle stated that they have deviated from the resolution and the motion on the table. He added that in light of recent events he knew the subject would come up at some point in the evening. He added he was glad the committee was having the conversation and thanked everyone for their comments.

He asked if there was any other discussion on the motion to postpone and hearing none called for a vote in favor of postponing the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Nolan, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: Legislators Erner & Petit
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 2
Disposition: **RESOLUTION POSTPONED**

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

Resolution Summary: This is a Memorializing Resolution supporting individual choice in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine(s).

Motion No. 19: **Moved Resolution No. 134 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Legislator Hewitt, sponsor of the resolution to discuss amendments. Legislator Hewitt advised the members there were two amendments before them which were drafted in an attempt to remove some contentious language and components. He highlighted the large profits pharmaceutical companies made during the COVID pandemic and the change in guidance on the type of vaccine recommended by the CDC. Legislator Nolan stated that they agreed with many of Legislator Hewitt’s points, but did not see them reflected in the text of the resolution. They added that the resolution as written does seem to paint vaccinations in a bad light and they did not support that stance.

The members briefly discussed the public perception of the intent and purpose of the vaccination as it related to immunity verses survivability. They members continued the discussion of past mandates and effects on employment as well as effects on immunocompromised individuals, children and the elderly. Commissioner Smith commented that public health officials have an obligation to protect as many of their constituents as possible, adding that the COVID pandemic was the first experienced in 100 years. She stated that vaccines protect the individual as well as the vulnerable, the very young, the older the folks with immunocompromised comorbidities, etc. Chair Uchitelle state that he was opposed to the resolution.

The members briefly discussed the efficacy of the most commonly administered vaccines during the COVID pandemic and their associated side effects and risks.

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 & Petit
Voting Against: Legislators Erner, Nolan, Stewart and Uchitelle

Votes in Favor: 2
Votes Against: 4
Disposition: **Resolution DEFEATED**

Chair Uchitelle thanked everyone for hanging on through the long meeting and hard conversations, and for the civility of the conversations. He asked if there was any old or new business and hearing none;

Adjournment

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

No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 7:48 PM

Prepared with assistance by: Legislative Staff Villalba
Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk Mahler
Minutes Approved: May 31, 2023

- Meals not guaranteed especially breakfast



The program provides 3 meals a day. Breakfast is not hot, but what is available is pictured above including bagels, donuts, muffins, fruit, cereal, and pastries. Saint Joseph's church delivers sandwiches, french toast, and other warm meals to Darmstadt for breakfast, 5 days a week, between 7am-8am. The program does not cook breakfast foods. The remaining meals are served buffet style and a sample is pictured below. The amount of meals and variation in choices is substantial. The County Legislature or representatives of DSS, and/or County Leadership are welcome to come at noon or dinner time to see what is available if the pictures are not sufficient:



- 7 am wake-up for breathalyzer - When the Darmstadt shelter opened as the Kingston Shelter for the Homeless in 1985, it was determined that residents would have to get up no later than 8am to be breathalyzed and take whatever meds they needed. This was set up in that way as a result of the requirement of DSS that each homeless individual had to do housing and employment searches in

order to maintain their public assistance. That requirement continued up until the pandemic. The time frame continues because of the shift in staffing so that the overnight staff can complete the meds before they leave. Breakfast is available any time during the morning and clients can return to their rooms after being breathalyzed.

- Cleanliness expected from residents, not enforced, place is therefore unsanitary - While we expect residents to maintain cleanliness, we have no leverage to enforce it. It is totally at the discretion of the client. It should also be noted that the Darmstadt Shelter was designed to be a short-term emergency shelter. However, as a result of the lack of affordable housing, the length of stay has significantly increased over the last 4 years. In fact, from 2019 to 2022, the length of stay increased 167% from 33 days to 55 days. Unfortunately, people who are homeless are carrying around all their worldly possessions. There is no storage and most would not opt to store it for fear that it would be lost. They are also very protective of their items and strongly object to anybody being around it or looking through it. The rooms are tight, and with all of the residents' possessions in them, it is messy and often not as clean as it should be. There has also been a serious issue around resident cleanliness. Staff do everything they can to ensure clients shower on a regular basis. If someone doesn't have clothes, staff find them clothes. Clients are expected to do chores. However, staff have no way to enforce that requirement. Clients have been evicted for not bathing. It has to be understood that Darmstadt is a congregate facility. Therefore, people are staying in rooms for long periods of time with strangers, and a level of health standards must be met even though there is very little leverage staff have to force clients to maintain cleanliness.
- DSS-mandated service plans not completed - We do not understand what this is about. We are required to fill out what DSS calls an ILP form within 10 days of a client's admission and this is always done. We also work closely with DSS staff to ensure that clients are meeting their obligations, receiving the services that they need, and are in good standing with DSS concerning public assistance issues.

I also need to bring up the fact that the Darmstadt Shelter and Family Inn have approximately \$109,484 deficit in the 2023 budget. Because the reimbursement rate to the County for homeless families is 100%, and the County share of the Darmstadt's per diem for single adults is 71%, the County has always weighted the per diem for Family Inn at a higher rate than Darmstadt. Darmstadt itself would have a deficit in 2023 of \$478,856. In previous years, the combined Darmstadt and Family Inn income came close to covering the combined deficit. However, there was no adjustment in the per diem rate in 2022-23 and the net result is that even with a surplus of per diem revenue over expenses for Family Inn of \$369,372, the net for the combined programs is a shortfall of \$109,484. This estimate does not include any raises in salaries for 2023. It should also be noted that currently, the County is paying Roadway \$130 a night for rooms for single individuals with no food, and no services. That is over \$7 more than Darmstadt receives for all of the support that it provides. The per diem must be adjusted.



SUMMARY OF SERVICES PROVIDED IN 2022

Emergency Shelter and Transitional Living

- **Darmstadt**, a 19-bed shelter for homeless single individuals, primarily in recovery, provided emergency housing to **47 men and 66 women**. Due to the lack of available housing, we were only able to help **32** of the residents find permanent housing.
- **Family Inn**, a 27-bed shelter for homeless families, provided emergency housing to **21 families**, including **21 women, 8 men and 47 children**. The program was only able to help **6** families including **25** individuals find permanent housing.
- **Family House**, a 14-bed runaway and homeless youth shelter, provided emergency housing to **48 adolescents** for **52 stays**. **43** of the youth were helped to return to safe housing.
- **Washbourne House**, a 17-bed domestic violence shelter, provided emergency housing to **43 women and 25 children**. The program was able to move **18 women and children** into stable housing in 2022.
- **MidWay**, two 6-bed Transitional Living Programs for older homeless adolescents, provided transitional living support and housing for **17 adolescents and 1 infant and 1 toddler**.

Family Services

- **Child Care Connections**, the Child Care Resource and Referral agency for Ulster, Columbia and Greene counties, provided training, technical assistance, registration, and licensing to **666 Child Care programs** in the three-county region and facilitated the reimbursement of \$310,014 in the NYS Child and Adult Care Food Program funding to **35 providers**. The program assisted **413 families** to locate quality care. Finally, **170** programs were approved to receive Stabilization Grant Funding in the amount of \$6,974,117 in 2022.
- **The Day Care Subsidy** program in Columbia County provided \$505,496.23 of subsidy funding to help **116** eligible families providing subsidies for **166 children**.
- **Domestic Violence Non-Residential Services** provided one-on-one counseling to **112 individuals**; court advocacy to **52 individuals**; case management services to **69 individuals**; and domestic violence education to **43 individuals** – many of them as referrals from the Department of Social Services.
- **Supervised Visitation** scheduled **261** visits of which **213** were actually held in 2022. In total, the program served **72** families providing services to **55** children.

Adult Services

- **Health Home Program** provided enrollment and care coordination for **65 individuals** with multiple complex health challenges to receive comprehensive health care services. Of those, **28** were designated as requiring more intensive services and were categorized as requiring Health Home Plus.
- **Re-entry Program** provided assistance to **32 individuals** to re-enter the community from State Prison.
- The program as part of the **Office of Mental Health Care Coordination effort** provided short-term support services to **288 individuals** and comprehensive care coordination services to **16 individuals**.
- **Evolve Program** provided groups to **152 individuals** in 2022.
- **Adult Case Management** provided comprehensive case management for **1,105** individuals and **406** families including **512** children.

In addition, **1,158 individuals and families** not opened as cases were assisted with housing referrals or referrals for assistance with utility payments and **1,060 households** were assisted with applying for emergency financial assistance, which included counseling and budgeting.

Youth and Adolescent Services

- **Everette Hodge Community Center** provided after school and summer programming for **60 youth**
- **Independent Living Program** provided in-person/virtual **life skills workshops** to **13 youth**
- **Substance Abuse Prevention** staff provided evidence-based curricula in local school districts to **1,358 youth**.
- **Family Peer Support** staff worked with families who have a child/children age 0-21 who were at risk of placement or hospitalization. The program linked **51 families** to community resources and provided advocacy to access needed services.
- **Mental Health Care Coordination**, including the Transitions and GAP (Getting Ahead Program) programs, provided care coordination for **20 youth** to gain the life skills they needed to transition into adulthood and linked the youth to services, community supports, recreational activities, and mental health treatment.
- **Criminal Justice/Restorative Justice Services**, including One80, Restorative Ulster, Developing Adolescent Social Harmonies (DASH) and School-Based Restorative Justice programs, provided restorative justice and case management services to **80 youth and young adults**. School-Based Restorative Justice Programs served **766** students throughout **4** school districts. The program also provided a total of **20** Restorative Justice based trainings for the community, school and county staff.

Food Security

In 2022, the agency's pantries collectively distributed **90,070** meals to **11,923** individuals. In addition, the shelters provided **52,498 meals** and the agency produced **47,760 community meals**. Family, in collaboration with the Rondout Valley Growers Association, UlsterCorps, and the Hudson Valley Farm Hub distributed **112,000lbs of vegetables** donated by **29 local farmers and businesses** to **54** food pantries and feeding programs in Ulster and Greene Counties. Finally, the Everette Hodge program provided **47,760** meals.

County-Wide Hotline/Walk-in Centers in Woodstock, New Paltz and Ellenville

The agency responded to **72,406 contacts** concerning such topics as substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health, public assistance, employment, and education. The walk-in centers are the prime deliverers of human services in their communities and provide outreach for most of the other agency programs.

2022 BUDGET:

Projected Revenues:	\$13,880,098
Number of Contracts Maintained:	89
Number of Employees -Full time:	136
-Part time:	51
-Volunteers:	350

DARMSTADT SHELTER

**40 Thomas Street
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 331-1395**

Staff: 12 full-time, 3 part time

Team Leader: Victoria Read

Program Directors: Liz Bahr, Christina Basden

Assistant Program Director/Services: John Alexander

Assistant Program Director/Facilities: Sal Dispensa

Program Hours: 24-Hour Access

PRIMARY FUNCTIONS: Emergency shelter for up to 19 homeless men and women. Housing and services for men and women participating in daily substance abuse and/or mental health programming, who need a clean and sober living environment. The program also provides Intensive Homeless Supervision, including supervision and support to individuals at risk of requiring a higher level of care or supervision, and those involved in the criminal justice system.

ANCILLARY SERVICES: Crisis counseling; case management; information and referrals; linkages to other county and private agencies' programming; parenting education; information on identifying domestic violence; life skills training; legal consultation referrals; educational advancement; domestic violence classes for both men and women; free clothing exchange; assistance in locating clean and sober housing; transportation; and after care and homelessness prevention services. The Learning Station is an accessory building providing space for classes, and allowing clients access to computers for such tasks as job and housing searches. We also have a lap-top for clients to have video conferences with programs and therapists in private. Wi-Fi has been established throughout the building for all to use. And Health Care Is A Human Right has resumed its Free Communal Healthcare Clinic at the shelter. The program provides drug testing at the request of the Probation or Parole Departments or when it appears that a resident has violated the drug policy and needs to be tested. The Shelter has worked closely for years with Detox Facilities and Rehabs, and more recently in response to the opioid crisis has worked with doctors who prescribe Suboxone. Staff of Darmstadt are trained in use and distribution of Nalaxone (Narcan). We have been working with and using the Emergency Housing Voucher program, a federal housing voucher instituted by HUD in response to the national housing crisis.

DEMOGRAPHY OF CLIENTS: Ulster County and some Greene County residents in need of short-term housing, primarily those with a history of substance abuse and/or mental health issues, or involved with the criminal justice system, and many elderly, with illnesses and physical disabilities.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The program provided 47 men and 66 women with 6,243 nights of residency at an average length of stay of 55.2 days, and a 90% occupancy rate with an average of 17.1 residents per night. There were 20,535 meals served to adults, 1,794 meals served to seniors for a total of 22,329 meals served.

The program provided specific case management services to individuals as follows:

- 38 have been provided drug and alcohol services including participation in substance abuse day treatment services, assistance in accessing rehabilitation, clean and sober shelter and assistance attending 12-step programming;
- 55 individuals were assisted in complying with all the requirements necessary to open their cases with UCDCS (Safety Net);
- 103 individuals have been aided in completing their eligibility intake for Medicaid, Medicare and other health insurance;
- 19 residents were assisted in completing requirements to receive SSI/SSDI benefits;
- 63 individuals that had no family physician were able to get an appointment and see a doctor;
- 21 individuals that had no dentist were able to get a dental appointment;
- 49 individuals have been assisted in accessing counseling services from Hudson Valley Mental Health, the Institute for Family Health and other service providers;
- 24 residents were able to find employment during their stay;
- 21 individuals have been assisted in locating permanent housing; and 11 were able to move in with friends and family;
- 16 have been assisted in locating and picking up furniture, and assisted with moving into new housing;
- All residents were provided information on harm reduction.

In addition to the services provided residentially, the program had 414 contacts from previous residents or individuals not seeking residential care, but seeking assistance for the following: 21 sought mental health services; 9 sought drug and alcohol services; and 281 sought help to find housing.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS: A significant impediment to finding permanent housing has been the housing crisis locally, in which we've seen soaring rents and historically low vacancy rates.

The COVID-19 epidemic proved challenging for the clients and staff alike. It became far more difficult to meet with Landlords, and have face to face meetings with doctors and therapists. It also limited the number of potential clients seeking our services, as well as ex-clients seeking after-care. It has also been necessary to put safety and hygiene protocols in place (mask wearing, frequent hand washing, etc.), which are sometimes challenging to enforce

FAMILY INN
38 Thomas Street
Kingston, NY 12401
Tel.: 845.340.1847

Staff: 14 full time

Program Director: Beatriz Valencia

Assistant Program Director of Children Program: Caitlin Welch
Assistant Program Director of Maintenance: Libaniel Lopez
Assistant Program Director of Services: Carrissa Berryann

Program Hours: 24-Hour Access

PRIMARY FUNCTIONS: Emergency shelter for families (up to 90 days).

ANCILLARY SERVICES: Crisis counseling; case management; information and referrals; linkages to other county and private agencies; children's services; tutoring and other educational assistance; parenting education; car seat program; job readiness training; life skills training; housing information, referrals and advocacy; food pantry; aftercare program and homelessness prevention.

DEMOGRAPHY OF CLIENTS: Homeless families, and when needed, homeless single females

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The program opened **21 new files** and provided shelter and case management services to **21 females, 8 males and 47 children** for a total of **76 individuals**, counted as **21 families**. There was a total of **8,612 resident's nights** where **25,838 meals** were served. The average length stay was **113 nights**, the average client per night was **23**; the occupancy rate was **87%**. Aftercare programming was provided to **8 families** who agreed to receive services during their transition of maintaining permanent housing.

The following is a summary of services provided:

Housing Services to 21 Families

- 4 Families with a total of 17 individuals** found independent permanent housing.
- 2 Families with a total of 8 individuals** were assisted with reunification with their families and Friends
- 7 Families with a total of 22 individuals** were relocated by DSS before ILP was completed.
- 1 Family with a total of 3 individuals** was move out of the county due to domestic violence circumstances before ILP was completed.
- 1 Family with a total of 3 individuals** was discharge from the program after the head of the household passed while residing at the shelter.
- 6 Families with a total of 23 individuals** remained at the shelter during holiday's season.

157 Referrals were made for health services including health screening, dental, mental health and substance abuse services

Shelter's residents accessed the following services:

15 individuals accessed Dental services; **51 individuals** accessed Medical Services; **7 individuals** accessed substance abuse services; **33 individuals** accessed mental health counseling; **12 youth** accessed counseling.

Family issues:

12 families had CPS involvement, **5** at the time of entry and **7** were reports made by program staff while the client was residing at the shelter; **1** family was having domestic violence issues while residing at the shelter; **42** individuals were assisted with health insurance issues; **2** families were assisted with childcare arrangements through Family of Woodstock Child Care Council; In-house childcare was provided to **47** children allowing the head of the household to attend meetings and appointments as well as participated on children activities

Legal Services: Legal services advocacy was provided to as follows:

13 Individuals were assisted with legal housing issues;
1 individual was assisted with entitlement issues; **1** individual at City Court; **11 individuals** at Family Court and **10** individuals were on probation/parole.

Entitlement Advocacy

Staff advocated for the following number of Families/individuals to receive the following entitlements:

21 Families for TANF; 76 individuals for Medicaid; 76 individuals for Food Stamps and 17 families for other entitlements.

Transportation:

Consumers were provided with transportation services to different locations including:

Adults: 5 to employment; **10** to entitlement; **4** to housing; **2** to legal services; and **23** to medical and **13** to treatment.

Children: 8 to education; **21** to medical; and **3** to other services.

Food/Financial Services:

25,838 meals were served; **in 79 instances** residents received clothing; **in 58 instances** residents received financial assistance and **5 Families** received assistance with security deposit.

Life Skills Services:

Residents gained life skills in the following areas: **73** in personal growth, daily living skills, survival skills and financial management; **10** were assisted in finding jobs and maintaining employment; and **8** families continued receiving services through the aftercare program

Residential Children's Program

The Children's Program at the Family Inn provides services, advocacy and age-appropriate support for the homeless children and parents who reside in the shelter. At the time of entry, many of the

children have emotional problems related to the stress of homelessness, behavioral problems, academic challenges, medical issues, developmental delays, and issues of trauma. The pre-school aged children often had problems that were not identified or addressed at the time of entrance to the Shelter.

The following are the goals of the program:

- Work with parents to help them identify and assess their child's needs for special services.
- Meet children's basic needs upon arrival.
- Facilitate access to medical and dental care, as needed.
- Enroll or re-enroll children in school.
- Assess child's school history to ensure that the child has received all special needs programming required and available.
- Educate parents on issues of age-appropriate behavior, non-violent discipline, child safety, and how to improve communication.
- Enhance the child's self-esteem.
- Encourage and facilitate parent-child activities and bonding.
- Provide recreational activities and a structure to assist parents to ensure that their children are safe and nurtured.
- Provide childcare and children's activities seven days per week to allow parents to achieve other goals, such as finding housing and employment, or dealing with legal, medical or other pressing issues, as needed.

These goals are achieved by:

- Meeting with parents regularly to set up housing, medical, dental, mental health and other necessary appointments and ensuring access to these services by providing advocacy, scheduling and transportation
- Providing material assistance, such as clothing, shoes, backpacks for all school age children and homework supplies for school-age children.
- Assessing educational needs, including school enrollment, transportation (including help to set up temporary transportation to the school of location or return to the youth's home school as per the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act), and tutoring when needed.
- Instructing parents on how to properly install car seats and providing them as needed.
- Building parenting skills by providing one-on-one counseling and on-site parenting groups, and by enrolling parents in parenting classes provided through MHA of Ulster County and Family Services, Inc.
- Organizing children's activities both on-site and in the local area to provide recreation and exercise, to build self-esteem, and have fun.
- Providing child care so that parents can meet with their case managers to locate housing, employment or vocational training, and attend mandated life skills groups on such subjects as budgeting, nutrition, parenting and issues related to domestic violence.
- Establishing story time each evening to encourage parents to read to their children and encourage a sleep schedule that ensures proper rest. Parents who participated reported that their children became easier to get to sleep and had less behavioral issues the next day.

- Encouraging community involvement by scheduling trained volunteers and interns from local

colleges to enrich our program and provide additional one-on-one attention to each child. Recent volunteers have included nursing students from SUNY Ulster, students from SUNY New Paltz and Vassar College, and local musicians.

Upon a family's arrival, program staff begins working directly with parents to help them assess what their children's basic needs are and then go about trying to fill these needs. Most children do not have basic essentials like pajamas and other clothing, toiletries, shoes that fit, coats and school supplies. The program provides these things through foundation support, fundraising efforts, and donations of clothing and supplies from individuals and organizations in our community.

The next step is to help parents focus on securing their children's medical and dental care, emotional health, academic and recreational needs. Many of the children have never seen a dentist and are often behind in their immunizations. Services for expectant parents are also provided.

The program is staffed seven days per week and there are Saturday outings for children 8 years old and above, and Sunday outings for younger children. The program also provides after-care services to help parents transitioning to permanent housing to follow through with the services or appointments that were set up while the family was residing at the Family Inn.

The program shares a building behind the Darmstadt Shelter, which serves as the Learning Center for children from the Family Inn and as a resource for adults from Darmstadt who need to do job and housing searches. The computers in the Learning Center were upgraded to new ones with funding from the Kingston City School District and are used by youth from the Family Inn for homework and tutoring assistance.

**RESIDENTIAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES
THE WASHBOURNE HOUSE
PO Box 3817
Kingston, NY 12402
(845) 679-2485 / 338-2370**

Staff: 8 full time / 4 part-time

Team Leader: Karen Storch

Assistant Program Director(s): Jessica LaFera, Hannah Weiner

Program Hours: 24 hour access through the county-wide hotline and text line.

PRIMARY FUNCTION: To provide safe shelter and comprehensive trauma informed services to survivors of domestic violence and their children.

ANCILLARY SERVICES: Counseling (individual and group); case management; domestic violence support and education; recreation and educational support for children; parenting support and education; assistance in finding transitional and permanent housing; transportation; referrals and advocacy to access medical and mental health treatment; food pantry for residents as part of aftercare.

DEMOGRAPHY OF CLIENTS: Domestic violence survivors and their children.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The program provided safe shelter and services to **43** women and **25** children, for **4,036** nights in **2022**. The average length of stay was **94** nights and the program had a **65%** occupancy rate. (OCFS COVID recommendations specified that the shelter should not house more than one family in a room for 2022.) The residents addressed the following issues with the assistance of program staff:

- **24** women were assisted to access or advocate for entitlements including Public Assistance, SSI, SSD, and Child Support.
- **8** women were employed while residing at the Shelter.
- Residents did not participate in residential groups due to social distancing requirements—clients did receive substantially more individual support around house issues, dv education, and parenting.
- **28** women received individual counseling.
- **14** women and **12** children were referred for medical services with the assistance of program staff.
- **10** women were assisted to access mental health services
- **8** clients to outpatient services for substance abuse treatment and **1** person to long-term treatment

All group work was suspended as recommended by NYS OCFS and in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The shelter also stopped housing more than one family in a bedroom starting in late March of 2020, also as recommended by NYS OCFS. These recommendations assisted us in

keeping everyone healthy, but had an impact on both how many clients we were able to house and also in the group services that we were able to provide.

Residential Adult's Program: The Washbourne House remains committed to providing trauma informed care to all of our residents. Trauma informed care is a framework for care that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma. Trauma informed care emphasizes physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both clients and workers, and helps clients rebuild or develop a sense of control and empowerment. The goals of the Residential Adult Program are to:

- Provide a safe place for clients to live (away from abuse and intimidation) while they figure out their next steps.
- Empower clients by offering them education concerning domestic violence and its impact on adults and children.
- Support clients in learning how to identify unhealthy relationship characteristics and assist them in learning new ways to relate and communicate that include direct communication and healthy boundaries.

Residential Children's Program: The children's component provides a safe and therapeutic environment in which children are encouraged to play and engage in fun activities. This year we were also tasked with assisting our school age clients with their online learning. We created a kid-friendly room that had computers and tables, and limited distractions. We encouraged the parents to be as involved as they would be in their own homes, and found that the parents we housed choose to be very involved with their children's online learning. We continued to find creative ways for children to socially distance and have a safe space to express and discuss their feelings concerning the violence that they have experienced. In an effort to be trauma informed, the Children's Program has changed from working on individual relationships with kids to trying to encourage and support parents in strengthening their own relationships with their children. The goals of the Residential Children's activities are to:

- Enhance children's self-esteem.
- Assist children in identifying and labeling their feelings.
- Assist children in learning non-violent techniques to resolve conflict.
- Provide Education about Teen Dating Violence Prevention.
- Identify the signs, symptoms, and behaviors that may indicate the need for special services, and help parents advocate to insure that their child (children) receive necessary services.

Residential Parenting Program: This year, the staff has continued to work hard to reinforce the idea that parents are the experts concerning their children—using this philosophy has helped staff empower parents to make their own choices for their children and to feel empowered to do so. We continue to follow the lead of our clients and to find out what they need to feel like more effective parents. We try not to get between any parents and their children and instead seek to enhance and support the special bond between them. We use the Family of Woodstock values of non-judgement and non-directive support as often as possible in our parenting work.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS: 2022 was our second year of living and working residentially during a pandemic. Though the majority of our staff choose to be vaccinated, residential health

and safety protocols for our clients continued to take up additional time and energy as we worked towards incorporating pandemic related safety protocols into our daily shelter routines.

The shelter still had fewer clients, no group activity, limited social contact between clients, and a lot of focus on Covid-19 safety and health protocol. The necessary shift in priority from building community among residents to discouraging this community has meant an increase in demand on individual workers for individual work with clients. Though we housed fewer clients, they have also predictably continued to stay longer. (This change was noted in our 2020 overview as well. We moved from an average of 62 days for a client's length of stay in 2019, to a 98 day length of stay in 2020, and a 102 day length of stay in 2021.) Longer stays coupled with mandatory mask wearing and social distancing in communal areas has meant a shelter that feels safe from a health perspective, but less cohesive from an emotional perspective. We also continued to grapple with the reality of the housing shortage that our clients are currently facing in Kingston, and in surrounding towns. Eviction moratoriums, coupled with many people coming to the Hudson Valley during the pandemic has resulted in significant increases in rental prices and significant decreases in housing availability. The staff continues to do their best with the limited opportunities that we can find and have also worked hard to ensure that all of our clients have applied for Section 8, EHV, and any other housing supports for which they are eligible.

As we all continue to work where our clients live, we strive to find protocols that meet all of our needs and still allow clients to feel comfortable and safe in their home. We are resuming group activity within the shelter this year, and are hopeful that 2023 will bring increasing community and wellness for all.

FAMILY HOUSE
949 Creek Locks Rd
Rosendale, NY 12472
(845) 338-5953

Mailing Address:
PO Box 3516
Kingston, NY 12402

Staff: 6 full-time / 5 part-time

Team Leader: Robert Molina, MSW
Program Director: Kielawan Ahmed

Program Hours: Access to the shelter is available 24 hours a day.

PRIMARY FUNCTIONS: Emergency shelter for up to 14 runaway and homeless youth, below 18 years of age (generally 12-17), for an initial stay of up to 30 days, and a total of 60 days with the additional 30 days approved by the Ulster County Runaway Coordinator. By regulation, parental consent is not required for the first 30-day stay. New York State changed the target population from 12-17 to under 18. As a result, the program can now serve infants of the youth requiring emergency shelter without the issuance of a waiver. The program also provides emergency shelter for youth requiring it when they begin to disrupt from the County's Coordinated Children's Services.

ANCILLARY SERVICES: Individual, family, and group counseling for all clients; life skills training; access and advocacy for educational, medical, legal, mental health and substance abuse services; services for youth involved in the criminal justice/Family Court systems; and aftercare services.

DEMOGRAPHY OF CLIENTS: Runaway, homeless and throwaway youth below 18 years (generally 12-17 and when necessary, their infants) in crisis as the result of familial stress, physical and/or sexual abuse, usually occurring in their own homes, and/or drug, alcohol, mental health or legal issues.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In 2022, Family House served 48 youth, including 4 youth who stayed more than one time, for a total of 52 stays and 1,535 nights. The program has an average length of stay of 17 nights and an average resident per night of 3.4. There were 4,331 meals served.

Numbers listed are duplicated by stay:

- 52 youth kept 253 individual sessions with their assigned case managers. 1 youth did not meet with a Case Manager due to the shortness of their stays.
- 25 parents or guardians participated in 37 family meetings with Family House staff and/or other youth serving providers arranged by Family House staff; 15 youth participated in 55 meetings with other youth-serving providers including YAP, CCS and DSS.
- 6 youth kept 15 appointments with Astor, Institute for Family Health (IFH) or other mental health practitioners.
- 8 youth kept 26 doctors' appointments to address their medical/dental needs.

- 4 youth kept 5 appointments with the Department of Probation.
- 2 youth kept 2 appointments with other FOW services including STSJP and Anger Management.
- Of the 58 clients in the program: 56 youth were enrolled in school upon entrance to the program; 5 youth was suspended. 6 youth discharged within 24 hours of entering the program. Of the 52 youth enrolled: 8 were enrolled in BOCES programs; and 2 were enrolled in a Partial Hospitalization program. Of all clients in the program: 18 youth addressed educational related difficulties and 12 youth improved attendance. 300 House Groups were held which discussed program issues such as chores, recreation, and school.
- 122 Life Skills and Focus/Issue Groups were held in-house by Family House staff and retired School Counselor Marc Kamin, covering such issues as anger management, how to deal with authority, overall communication issues, and showing respect to those around you. The program also took youth shopping at Walmart, Marshalls and Burlington. Youth were able to pick out clothing and hygiene for themselves that the program paid for. This gave young people pride in themselves as they picked out items that they liked instead of just receiving items already on-hand at the program. Youth were able to practice life skills by using calculators to calculate the amount of purchases and staying within a certain dollar amount. Youth were able to leave the store with their own individual shopping bags from the purchases.
- A total of 140 recreational outings were offered in which all residents had the opportunity to participate. These activities helped to encourage youth to participate in healthy lifestyle activities that are offered throughout our county. The typical recreational activities generally included bowling, mini golf, movies, and swimming, Dietz Stadium, hiking and visiting our local recreation centers. Youth attended various concerts, fairs, libraries, animal sanctuaries the ASPCA and the YMCA. The youth attended the Black History Month kick off celebration at the YMCA. The program went ice skating at Mohonk Mountain House. During the warmer months, the residents participated in many outdoor activities such as hiking and rock climbing, canoeing, swimming and local parks and community events, including the Rosendale Street Festival. The youth attended Pinkster and Juneteenth events. Youth also attended local Fireworks during 4th of July celebrations. The Walkaway Over the Hudson. The youth went to various music venues to hear live jazz and folk music. Youth attended shows from the Rosendale Theatre as well as from The Woodstock Playhouse. The program visited local farms, youth picked apples, and also purchased and carved pumpkins. The program was happy to be able to participate in the Adolescent Services Thanksgiving Community Dinner, which was well attended and successful. The program ended the year attending local winter celebrations such as the Snowflake Festival. The program also went on a bus trip into New York City to attend an all day trip to the American Museum of Natural History.

All residents participated in the Work Study Incentive Program, which measures each youth's household and individual service plan responsibilities. During this past year, the program has strived to create more of a trauma informed environment. For example, the program's long-time Level System has been developed to become more strength based. Instead of associating the youth according to numbers, the program is incorporating various stages to help measure the young person's progression during their stay. For instance, youth must now complete an

orientation and welcome stage as part of acclimating into the program and learning specific expectations. Some of the program's other stages may include the Victorious and Champion stages, etc. We want young people to know that they are not their circumstances, but they have the power to overcome their challenges and accomplish their goals.

In 2022, of the 52 duplicated stays, 31 youth returned to a parent/guardian's home or home they were living in prior to entering the shelter; 1 youth was reunited and went to live with a parent they had not seen in 8 years; 2 youth in DSS custody discharged to their parents; 2 entered group home placement; 1 youth went to a residential treatment program; 1 youth transitioned to inpatient psych hospitalization; 2 moved to Midway; 3 went to live with other family members or friends as planned; 6 youth went AWOL. At the end of the year, 3 youth remained in the program.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:

The current Program Director is approaching her 17th year of having worked at Family House, in practically every capacity, and this has been an exciting opportunity for growth and change on all levels. While staff turnover had challenged the program's leadership transition, Family House has very recently formed a new leadership team. The program has onboarded an Assistant Program Director who had worked for the agency for ten years, a full-time Administrative Assistant who brings maturity and plenty of experience, and a Case Manager with a Mental Health background. A second Case Manager is in the process of onboarding soon, along with a few Residential Counselors and College Interns/volunteers. A new Academic Tutor has also agreed to join our team in the days ahead.

The program has maintained ongoing communications with RHYTTAC's Technical Assistance Unit when adjusting certain program details to better align with the funder's vision and expectations to serve RHY youth. These efforts have led to various implementations, some of which may include:

- (1) New Orientations for Residents, which carry a theme centered around "Value," as part of delineating some of our goals during their stay.
- (2) The implementation of a Life Skills Development Curriculum to include Nutrition Workshops, Job Readiness Workshops, Anger Management Workshops, Creative Arts and Mindfulness Activities which engage residents with Writing/Poetry, Drawing/Painting, etc.,
- (3) The hiring of Bilingual staff and the translation of program literature into Spanish.
- (4) Staff Guidelines have been created, Program Policies continue to be re-written, and Case Conferences have been restructured to increase training.
- (5) A new Level System has been implemented, along with New Program Rules for Residents to read more from a positive, trauma informed perspective. For instance, we are now incorporating a new system that focuses on 7 Core Values (Unity, Dignity, Respect, Integrity, Gratitude, Responsibility, and Accountability). Residents are encouraged to learn and exemplify these 7 Core Values which have not only shaped all program rules but were created to become part of merits and incentives for residents when they develop and showcase independent living skills.

MIDWAY I
189 O'Neil St.
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 339-5508

MIDWAY II
3 Warren Street
Ellenville, NY 12428
(845) 647-1346

Staff: Midway of Kingston- 6 full-time
Midway of Ellenville- 6 full-time

MidWay Team Leader/Program Director: Jennifer Pineda
MidWay I Assistant Program Director: MaryJo Martin
MidWay II Assistant Program Director: Jessica Ropke

Program Hours: Each site is staffed 24 hours a day

PRIMARY FUNCTION: A supervised transitional living program for up to 18 months for adolescents 16-21 who are homeless, without family support, and not yet prepared to function independently, and, as necessary, their child(ren). Youth who enter the program at age 16 can stay up to 24 months in order to complete their high school education.

ANCILLARY SERVICES: Crisis intervention; individual and family counseling; educational support; life skills training; job preparedness instruction; social-emotional skill-building; vocational and employment assistance; parenting instruction; assistance with locating permanent housing; as well as aftercare.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The program served 17 adolescents, 1 toddler, and 1 infant in 2022. The length of stay of participants in the program continues to increase which we take a positive sign, in part because it is so hard to find affordable housing when the youth leave. During this year, resident outcomes included:

- 16 adolescents stabilized their living situation and increased their competency in living skills by residing in MidWay. One adolescent entered the program for only 3 days and returned to his previous living situation by his own choice.
- 16 adolescents participated in assessment, service plan development, and individual counseling.
- 11 adolescents advanced their education as follows: 6 attended high school, with 1 attaining her high school diploma; 2 youth attended college classes; and 3 youth attended GED classes. The one youth who graduated from high school left for basic training with the U.S. Army a few weeks after. The remaining 6 adolescents had already earned a high school diploma in an earlier year or before entering MidWay.
- 13 adolescents were assisted with gaining/retaining entitlements (food stamps/TA, SSI) and/or financial aid for college.
- 15 youth have had some work experience during their stay at MidWay: Of the 9 youth who found employment this year, 3 of them were employed full-time and 6 of them were part-time. Some of this employment was short-term, but all youth gained important job experience.
- 16 adolescents addressed their medical needs and saw a primary care physician.

- 8 adolescents participated in mental health therapy either through Astor Services for Youth, Hudson Valley Mental Health, Institute for Family Health or other mental health professionals.
- 1 youth was supported to receive all needed pre-natal care while pregnant, and provided with resources related to parenting support and child care. She was referred to Healthy Families for additional education on parenting. For the parenting youth: 1 toddler and 1 infant received all necessary medical care; both mothers were supported to learn age-appropriate expectations, nutritional facts, and information on developmental milestones; and both mothers were provided with referrals to childcare and additional supports before discharging from the program.
- 9 youth, 1 toddler, 1 infant discharged from the program to the following locations: 1 youth moved into a stable, independent living situation fully supported by her earned income; 2 youth returned to living with a parent; 1 left to boot camp for the army; 2 youth and 1 toddler moved into a safe living space with friends; 1 youth was supported into an apartment subsidized by the Kingston Housing Authority; 1 youth returned (by his own decision) to a previous boarding house he was living at to be closer to his vocational studies; and 1 youth and 1 infant unfortunately entered the homeless system by way of CPS. For this last youth, program staff and CPS worked together to find the safest place for the youth to live, and supported her in moving, accessing resources, meeting basic needs for herself and her baby, and remained in consistent contact with her to ensure her well-being as she transitioned into a motel room. Although this was a difficult move for all, this ultimately was the safest move for her and she became increasingly more open to help throughout the process. CPS provided additional support to her as she worked to move into a more stable situation. MidWay had supported the youth to gain a significant payment related to the death of her mother, and in doing so, she became financially stable again. While she did not want to live at MidWay, she did slowly begin to open up and the program provided as much care for her as she was willing to receive.
- 9 youth, 3 toddlers, and 1 infant received regular aftercare services with the following outcomes: 9 youth were employed; 3 youth were supported to continue attending to mental health needs; 2 youth attended to legal issues; 4 youth continued their education; 7 youth accessed entitlements; 4 infants/toddlers received all medical care and were ensured basic needs; and 8 youth were paying rent for their own living situations. An additional 8 youth were checked in on by the aftercare case manager to ensure stability; these youth declined regular case management services at this time. The aftercare position continues to be a great asset to the program, youth are more connected than ever to the program.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:

This year, the program continued to navigate illness and viral precautions, but this was less impactful to the program than in previous years. In addition to devoted full-time staff, the program had numerous fill-in workers who took on consistent hours. Because much of the program is built on the trusting relationships built with the staff, having consistent fill-in workers allowed residents to have minimal disruption to their feelings of safety and predictability.

Each year, the program staff complete over 40 hours of training related to working with MidWay youth, with annual refreshers on trauma-informed care, positive youth development, human services ethics, human trafficking preventions, suicide prevention, and therapeutic techniques for

working with adolescents. Many program staff participated in a series of trainings provided by the director that not only taught philosophies and techniques, but also connected the learning opportunities to specific programmatic procedures. For example, the human services ethics training included education on the code of ethics and how to use the code for decision-making, coupled with a team discussion on ethical dilemmas that may be experienced at MidWay. In the Positive Youth Development training, staff were asked to think back to when they were between the ages of 16 and 21, and identify protective factors, risk factors, opportunities to belong, social norms, etc. In doing so, staff were able to reflect on what worked or didn't work for them, and hear how differently their own childhoods were from one another. These training opportunities and discussion meetings provided a great opportunity for staff to feel more connected, more seen, and more patient with one another and with the residents.

This year saw the first HHS federal audit since regaining the HHS grant, and this process provided an intense look at all the workings of the program. Some gaps in programming were discovered, such as needs for increased documentation in some areas and some new ideas were discussed about increasing youth engagement. An endearing outcome that came from this audit was how many community members showed up at the last minute to speak with the auditor about the great work of MidWay! Representatives of Kingston High School, Probation, and Ulster County Mental Health were ready and willing to share how helpful MidWay is to the youth they serve, and how vital the program is to the county. Additionally, four board members spoke lovingly to the auditor, with Bruce Ginsberg (board member) volunteering to work with the program's leadership and create a forum where youth are able to give feedback, provide suggestions, and speak to what they need. This will begin in 2023.

Something new for the program was having youth in their second year of SUNY Ulster, with both youth on track for graduation in May of 2023. While the program has celebrated numerous high school graduations and have sent numerous youth to college, this will be the first time that the program will see youth attaining their Associates degrees while at MidWay. Both youth were faced with the need to reduce their income in order to complete their degrees, and this would not have been possible if they were not living at MidWay.

To end the year, the program received numerous donations from local supporters who have helped the program with holiday celebrations for years. Jess Robie, former FOW employee and former FOW board member, collected and provided gifts to all residents from local donors in her community. St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Woodstock held a chocolate lollipop sale to shop for MidWay residents, and provided wrapped gifts to all residents. St. John's has done this for MidWay for over 20 years, and it's organized by parishioner and youth educator, Alice Haberski. Alice's daughter worked for MidWay over 20 years ago, and when seeking a way to teach young people in the church how to give back, she chose MidWay as the community program to support. Each year, the program staff provides education to the St. John's youth about MidWay as a means of increasing knowledge about the needs and experiences of youth without a place to live and/or without a family. Lastly, the Kingston High School class overseen by Amy Kapes, social worker, provided linens, pillows, and gifts to the residents during their annual donation to the program. Each year, Jess, Alice, and Amy reach out to the program on their own and ask for ideas about gifts, which is SUCH a help. The friends in the community remain a great asset to the overall program successes.