

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

DATE & TIME: April 11, 2022 – 5:30 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meetings, Meeting ID: 873 4555 3690
By Phone Dial (646) 558-8656
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Eve Walter
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Bartels, Corcoran (left at 6:52 PM), Erner, Lopez, Nolan & Uchitelle
ABSENT: Legislator Petit
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Commissioner Iapoce – UC DSS, Commissioner Smith – UC Health Department, Acting Director McDonald – UC Mental Health Department, Director Koppenhaver – UC Office for Aging, Director Doyle – UC Planning Department, Director Dawson – UC Youth Bureau, Molly Scott – UC Recovery & Resilience, Deputy Executive Contreras – UC Executive’s Office, Laurie Lichtenstein – Legislative Chair’s Office, David McNamara – SAMADHI, Kevin O’Connor, Lorne Norton & Emma Hambright – RUPCO, S. Deacon Bill Mennenga – New Paltz Redeemer Lutheran Church, Chris Parachinni, Cheryl Schneider, Lee Gough, Rosemary Quinn, Beetle, Ada Enjan

Chair Walter called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

Motion No. 1: Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the March 2, 2022 Meeting
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran
Discussion: None
Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes APPROVED

Resolutions for the April 19, 2022 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 210: Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Include Additional Funding From The New York State Office For The Aging - Office For The Aging

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the 2022 Budget to accept NYS OFA funding from NYS OFA for the HDC5 program of the Consolidated Appropriations Act through September 30, 2022, for services to Ulster County seniors in the total amount of \$85,688.00

Motion No. 2: Moved Resolution No. 210 FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion:

Chair Walter asked if there were any questions on the Resolution and hearing none called the question.

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

Resolution No. 211: 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 – 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 \$30,000 for Level I and II personal care aide services for seniors.

Motion No. 3: **Moved Resolution No. 211 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion:

Chair Walter advised the members that because there were multiple Level I and Level II care contracts over the past couple of months, asked if there could be a summary prepared with details to avoid having to discuss them each month. The members were advised that a table listing the contracts had been uploaded to the OneDrive.

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

Resolution No. 212: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$150,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Gateway Community Industries, Inc. D/B/A Gateway Hudson Valley – Office For The Aging

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Gateway Community Industries, Inc. d/b/a Gateway Hudson Valley in the amount of \$150,000 to expand the scope of services to include temporary meal program to resident 60 + years of age. Hearing no more discussion she called the question.

Motion No. 4: **Moved Resolution No. 212 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran
Discussion:

Chair Walter asked if there were any questions or concerns with the Resolution and hearing none called the question.

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

Resolution No. 139: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 4 Of 2022, A Local Law Enacting A Drug Take Back Program in Ulster County, To Be Held On Tuesday, May 17, 2022 At 7:10 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing to provide the public the opportunity to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2022 on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 7:10 PM

Discussion:

Chair Walter advised the members that the sponsors requested the committee take no action on the Resolution as neither could attend the meeting. She further advised the members that she had received an opinion from Legislative Counsel regarding the state legislature’s preemption and directed Clerk Mahler to share the opinion with the members.

Chair Bartels added that she applauded the spirit of the Resolution and recognized the frustration with the state’s delay in implementing and enforcing the law adopted in 2019.

Disposition: **NO ACTION TAKEN**

Resolution No. 159: Establishing “The Ulster County Land Bank Development Corporation”, A New York State Landbank

Resolution Summary: This resolution creates The Ulster County Land Bank Development Corporation and appoints 9 members to the Board of Directors, 7 appointed by the Legislature and 2 appointed by the Legislature upon the recommendation of the County Executive.

Motion No. 5: **Moved Resolution No. 159 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion:

Chair Bartels advised the members that they should have received some proposed amendments to the Resolution, including the addition of a ninth member, Zali Win, and the elimination of articles of incorporation and bylaws as they will be adopted by the membership later. She thanked the members for their support and patience in developing and adopting the Land Bank.

Motion No. 6: **MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED AS PRESENTED**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion:

Chair Walter asked if there were any questions or further discussion and hearing none called the question

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

Resolution No. 163: Establishing And Funding Capital Project No. 631 – A Geothermal System For Silver Gardens Senior Housing Development – ARPA - Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

Resolution Summary: This resolution established Capital Project No. 631 in the amount of \$600,000.

Motion No. 7: **Moved Resolution No. 163 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion:

Chair Walter stated that the title of the Resolution was misleading adding that the subject was primarily about an affordable housing project for seniors and not the geothermal component. She asked Deputy County Executive Contreras to please keep that in mind moving forward. Ms. Contreras responded that she would take the comments back to the Executive’s Office. Chair Walter asked if there were any other questions or comments on the Resolution and hearing none called the question.

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

Resolution No. 164: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$600,000.00 Entered Into By The County – RUPCO, Inc. – Department Of Finance

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract with RUPCO in the amount of \$600,000 as the subrecipient for the purpose of aiding in constructing a portion of the Silver Gardens Senior Housing rental development.

Motion No. 8: **Moved Resolution No. 164 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion:

Chair Bartels stated that she wanted to clarify that the funding in the Resolution was contingent upon the project moving forward. She thanks Mr. O'Connor of RUPCO for sharing information which helped better understand the funding process and protections provided to the county.

Chair Walter asked Planning Director Doyle or Mr. O'Connor if they could advise the members of the project's timeline. Mr. O'Connor responded that decisions from the state review process could be expected in early summer and construction should start in January. He added that utilities would be included in the cost of rent which will greatly contribute to the affordability of the units to seniors. Chair Walter stated her enthusiastic support for the geothermal component of the project and asked the members if they had any other questions. Hearing none she called the question.

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

Resolution No. 166: Funding Capital Project No. 598 – Crisis Stabilization Center, Purchase Of 368 Broadway – ARPA - Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves \$2,000,000 in ARPA funding for the purchase of 368 Broadway in Kingston for the creation of the UC Crisis Stabilization Center.

Motion No. 9: **Moved Resolution No. 166 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Corcoran
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion:

Chair Walter advised the members that the Resolution in front of them included a few amendments, including changing from establishing the capital project to funding it as the project was established last year, changing the purpose from land acquisition to building acquisition, and the corresponding accounting updates.

Motion No. 10: **Moved to ADOPT AS AMENDED AS PRESENTED**
Motion By: Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion:

Chair Walter advised the members that, should any component of the Mental Health Hub fail to come to fruition, whether through responses to the RFP or other issue, implementation of the Crisis Stabilization Center would still move forward. She further clarified that, despite the building's physical connection to the HAHV Hospital, there was no connection with HAHV. Deputy County Executive Contreras assured the members that the Crisis Stabilization Center remained one of the Executive's biggest priorities. Chair Bartels suggested that any Legislators who were not able to attend the Press Conference at the building should reach out to the Legislative Office and a tour would be arranged.

Chair Walter asked if there were any further questions or comments and hearing none called the question.

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

Resolution No. 173: Confirming Appointment Of Tara McDonald, LMSW, MPA As Commissioner Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Tara McDonald to the position of Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health.

Motion No. 11: **Moved Resolution No. 173 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Corcoran
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion:

Chair Walter, and Legislators Uchitelle and Nolan complimented Ms. McDonald on her work as the Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health and congratulated her on her selection as Commissioner. Ms. McDonald thanked the members for their support.

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

Resolution No. 174: Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board's Substance Abuse Subcommittee

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Dr. Michael Torres to the Community Services Board's Substance Abuse Subcommittee for a term commencing immediately and terminating on December 31, 2025.

Motion No. 12: **Moved Resolution No. 174 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Corcoran
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion:

Chair Walter advised the members that she had asked Deputy County Executive Contreras if there was a relationship between the CSB and Ulster Prevention Council as the CSB substance abuse subcommittee and UPC both work on substance use prevention. Ms. McDonald explained that state regulations require the DOH to have a substance abuse subcommittee and acknowledged that attendance by UPC staff may present a hardship

as meetings are held in the evenings. She added that UPC is always welcome. Chair Walter added that there are frequently committees and organizations in the county with dramatically overlapping missions and often do not work together. She asked if there were any further questions or comments and hearing none called the question.

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

Resolution No. 200: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 7 Of 2022, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster In Relation To Evictions, To Be Held On Tuesday, May 17, 2022 At 7:05 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing to provide the public the opportunity to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 7 of 2022 on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 7:05 PM

Motion No. 13: **Moved Resolution No. 200 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion:

Legislator Erner stated his support for the law and his willingness to vote on the measure despite the Ethics Board opinion regarding renters and/or landlords' conflict. He advised the members that he received counsel that he was considered a renter. The members that Legislator Erner for attending the meeting and expressed their condolences for the recent loss of his father.

Legislator Uchitelle expressed his frustration with the inability to act on the law because of the Ethics opinion and the number of Legislators on the committee and in the body who have to recuse themselves from the discussion and vote as a result. He added that the renters in the county are facing a real crisis and that the Legislature needs to figure out a mechanism to move forward and take action. Legislator Lopez stated his discomfort in forcing a committee vote, whether on postponement or adoption, if it required a member to act in opposition to the Ethics Board opinion. Legislator Nolan suggested consideration of the Resolution and Proposed Local Law in the Committee of the Whole. Legislator Uchitelle requested no action by the committee.

Disposition: **NO ACTION TAKEN**

Resolution No. 209: Setting A Public Hearing On The Sale And/Or Transfer Of Five Parcels Of Land Owned By Ulster County In The Towns Of Esopus, Kingston, Lloyd, Plattekill, And Ulster To A Local Development Corporation

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing pursuant to Section 1411(d) of the Not-for-Profit Law of the State of New York to provide the public the opportunity to offer comments on the advisability of adoption of a resolution authorizing the sale and/or transfer of 5 properties owned by Ulster County to the Ulster County Housing Development Corporation

Motion No. 14: **Moved Resolution No. 209 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion:

Chair Bartels advised the members that the properties were pulled from the tax sale a year ago and stated that she would like some more information on the intended use of the properties, adding that it is part of a broader conversation to address affordable housing in the county. She informed the members that she recently became a member of the Housing Development Corporation and there were discussion in prior HDC meetings about possibly going out to RFP to rehabilitate the properties. She added that she would support pulling even more properties off of the tax foreclosure lists to transfer to the LDC for remediation and transition to affordable housing, or possibly as respite houses or other uses. She asked the members to consider postponing the Resolution to allow for additional discussion at the HDC meeting.

Legislator Nolan commented that the county has removed properties from the tax rolls for decades with out a plan and expressed her support for moving forward with the public hearing. Legislator Uchitelle expressed his agreement, adding that he supported the opportunity for individuals to weigh in at the public hearing. Chair Walter stated that the public would be better served to know what the intended use of the property is before scheduling the public hearing as they may be more or less in favor of transferring the property depending on the use. She also stated that she would like the LDC to establish a real definition of moderate income.

Planning Director Doyle stated that the county is in a real housing crisis and moving properties to the LDC is the first step in creating more opportunities to increase affordable housing stock in the county. He added that trying to find a solution or solutions rather than a perfect solution will provide immediate relief. He reminded the members that another tax sale auction is approaching, and the planning department is in the process of identifying properties that should be removed. Chair Bartels expressed her frustration that this very subject was discussed at an Economic Development committee meeting a year ago and members requested and RFP for rehabilitation in advance of a property transfer. Legislator Nolan commented that she did not think that the executive’s office would want to commence an RFP process on properties the county did not own.

Legislator Erner suggested the creation of a Department of Housing. Chair Bartels asked the committee to consider postponement for one month.

Motion No. 15: MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 209
Motion By: Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Corcoran, Lopez & Walter
Voting Against: Legislators Erner, Nolan & Uchitelle
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 3
Disposition: Resolution POSTPONED

Resolution No. 213: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$68,551.58 Entered Into By The County – Samadhi Center Inc. – Department Of Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Samadhi Center Inc. in the amount of \$68,551.58 to extend the term of agreement for community linkage services to medication

for opioid use disorder and naloxone distribution for high risk individuals living with substance and opioid use disorder through 7/31/22

Motion No. 16: **Moved Resolution No. 213 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion:

Legislator Nolan informed the members of her position of volunteer president of Samadhi and that she would be recusing from the discussion and vote. Chair Walter asked if there were any questions or comments on the Resolution, and hearing none called the question.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Erner, Lopez, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Abstention: Legislator Nolan
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 214: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Westchester County Health Care Corporation D/B/A Westchester Medical Center – Department Of Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Westchester County Health Care Corporation D/B/A Westchester Medical Center to extend the term of agreement at rates to exceed \$50,000 to provide forensic pathology services.

Motion No. 17: **Moved Resolution No. 214 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Lopez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 215: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$150,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Access: Supports For Living Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract with Access: Supports For Living Inc. in the amount of \$150,000 to expand mobile mental health services for 1/1/22 – 12/31/22

Motion No. 18: **Moved Resolution No. 215 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Bartels

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion:

Chair Walter asked if the mobile mental health unit served the entire county. Ms. McDonald responded that it did. She asked if there were any other questions, and hearing none called the question.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 216: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$42,192.00 Entered Into By The County – Astor Services For Children & Families – Department Of Mental Health

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

Resolution No. 217: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$42,192.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

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

Motion No. 19: **Moved TO BLOCK Resolution Nos. 216 & 217**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion:

Chair Walter advised the members that the state was removing funding from one organization and transferring it tot the other. She asked if there were any questions, and hearing none called the question.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions BLOCKED**

Motion No. 20: **Moved BLOCKED Resolutions FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 218: Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Workforce Grant Funds From The New York State Office Of Mental Health – Department Of Social Services

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

Motion No. 21: **Moved Resolution No. 218 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion:

Legislator Uchitelle asked what roll, if any, the Office of Employment and Training had as the funding was for workforce recruitment and retention. DSS Commissioner Iapoce responded that the funding was for training, retention and recruitment of mental health clinics of current staff and was not an employment and training initiative. Legislator Uchitelle stated his hope further integration of the Office of Employment & Training into the work of the Legislature. He added that he has been proud of the work of the OET, has utilized their services in the past and find workforce development integral to economic develop in the county. Chair Walter asked if there were any other questions or concerns on the Resolution, and hearing none called the question.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 219: Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Funds From The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services To Expand Services Under The Raise The Age (RTA) Plan – Department Of Social Services

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

Motion No. 22: **Moved Resolution No. 219 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None

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

Resolution No. 220: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-Municipal Agreement With The New Paltz Central School District For Preschool Special Education Transportation Services – Department Of Social Services

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

Motion No. 23: **Moved Resolution No. 220 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 221: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$300,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Abbott House – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Abbott House in the amount of \$300,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 222: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$100,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Access: Supports For Living Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Access: Supports For Living Inc in the amount of \$100,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 223: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$1,000,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Astor Services For Children & Families – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Astor Services For Children & Families in the amount of \$1,000,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 224: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$300,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Berkshire Farm Center And Services For Youth – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Berkshire Farm Center And Services For Youth in the amount of \$300,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 225: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$100,000.00 Entered Into By The County – The Childrens' Home Of Kingston, New York – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with The Childrens' Home Of Kingston in the amount of \$100,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 226: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$3,000,000.00 Entered Into By The County – The Children's Home Of Poughkeepsie – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with The Children's Home Of Poughkeepsie in the amount of \$3,000,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 227: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$300,000.00 Entered Into By The County – The Children's Village – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with The Children's Village in the amount of \$300,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 228: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$500,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Catholic Charities Of The Diocese Of Albany, Community Maternity Services – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Catholic Charities Of The Diocese Of Albany, Community Maternity Services in the amount of \$500,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 229: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$500,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Devereux Foundation – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Devereux Foundation in the amount of \$500,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 230: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$100,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Green Chimneys Children's Services, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Green Chimneys Children's Services, Inc. in the amount of \$100,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 231: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$100,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Hillside Children's Center – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Hillside Children's Center in the amount of \$100,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 232: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$100,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Jewish Child Care Association Of New York – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Jewish Child Care Association Of New York in the amount of \$100,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 233: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$400,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Julia Dyckman Andrus Memorial, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Julia Dyckman Andrus Memorial, Inc. in the amount of \$400,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 234: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$2,000,000.00 Entered Into By The County – KidsPeace National Centers Of North America, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with KidsPeace National Centers Of North America, Inc. in the amount of \$2,000,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 235: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$1,500,000.00 Entered Into By The County – La Salle School – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with La Salle School in the amount of \$1,500,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 236: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$100,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Northeast Parent And Child Society, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Northeast Parent And Child Society, Inc. in the amount of \$100,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 237: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$300,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Parsons Child and Family Center – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Parsons Child and Family Center in the amount of \$300,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 238: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$500,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Rising Ground, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Rising Ground, Inc. in the amount of \$500,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 239: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$300,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Saint Anne Institute – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Saint Anne Institute in the amount of \$300,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 240: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$100,000.00 Entered Into By The County – St Christopher's, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with St Christopher's, Inc. in the amount of \$100,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 241: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$1,000,000.00 Entered Into By The County – St. Catherine's Center For Children – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with St. Catherine's Center For Children in the amount of \$1,000,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 242: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$2,000,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Vanderheyden Hall, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Vanderheyden Hall, Inc. in the amount of \$2,000,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 243: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$400,000.00 Entered Into By The County – The Willian George Agency For Children's Services, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with The Willian George Agency For Children's Services, Inc. in the amount of \$400,000 for foster care services from 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

Resolution No. 244: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$850,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Whitney Academy, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Whitney Academy, Inc. in the amount of \$850,000 for foster care services from 4/1/22 – 6/30/24

Motion No. 24: Moved TO BLOCK Resolution Nos. 221 - 244

Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions BLOCKED**

Motion No. 25: **Moved BLOCKED Resolutions FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion:

Chair Walter advised the members that these were all foster care contracts. Legislator Nolan commented on the importance of the programs.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 245: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$273,508.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Family Of Woodstock, Inc. in the amount of \$273,508 to increase the per diem rates for Darmstadt and Family Inn homeless shelters for 1/1/22 – 12/31/22

Motion No. 26: **Moved Resolution No. 245 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion:

Legislator Nolan asked for a brief description of what the funding increase will do in the organization. Deputy County Executive Contreras responded that the Resolution increases the per diem rates by 15% and was part of the budget amendment adopted last year. She added that it brings some employees over the living wage threshold, gives other a \$2/hr increase due to compression and give other managers a small increase as well. Chair Walter stated that she asked for a breakdown of the number of employees effected and the corresponding base rate and increases as a result of the living wage law.

Chair Bartels stated that it would be helpful to require disclosure of employee salaries as part of the county’s contracting process. Legislator Uchitelle stated that knowing contract agency employee salaries is integral to understanding the true cost of providing a service and advised the members that he was working on legislation to solve that problem. Legislator Nolan suggested building into the RFP process a points system to award vendors favorability rating from highest salaries to lowest.

Chair Bartels added that she believed it was important to codify the requirement to see the salaries and expressed support for Legislator Nolan’s suggestion. Commissioner Iapoce commented that it would be helpful when developing the 2023 budgets if the Legislature could advise them if the proposed living wage increase to \$20 for health service providers is going to be implemented. Chair Walter thanked Commissioner Iapoce for his comment and suggested the Legislature make similar future enactments effective 6 months out to provide sufficient time for departments that may be applying for grant funding to account for the increases.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Chair Walter moved on to forthcoming Resolutions/Local Laws on the agenda and advised the members that no action was taken on Resolution No. 167 in the Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee.

Chair Walter moved on to Old Business on the Agenda. She stated that the meeting was already running long so would be saving the continuation of the conversation about Health Alliance contracts for another meeting.

She advised the members that there were +/- 40 participants at the Special Meeting held on March 29th on housing in Ulster County. She added that a request for discussion divisions was sent out with very few responses on how to break the large group up into more manageable working groups. The members discussed possible divisions including: three committees that all deal with policy practice, incentives/disincentives, partnerships and divided into Emergency/Transitional Housing, Affordable and Low Income Housing, and Workforce and Middle Income, OR divisions that focus on incentives/disincentives for municipalities, partnerships with organizations, county alone policies ie: use of vacant properties.

Director Koppenhaver suggested a division to focus on housing specifically for seniors and others on fixed incomes. The members agreed that that group could be included in the affordable or moderate groups and that the division leaders would ensure they seniors were a part of the conversation. Commissioner Iapoce stated that the county is experiencing a serious emergency/transitional housing crisis and he would be happy to participate in any conversation the committee had to address that situation.

The members decided that working groups based on housing type would be the most efficient, with the understanding that a focus would be placed on the three action areas. Chair Walter asked the members to volunteer to head up each working group, at least to lead the first meeting and get the groups organized and going. Legislator Nolan volunteered to lead the Emergency/Transitional housing group, Legislators Uchitelle & Erner volunteered to lead the Affordable/Low Income group, and Legislator Lopez volunteered to lead the Workforce/Moderate Income group.

Clerk Mahler was instructed to send an email out to the larger group informing them of the working group divisions and requesting they respond with their group of interest.

Chair Walter asked if the members were still interested in holding the May meeting at the Ellenville Regional Hospital. She suggested moving up the start time to 5:00 PM to provide time for a tour. The members agreed to hold the meeting at ERH.

Chair Walter asked the members if there was any other business. Planning Director Doyle advised the members that a Housing Planner position was created in his department and that he has tentatively identified a candidate who has extensive experience in housing, as well as climate action. He added that he had previously worked for the City of Sacramento, CA and was expected to start in mid-May.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 7:52 PM

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk Mahler
Approved: May 4, 2022

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

DATE & TIME: April 11, 2022 – 5:30 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meetings, Meeting ID: 873 4555 3690
By Phone Dial (646) 558-8656
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Eve Walter
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Bartels, Corcoran (left at 6:52 PM), Erner, Lopez, Nolan & Uchitelle
ABSENT: Legislator Petit
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Commissioner Iapoce – UC DSS, Commissioner Smith – UC Health Department, Acting Director McDonald – UC Mental Health Department, Director Koppenhaver – UC Office for Aging, Director Doyle – UC Planning Department, Director Dawson – UC Youth Bureau, Molly Scott – UC Recovery & Resilience, Deputy Executive Contreras – UC Executive’s Office, Laurie Lichtenstein – Legislative Chair’s Office, David McNamara – SAMADHI, Kevin O’Connor, Lorne Norton & Emma Hambright – RUPCO, S. Deacon Bill Mennenga – New Paltz Redeemer Lutheran Church, Chris Parachinni, Cheryl Schneider, Lee Gough, Rosemary Quinn, Beetle, Ada Enjan

Chair Walter called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

Chair Eve Walter

Let's get started. I'll call the Health Human Services and Housing Committee meeting for April 11, 2022 to order. I'll take a motion to approve the March 2nd 2022, 2022 minutes.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

So moved.

Chair Eve Walter

Second

Legislator Corcoran

Second.

Chair Eve Walter

Second Corcoran. All in favor.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Abstain? Okay, so let's move along to our resolutions. Our first resolution is Resolution number 210 Amending the 2022 Ulster County budget to include additional funding for New York State Office of the Aging. This includes food and meals for senior citizens. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

So moved.

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan, Second Corcoran. Any discussion? All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Abstentions? All right. Resolution 211, Approving the execution of a contract amendment for 30,000 causing the aggregate plus contract plus amendment to be in excess of 50,000 entered to into the County - Family Home Health Office of the Aging. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I'll move it.

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan second, Corcoran. So, just as a little background, I had noticed that we are getting basically every month we get something for from the Office of Aging related to their home health. And so I just asked if they could put together kind of a summary of what all of them are, when they come how long and what they cover just so that we don't have to wonder every single month. What's this? And is this sort of, you know, how does this relate to the one we got before? So, Jays putting together a table? Did you distribute it? Not yet.

Jay Mahler

It is in the OneDrive.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, it's in the OneDrive, Just, just so that it sort of gets ahead of the question of ""how is this different from the one we just saw last month," so we have them all broken down on one table just to make it simpler. When you get a chance and look at it. If you see any more detail, you feel you need to have. It just sort of seemed like rather than repeating the conversation that said, are there any questions or comments on Resolution 211? All right, all in favor of 211?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Abstentions? All right. Next, we have 212, Approving the execution of a contract amendment for 150,000 for Gateway Communities. Again, Office of the Aging,

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I'll move it.

Chair Eve Walter

This is expanding their temporary meal program. Motion to discuss. Nolan. Second. Corcoran, any questions? Or concerns? Seeing none, all in favor of Resolution 212?

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Abstentions? All right. Resolution 139, Setting a public hearing on proposed local law for the prescription take back. The, the sponsor, sorry, I lost my words, on this asked for no action. And we do have a legal opinion in front of us that I just got today. So, I haven't gotten to share with you all. I'll get it to Jay, for you all to see. Showing that this state's law does not allow us to have our own, but I will get that to Jay to share with you. I just got it from Chris. So, I didn't get a chance. Did I take a motion to discuss? I guess it's I don't know what do we take a motion to discuss if we're taking no action? No. Okay. So Kathy, do you want to?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Yeah, this isn't discussing, I guess the, this particular resolution but just the issue. I did speak to some pharmacists, and they say that they're generally very much in favor of these takeback programs. But I'm somewhat agnostic about how they're regulated and who runs them and those kinds of considerations. So, I think maybe we should look into ways that we can support the pharmacies in efforts that they would like to take. Especially if, if this is preempted, superseded, or preempted by state law. We could perhaps still do something on the issue, but do it in a non-regulatory, non-legislative way

Chair Eve Walter

That's an excellent point. You know, just to clarify the law. The state law prevents us from having our own and the state law expects a whole plan from not actually the pharmacies, but from the prescription companies. However, that doesn't stop a pharmacy from doing this on their own. They don't, they are welcome to do it without going through the rigmarole of the state. And so So yeah, so I think that an idea of how to help them without it regulatory, you know, I think that's a great idea. Jay, did you have a thing I saw in the chat, your response, but I didn't see what the original thing was.

Jay Mahler

Just Director Koppenhaver wanting to know if you wanted her to stay on the end for the Housing Alliance, the Health Alliance contracts and the housing discussion.

Chair Eve Walter

I think it's totally up to you. You're welcome. And, you know, because I know you have something else, you couldn't just listen or get the minutes and see. We're happy to have you here. But

Director Susan Koppenhaver

No, I didn't know whether this was one of the meetings like you had a couple of weeks ago, where all of the people from the community came in to talk about the housing or was this just legislature?

Chair Eve Walter

This is legislature, we are going to touch base on that meeting, briefly at the end, but but not actually just sort of a summary and

Director Susan Koppenhaver

Okay. I'll stick around, I'll just turn my video off

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, Chair Bartels.

Chair Tracey Bartels

Thanks. Yeah, I was just, you know, I think that there's been a lot of frustration, obviously. And that's where, you know, the spirit of this resolution given that the state passed its legislation. And I think everyone fully expected it to be fully operational by now. And yet, it's not at all. And, and part of that may be that it's reliant on the industry to come forward with the plan, and I believe also to fund the plan. So, I definitely applaud the spirit of the resolution. But, you know, I saw that crossed my virtual desk to the, the legal advice, and I didn't have time really to look at it, but I did get the gist of it is that we, you know, we're precluded from, from taking action. So, hopefully, we'll circulate that document to everyone and, and have a follow-on conversation. So, I'm happy that the sponsors are willing to hold off on this.

Chair Eve Walter

I'll also add that, I mentioned this last time, but Senator Hinchey and an assembly person who I do not recall, have a bill right now in committee to sort of override this and address the fact that it's been taking too long, and actually put more of the responsibility on the pharmacies instead of industry. So, there's also the idea of whatever we can do to support that on the state level to move it on. Alright, so I'm going to move on to Resolution number 159, Establishing an Ulster County Land Bank Development Corp. for New York State Land Bank. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I will very happily make that motion.

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Second. Corcoran. Chair Bartels you can start us off.

Chair Tracey Bartels

Thank you. So um, I believe Clerk Mahler circulated, changes, proposed changes that I'd like to be considered, you know, I'd submitted it one, one member short, and I've since found that member so that that's included, you

have a background on, on all of the proposed board members. The other change, if I can just simply explain, as we were being very ambitious with the resolution, in that, initially, we had intended to include the articles of incorporation and bylaws and etc. So, I'm asking that we strike that it should be said that we're not required to have those things in terms of the application. And it was always expected that the board itself would adopt their own bylaws and non-discrimination policy, etc. As part of the application process, we will be submitting a sample bylaws and the articles of incorporation. It's just they don't have to be in this resolution. The other thing I want to say, and I know I've said it before, but because I don't know if I've spoken to each of you on this committee, you know, it does. It continually strikes me as backward, that the first thing we have to do is appoint a board and seek them when we don't yet have the authority to have a land bank. But I assure you, that is what's required of us for whatever reason, it's in the it's in the guidelines. So this is really step one, and I'm hoping you know, with your all support that, then we'll spend, we'll dig in in earnest to begin the application process, which I don't think will, will take that long, I'm really pleased that all the people listed here agreed to serve even in that unusual circumstance of being appointed to a board that's doesn't yet have the authority to exist. And we also had other really amazing names brought forward some of whom I spoke to about the possibility of eventually being seated on the advisory board to the land bank, which it will be expected that the land bank will, will seat an advisory board, and certain professionals are probably better suited for it for that board rather than this board. But I think we have an amazing, amazing group of citizen volunteers willing to take the first step and willing to attach their names to this.

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I missed the email updating. Can you tell us the name of the ninth appointee?

Chair Tracey Bartels

Sure. The name of the ninth appointee is, is Zali Win. And Mr. Win has extensive experience with New York City's Habitat for Humanity as their Treasurer and Executive Director, Director for 10 for 10 years.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

All right, thank you. Appreciate these comments. It is a process that doesn't look very clear and orderly. But it's what it takes to get the job done.

Chair Eve Walter

Any other, up? Go ahead Chair Bartels.

Chair Tracey Bartels

If I could just also, if I could also say, you know, to thank all of you, my colleagues, for your patience, because I know that this has been on the docket in the previous Economic Development Committee for extended months. And it and it really did take me a bit of time to wrap my head around how to get people to serve. But, you know, once I dug in on it, it did happen pretty quickly. So again, thank you, thank you all for your patience and seeing it month after month and working with me up to getting to this point.

Chair Eve Walter

Anyone else? I'll say I'm really excited about this group. And I think that the, the capacity of what we could do for housing, at the optimistic when this all gets approved, is pretty amazing. And so I hope it gets approved in the legislature and then I hope all legislators do what they can to encourage them on the state level to approve it as well. We have two toll booths, so we might as well have two land banks, right. All right. All in favor of and I just, moved my thing. So. Okay.

Chair Tracey Bartels

Can you, can you make sure that you do it as amended if someone couldn't move the amendment?

Chair Eve Walter

Oh. Sorry. So, I'll take a motion to approve as amended

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I'll move it as amended

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Nolan. A second on the amendment? Corcoran. All in favor of Resolution 159. As amended.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Eve Walter

Okay. I didn't know if we had to because I thought it was amended previously. But

Chair Tracey Bartels

Thank you.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay. 163, Establishing and funding capital project 631, a geothermal system for silver garden a senior housing development. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I'll move it.

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Second? Corcoran. Okay. discussion, questions, comments concerns.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

This is really appropriate project to provide housing for seniors and especially low-income seniors and to have it be done with geothermal is just a great thing. That has health benefits, I believe for the residents. And it should serve as a model for other projects around the county.

Chair Eve Walter

Other comments? I'll just say I, you know, I do. This is more of a process and, you know, goes to you, Johanna, more than anything else. The fact that there are these established buckets that were not established by the legislature, but by the executive, I think that complicates these ARP projects in in the messaging of what these projects are. You know, sometimes people do just refer to the title lists. And this that because it was felt that this should go under environment or green energy, when, in reality, what we're doing is we're supporting this is a resolution for supporting senior housing. And, and it was sort of forced into the classification of geothermal, so it fits under an established bucket that was not established by us in the legislature. And I kind of feel I'm kind of more comfortable with that things are what they really are. And, you know, I recognize the money could be used for various things, but the intent of this. And the reason why it's in this committee is not because it's geothermal. It's in this committee, because it's about senior housing. And so, I just feel like the effort to fit this into that process of calling it a geothermal resolution, when in fact, it's the housing resolution is problematic. And I would prefer myself that we just forget those established buckets. And we just put these through as they are, for our sake and for the constituency.

Deputy Executive Contreras

Got it. Yeah, I don't think I was privy to that discussion, but I'll definitely, I'll take that back.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Any other comments? So, this did go through the ARP committee, there are in our attachment, the ARP scoring for it. I assume you all saw that. I just wanted to make sure that's clear, because we have a policy where we don't vote on anything if ARP committee hasn't looked at it. Okay, anything else? All in favor of Resolution 163?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Abstentions? Okay. Resolution 164 is grouped with 163. It's approving a contract for 600,000 with RUPCO. First a motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

So moved.

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Second? Corcoran. Okay. Any discussion? So, just again, to clarify that this is associated with the silver gardens project, this is a partnership with RUPCO. It's not at this, my questions originally were because of the wording of it is RUPCO expected is RUPCO building geothermal now. And that's ,that's the other part of the confusion of the title, because this partnership with RUPCO is not for them to it's for them to partner with the housing for the aging and not they're not specifically. Yeah. Chair Bartels.

Chair Tracey Bartels

Thank you. Yeah. And I just want to clarify, I mean, first of all, I mean, I, I do hope that the county's commitment to the project will be what's able to put the project over the edge in order to get its funding to bring it to fruition,

because I think it really is a strong project. But if for some reason, the, the funding doesn't happen and the project doesn't happen, then the commitment, the commitment is contingent on the project moving forward. I want to clarify that first. And then, and then also, you know, there was some discussion and I saw a draft of something like recapture language, similar to the what's being discussed at Golden Hill, Golden Hill at one point where we're discussing an equity stake in the idea of a seller's note. And again, we're talking about only if these projects were to transition from being what they are currently to, to no longer being that to becoming market rate or to being sold for, for some other purpose. And again, I think that there's probably protections my understand I've learned a lot through this project. Thanks to, to Mr. O'Connor from RUPCO. And the sharing of documents that really helped me to understand how these funding mechanisms work a little bit better. All be it, they're very complicated. But I think that there are probably already protections in place in that if either of these projects were to no longer be affordable housing projects, they'd have to pay back much more than, than our contribution. So, so, I understand that, but I'm just in in an effort to, to protect the county, I just want to make sure that those recapture clauses are going to be in the agreements. I see Dennis, our county planner, nodding, and that the commitment is not going to happen unless the project happens, obviously.

Chair Eve Walter

Related to that, I mean, what kind of timeline are we talking about? Do you know Dennis or Kevin?

Director Dennis Doyle

Well, Kevin's here and I'd let him answer that question.

Chair Eve Walter

Yeah, he's if you can get off mute without having a car accident.

Kevin O'Connor

Yeah, I'm off mute. I'm parked. And can you hear me now?

Chair Eve Walter

Yeah.

Kevin O'Connor

Yeah. Great. So, thanks for your comments. You know, I think we can confirm that the timeline is the applications are currently being reviewed. If the county legislature votes this money forward, it could that can be communicated by the county legislator to the state agency during a period of review. Decisions will be I think, by early summer, and we could, if we're lucky to be awarded these very competitive grants, then we could, you know, start construction, say by January 1 on this project. So the only other point I want to make is, you know, the geothermal aspect that we were able to, we've done now and several other projects here, this one, similar to what we did at energy square, and the importance to the senior housing components, we're going to be able to, to allow the seniors to pay again, 29 of the units being you know, for special needs for formerly homeless seniors with services, but for all seniors, for all 57 apartments, they're going to be just paying rent, and we're going to be providing all of the utilities. So, you know, in the affordable housing, which has been so difficult for people, utility costs are part of the exacerbation of the situation. So, to be able to provide, you know, winter rental payment, heat, cooling, lighting, cooking, it's a really great thing. And the geothermal helps us to be able to do that. And as you know, just a whole other layer of not just affordability, but also stability to the senior housing

project. So, if we're not funded, the money will be uncommitted, unless we No, hopefully go back again. And you know, and reapply if we are funded the timeline was we started in January. No later, I would say in terms of construction, and yes, if, you know, we'll sign a 50-year regulatory agreement with the state of New York, we'll have a lot more money, we're hoping to leverage about \$19 million in total for this project. But if we were ever to not become affordable within the next 50 years, are happy to see the money go back to the county as well.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. I will say I mean, on the geothermal I'm thrilled that there is the geothermal My only comment was that that wasn't the headline. I would say also, that I, you know, we do have to be thoughtful of our timeline with spending ARP money, and that I do have a little bit of a worry on some things, you know, like, I think we have to be very, I don't know whether it's a contingency plan, if there's any delay in this timeline you're talking about or how that you know how that process really works in terms of identifying that we have it and actually being able to spend the money within the time period that we're supposed to. But I think we just have to keep our eyes on that. All right, so I gotta stop scrolling prematurely. All in favor of resolution 164?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Any abstentions? Okay, the Resolution 166. With the well, I'll read the original. And then there's an amendment that changes the title. So, the original is establishing and funding capital project 632, crisis stabilization center purchase of 368, Broadway, for AARP. This is ARPA money. So first to motion to discuss. Corcoran. Second? Bartels. All right. And so first, we have some amendments. We're crossing off in the title establishing this that we already established the crisis stabilization capital project last year. And so, this is the funding of it. And there were there's also another amendment of it not being a land acquisition, but a building acquisition. So, does somebody want to make a, you know, present that amendment for us to first vote on that. Chair Bartels. A second on the amendment? Erner, all in favor of the amendment.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Okay. So, on the actual resolution, any questions, comments? So, my, my one issue that I spoke to Deputy Executive Contreras about was just this concern that, as you know, we approve the Crisis Stabilization Center. And I did not want the crisis stabilization center to be intricately tied into this resolution in that should this resolution, not follow, not pass, it should not get in the way of us having a crisis stabilization center. This resolution is the Mental Health Hub, which would be inclusive of a crisis stabilization center. But things can happen. I mean, it couldn't have it might not pass, or it could actually pass. And whoever gets wins the RFP for the crisis stabilization center may look at the space and say this isn't feasible. And I'm not expecting any of those things to happen. I just wanted to make sure that it's very clear that that that Stabilization Center does not get crushed in any way, if there are any problems or challenges with this process. I'm fine personally, with this Mental Health Hub, I don't, I could be I'd be fine if it doesn't work, but I'm fine if it does. I'm not okay with the Crisis Stabilization Center not going through, we put a lot of work into that. And it's a very important needed thing in the county and so had the assurance from the Executive's office that they are not completely tied together if

something should go wrong with this resolution, or this building or something that doesn't not that the work was continuing with the Crisis Stabilization Center, they've the RFP is out they already have people who have applied. And so, I just wanted to make sure that that part is clear. I don't know Deputy Executive Contreras, do you have anything you want to add that I missed?

Deputy Executive Contreras

No, I just wanted to emphasize, like you said, Crisis Stabilization Center is our one of our biggest priorities. And we're moving as fast as we can on it. So, on the same page with you there.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Chair Bartels.

Chair Tracey Bartels

Thank you. And I would just also, again, like to ask that, that the opportunity be given to other legislators who weren't given a tour of the building, to be able to see the building? Because I think in walking through it and imagining the possibility, it's, it's, it's pretty exciting.

Deputy Executive Contreras

Sure, definitely, yes, if there's any, any legislators who haven't had the chance, please reach out to me, and we'll connect you and make sure that you're able to see it.

Chair Tracey Bartels

Thank you. I

Chair Eve Walter

And on that point, I'm sorry, go ahead.

Chair Tracey Bartels

I was just gonna say maybe we'll try it, maybe in order to help it so that you're not getting 20 separate calls, maybe we can try to do it through the legislative office to coordinate who might be interested. So that then you can pick a date that works for everyone's, or as much as that's possible.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you, I do want to preempt what could potentially be a raised red flag and turn that flag into not a red flag. Despite the fact the building is not only adjacent to but attached to Westchester Medical Center Health Alliance, the building is not owned by or theirs in any way this is not an agreement with them. They do rent, maybe one office in that building, maybe two. But I just want to be clear that despite its actual physical connection to the hospital itself, that this is not a partnership, or a purchase from Westchester Medical Center in any way, because I know there are people who would be concerned about that. Okay, any other questions? All right, all in favor of Resolution number 166. As amended.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Abstain. Okay. Resolution 173, confirming the important appointment of Tara McDonald's as Commissioner of mental health. motion to discuss. Corcoran. Second? Uchitelle. Any discussion? I'll just say I'm very very... I've worked with Tara quite a bit. I very impressed with her. I have no doubt that she can really move the dial for our county in the area of mental health. I, I, I wouldn't have picked anyone else personally to do the job. I think she's you know, I just want to say that, from my perspective, I think it's a fantastic decision. Legislator Uchitelle, then Nolan.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Yeah, I'll just build on that by saying, you know, my experience with Miss McDonald coming to the health committee in the past has is one of the reasons why I'm so excited about her stepping into this role, particularly because this topic is such a dynamic one where so many different moving pieces are coming together. and having that open communication is something that I'm really, really looking forward to as a, you know, title level department here. That's, you know, that's you know, really focusing on this and having a commissioner that's as responsive is something that I think is going to be a huge asset.

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Yes, I agree completely. It's a really fitting, and I commend Tara McDonald for many, many years of service already. And glad to have the title and position go with it. And really looking forward to you're helping us do really great things.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, Tara, do you want to say something?

Director McDonald

No, just thank you.

Chair Eve Walter

All right. All in favor of Resolution 173?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Any abstentions? All right. Resolution 174, confirming appointment of a member to the community service for substance abuse subcommittee. Motion to discuss. Corcoran. Second? Nolan. Any kind of, any discussion? We, the resume is provided there for Michael, Dr. Michael Torres. So, the only question I had and I did give it to you Deputy Executive Contreras. But I don't feel like I have the full answer. I recognize the difference between the Community Service Board and Ulster Prevention Council. I guess I'm just wondering, because Ulster Prevention Council is working on substance abuse prevention. And then the Community Service Board has a substance abuse subcommittee. I was just curious, are they operating separately in these vacuums?

Or are they operating interchangeably? Or together in any way? And I don't know, Tara, you're shaking your head, maybe you can answer just sort of how are those two if at all, working together.

Director McDonald

So, at one point the, the prevention council was participating in our CSB meetings and in our subcommittee meetings, and generally that would be how it would work best per part 41, we have to have a substance abuse subcommittee. So, we're, we're following those regulations. But certainly, it just sets a frame for which for us to work locally. So, prevention council is certainly invited. This is where they're able to share information directly with our subcommittee members about what are some of the challenges and barriers to providing the services as well as some of the successes that they've had. So, they're, they're very much a part of the table. It's just it's an added burden for the staff of the prevention council to be able to participate. The meetings are after hours at five o'clock, but they're certainly always welcome.

Chair Eve Walter

Right. And I know you serve on that, so you can communicate, I just, you know, I find that we have oftentimes many different organizations and committees going on in this county that are so dramatically overlapping in their mission and sometimes operate without with some of the same people but, you know, not really working together, necessarily. So, I'm glad to know that that's true. Any other questions or comments on this? Okay. All in favor of Resolution 174?

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Eve Walter

Opposed? Abstentions. All right. Unanimous. Resolution 200, which is setting a public hearing on proposed local law number 7, a local law amending the code of the county of Ulster in relation to evictions to be held on Tuesday, May 17. A motion to discuss. Uchitelle. Second? Erner. Uchitelle, Legislator Uchitelle

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Um, yeah, I'd like to, you know, open the floor to anyone else who would like to discuss. I've said a lot about this and will in a moment, but I didn't want to steal the microphone. I figured I'd let others go first.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, Legislator Erner

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. So, I'm not fully here, for reasons that you all know. I haven't looked at the agenda before just this meeting. But I decided I needed to be here. And it's because of this resolution that I already knew about. And I hope that will support moving this forward. Our county needs to enact more protections to prevent displacements, and this is a start to that, to give some tenants a little bit more to work with. I guess that's all I'm gonna say right now. Thank you.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you, Legislator Erner. And thank you for taking time from Shiva to come here and talk to us. Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Yeah, I appreciate Legislator Erner being here tonight. Send my wishes to your family. And I appreciate the work both you and Legislator Uchitelle and others on this, I guess I was a little surprised to find that this law would require landlords to go to court, in any case, that they were considering an eviction. Um, so I was a little worried about that and wondered if I am misreading this. Or if there's a context or rationale that I haven't seen yet.

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Uchitelle.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Yeah, the, the, this doesn't increase the, the burden doesn't move up the need to go to court. This is, you know, a landlord could, could ask a tenant to leave. And they could decide to leave, that they don't want to be there, they don't feel welcome. A lot of tenants are intimidated by the requests that landlords make to leave, you know, without forcing an eviction. And it's only if an eviction is forced with, with, you know, this comes into play this, this affects the criteria of what happens in the eviction. You know, this, this, by I hope, will give tenants more confidence that they can stay in their homes. Right now, a lot of tenants just leave at the first suggestion that the landlord doesn't want them there, which I think is very unfortunate. It's a very, very imbalanced power dynamic. But this doesn't, you know, remove the landlord's ability to say, hey, I, you know, would prefer if you left, and the tenant can say no, which they can say today. And that would be an eviction today, it doesn't change that.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

That's helpful. Thank you. And the other concern that's been brought to me by members of my district, who are landlords of more than four units, is that they have invested in their properties. And they say, as their kind of their retirement planning. And that they feel that they often are in the situation where they will have a tenant and the eviction process, they feel is already quite arduous. And so, the request that they brought to me, and I'm not sure how to accommodate it, and apologize for not having brought it to the folks working on, this sooner is whether this legislation will affect all properties or new ownership of properties. So, the complaint is, and I'm troubled by it, that it's changing the rules of the game, as you know, as we are in it. And the so that their expectations of the way they would be able to manage their properties going forward, would be changed dramatically by this. And in one case, the landlord said that, you know, spoke about understanding the reason to want to have this, but I'm raising the concern that it just changes the way that they're able to cope with economic changes and the pandemic and so forth. So are we addressing that in any way? For people who may have fit within the law, but not the owners of 25 or 50 or 100 units?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

So if I may Chairwoman Walter.

Chair Eve Walter

Go ahead Legislator Uchitelle

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

So I think so two things I want to say to that. And first, I'll address it on a very general level, which is to say, part of the process that I hope that we can go through in, you know, in in this legislative process of setting a public hearing, hearing from landlords, hearing from tenants, hearing from homeowners that fit in either category, that we can hear these concerns. And one of the fundamental things I think that we need to determine is, you know, just what is a small landlord that that, you know, is, is, you know, a member of our community that we want to make sure that we're not unduly burdening, right? And that might, you know, the folks that you're talking to might, you know, we through the process of legislating, we might determine that we are going to exclude you know, a larger group of landlords than this current version excludes which is just the owner occupied you, you know, four unit, or if something you know if they're if they're going to use it for an immediate family member. So, that's the broad response, when and why I'm so eager to bring us to a public hearing, which I've been trying to do for almost, for about six months now. For the landlords who view this as an investment, and the rules have been changed, you know, sometimes the rules have to change because a population is being disproportionately harmed by the playing field. And that's the playing field that we have. That's my assessment, I realize that there are varying degrees of recognition of that, and, and that's what I hope that this process will uncover. But, you know, rules change, when it becomes clear that a type of investment is harming people. Right now, people are being forced out of their homes, because landlords realize that they can sell because they can cash out on an investment that's worth twice as much as it was, you know, a huge amount of growth in landlords being able to cash out. Most of the people in my district that are being that are reaching out to me, because they're being evicted, are actually being evicted by people that just purchased homes, right. So obviously, people, people are taking advantage of the circumstance, you can sell a property with old rent, and the landlords know, I can buy it, and I can immediately raise the rent, I'm gonna get rid of all of the tenants. And that's what's happening. I believe, all over our community it's certainly happening all over my district. And so, you know, to that specific issue, I say the rules need to change. I mean, ask anyone who invested heavily in fossil fuels, and then and then different types of funds, you know, have divested from fossil fuels. I believe we're still over indexed in in it in general. But if if being if it is less attractive to, to be, you know, to, if homes to live in this community is too expensive. And that has to do with the cost of housing. If the if the cost of housing goes down, yes, value of housing that a landlord might have, you know, had triple, quadruple, you know, the investment over the years, it might look more like a traditional investment where you get 5% and growth every year and you feel good about that. Or maybe it's you know, more than that, because it's compounding, right? Sometimes the rules need to change. And we've got to tip the scales in the favor of those that are being seriously harmed by the current environment. And that's what I'm seeing in my community. And I don't think that's who we are, I really don't think that's who we are. I don't think that's who the landlords are that you're speaking to, you know, it's not it's not who we are, but it is what's happening. And I really think we need to do something about it.

Chair Eve Walter

Alright, anyone else? So, I'll just say, we, unfortunately, had gotten an ethics board decision that had stated that those legislators who are somehow served by the nature of this or not served, were not allowed to vote or discuss they needed to abstain. I will say that I reached out to the Legislative Council to get clarification, when the, the differential between speaking about and voting on an actual law versus voting on a public hearing, where I believe the intent of the ethics board was that there were there concerns were not necessarily applicable for the vote on a public hearing. They're just applicable in the vote on the law. Unfortunately, I haven't gotten the council's statement about this yet. So I'm hoping it'll come soon. But my personal decision is it's uncomfortable for me,

knowing that I own a rental property to go against the ethics board ruling. So, I will just say that I will need to abstain at this point. Should we make that vote. Chair Bartels, you want to go first? And then

Chair Tracey Bartels

Well, yeah, I'm just going to state that I've been advised by legislative counsel, both legislative councils to recuse and that is based on the ethics board ruling. So, that's all I'm permitted to say is that I have to I'm required to recuse

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Uchitelle

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

So, I'm just gonna you know, say this: I I will accept no action tonight. And, and, you know, when I'm done speaking, we can just move on to Resolution 209, which is the next thing on the agenda. But I do want to say, you know, I'm, I'm very frustrated by this, you know, our ethics ruling was received by us, you know, months ago. And I, I am not someone that can, you know, I'm because I don't fall into the category of a landlord, I can't challenge it, I would encourage anyone with the courage to do so to challenge it. I don't know, if we're not getting the counsel, that would, you know, give us confidence in challenging it. I'm getting counsel, that gives me confidence that the ethics opinion is, is not a quality opinion. But yet, you know, here we are, and we're not we're not acting on it. And if I don't also point out that this is this is one of two Council provided opinions that is, you know, the reason that something isn't moving forward tonight, I'm very concerned about that. And I'm saying it here in this meeting because I think that's where it needs to be said, this has been on our plates for months, and we have not made progress on this. I don't want to put anyone on the spot about who is or isn't, you know, really finding the courage to deal with this. But our community is disappearing. And it pains me immensely. And that's all I'm gonna say, I'm very disappointed

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Nolan

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I'm a little confused by Legislator Uchitelle's comments. Do we really have a majority of the committee that is conflicted here or potentially conflicted, in line with the Ethics Committee ruling? I mean, the ethics committee's opinion, I think, is worthy of respect until it's challenged. And so, so far, I've heard that that affects Legislator Walter and Chair Bartels if it doesn't affect anybody else. It affects Legislator Corcoran as well. So, and Legislator Erner. Okay. So, you, you counted the votes correctly, Or the not the votes? The agents? Yeah, the abstentions. All right. Um, you have your hand up for other reasons to Legislator Erner?

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Do, Do I direct? Do I still direct my comments through you, Chair Walter or is Deputy Chair Lopez gonna take it from here? Just point of order?

Chair Eve Walter

Oh, that's a good point. Go ahead, direct it to Deputy Chair Lopez, please. Thank you.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay. Thank you, we seem to have at least potentially a lame duck ethics law at this point. And what I mean by that is we're proposing to change it. And what the discussion around that did bring up this topic, which is not the reason or the only reason that we were had we had already begun that work. But just to point that out, assuming that the new law goes into effect, I think that that would eliminate these, these concerns and basically negate the ruling that had taken place last fall. So, I wonder whether we could all go out on a limb knowing that that is the likely outcome and that the, you know, an ethics board ruling on this same sort of thing in nine months would not likely end up in the same place. We could go out on a limb right now for our for our community, for our constituents and and go ahead anyway, because ultimately if our work here does represent the will of the people and ,we're changing, changing the rules of what's ethical, I think the ethical thing is to is to weigh in on this right now

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Deputy Chair Lopez

Legislator Craig Lopez

Are you unable to speak on this at all because you have to abstain, Chair?

Chair Eve Walter

I mean, I think it's up to you all.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Do we know if the Legislator Petite it would have to abstain under the ethics committee's opinion?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

If I may Deputy Chair Lopez. I believe that she would. And I, you know, while I would love to move forward with this, we could end we're going to end up with some variation of this in in laws and rules and then again in in session, and quite frankly, I think that this I think that this vote would be tainted by abstentions. And I don't want to I don't want to. I don't want to do that. I don't want to do that. We, you know, we got to figure out a way forward on this. So as much as it pains me i i don't see. I don't know. I just don't see it. Unless

Legislator Craig Lopez

Sorry. I was actually speaking, I had my headphones plugged in. So, I, I don't think anybody could hear me at the time. Yeah, no. I mean Chair Walter, you can't speak on this at all, because you're going to abstain? Okay. Understood,

Chair Eve Walter

I'd rather recuse.

Legislator Craig Lopez

To recuse.

Chair Eve Walter

To be more specific

Legislator Craig Lopez

Understood. Well, and to your question, Legislator Erner? Yeah, I don't feel comfortable. I'm assuming that there's going to be a change in the ethics ruling. So, you know, with that said, I know that our counsel also had some issues with this. So, I'm not sure how I would vote on the law. But you know, I, I'm rarely against a public hearing, because I think it's important to allow the public to weigh in. But my vote and Legislators Uchitelle's vote, and I guess legislator Nolan's vote in the affirmative. I don't think will pass this anyway, if everybody has to abstain. So, if that's the case, then, you know, perhaps we can take no action, we'll get some answers. And we can bring it up next month.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Yeah, I agree with that. Deputy Chair Lopez. And I would just also ask if whoever would be appropriate, it might be you, Craig, to go to the legislators Counsel, and see whether we could bring forward as a committee of the whole a resolution to have a public hearing on this law. And if we, if if we don't have enough legislators to vote in that body, then I think we should take that information back to the ethics committee and ask them to take another look at this. In ,in regard to Planning Boards and Zoning Board of Appeals, I know there's clear case law that allows people who are farmers to vote on things that address farming in their communities, precisely because if you don't allow them to and communities that have a lot of farmers, you can't run these boards. So, I think we should keep very careful note of the, the vote here or the, the number of abstentions here this evening that prevented a vote and take that information back to the Ethics Committee.

Legislator Craig Lopez

I think that's fair. And I will leave it up to you, legislator Uchitelle, do you want a vote to postpone? Or do you want to just take no action?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

I really think it's it would I don't think we have an option besides to take no action because I'm not even sure I guess the postponement vote would be, would be fine. But moving on, I think would be probably the right move.

Legislator Craig Lopez

Okay, well, with that said,

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Legislator Erner has his physical hand up.

Legislator Craig Lopez

Gotcha. Okay, Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you, Chair Lopez, thank you, Legislator Nolan uh. You know, I'm, I'm willing to take my chances and discuss this and vote on it or whatever is happening and continue to participate. Despite everything that's been

said. I'm just gonna say that. So, if the committee then would like to count me as a fourth person who's participating right now, I will participate

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Well, if we could, as a point of order, if we had, you know, for Uchitelle, Nolan, Erner and Lopez to be voting members. Is that enough for the outcome of the vote to count?

Legislator Craig Lopez

Yeah,

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

all right. So

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Chair Bartels would need to leave, I think. No? You don't count towards a quorum. The chair doesn't

Jay Mahler

She does but she doesn't affect the number because Legislator Petite is not present. So, your quorum number for this evening remains seven.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I don't remember if I was a motion or a second on this, but I wouldn't feel comfortable moving this in the setting of having a legislator um acting in opposition to the ethics committee's opinion. So, if I were the motion or the second, I would withdraw from that, and ask somebody else to do that. And I'm not sure I would feel comfortable voting to move forward in that circumstance. I think it just puts the law in a very tenuous position and creates something that we'll be talking about other than the law, when we're just talking about scheduling a public hearing. So I would prefer to find another way to schedule the public hearing, then to have a legislator move forward against an articulated ethics committee opinion.

Legislator Craig Lopez

Yeah, I, I would agree with that as well. I and I, I can appreciate Legislator Uchitelle's, yeah, urgency in order to move this forward. And it is time sensitive, considering you know, what people are going through in this county. So but still, you know, I would rather have this right. And hold it over. Then move forward. This evening, well, I wouldn't feel comfortable anyway. So, Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. I mean, that's all fine. I'm just gonna say I'm, I'm considered a renter, according to our counsel, which is bizarre. I live in a house with my partner that she owns the house. And so apparently, the law says that I pay her rent. So, I'm a renter. And renters aren't just like landlords are excluded by the ethics opinion, which, to me also seems bizarre. And if we haven't any public conversations about this, maybe it's time we did that, because we've had plenty of private conversations as legislators amongst ourselves and in our communities, I know about this particular ruling, and its implications. But anyway, I just had to say that. Thank you.

Legislator Craig Lopez

Okay. So, Legislator Uchitelle, you still want to take no action?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Yeah, I think I think Legislator Nolan is right, as much as it pains me. Even though I think we might have the numbers tonight to prevail. I don't want the story on this to be tainted, and my recommendation would be that Legislator Walter assumes her role as chair and moves us to resolution 209.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, Resolution 209, setting a public hearing on the sale and or transfer of five parcels of land owned by Ulster County in the Town of Esopus, Kingston, Lloyd Plattekill, and Ulster to a Local Development Corporation. motion to discuss and

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I'll move it.

Chair Eve Walter

Second? Chair Bartels. Any discussion? Chair Bartels.

Chair Tracey Bartels

So, these properties, I know, Planner Doyle will be able to tell us the exact time but these properties were pulled from the tax foreclosure sale some time ago, more a year ago, maybe is it? Is it a year? Yes. Okay, a year ago, they were then subsequently discussed in Economic Development, again, because of where housing sat in the last term. You know, the intention, and I had, I had a long talk today with Planner Doyle about this specifically, but also about the bigger picture of the many strategies that that we can take to address affordable housing in Ulster County. And this is, this is potentially one of them. You know, what I would, I would like a month to talk about it, I just joined the housing authority that we're talking about transferring this to, and it was not on the agenda at the first meeting that I attended, which was last month, we didn't we did not discuss this. And we were set to have another meeting, which just is getting postponed. But still that meeting would have been tomorrow, which is after the resolution deadline on this. So, you know, I'm not I'm not opposed to it. As an idea, I just I really do want to have an understanding of the of the plan of the proposal. You know, in the in the last in the ARP committee, the question came up of, you know, what's the det? There were a lot of detailed questions about what's the what's the percentage AMI that we're going to require that these housing this houses be and I feel like we are getting too into the weeds potentially with those kinds of questions, but I do think that, I do think that I'd like to have an understanding of just what the process is going to be with the previous Deputy County Executive, Deputy, Deputy County Executive Wright, she stated at the last in the last term at the Economic Development Committee, she stated that there would be the possibility of going out to an RFP for the rehabilitation and subsequent transfer of these properties as deeded affordable homes prior to the transfer to the authority, that unfortunately didn't happen in this interim. So, what we're asking to do is to set a public hearing in order to transfer the homes and then would undertake the RFP to see if there is outside money to do this. Because the authority at this moment in time doesn't, doesn't have the money to do it. On its on its own. So, again, you know, I'm thinking that there's a possibility that this wouldn't be back before us as soon as a month, I do also want to state that there's been discussion, you know, as we're talking about respite homes that also came up, not none of these may be, be the right or correct, are perfect places for respite homes. But again, I think we I think we need to have a sit down to in order to, to work

out some of the, you know, the, the big picture issues related to this. All that said, I want to say that I'm, I'm very supportive, obviously, with the idea of moving a landmine forward, I'm very supportive of removing properties from a tax sale, that is set up to get the, the maximum amount of money, but not the highest and best use for the properties. So, I am totally supportive of pulling additional properties from the sale. And you know, and, and, you know, I applaud that effort. And I think that we, we need to, you know, we need to come up with a strategy to that regard whether or not we, we get a land, land bank, again, I'm with Legislator, Walter, I'm optimistic, I'm going to say when we get a land bank, but just the sidebar is if we don't, this is one of the tools in which it this is one of the ways in which we can handle that. And I acknowledge that I just, I'm personally not ready to move on it this month, not having even spoken about it at the at the authorities meeting.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Um, I think that the county has, for decades, um, taken properties off the tax rolls, without great plans of what was going to happen next, but with just some idea, and I don't see any reason to hold back, I would go ahead and have the public hearing next month. And we'll continue working on how to use these properties. They are, you know, in arrears, we have potential uses, I don't see that we have to have a perfectly put together plan for them, before we make sure that we have them. And especially in light of what we just had to do with the prior resolution, I feel like we can move forward with this and set ourselves up to address the same housing issues that we've been saying are so urgent. So, I appreciate the concerns. And, you know, I think there are some ways to move forward that can be flushed out. But it can be flushed out much better if we own the properties than if they are owned by somebody else who's in arrears, on taxes to the point that we're ready to take the properties. So, my preference would be to move forward. I'm always reluctant to do that in the face of advice of people that have studied the issue more than myself, but I do feel some urgency here. And this This one doesn't seem problematic to me.

Chair Eve Walter

Oh, then Legislator Uchitelle first.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Yeah, I agree with Legislator Nolan. But only because it's a public hearing. I do think that it's very important for which I think is what the legislature no one was saying. Well, I think it's very important. And I think we saw it with, with the EDC with our, with our members that sit on the EDC that we when you have members of our body that come and say yes, we talked about this in the in the, you know, the, the basically that's an LDC as well, we talked about this and you know, we support it. I think that that's important and obviously, I wish we could do that here if it hasn't been discussed there yet. You know, we can, however, for public hearing, I think it's it will certainly get discussed and I would be happy to vote in favor of this tonight.

Chair Eve Walter

Chair Bartels

Chair Tracey Bartels

I just wanted to clarify what Legislator Nolan was saying terms of ownership. Right now the county does have ownership to the extent that the foreclosure has happened. It's just the, we're talking about transferring it to, to the to another. as Legislator, Uchitelle said another entity.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Yeah, that's the correction. But Legislator Uchitelle is correctly

Chair Eve Walter

I just ask you raise your hand when you want to speak. Thank you.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Thank you, through the Chair. Yes. And legislator Uchitelle has really hit what I should have emphasized more, which is this a public hearing. So, it doesn't obligate us to any action, we can have the public hearing, and then to have our process.

Chair Eve Walter

Others. So, I'll just say, and try to keep this brief because we have a lot more to go through. I did have concerns and put in a request to Deputy Executive Contreras asking what are the parameters for the LDC to move forward? And, you know, I appreciate the response. But I think it speaks to what Chair Bartels was saying is that they're not fully established yet. How will we assure that these parameters are the ones that we want to make sure that these houses are used for exactly what we feel need to happen for affordable housing. I, my concern with making it a public hearing is we have this conversation several times that in a public hearing, I would hope that the public could also speak to these parameters to speak to the language that says these houses will be used in this way and not for this way. That that's part of it, I don't think they would have as much to say about just the concept of the sale. They'd have more to want to say anything on what these houses should be used for. And so I am concerned that if we don't have the full clarification, or proposed clarification of exactly what these parameters are, it becomes challenging for the public to comment fully appropriately on this. Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I think that's an excellent point. Um, is there a way for us to schedule the public hearing with an understanding that we will have one or more proposals that would be discussed, and to build in the notion that if we do not have a proposal that we could cancel the public hearing?

Chair Eve Walter

I'll ask the chair, also, when is the LDC board going to be discussing this? And as part of that answer, go ahead Chair Bartels.

Chair Tracey Bartels

So, the, the tomorrow's meeting, like I said, got cancelled, but I would expect that. I mean, it's a small board, I would expect that we could schedule another meeting in a fairly short amount of time. I think, though, you know, you've, Legislator Walter have hit sort of on my concern. It's not only, you know, and that's one of the reasons I wanted to see the RFP prior to making the transfer of the properties because then we could articulate the, you know, why we wanted to transfer them and the success of that. But, but also the other, frankly, another concern I

have about having a public hearing, while it sounds harm harmless is, you know, in the absence of being able to speak to the positive, we also have the possibility of have a certain amount of speaking to the negative, and that's people who maybe just want to purchase it again, for the, for the for personal use, you know, and who have been frustrated for whatever reason. And when you're trying to create a plan for highest and best use for properties rather than rather than highest price. You know, I think it's just really important to articulate that, that vision, which I think can happen fairly quickly. Again, that's, that's, you know, least that's where I came out of my conversation with Planner Doyle today is just that, you know, and what I hope that he heard from me is that, you know, from my perspective, I think there's a lot of alignment on this. I just think we have to sit down and have a conversation about it. versus you know, I very, I find myself often frustrated when and it's not just this, this is a unique example where I'm new to, to a board but where things come before the legislature without a lot of conversation and the place where we have the conversation are in these committees and these committee meetings, as we all know, have got, you know, are getting very, very long and we're trying not to spend too much time on, on the micro details of the individual contracts of things that maybe are not as important we're trying to take bigger policy. He looks at things. And this is a bigger policy issue that I really, I think we're all really committed to. Particularly this, this, this committee. So, again, I'm not sure what I'm, you know, delaying this a month would harm. But I'm open to hearing and I certainly would feel more comfortable having had a discussion in that in the LD in the LDC.

Chair Eve Walter

I would also appreciate the LDC like in that discussion is a real definition of what moderate income is, because I've seen moderate income defined in ways that doesn't sound like it's really moderate income. Dennis,

Director Dennis Doyle

Thank you, Chairman Walter, I really appreciate an opportunity. And I just want to say how important it is to have these discussions at this level and to hear the legislators move back and forth. And I want to remind everyone that, that we're in a housing crisis. The legislature has recognized that, and we're really trying to find solutions. And almost have the I'm almost trying to figure out is if we're trying to find a perfect solution, rather than essentially a solution that we think will work. And we're going to work out the details. And I go to that, I look at that. And I start to say, you know, what criteria are you looking for? Or are you really looking for the fact that we're, we're literally trying to figure out how we're going to move these projects and get them rehabilitated. The criteria is simple. I mean, low- and moderate-income criteria abounds everywhere, in terms of in terms of what what people consider low and moderate income. We've been doing housing rehabilitation work, and homeownership CAC financing using Community Development Block Grant funds, with income levels that have been that have been tried and true with respect to the Office of Community Renewal, HUD, and others. And the idea of trying to figure out what constitutes low and moderate income or how we're going to address that, I mean, you can go all the way from 40% or 30% of AMI to 120% of AMI. The real issue we're here we're here is, is we're moving essentially, county properties that the county owns, into a into an LDC to essentially advance affordable housing. And we can have all the discussions we that we want to have relative to what constitutes affordability. But we ought to at least be able to make a determination that that's something that we want to do. And my sense is, is that the legislature in moving these houses or surplus in these houses, or giving them to the Development Corporation, can begin that discussion, as part of as part of moving those properties over. But the bigger policy discussion here is, are we willing to make the move. And one of the reasons I think that that's important is we have another auction coming up. And the planning department is in the process of identifying properties within that auction that should also be removed. So if the legislature is essentially going to say to

ourselves that we're not willing to move those parcels, then I think we really need to think about how we're how we treat these these auctions and the current parcels that are here. I just want everybody. I mean, I would agree that we don't have to do this this month, that it won't hurt to wait to the next month. But I would want and I really appreciate the chairs discussion that basically says that, that she believes that this is a this is one way to go. But it would be really nice to essentially begin to have a discussion that we don't have to have everything in perfect order, in order to go to a public hearing, and begin to have this discussion about moving these parcels out. That's the only thing I can share.

Chair Eve Walter

Bartels

Chair Tracey Bartels

Yeah, and, you know, I mean, I just have to say, you know, with all due respect, you know, it's I find it very frustrating that I attended an economic development meeting very close to a year ago, where this exact issue was discussed related to these exact properties. And it was requested that an RFP go out in advance of the transfer to to, to basically proof positive that this outside funding could actually make this happen with the expectation that the transfer would follow. And here we are a year later. And there's been, you know, that hasn't happened. So, like okay, we'll just move the properties like nothing. I don't know what's happened in the in the year. So, that's on the legislature too. You know, when I think it's a new, it's a here we are, it's a new term and what, what has to happen, in addition is, you know, a sit down with the Executives office and executive leadership to discuss not just this as one means of dealing with the housing issue, but the many means, but also discuss, you know, the, the details. Because I think the details are important, you know, mean, Dennis, when you stay well, these are well understood, you know, parameters to Legislator Walters point, I mean, I have heard other legislators ask in terms of the parameters, you know, what, what, what are these properties going to be sold as in terms of an earlier today, you told me 80 to 120% of AMI, I think that's the number you gave me is a is a well-established affordability standard. Some people hear that and so why, why is like, why is that the number we're targeting. And again, this is the minutia, but this is also part of having an understanding so that we have a plan so that when we speak to the public, we speak with one voice, and we articulate what the, you know, what the vision is for the county. And again, my expectation is, if when we reach that understanding is, the possibility may be of there being no tax sales. And I mean, that's, that's extreme, but that's the extreme other end of this, that we that none of our properties go up to the highest bidder, but they all go to the, to the best use through an organization like land bank, or if need be an LDC. So, so, I'm, I'm willing to get radical on this, I just feel like there needs to be the sit down of discussion, not a years of lack of discussion on these actual properties, and then a resolution and I don't think that has to take a long time. One month should be more than shouldn't be more than enough.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. I just want to say that Legislator Corcoran is going to have to step off in about one minute. I just wanted to let people know why he's going. Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I appreciate this conversation. It seems like, you know, if we've had conversations like this over the course of a year, that we do have a little bit of a chicken and egg problem. And I'm not sure if the Executive's office wants to speak to this, but to put out an RFP on properties that where we don't know for sure that the legislature will approve for them to be available through a certain mechanism could be a block on their side. So, you know, I

appreciate the comment that it's, you know, on both sides. And I think what I'm looking for is a way through here. So, I don't know if that's language like that, we might amend this to say, for the purpose of affordable housing at not more than 120 AMI. If there's some way we can put some language in here that is reassuring to the legislature that that the purpose for which we intend this transfer is effectuated, then we can effectuate it. And maybe that can't be done tonight. But it seems to me like it's really a question of trying to get protections in place against misuse of the properties. And I don't think there's been any indication that anybody wants to misuse these properties. Everybody wants it to go for affordable housing. And so there it does seem to me like we're just getting knotted up in the details of what that is. So let's maybe if we're not going to move this forward tonight, let's, let's really have the conversation of what would allow it to move forward. And I would be very comfortable with it just as it is. But certainly, with language, like for the purpose of, you know, providing affordable housing at no more than whatever Director Doyle would recommend as a reasonable upper bound figure. So that you know, we all could look at that and go oh, yeah, if they did that, we would be happy with it.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. I don't know who would really have the time to make an amendment right now. But Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. Maybe we need to create a Department of Housing. i There might be some state law that says we have to do it this way and have it LDC and so forth. But it occurs to me that if the county just directly could handle this, we might avoid some of these issues.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, so, you know, again, I My feeling is that this My concerns are not about minutia. It's not about, like nitpicking, I think it's a pretty reasonable ask that we have as Legislator Nolan pointed out, have those clear parameters associated with this kind of thing? And, and I don't think it's on us that those parameters don't exist yet. I think those parameters could have been established up to this point where we understood that this is exactly what these the priorities are for the county. And this is exactly what we're going to use these things for what we're not going to. And so, I don't I don't want to take responsibility for saying that something, you know, that it says if it's last minute that we're saying it's hard to move forward on this, without having those parameters. I don't think there's any reason why we shouldn't have them by now. So, but, again, if someone would have to make a motion to postpone if they wanted to, I don't know if anyone wants to make that motion. Chair Bartels?

Chair Tracey Bartels

Well, I would like to see postponed a month, but I don't know what the will of the committee is.

Chair Eve Walter

I mean, if it's going to, well, you could always put it up to vote and see what the will of the committee is. Deputy Executive Contreras.

Deputy Executive Contreras

Yes, sorry. I haven't had too much to say about this, because this is really in Marc's world. And I'm sorry that he's not here tonight to comment. But I did want to kind of speak to what Legislator Nolan said. From my understanding, I don't think that we were aware that the RFP you know, commitment had been made. And that's why that didn't happen before this. But I did. I do remember Marc saying that he thought it would have kind of

put the cart before the horse to put an RFP out there without knowing what the outcome would be of this discussion. So I just wanted to put that out there. But in terms of being able to get to, to the same place on the parameters, I think that we would be committed to doing that quickly if that's really what the holdup is.

Chair Eve Walter

So, Chair Bartels. Thank you, Legislator Corcoran. So, Chair Bartels, do you want to make a motion? And we'll just see where it goes?

Chair Tracey Bartels

Yeah, sure. I'll make a motion to postpone a month.

Chair Eve Walter

And is there a second?

Chair Tracey Bartels

...look with Executive's office on the parameters?

Legislator Craig Lopez

I'll second.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay. Lopez, is that you? Sorry? Yeah, those don't always look at the right place. Okay. All in favor of postponement.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Eve Walter

That's 1, 2, 3, 4. All opposed? Opposed, three. Okay, so the postponement passes. So next, we have Resolution 213, approving the execution of a contract for 68,005 5158. And with somebody motion to discuss?

Legislator Craig Lopez

I'll move it.

Chair Eve Walter

Second? Second. Lopez. So, discussion? Legislator, Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Thank you. I am the volunteer president of Samadhi Center, Inc. So don't have a financial conflict. But I feel that given that this is a resolution for an organization that I had, I should recuse myself. The Executive Director David McNamara is here if any of the members of the committee have questions.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Okay. Anybody have any questions regarding this? All right. So, all in favor of Resolution 213.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Opposed? And then I assume you're abstaining. Legislator Nolan?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I'm recused or recusing.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, passes. Resolution 214 approving contract amendment for rates anticipated to exceed 50,000 with Westchester County Health Care Corporation DBA Westchester Medical Center. This is for forensic pathology. Motion to discuss?

Legislator Craig Lopez

I'll move it.

Chair Eve Walter

Lopez. Second? Nolan, Any discussion on this? Nolan was your hand up?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

No, I sorry. I was I was to second.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay. Thank you. All in favor of resolution 214.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Eve Walter

Alright, resolution 215 approving the execution of a contract of 150,000 into the county for access is expanded mobile mental health. Motion to discuss. Bartels

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Second.

Chair Eve Walter

Second, Nolan, any discussion? This does serve the entire county Okay, all in favor of resolution number 215. Opposed? Abstentions. Okay. Resolution 216 approving the execution of a contract amendment for 42,001 92 entered into the county for Aster services for. I'm sorry, let's do a motion to block Resolutions 216 and 217. Please. Motion?

Committee Members

Aye

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Motion.

Legislator Craig Lopez

I'll make that motion.

Chair Eve Walter

So, Nolan. Second Lopez on the block. I did the block. Great. Um, so motion to discuss 216 and 217.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

So moved.

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Second, Uchitelle. So, this is I've blocked it, because one takes away the money and the other one adds the money. We're just moving the money from one organization to another. Any questions or comments? Okay, on favor of the block of the 216 217.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Eve Walter

Opposed? Abstained? Okay. Next, we have Resolution 218 amending the 2022 Ulster County budget to accept an allocation of workforce grant funds from the New York State Department of Mental Health for work workforce recruitment and retention. A motion to discuss? Nolan. Second? Bartels. Any discussion? Uchitelle.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

I'm curious, what the role of the Office of Employment and Training, if any, is on this since it is workforce related.

Chair Eve Walter

Deputy Oh, okay. Mike, go ahead.

Commissioner Michael Iapoce

Sure. Thank you, Chair, Legislator Uchitelle, they're not involved in this. This is a workforce grant. And the origins of it are the New York State Office of Mental Health. So, it's for purposes of training, retention, and recruitment of mental health clinics of current staff. So, it's not an employment and training initiative, our Office of Employment and Training, it doesn't have any role in connection with the administration of this.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

So, it would it be fair to say in a different way to say that it is professional development of existing employees and that therefore not relevant to OET?

Commissioner Michael Iapoce

Yes.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Okay.

Chair Eve Walter

Yeah, again, another fooled by the name of the grant itself.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

It will, if I, if I may continue Chair Walter,

Chair Eve Walter

Go ahead

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Just to say something really quick, I have very high hopes for further integration of the Office of Employment and Training with everything that we do. And I know that they actually I believe they do some staff development. You know, for other regions, I could be wrong. But I believe when I was in the private sector, I took advantage of that, I guess, my day job, I'm still in the private sector. My point being when I ran my agency. And I, you know, the workforce, workforce development is such a huge part of our work as a county, and I feel that, that, you know, I'd be remiss not to encourage everyone on this call to look for opportunities to pull OET into things, to engage with a broader kind of mindset around workforce development, because it's such a huge, you know, economic development without workforce development is just gentrification. So, if we're not developing our workforce, and we're doing all this economic development, there's gonna be no one here for those jobs. I don't think that this resolution is a problem. But I do want to take a second to just point that out and to say, I have been really proud of the work OET has done in the past. And I encourage us to engage them as much as we can.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Just to clarify this, also, just the, the nature of these trainings does require a certain specialty and licenses for this particular case

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Which is true of most of what OET does, you know, they don't actually train people most of the time, they just help find the training providers, which I'm not saying that this is a good fit for them, but I just wanted to clarify.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you, Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you, just to add to, to Abe's point. We, I was I went to BOCES the other week, and office of employment training was there. Ms. Sharon was there and I saw her again. They were there again down in Marlborough today. At the mobile DMV had a bunch of departments out there and it's good to see them getting around the county. All those departments but since we were talking about OET

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Okay, all in favor of resolution 218.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Abstentions? Okay. passes. Resolution 219: Amending the 2022 Ulster County budget to accept an allocation of funds from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to expand services under raise the age to the 100%. state funded. Motion to discuss. Bartels. Second? Nolan. Any discussion? All in favor of 219.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Opposed, alright passes. And 220: Authorizing the chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an inter municipal agreement with New York State. Sorry, New Paltz, Central School District for preschool special ed transportation services, this is 16,000 for the transportation of a preschool student. Motion to discuss?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I'll move it.

Chair Eve Walter

Second? Bartels. Any discussion? All in favor of 220

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Eve Walter

Can I have a motion to block 221 through 244 which are all foster care service contracts?

Legislator Craig Lopez

Motion.

Chair Eve Walter

Second?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I'll second.

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan All in favor of the block. Okay, all in favor the rest? Oh, sorry. Motion to discuss?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

I'll move it.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

So moved.

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Uchitelle, second. And any discussion. Besides my dog.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

These are important programs. Keep on going.

Chair Eve Walter

All right. All in favor of the resolutions.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

All right, opposed. Okay. Um, where are we now? Resolution 245: approval, losing my capacity to talk, approving the execution of a contract amendment for 273,508. entered the county with Family of Woodstock. These are per diem increases for Darmstadt and family house motion to discuss?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I'll move it.

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Second? Legislator Uchitelle. Any discussion?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Could we have a be, brief description of what this will actually do in the organization?

Chair Eve Walter

Sure, Deputy Executive Contreras, do you want to do it?

Deputy Executive Contreras

Yep. Um, so this is going to increase support for the two shelters run by Family of Woodstock. It increases their per diem rates by 15%. This was part of the budget amendment that was negotiated last year, we were sort of talking about the other half of it, I think two months ago with a walk-in centers. This is the other piece that impacts the shelters. So, it brings one, it brings some employees over the the living wage threshold. And then the rest of the employees that are affected by this are also getting raises of about \$2 an hour due to compression. So, as a result of this, coordinators who are being paid \$13 an hour, will then be paid \$14.50, I believe I'm sorry, what will then be paid \$15 an hour. And then other managers will will get small bumps as well.

Chair Eve Walter

So um, I had asked Deputy Executive Contreras to break it down. And I do have that breakdown detail. But I would ask specifically for the bullets, again, of the 35 people given this for that reason, if you could. I would like to have a full kind of your tally of the fiscal impact of the \$15 an hour. So if you could take that what you've done, add to it, the last contract that we had to do this for so that we can have a running understanding of each of these things. Especially so that we... not because I'm opposed in any way, but we need to understand the full fiscal impact, especially because there is that consideration of raising it to \$20 an hour, it just would be very helpful to know how much this really impacts the county. And so since you broke it down, this was great. If you could just again, have some kind of running sheet. That was the last one, this one, and then any other future one so that we really can know. You know, a guesstimate was made in the budget. We don't know if it's actually this, you know, going to be the same. So, it'd be useful and useful to know the impact. Chair Bartels, then Legislator Uchitelle.

Chair Tracey Bartels

Thank You. So, you know, I know we've had sort of a more expanded discussion surrounding this particularly as it relates to the resolution that proposes to increase the salaries to \$20, with in relation to the contract agencies. And the, the agencies that we contract with. But it was brought up, and I think we should think about it and moving forward. I think it would be really helpful to, to, as part of our contracting, to require that the salaries of employees be disclosed. Not by name of employee, but by by by title. You know, I have to say that going back to the earliest conversations related to the increase to the \$15 an hour, which was brought forward by Legislator Uchitelle last, last year, that, or it was actually brought forward by Legislator Parete? But conversations with Legislator Uchitelle in caucus, related to salaries that were being paid in some of these agencies were, were surprising to me. And, and I'd rather not, I think it's on us to know what people are getting paid that in the agencies that we're contracting with. We know what we're paying county employees. But I don't know that we have at the ready the salaries of all those people in every contract county agency contracting with the county for whatever services they they might be. So, I would like us to consider moving forward requiring that of any contract with the county that a disclosure be made, based on job titles of the salaries being paid both either by per hour, or by whatever method that they're that they are.

Chair Eve Walter

I will say that when that was requested Family of Woodstock was perfectly fine offering the detail. Sorry, I've got Legislator Uchitelle first, then I'll go to the Deputy Executive Contreras.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Yeah, I just wanted to say and actually, Chair, Chair Bartels teed it up for me perfectly, that the running tally? While I think it's fine to ask Deputy Exec Contreras to, you know, to format it in whichever way, I think it's really incumbent on us to have our staff maintain a running tally. I think, obviously, the Executives office is in a unique position to get that information. And the procurement process that chair of our tells describes is going to happen under the executive branch of government. But you know, we have financial staff. And I really want us to make use of of our bi... tools to do that. And the reason why I think that's so important is because I actually, and I hope I'm not breaking any controversial news right here. But I am working right now to figure out what it would involve to really make it enshrined in, you know, something on the legislative side to request the county executive formally, or perhaps even, even, you know, outline in a more, you know, direct way, that this is something that we need going forward, because the true cost of providing these services is very, very important and a little bit

unclear right now, when it's done through contract agencies, which comes up time and time again. So I actually am working on submitting legislation to solve that problem. And I realized that it would affect the county executive branch. And as I've already spoken with our staff and the office about it, I do want to talk to the county Executives team about it as well, because it does, you know, definitely, you know, would be implemented on their side. And I think that's why it's important to keep our financial staff kind of ...have them really in terms of the legislative information that we're getting to have them really at the at the centerpiece of that. I think we can see with some of the other things that we're working on how we've put ourselves at a disadvantage by not organizing our efforts in a more unified way from the outset. So, because there's so many people working on this issue, we've got multiple legislators submitting legislation. You know, this last term, this term, I submitted the budget amendment to that this contract is actually drawing from. You know, our staff need to be the thing that ties it all together. So that's that's kind of my, my schpeel and perhaps a too public setting for my colleagues.

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Well, since we're going public with these with this conversation, it occurred to me that we might, perhaps, also consider building into the RFP process a maybe an award of points, I guess, is how we would talk about it in the RFP process for organizations that have a favorable highest salary to lowest salary ratio. There's pretty good research nationwide and internationally, that the closer the lowest salary is to the highest salary the better the health of the workforce, and actually the communities in which those, those companies work. So, if we are contracting with people, and we can build in, and maybe that's not the right one, maybe it's some other ones, but build in a structure to choose organizations, companies that have those more favorable work practices in addition to salary. I think that can be very important. So I want to add into Legislator Uchitelle's conversation as it goes forward with that kind of idea. Because it's what we're starting to do and some other ways, and I think this would be a way to do it in the workforce realm.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Chair Bartels.

Chair Tracey Bartels

Yes, thank you. Um, well, thank you to both of you, both my colleagues, and I don't think it's too public setting. I think it's critical that we codify the requirement to see the salaries but Legislator, Nolan, I think that's an excellent suggestion and something that we should we should look to including in particularly in competitive bids for services. And so I think that the two of you should put your heads together and potentially, in one piece of legislation, we could tackle it. We'll see. But I think they're both excellent and critical ideas.

Chair Eve Walter

Deputy Executive Contreras.

Deputy Executive Contreras

Yes, there were a lot of points. So I tried. I'm trying to, I tried to write them all down. But in terms of the layout of all the contracts that we see, with the living wage amendments, I'm definitely happy to do that, I think Legislator Uchitelle's suggestion to have your financial staff do that as well as a good one, just because I don't know, I feel

like if we, if I'm putting down a layout of the contracts that we're seeing sort of piecemeal that are requesting these increases, I don't know if that will provide you the full picture really, of what this will cost. So I do think that it requires a fuller analysis, at the front end, on the new criteria to include in our contracts, I think those are good suggestions, I would really want to make sure that we talked to our purchasing department and kind of talk, you know, think through those very, very deeply and make sure that they would be equitable for all the agencies that are applying, in terms of us being able to actually impose that type of criteria. When we're going out to bid I know that we do ask, for example, when we do an RFP, we do ask for a staffing plan and a budget for the particular submission. I'm not sure how far beyond the particular submission, we can require agencies to provide information. But I think we can we can look into that. And then I just also wanted to share I believe that there was a part of the state budget. There was a COLA passed - the cost of living increase for human service workers. I don't have the details. I believe it was 5.3%. Yes, which is very, very, very good. So I think that'll be a huge help to us, and definitely relevant to this conversation.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you, Commissioner Iapoce.

Commissioner Michael Iapoce

Thank you, Chair. Just a point of consideration around contemplating the possibility that the living wage law might be subsequently increased, which if that is the outcome that's arrived at, in connection with preparing our budgets currently for 2023, it would be incredibly helpful to arrive at that at an earlier time in the year. Some of the discussions we're having right now about the impact of the living wage law that was implemented last August and September, after our budgets were completed and we had arrived at contracts with some of our service providers, or why we're talking about some of these resolutions now, which is perfectly reasonable. That was the timing. But I think going ahead in terms to have RFP outcomes that reflect what the costs will be to the service providers that submit proposals to know what they're going to have to comply with in terms of wages for their staff, would be really, really important. Because to move the living wage from 1\$5 to potentially \$20. If that were to be done in the fall of this year, with an implementation date of January, we would find ourselves potentially in a position where we'd be amending contracts across the entire spectrum, because they'd have to be in compliance with a living wage law that we already passed the budget that didn't contemplate that. So that's just from a logistical point of view. I would offer that as part of what would be important to try to arrive at taking into consideration.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Yeah, I will to say, I very much agree, I think that one of the challenges is that the original resolution did not consider the fact that a lot of these programs they are applying for grant funding, which take months to happen. So all of the burden was taken by the county completely there, you know, the idea of if anything changes that we are conscious, cognizant of maybe suggesting that it goes into effect six months later, or something like that, to really allow, especially in this world. I'd also add that I think, involving not just Purchasing, but department heads, because they are the ones who are working with these organizations. Sometimes there's not a lot of different people, organizations. In these competitive things, we're talking, we mostly are involved with the same organizations over and over again. We know who they are. It's not like it's going to be a whole brand new thing. So we're actually suggesting that the whole structure of family and these other places dramatically change. I'm not saying we don't, but I'm saying that we should just recognize it's not like there's, you know, even 10s of

organizations that necessarily apply to these RFPs. That said, given this particular resolution, we okay to go for a vote. So we don't forget it. Okay, so all in favor of resolution 245?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, any opposed? Abstain. Okay. Resolution 167 has been postponed in its committee in an Environment, Energy and Environment. That was the using ARPA money towards the demolition of the old jail. So we won't get too much into that if you have questions or concerns, you have time to bring it up. The for old business, I'm going to move past the Health Alliance discussion into the Housing Special Committee meeting. So we did have a very good showing of 40 plus people at the Special Housing Committee, recognizing that if we do want to move forward on actually establishing some resolutions, policies and practices from the legislature, that size group is not manageable, and that we needed to find a way to divide into smaller subgroups. So that actual decisions could be made. I did put out a request to all members to provide some suggestions, I had provided a suggestion of one way we could divide into three smaller groups. A several people told me what they didn't like about it, which was fine. But then I said, then tell me how because again, having an... I don't even know if it'll be 40, it might be more than 40, ultimately, when we identify other stakeholders who need to come. So, I, unfortunately, nobody came up with other suggestions. Out of all those 40. So, what I have instead, in front of you is two options of how we could divide. One is the one I originally suggested. And the second one sort of follows the parameters of what Dennis Doyle had presented to us on the three things the county could do. So, option one would be that we have three committees, and that, you know, they all deal with the same thing, policy practice, incentives, disincentives, you know, that's going to happen. But one would be divided by the individuals experience, have one group that really is focused on what should we do for the emergency housing transitional housing group? What should we do for the affordable low cost group of individuals? And what should we do for the and I will say, the not not that people who are in low cost or forever, but those who are at this moment in that low costs category. And what can we do for people at this moment, who are in the workforce middle first homebuyer, so that was one division of thinking of ways that we can impact the lives of those stratifications for lack of a better word. The other one would be that there would be one, a division into three committed subcommittees, one which focuses on incentives or disincentives for many municipalities, one that focuses on what kind of resolutions would be partnerships with organizations, and one that focuses on things the county would do in terms of setting either setting policies or it could be related to use of vacant properties similar to our conversation with the LDC, you know, the LDC conversation earlier, things that are just with the county alone past Oh, well, that was an RFP, but you know, things that the county could just do on its own. So, any brief thoughts or comments from those who are here? Or if you had another suggestion, because one way or another, we can't have a committee of subcommittee of 40 people. Sue.

Director Susan Koppenhaver

Just a suggestion on from my wheelhouse. I think that, you know, you were taught you had mentioned, you know, temporarily low income housing people who might be just entering the workforce or whatever. I would like to suggest that the seniors in Ulster County who are not going to be making more money and who, whose whose Social Security is not going to grow up, or grow substantially for the rest of their lives, be considered a second, a separate group, because that group is actually growing. I mean, I think when we were doing COVID testing, and we were trying to call the seniors, they, they did a they did a count by registered voters over 65. And there's like,

25,000 of them, and I don't know what proportion, you know, consider themselves low income, but it's probably, you know, it's worth looking at, and they're never going to change, their incomes aren't going to change. And there, they need accessible, affordable housing that that doesn't break their bank. So that would be my you know, my throw out.

Chair Eve Walter

Adding a fourth if, if the individual experience classification, then you're suggesting for for subgroups. Okay. That's something other suggestions or ideas totally open to anything. Legislative Uchitelle and then Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

I'll let Legislator Nolan go first.

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Thank You. Yeah, I tried to improve upon the framework that you had first given and really couldn't do it. I liked the idea of adding seniors. And I like this third of this second option. Maybe the second option could lump those three and be a group that's focusing more on it seems to me, that's more outreach and implementation, whereas the others is kind of more policy and problem solving. So they..

Chair Eve Walter

I would make the argument, sorry, that it would go both ways. If we lump it by groups by stratification, then they should think about incentive, disincentives partnerships and things that county could do. If we don't buy incentive, disincentive, partnerships and county, then you need to think about emergency transitional so that neither, neither choice removes the conversation about the other person. It's just a matter of how people could wrap their heads around so that they could be as productive as possible, inclusive as possible. Legislator Uchitelle and then Legislator Lopez,.I'm sorry. Did you want to say add to that, Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

If I could just follow up and say that I think that the county has already organized in to address populations by those stratifications, including seniors. And so having that as the base makes sense to me.

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Uchitelle.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Yeah, I gave this some thought. And I'll I'll, I want to explain why I came to the conclusion that option two, where it's organized around types of actions, rather than types of constituents is more preferable. And that's based on the urgency of the situation. I think. In option one, we'll begin by endeavoring, in a noble endeavor to hear stories and to learn about communities that are affected. I think that that's good. But we've been hearing about stories for a very, very long time. And I think that organization into option two, we're actually talking about different action items, policy areas, I think that's going to be more effective in bringing solutions to bear right out

of the gate. I think it'll also be it'll be it'll accelerate the pace, I hope it will accelerate the pace that we can pull people that are outside of our, you know, committee, and outside of government that participated in that we can pull them into the service solution, kind of focus of it. I don't want if we do go with that option, I don't want to leave those people out of it. Because we have all of this institutional knowledge and we have our own vernacular for the way that we talk about solutions and the way that we talk about inter governmental things and policy and stuff like that we really have to work to make it inclusive and centered around those populations. But I do think that the second option where we do it in, in the you know, the kind of action oriented organization is is the way to go because I think it'll bring solutions to bear more rapidly.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. I'm just clarifying. There'll be solutions no matter which one we picked. That's my commitment to this, but Legislator Lopez.

Legislator Craig Lopez

Yeah. Legislator Nolan actually kind of hit on some of the points that I was going to bring up but um, Oh, yeah, overall. Was there a housing like a standalone housing committee that was considered? You know, before we added the housing to the Health Committee as well, I did just out of curiosity, because it seems as somewhat complicated to spin off a housing committee from the the health committee and create all, you know, subcommittees and little groups and recruit people at same time not Yeah, I Hindsight is 2020. But I was just wondering if a housing committee was considered, you know, prior to adding it to the Health Committee.

Chair Eve Walter

Yeah, I love Chair Bartels answer. But I will say from my perspective, you know, there is that challenge of having a committee that didn't have, you know, a relatively robust set of resolutions that they could be talking about, and I think that will happen. But we don't have them yet. And that's one of the goals of this. And I kind of think of this as the Criminal Justice Reform Task Force that I chaired, was it pulled out of Law Enforcement, Public Safety, it resulted in 12 different resolutions for the legislature to consider. And so I feel like once we really rolling and maybe having the land bank and various other things, we'll have enough work for a whole housing committee. But I my sense was at this stage, we just didn't have enough legislative work like resolution work, yet. I think it'd be a great problem to have to need to have a committee because we have so many housing resolutions in front of us.

Legislator Craig Lopez

I think that's fair. Thank you. Mr.

Chair Eve Walter

Chow's, do you want to add to that? Yeah,

Chair Tracey Bartels

No, I think you crystallized it perfectly. And I think it'll be a great place to to need a Housing Committee. The other consideration was just the level of commitment. There are many people, you know, it was really, it was challenging to try to figure out, giving everyone two committees to serve on. And Craig as, you know, in the in the minority members have been asked to serve on yourself included more than two. So every committee that we added meant more placement for legislators. So taking into consideration first the workload and the distribution

of, of legislative seats. But I think I think Legislator Walters stated it perfectly, you know, at the point that we, it becomes too much. We'll, we'll add another committee if we if need be.

Chair Eve Walter

I want to get the conversation back to how we break up that group so that they we can move to what the next steps are. Commissioner, do you have something some suggestion?

Commissioner Michael Iapoce

I just have a brief suggestion Chair. First, they just want to briefly say that it's very encouraging. It's certainly I'm very appreciative of the effort being expended to have added housing to this committee's agenda of subject matter. I appreciate Legislator Lopez's question about whether or not it could have been arrived at to be a standalone committee. What I really want to emphasize in terms of suggestions around the proposals being considered in terms of subcommittees is that and I feel it's incumbent upon me as part of my responsibilities as a department head for DSS. I do not think that any population more urgently, needs to be supported or assisted by the implementation of some solutions in the emergency homeless population. We have individuals and families that have essentially been in emergency homeless placements at shelters and motels for what's going on two years now. And that is partially a result of the pandemic and the fact that we've had to extend placements. And I don't have to tell any of you that it's also a reflection of the fact that we don't have affordable housing inventory to be able to transition this population to. But I think that we hear, as we need to be hearing from many of the advocacy groups, many of the individuals and families affected by the circumstances, and that whatever we arrive that I think needs to urgently address that population to the degree that we can. You know, and I know that solutions are not able to be arrived at overnight, but clearly, the lack of affordable housing inventory is keeping this currently homeless population where they are placed. And I really appreciate emphasis on the committee structures in terms of really focusing our energy on trying to come up with solutions And, you know, for that population of the people that we're currently serving. And I know a lot of positive things are happening. But, you know, clearly this proposal around creating these committees, I think that's where, you know, in terms of what Legislator Uchitelle said, the urgency and prioritizing. I hope that the focus kind of arrive at that, and it's a large group. And it's definitely challenging to manage all of the perspectives, you know, that are coming to the table.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Yeah. And whatever path we take, you know, we're gonna set a pretty tight timeline so that we can have some resolutions in front of us. Legislator Erner. Sorry. Sue, do you want to go?

Director Susan Koppenhaver

Yeah, just a quick tag along from what Mike just said, if there was some sense of triage, to the urgency and to the non urgent, I think that would be a really great idea. Because there are more urgent cases. I mean, I'm talking about the seniors, but a lot of that is fairly stable. It's just a knee that is ongoing. But in Mike's case, and in the case of transitional housing, because we do get some of that touched on in our office and certainly in adult protective services that I think that, you know, families with children and families with no homes should really take top priority over everything, right.

Chair Eve Walter

So I'll say once these committees are formed, I have no doubt that this will happen. I also have no doubt that a lot of there's a lot of grassroots organizations that have been thinking about this and have solutions that just need the

legislature to sort of get behind and support the kinds of ideas they already have. So I feel like whichever way we divided, we still will have a successful outcome. I can't imagine being in the partnership with organizations and not thinking about the different types, different groups of people who are impacted. You know, it goes both ways. I think it's just sort of dictating a conversation, I don't think either way is slower. I think it's a matter of, you know, one way set has people thinking about incentives, disincentives, and then at the risk that they might miss a certain sub population. One focuses on a certain sub population at the risk that they may not realize all the different ways that they can go. Either way, we got to pick one, or we won't have the sub committees, and then that will be doing nothing. So I'm asking that any other conversation is really specific, like, let's do this this way, or I want to do this this way. And not just how important this all is, because we had 7:30. And I really want to get these committees started. Legislator, and are you able to comment? I know you had your hand up earlier.

Legislator Phil Erner

Oh, thank you. What I had to say was irrelevant. But I, I have not had a chance to think about this. I'm not sure. I guess it doesn't seem like we have a resolution before us can. Can you explain what how this is going to proceed after this.

Chair Eve Walter

So once we had decided, the hope was and the promise was to the 40 people at that meeting, that at this meeting, we would identify how to divide. So that and then I would work I was going to request that one legislator, volunteer to be like, Chair for the day of that subcommittee, just to make sure that the the group would meet. We would let all those people who came know and sign up for which ones, and they could be on more than one, but sign up for which ones they wanted to be on. And I would ask that legislator, so say you were legislator under one of them, that you would make sure that first meeting happened. But then you know, you could pick someone else to Chair that meeting you not you pick but like that group could pick someone else. We just need to get that first meeting happen among whoever signed up to do that. Then the suggestion would be that at that first meeting, you just sort of figure out a process who's missing from the meeting, what kind of research what kind of like efforts that you need from the legislative side, whether you need more information, more money, what you not money, like more data, anything from Dennis Doyle's department, and figure out what you need in order to move forward and come up with some possible ideas of some resolutions. And so I would be asking each one of you or at least three of you or four of you to be willing to sort of get the ball rolling on the first meeting. And then again, you know, I have no problem if it's a committee if it's a community member who really wants to make sure that they work with me and Jay, to get each of the other that, you know, future meetings, that's fine. It does. I understand and respect the the work that you are already putting in the committee work you have. So I, you know, I don't want to put the full on you. But anyway, does that answer your question?

Legislator Phil Erner

Mostly, I think so. Tonight, we're hoping to come out with a scheme, either A, or B, for example, that you discussed,

Chair Eve Walter

Or something new. But yeah, because I want to tell all those people so they could decide which subcommittee they want to be on. Dennis.

Director Dennis Doyle

So, you know, the thing that I think and I listened to Legislator Uchitelle and in a persuasive discussion relative to option two, which is the incentives, partnerships, but I actually think that I think we'd be better off looking at dividing it by the type of housing, whether it be emergency affordable or middle income. For, and I think the effort under those under those buckets have to do with on each of them the incentives, the partnerships and what the county can do alone. And that's sort of the assignment that I would give if you're working in that, whether you're working in the emergency bucket bucket, or the affordable bucket that underneath that, underneath those, that's what you'd come back with, what are the incentives that we should be looking at? What are the partnerships that aren't there? What can the county do alone. And, and the other thing I would think is, is that I know that you've, you've talked about this, on doing it on the basis of individual experience, I would actually like to think about sort of mixing them up. So that you have experience in emergency housing, one of you should sit on the affordable housing, the idea being used is that there's a lot of, I think, cross advantages to have that, that cross fertilization of ideas across those units. And there's a better understanding of how they interact or how they don't interact, I would wholeheartedly second Commissioner Iapoce and discussion with respect to the need for, the need for emergency housing and solutions to emergency housing. It's one of the things that we do we do on a regular basis through the continuum of care, the idea of what we're going to do with homeless and a number of people that we have looking for shelters, and there's really no place to go. And I would also add that we have a number of agencies that are walking around with supportive housing vouchers, what they call EESHI [NYS Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative] vouchers, which really have no capital place to land, they don't have, they don't have a roof over their head to put them in. But they have the ability to provide the supportive services, if they can find a roof to put them in. And I think that would be the best the best way to go. And, and I hope, I just want to, you know, understand that there is a recommendation within the housing within the housing action plan to actually talk about a task force. And so as you move through this committee structure, and you get back, I don't want it to just go away, I think that you have a sense of there's a there's a community that needs to work together in a task force, like the test reflect environment and, and your success. Eve, with respect to the mental health taskforce Behavioral Health Task Force, the success we've had with the trails committee and others I think, bodes well in terms of how we can transition out of this initial, let's get things moving, let's get things started in and into a longer term commitment by the county to continue the discussion.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. So seeing no other suggestions beyond those two, which, you know, was both perfectly open to and I you know, I just want to be clear, I called it individual experience pretty quickly. I mean, it's really about housing type. I was just giving it a title. But um, yeah. So we have option A, which is by housing type, emergency transitional, affordable, low cost, middle income, workforce, and then potentially adding senior as a fourth group, option B, by action, incentive, disincentives partnerships with organizations County alone. So I'm going to just ask the legislative members to just vote A or B, and whoever wins. I mean, that way we could just get going on this is, does that sound reasonable? Okay, so does that is that yes, or Legislator Erner, Is that a statement you want to say?

Legislator Phil Erner

I did just want to want to mention that in our meeting, when we only really had option A before us some of the opposition to that we did that we did here was centered around the worry that when you segregate based on need or income or anything like that type of housing, if we're calling it that, but it comes down to wealth, I would say, and resources broadly, something like that, that the, the, the feeling that multiple people expressed was that those

with the least get the shaft and that was the reason that they didn't want to go with that one. But we don't know what those folks think about option B, obviously, my comparison,

Chair Eve Walter

right, I hear you. And that's why I gave them all a chance, a lot of time to come up with other suggestions. I'd have to say I humbly disagree. If there's actually a group that's specifically working on emergency transitional housing, then that's the group that they're going to be focusing on. And so the reality is, we don't even know maybe no one signs up for middle income workforce housing, because no one's interested in it. And then everybody's focused on the other groups. So but I was perfectly open to other ideas. No one offered them. It's for me, you know, it's one thing to say you don't like something, but if you're not going to come up with another suggestion, then then you, it's not enough to just, you know, knock something down, you have to have something else to offer. And there was plenty of weeks for that offering to be made. So I think that this is a great group. I think that the only reason why anyone will be forgotten is if anyone in the groups choose to forget, right? And so if the people are in those groups or making the right, you know, thinking about the right people, then the work will be done. So I'm going to go back to asking the legislators to either vote for option A, or Option B. So all in favor of option A? Raise your hand?

That's two of us. Yes.

Chair Eve Walter

And then option B, or two. All right. So I think we're gonna go with option A. But keep in mind to legislator, you should tell us point, those three elements will be added into the agenda, and Option A with the expectation that you think that everyone thinks about those three pieces. Can I just ask before we move off of this? I have one more thing on the agenda. Can I ask which one of you wants to sort of be the initial chair with for lack of a better word of the first meeting? In an Are you in favor of four groups? One including senior? Yes, legislator, Nolan. Any other comments on that? Okay. Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

I mean, the senior housing it, we're basically talking about folks on a fixed income for the foreseeable future in which the seniors are one category. Is it any way? I'm just pointing that out? I'm not sure if that's if we need to specify the age necessarily or not. But that's just what I'm

Chair Eve Walter

feeling that they're inclusive in the affordable low cost housing group by default? Or, or Well, I guess they can also be addressed in middle income depending on where they are as seniors. So you're not so sure you want to have a forth group?

Legislator Phil Erner

I guess that's what I'm saying. Okay.

Chair Eve Walter

Legislative Uchitelle, Legislator Lopez thoughts on a fourth group, or are they inclusive in the other two? are in one of the other groups? I think it's pretty

Legislator Craig Lopez

I think it's pretty inclusive. Yeah, keep it simple. You know, I'm okay with that.

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Uchitelle.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Yeah, I agree. Because I think I think that there is, yeah, I agree for the, for the reasons stated that, you know, the senior citizens defined by their age, have needs at every threshold that you know, every threshold of income and the bits, the thresholds of income that are probably the most significant. Again, I'm not an expert, though. So I'm a little bit uncomfortable making the final call, but I do see the merit of that.

Chair Eve Walter

That seems like we have majority. So. So which who would like to? Who knows that they want to be in the emergency transitional housing group out of you so legislator, Nolan. And would you be willing to sort of act as the very first chair of that subcommittee just to get it started? And we'll we'll come up with parameters of what that all means. I just need to know who couldn't rely on who would want Under be on the affordable low cost. Uchitelle and Erner, one of you want to agree on being the serve initial chair just for the first meeting.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

I'm happy to defer to Legislator Erner.

Chair Eve Walter

Would you like to do that Legislator Erner?

Legislator Phil Erner

I will give that a shot. Yes.

Chair Eve Walter

Great. And again we'll come up with some clear parameters. Again, it's like, you know, identifying who else needs to be there, what more information do you need? And and then proceeding with just encouraging the conversation? And then middle income workforce?

Legislator Craig Lopez

That's fine. Yeah, I'll do that.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay. Will you be that initial chair on that one?

Legislator Craig Lopez

Absolutely.

Chair Eve Walter

Terrific. So, Jay, we're going to, you and I will draft the email to the larger group. Also know that when you get that email, if there's more people you want to forward it to that you feel might be interested, it'll be we'll do like a Google sign up so that people can say which one which group or groups they want to be a part of, with their email address, so that we know how to let them know, we'll keep using zoom so that it makes it available to everyone across the entire county and doesn't exclude people because they have to travel for a meeting. So, thank you for that good conversation. The last thing is we had a discussion about some tours, and having meetings at other locations Ellenville Hospital has offered to host a May meeting. Is that an interest of the committee to do it in Ellenville hospital on May 4. Any concerns with that? I know Kathy that's a long drive for you.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I'll check my schedule to see where where else I would be on May 4,

Chair Eve Walter

I will say that there's an excellent bakery. And whenever I go to Ellenville I make sure to go and then on the way there you stop in Kerhonkson and and get perogies. And between the bakery and the perogies. It makes the whole trip to Ellenville fully worth your time.

Legislator Craig Lopez

Cohen's, Cohen's Bakery.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

There is a place I like to get sushi in Stone Ridge on the way.

Chair Eve Walter

Right, right. If haven't tried the perogies in Kerhonkson, you got to do it.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Yeah, no they have a great reputation. And I did stop there. But never when they were open. So maybe this is my chance.

Chair Eve Walter

Never go to Ellenville without stopping at Cohen. So yes.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Excellent. Okay. Yeah, I could do that on that date. Okay, what time would we be talking?

Chair Eve Walter

I think it's going to be the typical time, but okay, Jay will work that out with Ellenville Hospital and let you know, if anything should change. Deputy Executive Contreras, are you good with that?

Deputy Executive Contreras

Yeah, sorry. Just to clarify, we're talking about holding the committee meeting in Ellenville. Okay, um,

Chair Eve Walter

yeah. So we'd probably get there a little early for anyone who wants to tour not after, because these meetings go ridiculously long. So we'll, we'll have a little brief time before for anyone who wants to get there sooner for a tour, and then we would have our meeting, maybe we'll shoot for five o'clock instead of 5:30. Just to make everyone's life easier.

Deputy Executive Contreras

All right. Sorry. And then the department heads will also be expected to attend if

Chair Eve Walter

we can find ways of doing zoom for you. And then if you would like to zoom in, it also allows community members if they want to, you know, so i Jay can we just make sure we can have like a hybrid model? I'm sure they can. They have a conference room? I've seen it. Okay, that would be helpful. Yeah.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Yeah, at least phone call in a lot of those places have the Yeah, since little satellite in the middle of the table.

Chair Eve Walter

But you know, if you could just do us a favor and not send us so many resolutions next month. You do what you gotta do. All right. Motion to adjourn. Oh, sorry, Dennis. You got something?

Director Dennis Doyle

Just what information for the committee, the legislature and the executive put an additional position in my office in the Planning Department for a Housing Planners, Senior Housing Planner. We have tentatively identified a candidate who has indicated that they have will take the job. His name is Kai. Lord Farmer. He's out of California. He has a substantial amount of experience in housing. And in addition, he also has a sense substantial amount of experience in climate and climate action, working for the city of Sacramento. So he should be starting. I hope mid May.

Chair Eve Walter

That'd be great. I'm great to have him at the subcommittee meetings. Okay, so motion to adjourn.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

So moved.

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan, second. Uchitelle's dog. (Laughter) All in favor of adjourning?

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you all.