

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

DATE & TIME: May 31, 2023 – 5:00 PM
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Uchitelle
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez (arrived 5:20 PM), Nolan, Petit and Stewart
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Commissioner Iapoce – Department of Social Services; Commissioner Smith – Department of Health; Commissioner MacDonald – Department of Mental Health; Director Koppenhaver – Office for the Aging; Director Doyle – Planning Department; Director Erichsen – Emergency Management/Emergency Communications; Director Dawson – Youth Bureau; Director Litwin – Recovery & Resilience; Deputy County Executive Contreras – County Executive’s Office; Executive Director Michael Berg – Family of Woodstock, Inc; Cindy Howe – member of the public

Chair Uchitelle called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

Motion No. 1: **MOTION to APPROVE the Minutes of May 3rd Regular and May 18th Special Meetings**

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

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any discussion or comments/question on the minutes. Legislator Nolan thanked staff for the summary of the question-and-answer portion of the May 18th presentation.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any other discussion and hearing none called for a vote to approve the minutes.

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

Chair Uchitelle advised the members that Director Litwin of Ulster County Recovery and Resilience was present to give the members an update on the 21 Elizabeth Street emergency housing project.

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

Resolutions for the June 13, 2023 Legislative Session:

Resolution No. 337 – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Intermunicipal Agreement With The City Of Kingston, Where The County Is A Subrecipient Of The City’s ARPA-SLFRF Funds, For The Renovation Of Elizabeth Manor, Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes an Intermunicipal Agreement with the City of Kingston to partially fund the renovation of 21 Elizabeth Street in the amount of \$500,000 with the City of Kingston ARPA funding.

Motion No. 2: **Moved Resolution No. 337 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle expressed appreciation for the collaboration between the City of Kingston and Ulster County on this Resolution. Deputy Chair Lopez and Legislator Petit expressed their opposition to the Resolution due to the length and costs of the process associated with the project.

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

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

Resolution No. 336 – Adopting The Ulster County Department Of Health And Emergency Services Medical Reserve Corps Unit Organization And General Operation Policy – Department Of Emergency Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution adopts the Medical Reserve Corps Unit Organization and General Operation Policy.

Motion No. 3: **Moved Resolution No. 336 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Director Erichsen to provide further background on the Medical Reserve Corps and the need to effectively coordinate volunteer efforts during county-wide events and emergencies.

Legislator Erner inquired about which County departments are collaborated with, and Director Erichsen and Director Koppenhaver elaborated on the ways county departments collaborate with the Medical Reserve Corps and its volunteers.

Legislator Petit inquired about how volunteers are solicited and recruited to support efforts, and Director Erichsen explained the processes and timeline of volunteer contact and coordination.

Chair Uchitelle recognized Director Erichsen to provide background on the consultant who will develop the policies and procedures of this Resolution.

Chair Uchitelle recognized Deputy Executive Contreras, who shared with the Committee that the County may apply for additional grant funding to support large emergency efforts.

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

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

Resolution No. 344 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$1,400,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Gateway Community Industries, Inc. D/B/A Gateway Hudson Valley – Office For The Aging

Resolution Summary: This Resolution extends the term of agreement with Gateway for an additional year for the Home Delivered Meal Program and Community Café Dining Sites through 5/31/24 at a cost of \$1.4 million.

Motion No. 4: **Moved Resolution No. 344 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Director Koppenhaver to discuss the contract background.

Legislator Petit inquired about the threshold of seniors eligible for the program, and Director Koppenhaver explained the prioritization schedule which serves to support food security for no-income and low-income seniors.

Chair Uchitelle requested that the Executive Office provide salary information for contract renewals.

Legislator Nolan inquired about the logistical possibility of a sliding scale food service, and Director Koppenhaver explained that Gateway offers meals for private sale that are tailored to specific dietary requirements, and that the program in this Resolution provides free meals to those who apply.

Legislator Erner asked for recommendations on how less single-use plastic could be used for these meals, and Director Koppenhaver explained that due to the COVID-19 emergency, meals are heated individually to limit exposure, and that the containers meals are heat-tolerant. Director Koppenhaver also shared with the Committee her goal of replacing the utensils used at congregate sites with reusable silverware and glassware.

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

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

Resolution No. 345 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$133,088.34, Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Youth Bureau

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves a \$133,088.34 annual contract with Family of Woodstock for operation of the Family House Program for emergency residential and related respite services to approximately 75 runaway and homeless youth from 1/1/23 – 12/31/23. 60% State, 40% County.

Motion No. 5: **Moved Resolution No. 345 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Director Dawson to discuss the contract background and county reimbursement.

Legislator Petit inquired about the capacity of the program in the Resolution and Mr. Berg clarified that the runaway shelter is not at capacity.

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

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

Resolution No. 346 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$84,375.00, Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Youth Bureau

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves a \$84,375 annual contract with Family of Woodstock for the operation of the Transitional Living Program for long term adolescent residential, transitional living, and non-residential case management for approximately 17 runaway and homeless youth from 1/1/23 – 12/31/23. 60% State, 40% County.

Motion No. 6: Moved Resolution No. 346 FOR DISCUSSION

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

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Director Dawson to provide contract background and examples of how the services support young residents.

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

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

Resolution No. 338 – Approving The Execution Of An Amendment To The Intermunicipal Agreement With The City Of Kingston To Support The Pilot Program: Kingston Mobile Mental Health Team – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves an amendment to extend the term of agreement through December 31, 2024 for the Kingston Mobile Mental Health Services Pilot provided through a contract with Access Supports for Living. 100% Federal funding.

Motion No. 7: Moved Resolution No. 338 FOR DISCUSSION

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

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Commissioner MacDonald to provide background on the amendment to the intermunicipal agreement.

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

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

Resolution No. 339 – Amending The 2023 Ulster County Budget To Accept Additional Funding From The New York State Office Of Mental Health For Increased Funding For Minimum Wage Personnel Services Enhancements – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This Resolution accepts \$11,376 in increased funding from New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) for minimum wage personnel services enhancements.

Motion No. 8: **Moved Resolution No. 339 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Commissioner MacDonald to provide background on the Resolution, including how it will support staff retention.

Legislator Erner inquired about the phrase “minimum wage personnel services enhancements,” and Commissioner MacDonald explained that this funding is from New York State to ensure that the rates of employees who work in mental health programs are at least minimum wage.

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

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

Resolution No. 340 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$257,767.00 Entered Into By The County – Astor Services For Children & Families – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves a \$257,767 contract amendment with Astor Services for Children & Families to add the School Based Mental Health Satellite Clinic and increase the amount for: a Health Home non-medical care management program, a Health Home Care Management Service Dollars Program, a Family Peer Support Service program, operation of a Warm Line for families participating in the Families Together program, and Home based Crisis Intervention services through 12/31/23. 66% State, 34% County.

Motion No. 9: **Moved Resolution No. 340 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Commissioner MacDonald to provide background on the Resolution, including how it will support rate adjustments and staff recruitment for school-based clinics.

Legislator Erner inquired about what services the Commissioner would have prioritized with this funding, and Commissioner MacDonald expressed interest in prioritizing non-Medicaid billable case management and expansion of home-based crisis intervention services.

Legislator Stewart requested a brief explanation of the Families Together Program, and Commissioner MacDonald explained that the program serves to allow families to speak to each other and provides services similar to Warm Line peer counseling.

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

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

Resolution No. 341 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$485.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves a \$485 contract amendment for non-medical care coordination, respite services, primary prevention services, advocacy/support services, family peer support services and outreach. 77% State, 23% County.

Motion No. 10: **Moved Resolution No. 341 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Commissioner MacDonald to provide background on the Resolution and its relation to Resolution No. 339 to amend contracts that have received an increase for personnel services.

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

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

Resolution No. 342 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$320,100.00, Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves a \$320,100.00 contract amendment for emergency services to house homeless individuals during inclement weather as part of the Code Blue plan. 100% state.

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Commissioner Iapoce to provide background on the Resolution, including the necessity of covering the costs Family of Woodstock incurs when housing people during Code Blue season that cannot be reimbursed.

Legislator Stewart inquired about the emergency housing application procedure during Code Blue season, and Commissioner Iapoce explained that emergency housing occurs outside of normal business hours when application assistance and follow-up can be provided. Mr. Berg expressed that some service users may choose to not complete an application. Deputy Executive Contreras explained that the Resolution amount is to take proactive action to reimburse Family of Woodstock if increased services are needed during Code Blue season.

Legislator Erner inquired if the Department of Social Services (DSS) could be reimbursed for 24-hour services, and Commissioner Iapoce explained that this change in procedure would require conversation with the CSEA union, as well as detailed how some individuals experiencing homelessness experience hesitance in collaborating with local government entities like DSS.

Legislator Nolan expressed the importance of increased supports for homeless people in residential settings like Samadhi and the consequences of continued use of motels for emergency housing. Commissioner Iapoce expressed optimism about alleviating homelessness with the support of the Crisis Stabilization Center, and Mr. Berg expressed belief that 24-hour operation of DSS would create a significant cost to the county.

Chair Uchitelle expressed support for the Resolution and inquired about the origin of cost figures, to which Commissioner Iapoce explained that a formula was used to arrive at the amount. Deputy Executive Contreras explained that the contract amendment is to be proactive about ensuring costs are covered for emergency housing.

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

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

Resolution No. 330 – Dedicating Funding To Housing Affordability, Establishing A Policy For Its Use, And Authorizing The Release Of A Notice Of Funding Availability (NOFA) For 2023 – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This Resolution creates an unassigned Fund Balance for Housing Affordability purposes in the initial amount of \$15 million, with funds appropriated pursuant to Proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2023.

Motion No. 13: **Moved Resolution No. 330 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

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

Discussion:

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

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

Discussion:

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

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

While discussing old business, Chair Uchitelle expressed his intention to withdraw Resolution No. 126 and to not call for a vote on Resolution No. 127.

Chair Uchitelle informed the Committee that Resolution No. 134 would appear on the Legislative Floor through a successfully executed Petition to Discharge after failing to pass the Committee.

Legislator Erner and Chair Uchitelle discussed the difference in funding amounts between Resolution Nos. 126 and 330.

Legislator Stewart requested clarification on an upcoming tour of emergency housing units and Chair Uchitelle clarified the informality of the tour and the lack of quorum concerns.

Chair Uchitelle recognized Director Doyle to discuss that the funding amount for the Housing Fund was decided based on other county's experience and success with similar programs, the importance of maintaining emergency housing stock, and the decision of the Supreme Court with respect to foreclosure sales.

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

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Erner

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

No. of Votes in Favor: 6

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 7:05 PM

Prepared by: Legislative Staff Villalba

Respectfully submitted by: Deputy Clerk Mahler

Minutes Approved: July 5, 2023