

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

DATE & TIME: July 6, 2022 – 5:30 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting, Meeting ID: 828 4422 9511,
By Phone (646) 558-8656
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Eve Walter
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Bartels (arrived at 5:35 PM, left at 7:00 PM), Corcoran (left at 7:00 PM), Erner, Lopez, Nolan (left at 7:00 PM), Petit & Uchitelle
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Commissioner McDonald – UC Department of Mental Health, Commissioner Smith – UC Health Department, Commissioner Iapoce, Deputy Commissioners Beisel & Wood – UC DSS, Director Dawson – UC Youth Bureau, Director Koppenhaver – UC Office for Aging, Director Doyle – UC Planning Department, Nathan Litwin – UC Resilience & Recovery, Deputy County Executives Contreras & Rider – UC Executive’s Office, S. Deacon Mennenga – New Paltz

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

Motion No. 1: Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the June 8th Regular Meetings

Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes APPROVED

Resolutions for the July 19, 2022 Session of the Legislature

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, August 16, 2022 At 7:00 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, August 16, 2022 At 7:00 PM

Motion No. 2: Moved Resolution No. 139 FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion: See attached transcript

Motion No. 3: MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 139
Motion By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution POSTPONED

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, August 16, 2022 At 7:15 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, August 16, 2022 at 7:15 PM

Chair Walter turned the meeting over to Deputy Chair Lopez.

Motion No. 4: Moved Resolution No. 200 FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Corcoran
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion: See attached Transcript

Motion No. 5: MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 200
Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Lopez, Nolan, Petit & Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Abstentions: Bartels, Walter
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution POSTPONED

Resolution No. 339: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$1,364,900.00 Entered Into By The County – Gorick Construction Co., Inc. – Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract with Gorick Construction in the amount of \$1,364,900 for demolition services at the former county jail site from 7/1/22 – 12/31/22

Motion No. 6: Moved Resolution No. 339 FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 340: Funding ~~Capital Project No. 600~~ ARPA Food Security And Access - Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

Resolution Summary: This resolution commits \$340,000 in ARPA funding to convene an Emergency Food Working Group as well as to complete a Food System Resilience Report through Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County which would help to ensure adequate healthy food supply to those residents in need of assistance on a day-to-day basis as well as in emergency situations.

Motion No. 7: **Moved Resolution No. 340 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: See attached Transcript

Motion No. 8: **MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 340**
Motion By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 351: Authorizing The Department Of Planning To Submit An Application To The New York State Climate Smart Communities Grant Program For Renewable Energy Equipment At The Golden Hill Housing Site – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes Ulster County Planning Department to submit an online application through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application to the Climate Smart Communities Grant Program for renewable energy at the Golden Hill low-income housing site for up to the category maximum of \$2,000,000.

Motion No. 9: **Moved Resolution No. 351 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner
Discussion: See attached transcript
Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: Legislator Petit
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 1
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 362: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Tay Fishers Community Cornerstone – Youth Bureau

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract with Tay Fishers Community Cornerstone in the amount of \$50,000 for the Kingston Community High School Hoop Program to support positive youth development activities from 7/1/22 – 12/31/22

Motion No. 10: **Moved Resolution No. 362 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 363: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Grant Application With Required Assurances For The NY Connects Program With The New York State Office For The Aging – Office For The Aging

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to execute an application funding for the 2022-2023 NY Connects program in the amount of \$257,299 for April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023

Motion No. 11: **Moved Resolution No. 363 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 364: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$948,150.00, Entered Into By The County – Catholic Charities Of Orange, Sullivan & Ulster – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Catholic Charities in the amount of \$948,150 to extend the term of agreement for operation of a warming center through 9/30/23

Motion No. 12: **Moved Resolution No. 364 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Erner

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 8

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 365: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$45,000.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Abbott House – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Abbott House in the amount of \$45,000 to increase the no-to-exceed amount for foster care services through 6/30/22

Resolution No. 366: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$250,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Abbott House – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Abbott House in the amount of \$250,000 to increase the no-to-exceed amount for foster care services from 7/1/22-6/30/24

Motion No. 13: **Moved TO BLOCK Resolution Nos. 365 & 366**

Motion By: Legislator Erner

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: See attached transcript

Motion No. 14: **Moved Blocked Resolutions FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Erner

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 8

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolutions ADOPTED

Resolution No. 367: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$22,250.04, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Bonadio & Co. LLP – Department Of Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Bonadio & Co. in the amount of \$22,250.04 to extend the term of agreement for corporate compliance consulting services through 12/31/23

Motion No. 15: Moved Resolution No. 367 FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Lopez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 368: Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Accept Increased Funding From The New York State Office Of Addiction Services And Supports For A Cost Of Living Adjustment – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with NYS OASAS for a 5.4% cost of living adjustment for 2022 totaling \$36,300.

Motion No. 16: Moved Resolution No. 368 FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 369: Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Accept Increased Funding From The New York State Office Of Addiction Services And Supports For One-Time Funding To Support Electric Repairs For The Residential Services - Reintegration Program – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the contract amendment with New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) for funding to support electric repairs for the Residential Services – Reintegration Program as per OASAS State Aid Funding Authorization in the amount of \$37,750.

Motion No. 17: **Moved Resolution No. 369 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 370: Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Accept Increased Funding From The New York State Office Of Mental Health For A Cost Of Living Adjustment And An Adjustment For The NYS Legislative Add: Veteran P2P Pilot Program – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the contract amendment with New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) for increased funding for a 5.4% Cost of Living Adjustment for eligible programs and for an adjustment for the Legislative Add: Veteran P2P Pilot program in the amount of \$146,683

Resolution No. 372: Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Accept Increased Funding From The New York State Office Of Mental Health For A Cost Of Living Adjustment – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the contract amendment with New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) for increased funding for a 5.4% Cost of Living Adjustment for eligible programs in the amount of \$94,677.

Resolution No. 373: Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Accept Increased Funding From The New York State Office Of Mental Health For A Cost Of Living Adjustment – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the contract amendment with New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) for increased funding for a 5.4% Cost of Living Adjustment in the amount of \$4,836.

Motion No. 18: **Moved TO BLOCK Resolution Nos. 370, 372 & 373**
Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: See attached transcript

Motion No. 19: **Moved Blocked Resolutions FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 7

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolutions ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 371: Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Accept Increased Funding From The New York State Office Of Mental Health For A Stipend Increase For Supported Housing And For Funding For The NYS Legislative Add: Veteran P2P Pilot Program

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the contract amendment with New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) for increased funding for a stipend increase for Supported Housing beds and for funding for the Legislative Add: Veteran P2P Pilot program in the amount of \$378,500

Motion No. 20: **Moved Resolution No. 371 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Erner

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 7

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 374: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$29,521.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Access: Supports For Living Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Access: Supports for Living in the amount of \$29,251 to increase the amount of state aid for crisis intervention services utilizing a mobile treatment team for children and adults through 12/31/22

Motion No. 21: **Moved Resolution No. 374 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 8

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 375: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$9,067.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Astor Services For Children & Families – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Astor Services in the amount of \$9,067 to increase the amount of state aid through 12/31/22.

Motion No. 22: **Moved Resolution No. 375 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 376: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$180,349.00 Entered Into By The County – Gateway Community Industries, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Gateway Community Industries in the amount of \$180,349 to increase the amount of state aid through 12/31/22.

Motion No. 23: **Moved Resolution No. 376 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 377: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$30,766.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – PEOPLE: Projects To Empower And Organize The Psychiatrically Labeled, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with PEOPLE in the amount of \$30,766 to increase the amount of state aid through 12/31/22.

Motion No. 24: **Moved Resolution No. 377 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 8

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 378: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$93,596.00 Entered Into By The County – Rehabilitation Support Services, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Rehabilitation Support Services in the amount of \$93,596 to increase the amount of state aid through 12/31/22.

Motion No. 25: **Moved Resolution No. 378 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 8

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 379: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$72,856.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Family of Woodstock in the amount of \$72,856 to increase the amount of state aid through 12/31/22.

Motion No. 26: **Moved Resolution No. 379 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 8

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 380: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$141,998.00 Entered Into By The County – Mental Health Association In Ulster County, Inc.– Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Mental Health Assoc. in Ulster County in the amount of \$141,998 to increase the amount of state aid through 12/31/22.

Motion No. 27: **Moved Resolution No. 380 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 381: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$14,037.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Family Services, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Family Services in the amount of \$14,037 to increase the amount of state aid through 12/31/22.

Motion No. 28: **Moved Resolution No. 381 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 382: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$7,105.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – HealthAlliance Hospital Mary’s Avenue Campus – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with HealthAlliance Hospital in the amount of \$7,105 to increase the amount of state aid through 12/31/22.

Motion No. 29: **Moved Resolution No. 382 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 8

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Chair Walter moved on to Old Business on the Agenda and advised the members that in consideration of time they would not discuss the Housing Working Groups. See attached transcript

Chair Walter moved on to New Business on the Agenda and recognized Department of Social Services Commissioner Iapoce to discuss department operations and finances. See attached transcript.

Chair Walter asked the members if there was any other business and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Lopez

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 7:17 PM

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk Mahler

Approved: August 3, 2022

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

DATE & TIME: July 6, 2022 – 5:30 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting, Meeting ID: 828 4422 9511, By Phone (646) 558-8656
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Eve Walter
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Bartels (arrived at 5:35 PM, left at 7:00 PM), Corcoran (left at 7:00 PM), Erner, Lopez, Nolan (left at 7:00 PM), Petit & Uchitelle
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Commissioner McDonald – UC Department of Mental Health, Commissioner Smith – UC Health Department, Commissioner Iapoce, Deputy Commissioners Beisel & Wood – UC DSS, Director Dawson – UC Youth Bureau, Director Koppenhaver – UC Office for Aging, Director Doyle – UC Planning Department, Nathan Litwin – UC Resilience & Recovery, Deputy County Executives Contreras & Rider – UC Executive’s Office, S. Deacon Mennenga – New Paltz

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

Chair Walter

I will call the July 6, Health Human Services and Housing Committee meeting to order. I'll take a motion to approve the June 8 regular meeting minutes.

Legislator Nolan

Motion

Chair Walter

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

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Walter

Any opposed? Unanimous. All right, we'll jump right into the Resolutions. The first one is Resolution 139. Setting a public hearing on proposed local law number 4 of 2022 enacting a drug take back program in Ulster County. Motion to discuss. Legislator Petit, second Legislator Corcoran. Legislator Petit, any comments?

Legislator Petit

Yeah, we uh, thank you, we just have some new information on the progress that the state is making. So I would like to ask if we could postpone this until next month.

Chair Walter

Okay, a second on a proposal on the postponement.

Legislator Nolan

Second

Chair Walter

Legislator Nolan. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Walter

Great. I will just add to just for those who don't know, the state has approved two organizations to implement the drug take back. There has been conversations back and forth about what this is exactly going to look like. And when we expect to see it fully implemented. I did forward to Legislator Petit some information, I could send it to others if they're interested, the specific organization that got this grant this not grant but that are been hired to do this.

Legislator Nolan

I'd like to receive that. Thank you.

Chair Walter

Yeah. I'll try to remember if not Legislator Petit, maybe you can send to people. That would be great. I would just sort of take the bullets at the end. Maybe not the whole email. I don't know if they need to read the whole email, but they can. Okay, so all do we vote on that one? Yes, we did. Okay. Resolution 200 Setting a public hearing on proposed local law. Oh, wait. I'm recusing myself from this. So Legislator Lopez.

Legislator Craig Lopez

Alright, bear with me. I got, I'm in the process of bringing up the Resolution right now. So

Chair Walter

You don't have it by heart?

Legislator Craig Lopez

I do not. It's very slow.

Legislator Nolan

You could delegate if you like, Craig.

Legislator Craig Lopez

Yeah, actually, if somebody wants to read it for me. Yeah. All right. So Resolution 200 then

Legislator Nolan

Setting a public hearing on proposed local law number seven of 2022 a local law amending the code of the county of Ulster in relation to evictions to be held on Tuesday, August 16 2022 at 7:15pm.

Legislator Craig Lopez

Motion to discuss. Legislator Corcoran

Legislator Corcoran

Motion

Legislator Craig Lopez

Second. Legislator Petit. Discussion? Legislator Uchitelle

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Thank you. So I'm again going to ask for a postponement. I don't know if everyone on the committee is aware. But the city of Albany had their good Cause Eviction law struck down by the State Supreme Court in Albany last week, and ours is substantively different than theirs in many, many, many ways. But on under advice of counsel would likely if the same logic was applied on a challenge, the similar fate would, you know, be the results. We anticipate that the city of Albany will appeal. But that hasn't we haven't gotten word on that yet. And, you know, I would say, you know, in this form, it wouldn't be prudent or rather with this state of facts on the table about the Supreme Court's interpretation, it wouldn't be prudent for us to proceed with this at the county level. And I'm willing to admit that at this time until there's new information, perhaps from an appellate ruling, but until that happens, I don't see this advancing.

Legislator Craig Lopez

So we have a motion to postpone we have a second.

Legislator Nolan

Second.

Legislator Craig Lopez

All in favor of postponement?

Committee Members

Aye

Legislator Craig Lopez

Alright, carried. Chair

Chair Walter

All right. Number, thank you, 339 approving the execution of a contract for 1,364,900 entered into the by the county for Gorick construction company Department of Public Works. motion to discuss.

Legislator Nolan

I'll make a motion

Chair Walter

Legislator Nolan. Second. Legislator Corcoran. Questions, comments, concerns. So I assume this was this was put out to bid correct?

Director Dennis Doyle

Okay, I can take it if you want, uh Chair, Dennis Doyle.

Chair Walter

Sure, go ahead

Director Dennis Doyle

Yeah, I guess the answer was it was out the RFP. And we

Deputy Executive Rider

It was out to RFB, sorry Dennis, it was out to bid. Yeah.

Director Dennis Doyle

And we had 2 bidders

Deputy Executive Rider

And both within the budget, this was the low bidder. So we were required to award.

Chair Walter

Okay. So just as a reminder to people, this is connected to the project of demolishing and rebuilding of the county jail. I will say, you know, my concerns last, two months ago, when this had come up, was that the developer had included, and expected to do the demolition when they bid and got selected, however, they, the county then offered to pay so I had voted against this previously, because of that fact that I felt that the developer should be covering the costs. I'll be a vote supportively now, but I just wanted to bring up that point that I'm still disappointed of the fact that we are preemptively offering to do something that the developer has already agreed to. Any other comments? All right, all in favor of Resolution 399. I'm sorry 339.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Any opposed? Abstentions? All right. It's unanimous. Resolution 340. ARPA food security and access Department of Finance, Division of recovery and resilience. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Nolan

So moved.

Chair Walter

Legislator Nolan. Second Legislator Uchitelle. Any discussions? Chair Bartels.

Legislative Chair Bartels

Thank you. Um, you know, I, I, I mentioned some of this in arpa. And I know that some of the committee members from ARPA are on this committee as well. And this, I do have some comments specific to this specific to this project. And I haven't been able to speak to Amanda Lavelle, but I just want to, for a moment speak to the bigger picture of ARPA projects. You know, as you may all know, or not know, you know, we've committed roughly two thirds of the funds at this point. And at the ARPA committee meeting, Legislator Nolan, who's here today, at the end of the meeting, made a presentation for an idea we hadn't heard before, related to assisting local farmers. And I know that she's working on that proposal. And while that may, this may seem off topic, you know, I just want to put it in the context of where we're now at this point where we don't have a lot of money left to commit.

And it really, I think, would behoove us as a body to think very critically about every project and compare one against another in terms of creating our own priorities. Because if we do this in a first come, first serve basis, and this is the portion that I'm not speaking about this project, specifically, but if we do this in a first come first serve basis, we may not actually be reflecting our priorities accurately. And while we have made some substantial commitments thus far, we've actually just started, you know, meaning in a meaningful way to to make those expenditures as Nate who's with us here, now, you know that a lot of these projects that we approved, require a certain amount of ramp up. So I am as one Legislator going to be advocating that we postpone all the ARPA proposals that came before the committee this month. And, and take at least a month or two, to really think about everything that's coming. As far as this project in particular. I do have concerns about as as and I was not there for Amanda's presentation, but the PowerPoint was shared about the breakdown of the funds, the 350,000, roughly two thirds goes to the studies and the front end and 1/3 goes to what's described in very, in a PowerPoint very minimalisticly, essentially as a as a grant program that we'd be you know, we'd be giving out the, the last third, I'm assuming to organizations who would then deliver on what the study showed, so I would be much more supportive.

I'm very supportive of spending money on food security, I've advocated for it on the floor in relation to, you know, one concept relation to CSA to membership program. And and I'm open definitely to spending a portion if not a significant portion of this funds on on food security. But I very resistant to spending two thirds of a proposed project on a study and only 1/3 on delivery, and also to find that that delivery is in the form of grants. Well, I mean, just to me, it's that that dynamic is flipped. If not, then something like I would be very interested in doing, you know, having to the table some of the people that Amanda, you know, utilized in these conversations, to have a conversation about the needs. You know, the Legislature also just released a report that I think we would all be wise to take the time to actually read and have discussions about before we move ahead with, with dedicating these funds to this project. Again, I wouldn't be a no but I would I would add, I would be supportive of postponing while we evaluate both this specific project, but also the larger balance of the ARP funds.

Chair Walter

I think it's Legislator Nolan, did you have your hand up previously?

Legislator Nolan

I did.

Chair Walter

And then Legislator Petit

Legislator Nolan

I'd wait for, Legislator Petit could go ahead

Chair Walter

Okay. Go ahead Legislator Petit

Legislator Nolan

And then come back to me. That'd be great.

Legislator Petit

Thank you. The food insecurity and the food hubs throughout Ulster County are something that I'm very familiar with. I am not in favor of putting this amount of money into more workgroups and more study groups. We have a crisis now. In fact, one of the pantries that I volunteer at we now have a volunteer crisis, which means the four seniors that we've been carrying since project resilience, you know, may only be getting food once a month now. I'm so sorry. So I would much rather see 350,000 go into the the network that we have now.

We've got the food insecurity collaborative, which is a collaboration between the Rondout Valley Growers Association, family of Woodstock and Ulster Corps. And they bring tons of fresh fruit and vegetables into the pantry system through hubs that are located throughout Ulster County, and go to churches and other pantries and other organizations. I just I am not in favor, I don't know how else to say it, it's just surprising it will take 350,000 for a study. And just to finish off last year, I had gotten in touch with county Executive Ryan, who had an extra 80,000 I think that was left from Project resilience, which went to 16 pantries, it was only 80,000. And those 16 pantries were so happy to get that money. And you know every penny that they have, and sometimes it's just pennies per pound, to put all this healthy food on shelves to get distributed to people in need. And just to follow up with your report Chair Walter, if you'd like I could forward to you from hunger is not an option here in Esopus, the families and the quantity of food they distribute in just one month.

Chair Walter

Thank you. Legislator Nolan

Legislator Nolan

Thank you, Chair Walter, um, these these comments make sense. I'm just concerned about I don't think we should put all ARPA projects on hold. I think we should be talking with the Executive about ways to free up additional funding from our county budget if we need to if we end up with projects beyond what we can fund through ARPA funds that we think are deserving. And my initial impression was that any project that would carry forward, the amazing successes of project resilience are projects that we should support. So I came to this meeting prepared to support this, this Resolution on that basis.

I haven't actually heard the presentation. Haven't seen the slides on this. So if they're in the backup materials, I just didn't think to look for it there. So maybe if they're, I don't know if somebody from the Executive side would like to give us a different perspective on this. I'm reluctant to slow down monies that could keep those food pantries and food hubs in business without a without a blip. So if that's the case, please let me know. And if it's

not the case, then perhaps are rethinking this to put more monies towards implementation and fewer monies towards study and administration would make sense.

Chair Walter

Chair Bartels.

Legislative Chair Bartels

Thank you. Yeah, I mean, first of all, I mean, I have had conversations with the Executive department, Deputy Executive Chris Kelly, about the idea when I talk about putting the ARPA projects that are before us this month on hold. It's partially in the context, as I you know, I have mentioned to you Legislator Nolan, of the fact that if we were to approve everything, and its full funding this month, there wouldn't even be the money available for for what you are asking for, for the project. Now, I'm not being I'm not giving preferential treatment to your project, I'm saying that it really does highlight that we're at a place in time where we we need to prioritize. And I think we need to, you know, we need to sort of take assessment of our of our own of our own goals and our own priorities. Now. The the comment that you just made about whether or not pausing this for a month, would have an effect on our food pantries, I can tell you most assuredly, it would not because nothing in this proposal is set to go to our food pantries. This is this is 200 and and I can't flip screens, but it's 200 something 225,000 in planning and support over three years developing a facility facilitating a map or, and a working group and creating a plan and reports and 125,000 in implementation Fund, which would call for Ulster County organizations to apply for specific grants over the course of this three years.

So this is not about funding, as Legislator Petit, advocated for it's not about funding our food pantries. And this is what I'm saying I think we need to have this conversation. I certainly would want Amanda Lavelle involved in the in the conversation I'm not, there's no doubt that she is a key player in in having that conversation. I am just advocating that we wait at least a month on this while we while we level set because, again, this is calling for a three year implementation plan. And then a call for projects, none of which is going to happen in the next month

Chair Walter

So, I would

Legislative Chair Bartels

And in fact, if we move all these things forward, we may not have the money for the food pantries, not from ARPA. So that's kind of my point is just that I think we need to we need to we need to have these conversations within the context of the less funds available.

Chair Walter

So I did put in the chat, a link to the food insecurity study that was done. This is by one of our legislative interns. She spent a good long year doing it I its relevance is also speaks to Legislator Petit's point. It identifies the different pantries, it shows on maps where they're located and also that some only offer food once a week or you know less. And so it really I think this reveals the gaps that exist. I think that we know that we have really excellent organizations like Cornell Cooperative Family of Woodstock. Like, I think we have a lot of solutions that we could put money into already without any further research or study.

So I agree with Legislator, petit and Chair Bartels, that the concept of putting money to food insecurity I'm 100% behind. And you know, I'd say Legislator Nolan's but I'd rather just put the money towards those things. We we know, we know what we could do. You know, just after doing this report, I had conversations with Cornell Cooperative with Michael Berg at Family. They already already they know exactly things that we could be doing right now. And I'd be thrilled to, you know, follow through on those kinds of activities rather than doing an extensive study, and then having this minimal amount. That's some kind of grant.

Again, I think we know who's doing this work, and we could support the work they're already doing. So I would definitely support. I'd also say that I believe that the ARPA committee have not completed their full process. They had many questions themselves. So I think by postponing it also would allow them to continue asking the questions they need to ask and maybe, you know, address the issues that are brought up by Chair Bartels. So I certainly would support postponing this as well. Deputy Executive Rider.

Deputy Executive Rider

Yeah, I mean, we've submitted this Resolution as written in this program, prior to the legislative report coming out, we've had no opportunity to really take a look at that. I don't think that there is a big concern about delaying this for a month. So I think that's probably prudent to do at this time.

Chair Walter

So but I guess I would ask that maybe in that process of delay is also a thought by the Executives office, that report is now out, you're hearing from Legislators, this idea that we know organizations who can do this work, that maybe it even gets to rethink a little bit to be more about programming, some very specific ones. And I'm sure we could easily spend \$350,000 on improved food access to our populations in a heartbeat. So and I know you have easily just in this room, several Legislators would be more than happy to communicate and talk about ways that could work. Legislator Nolan

Legislator Nolan

I can even see ways in which this Resolution, this proposal could link with the support for farms, I would like to have a conversation with Deputy Director LaValle about that. And with the Executive staff, it's not clear to me which farms during the pandemic were an essential part of Project resilience. But if there were a handful or a large handful a large collection that might be worth prioritizing those farms for Farm Aid as well. So I think there's some potential some benefits from a delay if that if it's not going to cause any harm.

Chair Walter

All right. Does anyone want to make a motion to postpone Legislator Petit, Erner you're seconding it?

Legislator Erner

Yes

Chair Walter

Or do you want to say something?

Legislator Erner

I'll second the motion.

Chair Walter

Okay. All in favor of postponement.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Any opposed? Abstain. Okay. I will say one last little point, just to the Deputy Executives. One of the things the report identified that's a low hanging fruit is that right now UCAT only allows individuals to bring one bag onto the bus. And for individuals who are using the bus for grocery shopping, that's too few. If we could make a change quicker. Just let them have up to three bags. That would be terrific. Okay. Next we have Resolution 351 authorizing the Department of Planning to submit an application to the New York State climate smart communities grant program for renewable energy equipment at Golden Hill housing motion to discuss Legislator Nolan, second

Legislator Nolan

Motion

Legislator Erner

Second

Chair Walter

Legislator Erner any discussion Legislator. Oh, you seconded it. Any discussion? Legislator Petit

Legislator Petit

Thank you. This grant application is for a housing project that is no longer under the County. County purview. I mean, I thought that we had transferred this over to an LDC. So I'm not sure why we're spending additional tax dollars to apply for a grant that's going to go for a private entity. And that's an it's just a statement.

Chair Walter

Deputy Executive Rider.

Deputy Executive Rider

I think the majority of funding for any of these kinds of projects, whether they're private developer or not come from taxpayer dollars, whether they're in the form of affordable housing credits, or other things this is just gives us the opportunity to apply for a grant for climate smart communities, it would help offset some of the costs on doing solar and other work that fall in line with our Green New Deal plan and requirements that were in, in the agreement with the developers, so this would just give us the opportunity. It would also mean maybe they don't need other type of you know, they would need less of the other type of credits. It just adds to the funding possibilities

Chair Walter

Chair Bartels.

Legislative Chair Bartels

Thanks. Yeah. You know, I mean, I think it's, it's great to apply for the application, certainly in keeping with the Green New Deal and our objectives. But I'm just curious. Are we why are we applying rather than Penrose? Is it because the properties currently still are? I mean, that's the I'm just confused about the process.

Deputy Executive Rider

It's just, we're a municipality and so we're eligible to apply it. That's all it is. A private developers not eligible. This is part of the climate smart communities is you have to be a climate smart community, which, you know, we're we're basically platinum. We're the highest level of climate smart community in the state. But this is the only ability to apply, a private developer can't apply for this source of funding.

Legislative Chair Bartels

And how would how would the transfer of the benefit happen?

Director Dennis Doyle

So the the, I'm sorry, if I may, Marc. So this, the similar example I would give you is that when we did the composting operation at the the resource recovery agency, that was, we applied for that grant, and that funding, went back through and was used by UCRRA to essentially establish the composting operation, we took an environmental easement across the site to ensure that to ensure that the county had an interest, and that's what we would do here, we would be looking at an environmental easement across the site.

Legislative Chair Bartels

Thank you. That's a great example

Director Dennis Doyle

So we're currently engaged. Yeah. And we're currently engaged in that discussion with with Penrose on two fronts. One is, is that what do we have to put the easement on? And if we have to put the easement on the equipment it gets, it gets a bit messy, versus on the land itself, which is what we did in UCRRA's case. And the second piece of that is, is is the way the grant application is written, it's public. It's public housing, public affordable housing. And so the question is, the question that we've asked the grant source and are still getting answers is, does that count because of the low income housing tax credit program that that's involved in this in this project? So we don't have the answers to that what we this this Resolution went into make sure that we could apply, it doesn't mean that we actually will apply.

Legislative Chair Bartels

Thank you

Chair Walter

Sorry. Do you have a follow up? No? Legislator Erner.

Legislator Erner

Yeah, I want to thank Deputy Executive and the planner for those explanations. And, you know, just want to say I love that we're trying to get these renewable aspects to the project. I love that the state has a way that it can help

us out on the county level here. I'd like a little more time to look this over. There's there's a lot in here with the the, well, anyway, I'm wondering if there's an option for us to revisit this on the day of session, is this committee able to postpone until session and just take a little closer look?

Chair Walter

No

Legislator Erner

I know that there's a deadline of July, I believe it's 26th. So we would need to approve this this month in order to apply

Chair Walter

Right, no. Legislator Erner, we would have to have a special Health Human Services and housing meeting. If this if that would be the only way we cannot postpone it until session, we have to make a move on it or it can't be reviewed in the next, can't be reviewed by Ways and Means.

Legislator Erner

Okay, so we can't propose a special meeting that that or they won't be able to review in their first meeting. I see what you're saying.

Chair Walter

Well, or it could be the second but you're asking that everybody find time for special meeting on this? You know, I think I will say you have you certainly have time to bring up concerns in Ways and Means and caucus so that they can be heard. But you know, not to say we you can't propose it. But just to be thoughtful about the implications, I think. So I have Legislator Nolan, then Petit then Bartels

Legislator Nolan

I think we've covered it, I would encourage Legislator Erner to let us move forward with this and we can bring the concerns up in another forum. And I would be inclined if there is a need to have this available to pursue a motion to discharge if this didn't get out of committee. I think it's really important that we make our public affordable housing as energy smart as we can, and there are health benefits that come from having some of these types of approaches to a vulnerable population. So I'm very supportive of this, and would hope that we could get all of Legislator Erner's concerns addressed.

Chair Walter

Thank you and just for correction. Thank you, Jay. Not ways and means that public works would be where this goes. So that would be a meeting you could attend if you want to discuss things more. And then obviously, caucus. I think I have Petit next, Legislator Petit.

Legislator Petit

Yeah. I mean, I would be very excited to vote yes, on this Resolution, if it was for Elizabeth Manor. And I'm wondering why we were not looking at our publicly owned property, especially that particular building because it is supportive emergency housing. And again, why we're more concerned with a private entity. You know, that

this scenario with resource recovery agency that is a public benefit corporation, and it benefits everyone in the county. So yeah, why not Elizabeth Manor?

Chair Walter

And now I've been corrected a second time not public works, energy and environment. That is the place you can go. I'm sure of it now. Sorry. Just I wanted to make sure Legislator Erner knew what the actual next meeting is that would be talking about this. So I don't think there are any more committees left. So I think that'll be it. Okay, Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Nolan

Yeah, I think this is a both and situation. I do think that we should look at energy efficiency for publicly owned buildings. But I think that withholding that from privately owned buildings will leave us short. Just today I was dealing with a constituent request and spoke with Commissioner, Iapoco about the federal program for housing that is privately owned, that it provides housing for people with substance use or mental illness or other vulnerabilities. These are programs that are recognizing that the private sector provides some of these services for many people. And this particular project is set up to do it in a very intelligent way. So I think we should do this, and we should do those others. I don't think they're mutually exclusive. We just took possession of Elizabeth Manor very recently. And so I don't think we started addressing all those issues with that particular building.

Chair Walter

Chair Bartels

Legislative Chair Bartels

Thank you. I'm so to Legislator Erner's concern. I also just wanted to add that, should we should we move forward with the application. And should we receive the funding it would, it would be back before us to accept the funding. So that'll happen as well. And this, this requires a match. So that's something I think we'll be talking about down the line is who's providing who's providing that match and how that works out in terms of the new arrangement with Penrose, but I think that Legislator Petit brings up a I don't want to give anyone too much work at the last minute. But given the timeline, is it is it possible, we're allowed to put in more than one application, it says that our it's not possible to put in an application for Elizabeth Manor?

Deputy Executive Rider

We don't have our RFP for architectural and design services back for that, Elizabeth that manner, like we're just not in a, we're not in a state for that project that we would have an application ready, or even know what we're applying for at this point for that facility. There's nothing that said we can't apply next year for it. This is an annual, you know, program, but we're just we're not there.

Legislative Chair Bartels

Okay, I would just [inaudible]

Legislator Nolan

for next year

Legislative Chair Bartels

Yeah, I would want to strongly encourage that. Be thinking this in this direction for for all of that, basically, for all of our projects, considering that we can we can apply for more than one. So thank you.

Chair Walter

So I have a question not to have to re hash my concerns about this the project before but when we when you've Deputy Executive Rider, when you talked about us taking on the demolition of this, you said because we're applying because they're applying for grants, and they need to show that the county supports them. And so by us taking on the demolition, it will show that the county is supporting them and they'll be able to get these grants. So those are different grants than this?

Deputy Executive Rider

Those are those are that's all through HCR which is Affordable Housing Credits

Chair Walter

Okay, just wanted to confirm

Deputy Executive Rider

The last, I mean it It was definitely part of it for that. What I also said is that just the funding overall is not there, even with the 4% credits that they're getting. So when we talked about doing the demo that makes the project possible, we talked about that, as far as silver gardens and other projects where the county, you know, having some sort of support really made it more competitive. Those projects, this one, it's less about that and actually just making sure that everything is there so that the developer moves forward with this project. Right now, they're still scrambling to make sure that all of their funding is in place, so that we can move forward and it's not there yet, this would help us get there to meet our goals.

Chair Walter

So just the back that up, or continue that because you had also said, like they may not get that funding, and they may not be able to do it, will if they are not able to do it, if we get this and maybe it's a different organization that's willing to do the match like, well, we have to lose this money if if Penrose can't get the funding they need to complete the project? Or will we still have it to partner with someone else?

Deputy Executive Rider

I'll push that over to Dennis that I don't know.

Chair Walter

Because we have to show that Penrose is going to match to get this one. Right? It's not it has to it's very specifically specified this particular organization who agreed to do it. All right, that would be useful, I'm not going to suggest holding it up, it'd be very useful to know, since we know that it's not guaranteed that Penrose can will be able to do this project. What what opportunities we have to work with the state to or climate smart to retain this money, should we be awarded it. Chair Bartels.

Legislative Chair Bartels

I just since we're on talking about oh, I mean, I just had a question about the match because it's municipal grant. Is it, it says that a match is required. But is it required that the match be provided by the municipality or can the municipality be reimbursed by? I mean, is that is that allowable?

Director Dennis Doyle

That's that's one of the questions that we've got out to the grant source in terms of what constitutes a match whether the match has to be directly related to the equipment. The example I would give you is is that if we're if we're tearing down the jail, that may end up being that may that may end up being the match

Chair Walter

So can we

Director Dennis Doyle

We may have a match built, we may have a match built in. And that's the question is out to the grant source now that there are a number of questions here that we're trying to answer in a in a in a dutiful manner, both in terms of the amount of energy that's going to be saved to make sure that we have a competitive grant. There's other questions with respect to prevailing wage rates that that may or may not kick in that make the grant less attractive to Penrose and others. And there's a question with respect to public housing. So there's a number of questions that we got to go through in order in order for us to make a decision to submit.

Legislative Chair Bartels

And may I just follow on that, and that that relates to the definition of project, right, because it says 50% of the project costs. So you're, you're saying if the if that is defined as the entire project, then our then our our expenditure on the demolition could be the math match. But if it's the

Director Dennis Doyle

Could be used as a match

Legislative Chair Bartels

If it's the green project, then it may not be.

Director Dennis Doyle

That's exactly it

Legislative Chair Bartels

So will you also be following up? That if it's the green project, whether or not we could be reimbursed for a match? Like, I don't know if if I mean, I don't know if there are creative ways where the county could match because I do think and I appreciate that you're that you're doing the due diligence to look into this because I do think as as Legislator Erner said, you know, anything to make these projects, more environmentally sustainable, in the long run is certainly laudible and what we're all aiming for. So, however we can get there.

Chair Walter

Yeah, and I would appreciate it if

Director Dennis Doyle

The short answer is is there there's ongoing working documents between us with a with a number of questions that we have outstanding that we need to answer and it's involving the grant source, it's involving attorneys from from Penrose, it's involving our in our understanding of what the county wants and wants to do, and was willing to do and some of that's being informed for what we did with with UCRRA with respect to those easements. So all of those things come together and in terms of making a decision to apply.

Chair Walter

So can I just ask that you also explore the possibility of disaggregating this from Penrose if that is a way to avoid us losing this. And to fit to Legislator Erner's point

Director Dennis Doyle

I certainly heard the question.

Chair Walter

Yeah. And to Legislator Erner's point

Director Dennis Doyle

I certainly heard the question.

Chair Walter

Thank you and to Legislator Erner's point

Director Dennis Doyle

The thing I would say is generally these these are awarded on a on a project specific basis, and they are awarded on a competitive basis. And some of that has to do with all of those things that go into the application in terms of in terms of how the project compares to other projects in terms of greenhouse gas emissions saved, etc, etc. So, it would seem to me unlikely, and this is just me from experience, it would seem to be unlikely that you could sort of retain it and use it somewhere else, could we retain it and use it for another affordable housing project and in a location that may that may be that may be something that we will have to explore? And I'll get that answer for you

Chair Walter

No, it's so I guess my point is, I'm not looking for it to be passed on. I'm I'm looking for to be retained for golden Hill, just that it's not tied into the part one partner.

Director Dennis Doyle

Oh, okay, I hear you

Chair Walter

If we find an other way to match it, then if that partner does not succeed in coming through, we would still have this money for the golden Hill project, because all the design and everything else that has to be related to Golden

Hill, I'm just asking to disaggregate it from Penrose perhaps. And then just let me ask one more thing to Legislator Erner's point. What is the due date? When does this have to be submitted?

Director Dennis Doyle

It's before the end of the month, I don't have the exact date on top of my head, but it's before the end of the month.

Chair Walter

Just wanted to confirm that. Legislator Petit

Legislator Petit

Is it possible to tighten up some of this language to make me a little more comfortable? You know, before we vote on it, you know, specifically to some of the points that director Doyle had made.

Chair Walter

Do you have a specific amendment you're requesting?

Legislator Petit

I lost, I lost the Resolution. I'm trying to scroll through the with backup again. So I do not

Chair Walter

So you will have a chance. I mean, again, it's going in front of energy and environment. So perhaps you can think about that. Again. Keep in mind, this is just for them to apply. So we're, I'm imagining they haven't completed their proposal at all yet. So it's going to have plenty of room to get this right. But yes, I would say one if you want to, if you identify some specific amendments, perhaps you can bring it up and energy and environment.

Legislator Petit

Thank you.

Chair Walter

Okay. So on that any other discussion? All right. All in. Where are we, all in favor of Resolution 351?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Walter

Any opposed? One opposed. And any abstentions? Okay. Next we have Resolution 362 approving an execution of a contract for 50,000 For tay fishers community cornerstone for youth bureau. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Nolan

Move it

Chair Walter

Nolan. Second. Second, Legislator Erner any discussion? All right. All in favor of Resolution 362.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Walter

Any opposed? Okay. unanimous Resolution 363 authorizing the Chair of the Legislature to execute a grant application with required assurances for New York Connects program with the New York State Office for the Aging. Motion to discuss. Whi did I raise my hand? Uchitelle. Second Petit. I'm just eager to vote. Any discussion on this one? All right, all in favor of Resolution 363.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Any opposed? Abstentions? Unanimous. 364 approving the execution of a contract amendment for 948,150. Enter into the county for Catholic Charities. This is a contract amendment to extend a term a motion to discuss. Erner second Corcoran.

Legislator Nolan

Second

Chair Walter

Any discussion? Legislator Erner.

Legislator Erner

Thank you, Chair Walter. So it looked to me like the previous contract was three years 1.28 million about 430 K a year. The amended amount covers part of this year next year, basically a year just under 1 million.948. So we're up to basically double per year. So what are we doing with those doubled numbers? Are we adding another warming center or what's going on here?

Chair Walter

Deputy Executive, or who's going? Commissioner Iapoce. okay, go ahead

Commissioner Iapoce

That's exactly what we're proposing. We're seeking to establish a second warming center in Ellenville. We're also seeking to ensure that both warming center locations have fully functional generators. As a result of this past winter storms, we want to make sure that in the event that we have any kind of winter storm weather that caused the power outages that we experienced this past winter that both of our warming center facilities would be fully operational. So those are the reasons for the increase in the amount.

Legislator Erner

Thank you love it.

Commissioner Iapoce

You're welcome.

Chair Walter

Chair Bartels.

Legislative Chair Bartels

Just a question on adding the generator. Does it say it in the contract? Are we requiring that they buy generators for the two are we where where's the generator in the contract? Like what portion of this funding is going to the generators?

Commissioner Iapoce

What happens with the generators, we propose the installation of the generator at the warming center sites in our code blue plan that is submitted to OTDA. And in the past, we had accomplished that at the Clinton Avenue Methodist Church where we installed the generator. So that's where the initial request is arrived at. And then the installation of the generator is coordinated between the service provider and the owner of the warming center site in compliance with local building codes to make sure that the installation is done correctly.

Legislative Chair Bartels

But I'm just confused. Because right now, this the full amount of this contract, as it's written goes to the Schedule A, which is the scope of services, which doesn't mention the generator. So I'm just I'm just trying to understand where the funding, how the funding for the generators contained within the funding for the, you know, the scope of services.

Commissioner Iapoce

It will be contained when we submit our code blue plan to OTDA requests requesting that it be permitted to be included. And then that will be added to the scope of services.

Legislative Chair Bartels

So how does in answer to Legislator Erner's question, how does the you when you said that increase in funding was due to the generator, but right now, that's not included.

Commissioner Iapoce

We're we're estimating what the cost is going to be based on what our experiences were with the installation of a generator at a prior site.

Legislative Chair Bartels

Okay, but, but again, this is a contract for services for the full 1,220,000 etc. Right, that that has that has a Schedule A so I'm I guess I just I'm not, I'm not under, I'm not understanding how if it's for a future cost, how is it contained in the existing cost?

Commissioner Iapoce

Well, this is the process that we undertook, we're not certain that we're going to be able to obtain approval. And we're not in a position to submit the plan yet. But we're in anticipation of the potential costs for doing that in the plan. That's why it's been added to the amount of the 948,150.

Legislator Nolan

So if I can ask this question.

Chair Walter

Wait wait, just Legislator Nolan, just let me. I'll call on you in a second. So Chair Bartels, do you is there any more you need to say on that?

Legislative Chair Bartels

I'm still confused. But I'll pause for a moment. Yeah.

Chair Walter

Okay, Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Nolan

Oh, is what this figure in the budget, but it's not included in this contract? And that the contract that the supplement to the contract would then fill out this budget?

Commissioner Iapoce

Well, well, the way that the process works is that we're extending the contract with Catholic Charities. And in anticipation of the costs that we expect to incur under that contract. We're in the process of doing due diligence for what the anticipated costs might be for the installation of generators at the potential sites that we'll use. So we don't have that specific information yet, but it's contemplated that this is how OTDA had requested that we proceed in the past with regard to a capital improvement at a site where we're potentially going to locate a warming center. I'm not sure if that I know that it's similar to the same approach that we've done in the past.

And what happens with the code blue plan, we submit our plan at the probably right preceding the winter, we'll submit our 22-23 plan, according to their timeline, and then they will either approve or ask us to modify our plan. And part of our plan will include expenditures that are set forth for activation sequences, for staffing, for food, for supplies, and also for the installation of generators at both sites. Because we arrived at learning that the second iglesia church on Elmendorf Avenue, did not have a generator. And that's where we have our warming center in Kingston. So we wanted to be able to include that moving forward. So that's going to be part of our plan. And it has been an approved expenditure at past sites that we used in terms of the services, it's not going to be specifically that we'll have to determine whether or not it's the owner of the property, at second iglesia, that works on making arrangements for the expenditures that will be incurred to install the generator, or whether it's going to be Catholic Charities who rents the space from them. So if we arrive at obtaining approval, we can add that to the scope of services.

Chair Walter

Is it reasonable, Commissioner to provide sort of a tentative internal working budget, because clearly you have broken this down, you've done it before, you have a sense of where how you'll be reallocating and that perhaps, that when we look at this, we would be, you know, not to hold this up at this point. But that we could then have that breakdown of and again, it'd be a working internal draft, you can throw across it, you know, whatever to suggest like this is nothing final, but at least shows us how this is truly broken down potentially

Commissioner Iapoce

Sure

Chair Walter

Even if it's not even if you might be sub allocating that it's that it's Catholic Charities buying the the equipment versus us buying it, but it just will allow us to see how that cost is divided. I don't know Chair Bartels if that feels like it would be useful.

Legislative Chair Bartels

That would be really helpful.

Legislator Erner

Sure, sure, we can do that we've been doing these plans, I think back to 2016. And this has been 100% reimbursed by OTDA in all the years that we've been participating in it so we can show you last year's proposed plan. And we're in the process of continuing to work on this years.

Chair Walter

I think that'd be great. And I'd appreciate it also, because the conversation has come up in the Legislature of are we looking to have more warming centers in more places? So the better we can see what the true costs of creating one warming center is, and what goes into those costs would also help inform us on any kind of potential expansion as well. So

Commissioner Iapoce

Yeah, and I think it's important to also note that there's no guarantee that OTDA is going to improve approve a plan that includes another warming center. So the county may have to make the decision about whether or not it wants to allocate some of its own money to creating an additional warming center or numerous additional warming centers.

Chair Walter

All the more reason to have a tentative budget. Okay. Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Nolan

Yes, I think that's very helpful. And I think also if the generator is not included in this contract at this point, that that maybe should just be noted in the contract. And with that, deduction in the amount of the contract award, and that's probably what's been done in the past. But if that could be done proactively, that would resolve this, I think as well.

Chair Walter

Legislator Erner

Legislator Erner

Thank you. I wish I was a little more prepared to to mention this, but just Commissioner Iapoce mentioned what might happen or not with the additional warming center, but I've heard some talk around the public recently about

warming centers in in additional municipalities and how the county it might help that that become a thing for whatever municipalities wish to have them. That's all

Chair Walter

So all right. Anyone else? All right, on favor of Resolution 364

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Any opposed? Abstentions. All right, it's unanimous Resolution 364 approving the execution of a contract for 45,000 causing the aggregate plus amendment to be in excess of 54 Abbott House Department of Social Services. Motion to discuss. Legislator Erner.

Legislator Erner

May I moved that we block this and the next one.

Chair Walter

Sure. There's a motion to block 365 and 366.

Legislator Nolan

Second on the motion

Chair Walter

Second, Nolan. All in favor of the block.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Okay. A motion to discuss, Erner, second

Legislator Nolan

Second

Chair Walter

Legislator Nolan. Okay. Discussion. All right. All in favor?

Legislator Erner

Oh. Excuse me.

Chair Walter

You have a discussion. Okay. Go ahead.

Legislator Erner

Yes, please. And apologies to Commissioner Iapoce. It's going to be a similar question. I could have been a little better prepared, I suppose. But some I see some numbers doubling here, can you can you just explain to us what we're doing here with Abbott house and why we're why we're taking this step. And is there more foster care that's that's needed and being provided? That's my question. Thank you.

Commissioner Iapoce

It's for two reasons. The MSAR, which is the maximum state aid rates for per diems. At these facilities, which are set by a New York State Office of Children and Family Services increased from 322.26 per day to 437.88 per day. And the increase is needed to pay invoices that we've received through the end of June 30, 2022. We also did have an additional youth placement at Abbott house in this current agreement, and that also resulted in an increase in the invoices we received. So that's the reason for the request to increase these two.

Legislator Erner

Thank you.

Commissioner Iapoce

You're welcome.

Chair Walter

Any other discussion? All right. All in favor of Resolutions 365, 366.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Any opposed? Abstain, right. Unanimous. Resolution 367 approving an execution the contract of 22,002 50 causing the aggregate contract costs amendment be in excess of 50,000 entered into by the county Bonadio and company LLP. This is corporate compliance for Department of Health. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Craig Lopez

I'll move it

Chair Walter

Legislator Lopez. Second Nolan any discussion. All in favor of 367.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Opposed. Abstain. All right, unanimous 368 amending the 2022 Ulster County budget to accept accept increased funding from OASAS to support a cost of living adjustment for the Department of Powell. Motion discuss.

Legislator Nolan

Move it

Chair Walter

Nolan Second. Second Erner. Any discussion? All right. All in favor Resolution 368.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Walter

Any opposed? Abstain. Okay. Let's see Resolution 369. Amending the 2022 budget to accept increased funding also from OASAS to support one time funding to support electric repairs for residential services. Motion to discuss. Nolan second Petit. Any discussion? Legislator Erner

Legislator Erner

Yeah, just would love to understand about the electric repairs. That's it. Thank you.

Chair Walter

Tara, Commissioner McDonald

Director McDonald

Sure so we received a call from OASAS who had been working directly with the provider RSS. RSS contacted them with regards to an electrical issue and I'm sorry, I don't know the particulars of the issue but at Abbott house no, I'm sorry at Able house in Saugerties. And the issue was determined to be somewhat of an urgent matter based on the fact that there are residents that are currently there receiving support for their recovery with SUD issues. So OASAS had enlisted the help of the county to be able to get state funding to RSS in order to fix the issue. RSS has put out the money in order to be able to get the electrical issues taken care of a state aid was developed and updated state aid was developed and sent to the county within days of the conversation, which I've never experienced. And then we did a Resolution to be accepted and funnel it back to RSS to reimburse them for the cost of the repairs.

Legislator Erner

Thank you.

Chair Walter

Legislator Petit

Legislator Petit

I just, doesn't RSS own and operate that facility? So we're, we're authorizing money to be given to them to provide for basic upkeep and operations.

Director McDonald

So they are licensed to operate the facility and OASAS is paying for the upkeep based on the providing them with the license to give to provide the service. So these are state dollars that are they're passed through dollars, which

is how the updated state aid included the additional funds, and then we pass them on to RSS. They're public dollars, but their state dollars.

Legislator Petit

I understand

Chair Walter

Do you have any more questions?

Legislator Petit

No, no, I have a dilemma here because I you know, I don't because of past experience with RSS don't support any any funding for them at all. Similar to Westchester medical, but okay. Thank you for the explanation.

Chair Walter

Okay, so all in favor of Resolution 369.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Any opposed? Abstain. All right. Unanimous. Can I get a motion to block 370, 372 and 373? They're all state money to reflect a 5.4% COLA increase. Legislator Uchitelle, second Nolan. All in favor of the block.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Walter

Okay, motion to discuss.

Legislator Nolan

So moved.

Chair Walter

Nolan. Second Uchitelle. Any discussion on this. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Walter

Opposed? Okay, unanimous. Thank you Resolution 371. Amending the 2022 Ulster County budget to accept increased money from New York State Office of Mental Health for a stipend for supportive housing and funding for the New York State Legislative ad veterans p2p pilot program. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Erner

Moved

Legislator Uchitelle

Second

Chair Walter

Second Uchitelle. Any discussion? All in favor? 371.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Walter

Any opposed? All right. Unanimous, great. Resolution 374 approving the execution of a contract for 29,521 causing the excess to be the amount the aggregate contract plus amendment to be in excess of 50,000 for access, support for the living contract amendment for crisis intervention services. A motion to discuss.

Legislator Nolan

I'll move it.

Chair Walter

Nolan, second

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Second

Chair Walter

Uchitelle. Any discussion. All in favor Resolution 374.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Any opposed? Abstain. Alright it's unanimous. Resolution 375 approving the contract amendment for 9,067 causing the aggregate to be in excess of 50,000 for Aster services, children and family again Department of Mental Health. Increased state aid. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Nolan

Move it

Chair Walter

Legislator Nolan, second Corcoran. Any discussion? All in favor of Resolution 375?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Walter

Any opposed? abstained. Okay, unanimous. Resolution 376 approving a contract for 180,003 49 with gateway communities. Again, increase of state aid programs. Motion to discuss. Nolan, second Uchitelle. Any discussion? All in favor Resolution 376.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Walter

Opposed? Abstain. Unanimous. All right. 377 approving an execution of a contract for 30,007.66. entered for to the county with people projects to empower and organize the psychiatrically labeled Department of Mental Health. Again increase for state aid. increase in state aid. Motion to discuss Nolan

Legislator Nolan

Motion

Chair Walter

Second Uchitelle. Any discussion? All in favor

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Walter

Opposed? Abstain? Unanimous. All right. We like when the state gives us more money. It's always so nice. Resolution 378 approving the execution of a contract for 93,596 entered to the county for rehabilitation support services. This is again increased for state aid for community residential services. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Nolan

So moved

Chair Walter

Legislator Nolan, second Legislator Erner. Any discussion on this one. All right. All in favor 378.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Opposed? Abstain. All right. Resolution 379 approving a contract amendment for 72,856 entered to the county with family of Woodstock. Again, increase in state aid for respite services, primary prevention and advocacy. Motion to discuss. Legislator Uchitelle, second Legislator Erner any discussion. All in favor of Resolution 379.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Any opposed? Abstain? Unanimous. Resolution 380 approving the execution of contract for 141,998 for Mental Health Association also increase the state aid for various programs. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Nolan

So moved

Chair Walter

Legislator Nolan, second Legislator Erner, any discussion. All in favor Resolution 380

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Any opposed? Abstain? Unanimous. Resolution 381 approving the execution for 14,037. This is entered with Family Services Department of Mental Health. Again, increase of state aid. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Nolan

So moved

Chair Walter

Nolan, second Uchitelle. any discussion? All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Opposed? Abstain. All right. unanimous Resolution 382 approving the execution of a contract amendment for \$7,105. This is with Health Alliance in the Mary's Avenue. This is also state aid for crisis intervention services. A motion to discuss Legislator Nolan [inaudible]

Legislator Nolan

I'll move it

Chair Walter

Second Erner. Any discussion? Legislator Erner.

Legislator Erner

Thank you Chair Walter. So here we are with Health Alliance. I'm going to support this but we need to talk some more about Health Alliance and many in our county government have said we will not stop here with the 20 beds

that we got back. So I'd like our committee to keep keep looking at how we hold Westchester Medical Center accountable even as they are starting to respond to what the people are asking. That's all. Thank you.

Chair Walter

Can, I have a question Deputy Executive Contreras and I don't know if you have it handy. But it doesn't change. I'll still vote positively. But it'd be worth knowing going forward. Once our crisis stabilization center is built with these kinds of fundings since its hospital diversion and linkage to services. It's so very similar. Would we be able to allocate this kind of money to our own crisis stabilization center? Or does it have to be a hospital, an existing hospital? And again, if you don't have it now, it'd be worth just knowing. I know, there's a couple of crisis stabilization funding streams. And we don't have a completed stabilization center yet, but if you could just maybe find out at some point.

Deputy Executive Contreras

Sure. We can definitely look into that.

Chair Walter

I mean, it may have to be a hospital, but it just worth finding out.

Deputy Executive Contreras

Yep. We'll, we'll look into it. Tara, Commissioner McDonald and I

Chair Walter

Great thank you.

Deputy Executive Contreras

I don't know that it actually has to be a hospital.

Chair Walter

Okay, great. I mean, it'd be nice if we could just use this money ourselves to do the services Well, or the organization that we RFP with. All right. Any other questions with 382? All in favor of Resolution 382.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Opposed? Abstentions, unanimous. Okay. Next, we asked the DSS Commissioner Mike Iapoce. Just for a sense of going into 2023 nothing formal, but just an idea of maybe expansions, changes or shifts that you might see, you know, one of the things that I could think of is this idea of we're talking about warming centers, is there an initiative to be having more of those, is there you know, just just any thoughts that you, your group has had that you're thinking? We would like to do more of, ideally, if possible in 2023, or any shifts like if there's any contract changes, or, or or, you know, a movement from one organization to another that we might want to be aware of. So I'll just give you the floor for any kind of input.

Commissioner Iapoce

Sure.. Thank you Chair Walter and appreciate the opportunity to address all of the committee members on this subject matter. I had had a very brief conversation with Deputy county Executive Contreras yesterday that I didn't know if my vision would be particularly riveting or compelling. And I'll do the best I can to essentially sort of share thoughts and perspectives and just ask for consideration around that a lot of this is also arrived at as part of our management teams philosophy here at DSS in regards to our shared responsibility for the mission that we have in connection with all the programs and services that we're responsible for.

So I appreciate that you use the word where we're potentially considering expansion, or identifying opportunities, because that's really kind of at the heart and part of the foundation of our philosophy here, to try to always ensure that we're meeting our duties and responsibilities around mandated services, and mandated programming, but also trying to identify opportunities for expansion, identify where there might be gaps, identify where there might be opportunities for collaboration with some of our existing partners, who have been service providers with some new and emerging organizations who have arrived with an interest and enthusiasm for addressing some of the subject matter areas that were responsible for. And just in connection with that, I think that, you know, perhaps maybe the best way to do that is just by virtue of a couple of examples.

One of the things that I think this committee is very concerned about, obviously, is the housing crisis that is being experienced in Ulster County, both with regard to the emergency homeless population, that each and every day, needs to arrive at having placements and inventory available to be safely housed, and then transitioning that emergency homeless population into permanent, supportive and transitional housing. So one of the things that we've experienced as we emerge from the pandemic is an increase in the emergency homeless population. over most of 2020, and 2021, we were averaging around 250 to 275 unique homeless individuals, and that comprised families and individuals. And since we, you know, have been emerging out of the pandemic, and there's been less isolation and more movement. And the end of the eviction moratorium, we've seen that go up to about 350, to 375. So we're really experiencing some issues with regard to inventory. And I've addressed some of you at other meetings and shared our experiences and perspective. And we all know that there's other organizations that provide emergency homeless services.

So it's managing this emergency homeless population right now to make sure they're getting supports and services. So we've had to place some of our families and individuals out of Ulster County at motels and other counties. And one of those locations is the rainbow motel in Greene County, which is in Catskill, and one thing that we recognize based on the number of placements that we had there was that they needed supports and services. So we entered into a contract recently with Ulster County Community Action to visit our clients placed at the rainbow motel twice a week to provide them with supports and services and engagement, making sure they had the necessities that they needed, that they had help with transportation that they had basic food items. And we've been very pleased with the results and it's something that was absolutely necessary, absolutely consistent with our mission. And we know that the families and individuals placed there may continue to remain there for the foreseeable future because we all know that permanent housing inventory in Ulster County is very difficult to come by, and particularly difficult to come by, for people that are lower income or who would rely on a shelter benefit.

So I think that, you know, that's been part of our philosophy our vision, seeing a gap, recognizing a need, we're going to continue to pursue arrangements with Ulster County Community Action to actually begin visiting the

motels that we use in Ulster County, hopefully starting next month, once a month, to also enhance the supports and services. We're working closely in collaboration with RUPCO and Family of Woodstock, to make sure that there's engagement with our emergency homeless population in these placements to try to make sure that they're accessing every potential opportunity to find permanent housing.

And you know, that, again, part of philosophy, part of vision. In terms of, you know, our over all budgetary circumstances, you know, I do think it's important to mention, the DSS budget annually comprises about 1/3 of the Ulster County budget. So we're usually about \$115-\$120 million budget, we employ about roughly 1/4 of the county workforce. We have mandated responsibilities to be administering public assistance programs that include snap, heap, daycare, shelter assistance. And all of these programs have a lot of regulatory criteria and requirements that we need to make sure we're adhering to in terms of processing applications and determining eligibility. So there's an enormous responsibility there, because that's where we're able to arrive at claiming reimbursement for administering these programs accurately and efficiently. So we really take that responsibility seriously. And it's also the engagement that happens between our DSS staff and our clients who are applying for these public assistance programs, making sure that we're having the kind of conversations where screenings are happening in terms of domestic violence, human trafficking. Is there a disability, are there employment hurdles, is there mental health issues, are there substance abuse issues, and this is where we're so thrilled that the restoration of mental health services in Ulster County because we need to rely on other departments and other entities who provide mental health services, who provide substance abuse services, who provide employment services.

And having a staff that's trained to be able to screen for and identify those issues with our clients, and encourage them to seek additional supports where they may need them. That's very vital. I'm very encouraged that our staff is trained in all these areas of subject matter. We were able to achieve training our entire staff on diversity, equity and inclusion this year, which is nearly 300 staff, because they are engaging our clients on a regular basis, whether it be in person, via telephone, via email, and you know, many of you have on occasion contacted me about constituents, or individuals to support them and their efforts to arrive at getting explanations or answers with respect to their, you know, unique individual cases. So so that's, you know, such a vital and important part, that relationship.

On the Family and Children's Services side, clearly what we're doing there in terms of our Child Protective Services Unit, our preventive unit, our foster care unit, and our coordinated Children's Services Unit is also incredibly challenging, incredibly stressful, crisis and trauma driven because of the nature of the reports that we receive from the state central registry that we then have to investigate. We're constantly doing everything that we can to make sure that we have engagement that's done in a trauma informed way around safety planning for the clients who we arrive at having to make decisions about whether they might be eligible for preventive services, whether there might be imminent risk thresholds met that require removal of children, those children come into our foster care system.

You know, again, talking about expansion and opportunities, I know mentor me, is organization that is on a lot of your radar. And we have been involved in dialogues with the representatives of mentor me as a potential opportunity to contract with them to become a service provider, so that we can make referrals with regard to children that are getting DSS services. But it's a process. It's a process that in many regards, I see reflected in the work that you all do, which starts with doing comprehensive due diligence. Making sure that they're an organization that has established themselves as a legal entity, making sure that we have data to support that the

programming that they're providing is evidence based, and their curriculums will provide for us to be able to get reimbursement, if we refer children to their program. We also want to make sure that all of their staff and volunteers are vetted that appropriate background checks have been done. We can't be referring children in our care and custody to an organization unless we've done comprehensive due diligence to know that our children are safe, and that they're receiving services from an organization that has staff and programming that is safe and appropriate.

So this is part of what we're involved doing. You know, in a very thoughtful way. Again, I've had on occasion, individual conversations with some of you, talked at various meetings that were all in attendance on. But, you know, mentor me, community, Ulster County community action. They're examples of expansion of programming to meet needs that we're experiencing and seeing, but to also meet needs that we're experiencing and seeing in a way where we've done our due diligence, we're going to be able to capture reimbursement, so that the funding that's necessary for these programs flows from the federal and state government that support our programs, and that it is benefiting the clients that we serve.

You know, we talked a little bit about the evolution of cold blue plans throughout New York State and warming centers and how there's been significant amount of growth with regard to providing those kinds of facilities during the winter months. I'm always very proud to say that we had a warming center before there was the requirement to have a code blue plan. And we had started making arrangements with the Clinton Avenue Methodist church a couple of years before that was a mandated requirement. We've been able to, and I'm very grateful to report you know, not experience any weather related fatalities or serious injuries since we've implemented our code blue plan and warming centers. And it's exciting, you know, to be on the brink of trying to expand that by creating another warming center geographically in Ellenville. That can service a portion of the county that may not have been able to as easily access the warming center in Kingston I know Legislator Erner mentioned some other municipalities are interested in possibly joining that effort. That's where there's a little uncertainty, though, how much funding will we continue to get from OTDA, in terms of having enjoyed 100% reimbursement for everything we've done so far, whether or not they deem ongoing expansion to be something that they'll approve funding for, you know, remains to be seen, but it's done in a thoughtful, and, again, comprehensive way.

I've always been a person, you know, that values, doing research, evaluating data, making sure you know, that we're, you know, being thoughtful and creative, but at the same time cautious. Over my 10 years as commissioner here, we have been subjected to reviews, surveys and audits by county, state and federal levels of government on an ongoing basis. And again, so encourages that the remarkable staff that we've had, have always been able to emerge from all of those experiences getting extremely high marks. And you know, we haven't had any incidences in our county with regard to the programs that DSS has responsibility for, that have resulted in any kind of corrective actions or issues with regard to the claiming that we've been able to submit and obtain. And again, when you're a department of this size, with the amount of programming and the volume of clients and the mandated responsibilities, it does require attention to detail, attention to eligibility criteria. And sometimes that means that we have outcomes for our clients where they might not be eligible for a benefit. But even in those cases, our focus has to be on helping those people because they're still in our community.

And we have to have alternative options for them. That's where our collaborations with other service providers is very helpful. And that's where decision making around, you know, helping individuals and families and circumstances where there might not be eligibility for programming, but that the county can still step in and help

people through a rough patch is always going to be an option. So our vision continues to be centered around a philosophy that is based on being responsive to any set of circumstances that people engage us about whether it has to do with economic circumstances, medical circumstances, behavioral circumstances, collaborating with other entities, you know, that can support services of that nature. I did invite at Deputy County Executive Contreras' recommendation our two Deputy commissioners, who do incredible work and are involved shoulder to shoulder with me in my position as commissioner. We have Cindy Beisel who's our Deputy commissioner of administration. And we have Rita Wood, who's our Deputy commissioner of Children and Family Services. So I haven't put anybody to sleep yet that I've noticed. So I figured if I could just give Cindy and Rita up a few minutes, Chair Walter to maybe talk a little bit about their experience.

Chair Walter

Yeah, I'm gonna, just before we do and I definitely want to hear I just because Oh, Legislator Corcoran already left. I was going to give him a moment because he had to go to see if he had questions, but he's gone. And Legislator Petit, before your time is up. Is there anything you want to quickly ask? And then we can move to?

Legislator Petit

I believe it? Oh, just made my face go away. I believe that was Legislator Nolan, who had a hard stop at seven.

Chair Walter

Oh, I'm sorry. What's it you Legislator Nolan?

Legislator Nolan

Both Legislator Corcoran and I. So, I just put in the chat a little brief description of our [inaudible] and apologize. I did have a another meeting to go to at this point. So appreciate it. Unless there's something anybody has for me urgently.

Chair Walter

Okay, no, that's fine. I just wanted to give you a chance. If you wanted to ask a question before you left.

Legislator Nolan

Thank you so much

Chair Walter

Chair Bartels, did you want to ask a question the commissioner before we moved on?

Legislative Chair Bartels

I don't. I don't want to ask a question. But I if I if I might I also have to leave just for childcare issue. And so I just wanted to thank the commissioner for such a thorough presentation and say that I'm very sorry, I'm not going to hear both of both of you speak. But I will I will watch the tape and I thank you very much for being here. I'm so I'm really sorry I have to go.

Chair Walter

No problem. This is a long meeting. Okay, now, I'll open the floor to your Deputy Commissioners.

Commissioner Iapoce

Sure. I'll have Cindy say a few words from her perspective. And she can share, you know, her experiences and in terms of responsibilities and administration with personnel. All I can tell you is that they're significant and enormous, particularly navigating the civil service system and the needs of our staff on a daily basis. So Cindy, please share with the group your experiences and thoughts. Thank you.

Cindy Beisel

Sure. I oversee a lot of the economic supports which includes SNAP, Medicaid, temporary assistance, daycare employment, as well as partially over receive payroll with fiscal I oversee staff development. And I oversee the personnel side of it. So um basically been trying to stabilize staffing here over, you know, the last few months, we've had a lot of vacancies, we lost a lot of a lot of knowledge in 2020, when there was a retirement incentive. And since that time, just kind of struggling to get a new staff get staff trained. A lot of our positions here, including the caseworkers and the social welfare examiners, are trainee positions where you're actually a trainee for a year. So we have a lot of people that are in that position, we also have a lot of people that are in positions that didn't come off civil service list that will have to take tests to maintain their job, because a lot of the exams weren't given in over during COVID. So it's been quite a challenge, you know, to meet the needs of the staff and to meet the needs of the client and get the staff trained in order to do so. And that's I think, basically what, you know, one of the biggest struggles has been, as well, as I think Commissioner Iapoce already touched on housing, which has, you know, is our biggest concern, just tonight, I was down in TA providing support. And there were two people here for housing at quarter to five. So that continues to be, you know, high on the priority and, you know, a big issue to find stabilized housing for everyone.

Chair Walter

Thank you.

Commissioner Iapoce

Yeah, thank you, Cindy. I also want to mention, just to give you some context that Cindy had previously worked at DSS as caseworker, and then left DSS and what is that the Ulster County Infirmary before it was transacted and was Deputy Administrator there and came back to us in 2012. So has a long career with the county, providing, you know, services in a couple of different capacities. And then Rita, who will speak next has been also a caseworker here at DSS and been previously before becoming Deputy Commissioner last year, was the director of our early intervention and preschool program. So I'll let Rita share a little bit about what's been happening and the direction we're going in in Children and Family Services.

Rita Wood

Hey, everyone, thanks for having me. I oversee adult services, coordinated children's services, early intervention and preschool special education services. Then Children's Services comprises of Child Protective Services, preventive services and foster care. And I have to say over the last couple of years, there's been some federal mandates that have come down. It's called family first. The idea is to prevent children coming into care. And if they do come into care to make sure that they're the lowest level of care so that they don't rise to residential facilities or congregate care.

Also, it kind of goes along with raise the age and, and working with children and with PINS diversion and JDs for that. New York State had a two year extension it was supposed to start back in I want to say 2018 2019, New

York State got an extension. And as of September 29, 2021, all of New York State now follows the federal mandates of family first, the first way you really touched and really hit our foster care unit where we as kids come into care, we need to look at that, again, the lowest level care can they be maintained in a foster home or a therapeutic foster home. And if they can't, there are now several layers that we have to go through in order to have children remain in residential care and maximize our reimbursement, basically, with family first is if we can have all parties involved, including family court and the residential facilities in the state. If we all can agree that this child due to therapeutic reasons needs to be in a concrete level of care, we can actually receive extra federal money to help support those those placements for that.

The second wave of family first, which is starting now and will continue is to increase the preventive services that are provided at the county. So we contract with places like youth the youth advocate program, the YWCA for family services and Family Services Inc. for our family educational services and supervised visits, we're looking at mentor me to see how we can incorporate them into supporting our children, especially those children between the ages of eight, and 12,13. That need support out in the community. The idea is to make sure that they don't rise to the level coming in for foster care to maintain them in their homes as much as possible. With either guardians being family members or or friends of the family. We try and work with them and support them that way.

The third wave that the third wave is what the state calls it will come down in the next year or two. And that is actually they're hoping to get money from the federal government that we can filter directly to community programs, the idea is to prevent those families from even coming into our system. That's the ideal purpose of that that third wave, and I'm hoping that really does take effect and that we can really expand our community services for families, because it is very trauma inducing for our families to come in here. We service a lot of families that have themselves been involved in child protective services, foster care, preventive services. And this year, as Tara as part of our group of committee, and community members, it's a learning process for all of us to rethink how we work with these families and how these children do not come into care and what we can provide before they come into care.

So we're all learning and for our families, especially they have ideas of, of what it was in the past of what they may have experienced. And they it's hard for them to grasp on these changes. So we're working slowly but surely on that, that end of it with them. And we do a lot with housing, TAs involved, we do a lot of support for them, as well as they provide support for our families. And again, it's substance abuse, mental health issues. We're dealing with all that stuff on a daily basis.

Chair Walter

Great, thank you. Um, so I personally have questions, but I'm not going to ask them tonight, because it's getting very late. The only thing I would what I want to say, then I'll see if any Legislators for is really just this appreciation for the work that you do. This is a such a challenging population. I'm, I'm glad to hear that you're doing diversity, equity inclusion, work with them, but I hope you're also doing programs for for mental health for your employees, because it's it's such, you know, difficult, sad, challenging work that I you know, it has to be challenging for all of your, you know, for one quarter of our county workforce, just it's hard to have a really light easy day in your world. And so I do hope that you do do programming, mental health programming for your own staff as well. And just extend my appreciation.

And I'll save my questions, maybe when you know for another meeting or write them up. Any other any other Legislators? Do you have anything in particular pressing that you want to kind of ask about now? Legislator Petit

Legislator Petit

Just because the Mentor Me has come up several times in the conversation. And of course, they're growing in leaps and bounds and they've been trying to get funding for for a van so that the director's not making 20 trips with her Prius. Is this is this an organization that you may be actually writing into your budget since you're working so closely with them now? And it is budget time.

Commissioner Iapoce

Yes, we are looking at a contract opportunity with mentor me how that would be arrived at Legislator Petit is that if we arrive at being able to make a referral to mentor me, for our child who's getting our services, each child in our care and custody is a line item in our budget. So the services that would be received for that child by mentor me, there would be compensation for that. So that would begin to help them as an organization generate funding. So we wouldn't necessarily be able to enter into a contract with them so they have funding to buy a van. But we would be able to start to provide them with funding that they could use for the needs that their organization has. So that's how that would be arrived at. You're welcome.

Chair Walter

Anyone else?

Commissioner Iapoce

I have one final thought. And I just wanted to say that. I have been attending meetings on a regular basis, you know, for the last couple of years and this year. And I want to say that all of us here at DSS are so incredibly thankful and grateful for the restoration of mental health programming in Ulster County, which, you know, has been arrived at and is now going to be under the guidance of Tara McDonald. With the support of Dr. Smith. I mean, that kind of collaboration and being able to make referrals within our county, for people who are on our population, and caseload, who are in dire need of mental health services is so vital. Same can be said for substance abuse services.

You know, I've been privy to your conversations on many Resolutions that are arrived at for other departments. And I listened intently, and was so thrilled about, you know, some of the programming, particularly with the school systems, where we see a lot of referrals for children that are not attending school. And you know, this kind of collaboration and programming is so important, and will benefit the clients that we're trying to support. So the assistance that is going to be available to them, and just the focus and due diligence that you do as a committee with regard to who should be providing the services, what is their relationship to our county, what is their commitment to our county, can we do something in house, should we contract out for it? It's the same kind of analysis we go through on a regular basis.

So I appreciate the effort that all of you expend, you know, in connection with making those decisions on behalf of our department and the other departments that you oversee. Because we are very encouraged by, again, you know, what's unfolding, around a lot of these areas of subject matter that have to do with housing, mental health, substance abuse, and it's going to certainly, we believe positively, impact our clients, who we see that really need the supports and services. So thank you for that.

Chair Walter

Thank you. Legislator Erner.

Legislator Erner

Yeah. And I don't expect us to be able to really get too much into this. But I just want to put out there is there a vision where the Department of Social Services is we talk about it being for folks in need of all kinds of needs, that that we serve when you need it, you know, an emergency or other kinds of bases, you know, but is there a sense in which a vision perhaps where DSS could really be for everybody?

Commissioner Iapoce

You know, I, I believe that there can be but we also need collaboration with other areas of professional expertise. You know, to the degree that we can have a client arrive here who presents as emergency homeless, and arrange for an assessment and screening and determine that there are substance abuse issues, we can connect that individual to treatment, we can't do the treatment here, Legislator Erner, we have that opportunity of engagement, we can provide support, we can arrange for housing, we can make the referral for substance abuse treatment, we feel that hopefully that gets somebody stabilized and on a path that will eventually give them the opportunity to have their other essential needs met. I do think we're doing that.

I think if we have somebody arrived here who discloses that their an intimate partner violence scenario, we can arrange for them to be sheltered, we can arrange for other steps to be taken where they might be economically exploited. We have somebody come in that needs help finding work, we can refer them to employment and training. I do think we do everything we can for everyone that comes in within the context of what our programming offers, but it's also going to have to include referrals to other areas of, you know, professional expertise. So that's that's basically how I would respond to that. I hope it's informative and helpful.

Chair Walter

Anyone else? All right. Um, it's been a long night. I, a couple of the housing workgroups minutes have been posted. I owe Legislator Lopez my notes, I do have them but I have to type them up. I'll get that to you early next week. Unless there's something pressing from any of the work groups that you want to bring up, anyone have anything pressing, they want to bring up from their work groups? So just encourage you to share whatever kinds of notes you have so that we can be informed. It's challenging, we have such a big, we always have so many Resolutions to go through. So it's hard to have these conversations, but I definitely, you know, want to find an opportunity in a way that we could be sharing what's going on in the work working groups so that as it moves along, we'll see how August looks, but in the meantime, you know, any kind of information that you need to share back and forth about the progress that you've been having, or questions or issues. I think eventually we're going to need to bring everybody back together, but I don't think it's time yet. So keep having those meetings. And with that, I will take a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Craig Lopez

So moved.

Chair Walter

Second.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Second

Chair Walter

All right, all in favor

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Walter

Alright, thank you all have a wonderful rest of your week and weekend.

Deputy Executive Contreras

Thanks, everyone.