

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

DATE & TIME: September 7, 2022 – 5:30 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meetings. Meeting ID: 875 0479 1909
By Phone Dial (646) 558-8656
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Eve Walter
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Corcoran (left at 7:05 PM), Erner, Lopez (left at 7:26 PM), Nolan & Uchitelle
ABSENT: Legislator Petit
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Commissioner McDonald – UC Department of Mental Health, Commissioner Iapoce, Deputy Commissioner Wood, Amy Borden – UC Department of Social Services, Commissioner Smith – UC Department of Health, Director Koppenhaver – UC Office for Aging, Director Doyle – UC Planning Department, Deputy County Executive Rider – UC Executive’s Office, Suzanne Herbert - Esopus

Chair Walter called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Motion No. 1: Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the August 3rd Regular Meeting

Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Minutes APPROVED

Chair Walter recognized Office for the Aging Director Susan Koppenhaver to give an overview of the office operations and budget. See attached transcript.

Resolutions for the September 20, 2022 Session of the Legislature

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, October 18, 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, October 18, 2022 at 7:15 PM

Chair Walter turned the meeting over to Deputy Chair Lopez.

Motion No. 2: **Moved Resolution No. 200 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See attached transcript

Disposition: **NO ACTION TAKEN**

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 \$350,000 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. 3: **Moved Resolution No. 340 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 414: Authorizing A Right To Cross The Right Of Way Owned By Ulster County Of The Ulster And Delaware Railroad Corridor Near Mile Point 4.8, City Of Kingston To The Hudson Valley Housing Fund Company Inc. – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to execute a right to cross the Ulster & Delaware railroad to provide access to a proposed affordable housing development.

Motion No. 4: **Moved Resolution No. 414 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 432: Establishing A Policy To Dedicate The Surplus Revenue Received From Ulster County Real Property Public Auctions

Resolution Summary: This resolution establishes a policy that surplus revenue from the county’s annual real property auction be dedicated to housing initiative including anti-displacement efforts, and the creation of emergency and low-income/affordable housing.

Motion No. 5: **Moved Resolution No. 432 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: See attached transcript

Motion No. 6: **Motion TO POSTPONE**
Motion By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

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

Resolution No. 461: Adopting Revised Ulster County Fund Balance Policy To Dedicate Funding To Housing Justice

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the county’s fund balance policy to allocate \$10 million dollars of the current unassigned fund balance to affordable housing, and indicates a percentage to be allocated moving forward.

Motion No. 7: **Moved Resolution No. 461 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 439: Confirming Appointment Of Members To The Community Services Board’s Persons With Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointments of Samantha Michaels, Emma Hambright and Maureen Sheehan to the Community Services Boards PWDD Subcommittee for terms commencing immediately and continuing through 12/31/25, 12/31/25 and 12/31/22 respectively.

Motion No. 8: **Moved Resolution No. 439 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 440: Confirming Appointment Of Member To The Ulster County Youth Board

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Jazmin Kay to the UC Youth Board for a term commencing immediately and continuing through 12/31/24.

Motion No. 9: **Moved Resolution No. 440 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 441: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Office Of Victim Services For Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim And Witness Assistance Grant Program And Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to enter into an Agreement with the New York State OVS to receive funding in the amount of \$315,184.71 for the VOCA Victim And Witness Assistance Grant Program, for the term beginning October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2025.

Motion No. 10: **Moved Resolution No. 441 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 442: Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Accept Allocations Of Pandemic Emergency Assistance Funding From The New York State Office Of Temporary And Disability Assistance – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the budget to accept \$498,368 in Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund (PEAF) funding from the York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

Motion No. 11: **Moved Resolution No. 442 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 443: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$100,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Industrial Medicine Associates, P.C. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution a \$100,000 contract amendment with Industrial Medicine Associates, P.C. to extend the term of agreement for substance abuse assessment, testing and treatment monitoring services for individuals in receipt of public assistance through 12/31/23.

Motion No. 12: **Moved Resolution No. 443 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 444: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Birnie Bus Services Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Birnie Bus Services Inc. for rates anticipated to exceed \$50,000 to extend the term of agreement for transportation services for children in special education through the county Preschool and Early Intervention Programs through 8/31/23.

Resolution No. 445: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – MAT Bus Corp. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with MAT Bus Corp. for rates anticipated to exceed \$50,000 to extend the term of agreement for transportation services for children in special education through the county Preschool and Early Intervention Programs through 8/31/23.

Resolution No. 446: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Orange County Transit, LLC – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Orange County Transit, LLC for rates anticipated to exceed \$50,000 to extend the term of agreement for transportation services for children in special education through the county Preschool and Early Intervention Programs through 8/31/23.

Resolution No. 449: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$171,391.92 Entered Into By The County – The VMC Group, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with The VMC Group, Inc. for rates anticipated to exceed \$50,000 to extend the term of agreement for transportation services for children in special education through the county Preschool and Early Intervention Programs through 12/31/23.

Motion No. 13: **Motion to Block Resolution Nos. 444, 445, 446, 449**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Motion No. 14: **Moved BLOCKED Resolutions FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 447: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$455,315.00 Entered Into By The County – Liberty Resources, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves a \$455,315 contract amendment with Liberty Resources, Inc. to extend the term of agreement for operation of the Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) Unity through 9/30/23.

Motion No. 15: **Moved Resolution No. 447 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 448: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$79,588.00 Entered Into By The County – Liberty Resources, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves a \$79,588 contract amendment with Liberty Resources, Inc. to extend the term of agreement for the Trauma Specialist Case Manager through 12/31/23.

Motion No. 16: **Moved Resolution No. 448 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 450: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$979,241.00 Entered Into By The County – LaSalle School – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a \$979,241 contract with LaSalle School for behavioral health programming embedded in Ulster County School District from 10/1/22 – 12/31/23.

Motion No. 17: **Moved Resolution No. 450 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion: See attached transcript. Legislator Corcoran left the meeting at 7:05 PM.

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 451: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$503,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Access: Supports For Living Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves a \$503,000 contract amendment with Access: Supports For Living Inc. to expand the scope of services of the mobile mental health program to include walk-in access to clinical services, and to add a third team in New Paltz through 12/31/22.

Motion No. 18: **Moved Resolution No. 451 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 452: Approving The 2022 Resource Allocation Plan And Authorizing Inter-Municipal Agreements With The Various Municipalities To Be Funded Under The Said Plan – Youth Bureau

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to execute a right to cross the Ulster & Delaware railroad to provide access to a proposed affordable housing development.

Motion No. 19: **Moved Resolution No. 452 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Legislator Lopez left at 7:26 PM.

Chair Walter moved on to Old Business on the Agenda and asked if there were any updates from the housing working groups. See attached transcript

Chair Walter moved on to New Business on the Agenda and advised the members that there Resolutions submitted for next month on food insecurity. She added that there would also be a Resolution submitted to provide eviction defense services. See attached transcript.

Chair Walter asked the members if there was any other business. Commissioner Iapoce commented that the home health aide staffing issue that OFA Director Koppenhaver mentioned earlier was a real problem and recommended the legislature explore adding a home health aide title and division in the county.

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

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 7:39 PM

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk Mahler
Transcript prepared by: Senior Legislative Staff Tantillo
Approved: October 7, 2022

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

DATE & TIME: September 7, 2022 – 5:30 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meetings. Meeting ID: 875 0479 1909
By Phone Dial (646) 558-8656
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Eve Walter
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Corcoran (left at 7:05 PM), Erner, Lopez (left at 7:26 PM), Nolan & Uchitelle
ABSENT: Legislator Petit
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Commissioner McDonald – UC Department of Mental Health, Commissioner Iapoco, Deputy Commissioner Wood, Amy Borden – UC Department of Social Services, Commissioner Smith – UC Department of Health, Director Koppenhaver – UC Office for Aging, Director Doyle – UC Planning Department, Deputy County Executive Rider – UC Executive’s Office, Suzanne Herbert - Esopus

Chair Walter called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Chair Eve Walter

With the September 7, Health Human Services and Housing Committee meeting. I call the meeting to order. Can I have a motion to approve the August 3 regular meeting minutes?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Uchitelle. Second?

Legislator Phil Erner

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Erner All in favor?

Committee Members

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, unanimous. The first thing we have on the docket is a presentation for the Department of Aging. So Susan, are you running the PowerPoint yourself or as Jay?

Director Susan Koppenhaver

Jay is gonna let me be co host or let me share my screen and I'll be happy to do that.

Chair Eve Walter

Great.

Director Susan Koppenhaver

Am I ready to do that?

Jay Mahler

You should be good.

Director Susan Koppenhaver

All right. Let me get this from the beginning.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, oops. Can you all see that? Yes,

Director Susan Koppenhaver

Great. All right, I am gonna go through this quickly. Let me just...give me a slideshow, please. Okay, here we go. So there's our address and our phone number. This is something I use to introduce people in the community to what we do, it's just a brief overview. And during the course of the presentation, you'll see some of the flyers that we have for people and the different information that they have in them. So if they want flyers, or they want information, they know where to find it. And this particular presentation is certainly welcome to be shared with anybody who needs it. So um, it's really we haven't been around for that long 1973, Older Americans Act founded all of the Office for Aging around the country. And my guess is they probably founded them out of necessity, because people were living longer and old, older adults may not have had family be able to take care of them at home. They had fixed incomes. A lot of them had pensions, things like that, but not enough to make them rich but too much to make them qualify for Medicaid. So, we take care of people who are not qualified for Medicaid. These are folks who are lower, lower income seniors, they mostly are on Medicare. Most of them have worked all their lives and they have either pensions or Social Security or both. Or and we also take care of disabled folks of all ages. We get a lot of funding through NYSOFA which is the New York State Office for Aging, who in turn gets federal and state money through a lot of different titled programs. And this is our mission statement. This is how we live our, our work, we make sure that everybody can stay at home as long as possible be as independent as possible. And we have a lot of help a lot of partner organizations that can help us and some of the grant money goes to New York Connects Program which is a resource program all throughout the state, or county is not an exception that gives people a lot of direction and help of where to find services that they need. Things that we provide, that I'll go into briefly. We do provide some transportation; we provide some legal services; we do not do a lot of different legal services. Although that is a popular thing that we offer. We offer home delivered meal; Community Cafes, which we call congregate meals; a lot of health promotion activities; nutritional counseling; case management, therein lies the, the part of the waitlist that we talk about a lot; a lot of social and educational events. Part of the case management includes the RERH unit Personal Emergency Response Homecare, including level one and two personal care aides and case management and the home delivered meals. Those are all part of

the case management for free. You know some of these things have cost shares and some of them don't. The high cap program does not. That's the Medicare counseling program that's going to be very popular soon. A lot of volunteer activities I talked about near connects where we meet, myself and Mike Iapoce and a number of other people are on the Older Adults Empowerment Council that we use. Several of our staff see a lot of other different communities and sit on a lot of different groups throughout the community. And we also have a small but mighty respite and caregiver support program through a couple of different contracts. So I'm going to show you our flyers just because it helps me remember what to tell you. We're not going to read them. But this is our general flyer, and it talks about all the things that I've mentioned some specifics about what people might be interested in the numbers that they can call the mission, different websites that they can find different questions that people call and ask a lot. I think our most popular questions are legal, and Medicare and homecare requests, I would say, off the top of my head. And this general brochure gives a lot of information about what we have and what we can offer that most people ask for. So I mentioned all of these. And these are things that people ask for a lot. And all of these programs are always humming and busy. We have we tried to keep this brochure up. This is long term care services that are both in Ulster County and around the area that people might consider. So when people are aging out at home, or let's, I'm gonna show you the inside. These are the home health agencies, some of whom we have contracts with, and the adult homes and assisted living that people might explore the nursing homes that are both in Ulster County and if you see here, there's several around either in Rhinebeck or Dutchess County or in Orange County that are relatively close by the where people might want to go. So, people ask for this a lot. We you also give them the information here about the other services, but you know, when people are ready or their, their family members are ready, we share this a lot. We do, as I mentioned, we have six contracts with unlicensed homecare agencies. Off the top of my head, I would say there A&T, Anytime Home Health Care and Companion, Hudson Valley Unlimited Care and Willcare. And I'll talk about the aid situation in a minute. But just so you know that we have contractual relationships with a lot of these places. We also have familiar relationships with some of the nursing homes that we do work with. I want to talk about home care because I want to talk to you about my you know my wish list at the end. Home. I was a home care administrator twice in my life. One I the first time I ran a homecare agency that was called a Lombardi program. I don't know if anybody's ever heard of that. But in the early 70s, this guy came up with this program designed in New York State that allowed people to stay home who were nursing home eligible, meaning they scored nursing home level eligibility on a PRI. If you know what that is patient review instrument, that's how you get into a nursing home. But they kept them at home at 75% of the cost of the nursing home. It was a great model. And the Lombardi program also was called the long-term home health care program. And those were blended into all the MLTC programs that became what we now have for the Medicaid patients, so they were Medicaid and Medicare patients. And ever since then, I would say that home care has become more and more of a struggle. And right now, there aren't enough aids for anybody. S,o we have a lot of people on a waitlist because they can't, we cannot get them aids at home. Some of the people do not need full time care. They need someone to help them be the few times a week they need personal care. We have homemakers on staff, I think I've talked about that before. But they do they don't bathe or dress people. They don't touch them. And it's really bad in homecare right now we send out 30 or 40 requests a week for cases to be covered. And nobody responds because they don't have the AIDS. So, I'm not going to I'm not going to belabor the point. This is something that's happening all over the country. There's a lot of reasons I have my own opinions. But I don't think it's a very well-respected choice of career. And I don't think that people who love to do it are very well respected in the way that most agencies deal with their aides to begin with, they don't get a lot of benefits. They don't get a lot of paid time off. They have to pay for their mileage. They're driving all over the place. So anyway, there's a lot of issues with, with homecare right now. And that's part of the problem with our waitlist that I can't fix. Okay, back to our full, our fliers. Our legal services are in demand. She usually has to she

has like a two-month backup I would say we did increase her hours a few months ago, and that helped a lot. One lawyer mostly deals with living wills, hair, health care proxies, guardianship, advice, powers of attorney. And she helps people with those types of documentation and can consult on Medicaid applications and things like that. But she does not litigate. And she does not go to court. Those are the things we call Hudson Valley legal services for. She's wonderful, she's great lawyer, she knows her senior law stuff backwards and forwards. And she comes in here twice a week, and she has appointments in the office. And these are, this is the description again, we do ask for contribution, but if they cannot afford it, we don't add, you know, we don't pressure them. We also talk about the legal services of the Hudson Valley who have a much more extensive array of things that they can offer people. And then we give them the numbers of other things that they may be crime victims, you know, dispute resolution, things like that. Oops. Another thing that people call us a lot about is Medicare counseling because somebody turns 65 every day. And you need to know how to apply for Medicare, even if you have to defer it. If you're still working and your Social Security, even though there's no social security office here anymore. There's one in Poughkeepsie, there's one and I think it's Newburgh and there's one in Hudson where people can actually speak to Social Security staff. But there's a lot of things that the Medicare counselors do they know their stuff, they're trained every year throughout the year, to help people feel free to help people apply for and also change their plans during open enrollment, which starts mid-October. So HICAP stands for health insurance, information counseling and assistance. It is funded through the federal government. And also there's something called extra help and the MIPPA program, which is for even lower income seniors, this is going to allow in 2023 to help a lot more people because the income level that people have to have is going to be a lot higher. And there, it's really going to help a lot more people for the Medicare savings program. It will help it will pay for their Part D or Part B premium. And it'll help with some of their Part D drug costs. So, the MIPPA program is really important as well. And our HICAP counselors talk about EPIC, which is the New York State Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage Program that helps a lot of people, too We get a lot of questions about housing, senior housing, there are a lot of senior housing places in Ulster County, but there aren't enough. There's Kingston Housing Authority run some of these. RUPCO has a big list of people all over the county that they manage or own. So, we list all of those. And we also list as many housing guides, as we know about where seniors could probably find a place that's relatively affordable. And, for instance, some of these places are privately owned, and they were bought up, you know, for whatever reason, but they do keep it low-income, low-income seniors and disabled folks. So, we keep that up to date. We do offer transportation programs, we do not drive people around, we are not a taxi service. But we do try to give what we can. We have a, we have a volunteer driving program, program called neighbor to neighbor, end to end. And we also pay for a full-time staff member at UCAT to drive our shop, we call a shopping bus, but people can take it for medical appointments and shopping. It's like a door-to-door kind of thing and also on the fixed routes as well that the bus offers. And those are the two main transportation options we have. We have a few people who drive on their own, but I don't know about that and don't really want to know about that. Don't really know about that. So, people just have to register for UCAT and they can take their bus. And if they need a ride and there's it's all about the service and all the UCAT vehicles are wheelchair accessible. They'll go right to your, your, your property, you don't think they'll take you off your porch, but they will help you know get you on the bus. And they have a medical van as well. This is the neighbor-to-neighbor flyer again, I talked about that. That's just volunteers. We do pay them mileage to go, and we have people coming into the office through our volunteer program, that I now coordinate, who make all the scheduling and the dates of everybody's requests if they can. So that's a neighbor-to-neighbor program. It used to belong to the RSVP, RSVP program with, it used to be at the, think it was at SUNY Ulster, a long, long time ago when we sort of accepted all those programs into OFA. We, I talked about a little bit about dining programs, we've home delivered meals, which is part of the case managed service through Gateway Community or Gateway Hudson

Valley, they change their name. And they also serve us meals at congregate dining programs sites around the county. There are currently five. We'd like to add one in Woodstock, because they've been asking us, apparently for years for that, and they have a need there. So, the folks get five meals a week that they can heat up, and a pantry bag which has some shelf stable meals for themselves. And at the community cafes, they can eat together. There is no income requirement for those programs, which is great because food should be available to everybody. And our hub is doing well. Our Ellenville site is doing well. The other sites are ailing a little bit ever since COVID. They just really never popped back. But we're working on it. And I think the Woodstock site will be pretty, pretty popular. We can get that going. And I we talked about what happens in in the sites. It's just come in, eat lunch together, sit around and talk. It's a great program if people are interested in something like that. They don't have to make a contribution. We asked for it. But you know, they don't have to. I talked about volunteering a little bit. We have a lot of places where people could volunteer, mostly they're volunteering as drivers. They work at food pantries. They make warm calls to isolated seniors in their home right now. They used to be at places like hospitals and museums, but a lot of those aren't accepting volunteers. Still, I wish they would. Libraries, they read for children, things like that. Those are some of the other places where we, where we placed volunteers, ombudsman, some of them come into the office, and some of them a lot of them are AARP tax aide volunteers or Medicare counselors. Those are all volunteers. Let's see other programs that people are interested in or evidence-based programming that help people manage their lives better. We teach chronic disease self-management classes, we teach tai chi for arthritis beginning class, we offer something called bingo size, which is a new evidence-based program that combines bingo education and exercise, Matter of Balance, which also helps people for fall prevention. We do a weekly walk at the mall. We do exercise classes at various places mostly at the hub right now. We do bingo all over the counties as often as we can we have picnics, we have holiday events, we have movies at the Rosendale theater four or five times a year. We have lunch and learn events a couple times a month where they hear about a lecture about something that might be relevant and we offer them lunch, we have a craft session every month now. We have free education from our diet, dietitian, and our diet tech. We offer tax help during tax season. We have a lot of connections to other senior groups that can give people other education that we may or may not have. During the during the pandemic, we did a lot of registration online for seniors who didn't have access to the internet or couldn't figure it out. We have a lady who helps people with their tech, you know, their, their laptop or their new iPhone that they can't figure out. I just refer people She's great. She just takes everybody. Our New York's or near connects folks also help people with important applications such as HEAP during the heating season and the cooling season and also SNAP, they help them with Medicaid application, all sorts of other guidance, all sorts of questions that come in here. And think that's it. Any questions?

Chair Eve Walter

That was brief and thank you so much. That was really great. And I could say for myself, I really learned a lot and appreciate all the work that you're doing. Maybe you can bring the stop sharing and then okay, yep. What questions do you have, right? So, I see Legislator Lopez first and then we'll start with you, Legislator Lopez.

Legislator Craig Lopez

Yeah, thanks. What's the vetting process like, the background check for the neighbor to neighbor.

Director Susan Koppenhaver

So we have a contract with, with Jewish Family Services for that program. And when somebody wants to be a driver, we send the, we send the application to Jewish Family Services they actually,, You have a contract with Identogo, which is a background check company, they do a background check, they check their license, they

check their driver record, they check their license, they check their inspection, they check their registration. So, they are vetted by Jewish Family Services. As much as you can be, I guess.

Legislator Craig Lopez

Okay, they do. They don't do. I'm sorry. They don't do like a criminal background check.

Director Susan Koppenhaver

Yes. Through Identogo, that's a that's a criminal background check. Yep.

Chair Eve Walter

Got it.

Director Susan Koppenhaver

Sorry, if I wasn't clear.

Chair Eve Walter

Thanks. Is there... Legislator Nolan, did you have your hand up?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Thank you, Chair was there I had my clapping hands up. Oh, because I the services through the Office for Aging are really wonderful. And I get lots of compliments on them. I refer constituents there all the time. And it was a lovely presentation of it to bring it all together. So really appreciate what we offer to our seniors here and in Ulster County, and really liked the idea of opening up a cafe in Woodstock. That community events in Woodstock are very well attended overall. And so I agree with you, that'll likely be a very good site.

Director Susan Koppenhaver

And there's a lot of people in Woodstock who are aging in place, they don't want to leave. I don't know if you know anything about Woodstock Homeshare, but I'm on their on their board. And they're trying to get this home share program going there where people don't have to leave their homes, and they share their home with somebody else who's maybe younger or working in and to help them out either with chores or money or rent or something like that. So, it all sort of ties in with what we're trying to do in Woodstock. There's a lot of people in Woodstock, who never worked for the government, never and will not be eligible for Social Security, are not eligible for Medicare, so they don't have money, even though they live in Woodstock. So, keeping all that in mind, we thought the easiest thing to do to get in would be to start a congregate site there. I will stress to you that we are not an emergency service. We cannot stop what we're doing and put an aid in somebody's house. It's a very rare thing we have, you know, we have a waitlist, we're working on that. I think that Eve had asked me what my "ideal look" would be at some point in my ideal Office for Aging. With that we would have enough case management staff to sort of handle the waitlist quicker. Because we're always going to have somebody waiting. To try to arrange services is just not something that can happen overnight. And I would love to have a solution to this aid problem. One of the ways that we've partially solved the issue was hire our own homemakers. The counties able to give them paid days off, they put them on a salary, we had extra money and several different funds where we were able to fund these without any kind of county money. It was all through the ISEP. And the unmet need grants that we get from NYSOFA. And we have three of them. And that almost handles our need for homemaker services, which is the lower rung of that kind of need. But the other part of it is the personal care part, you know,

you I think you need an RN, you know, Carol, Dr. Smith could sort of, you know, answer to this, but every county, Once Upon a Time, had its own Cha and its own licensed agency, and they don't really have those anymore. But the RNs used to oversee the AIDS, it was a county function, blah, blah, blah. So, I mean, that's sort of an ideal. It's really deals with the case management of that. That's the one part in our in our agency that I feel like we're not able to well, besides transportation, but like I said, I'm not a taxi, but you know that that I can't satisfy the needs of the of the folks who are here and aging out in Ulster. It's a big population, and it's getting larger.

Chair Eve Walter

So, it did in for the 2023 budget. Have you put in a request for increased case management? Perhaps personal care RN, have you put in any of these requests?

Director Susan Koppenhaver

No, the one thing that I put in for the budget was the creation of another New York Connects staff that would offer almost at least part time evidence-based programming, that I eventually would love to take that type of programming to the Manage Medicare companies and make them pay me for it. So, it would be a revenue producing center. And the Offices for the Aging in New York State is sort of expecting us to do that. Although they've kind of backed off of it a little it's called Um, I can't remember the name of the program. But um, we're, I'm in a caucus with four other OFA's around me, you know, putting them in Orange and Dutchess and Rockland. And we're all sort of gearing up for this. And I would love to go to the managed care company say, Look, I have an evidence-based programming thing for you. And you have constituents who have fallen, or they've had a broken hip, or they've gone through a rehab in a nursing home, they need this program, they need to make sure that this never happens again, so they can live at home safer. And that's what it's for. And if they save money in a hospitalization in a nursing home, say, I think it would be well worth their time and money to pay us to do this.

Chair Eve Walter

Right. So and that's all. Great.

Director Susan Koppenhaver

And then we have this management part that...

Chair Eve Walter

However, let's just go back. So I mean, have you identified how in your to function perfectly? How many more case managers you would need?

Director Susan Koppenhaver

Yeah, I think Marc and I talked about this a while ago, a few years ago, I'd written you a memo, which probably added up to over a million dollars that for maybe not that much, but it was a lot of money to be able to answer the need fully because it included case management, and included aids, every, the whole thing, like my own aids, my own case management.

Chair Eve Walter

Well, it'd be wonderful if you're willing or interested in sharing an up-to-date idea of what more you would need to operate at full functionality, so that we would not have such a waitlist for these. I mean, this is a group that doesn't really have time to be sitting on a waitlist.

Director Susan Koppenhaver

I don't disagree with you at all.

Chair Eve Walter

And, and have you had any recent conversations with Dr. Smith on the idea of utilizing RNs, I know for myself, you know, I've many thoughts of having our own kind of RN workforce for several reasons, but this would certainly be one of them. Have there been recent conversations?

Director Susan Koppenhaver

No, I haven't had a conversation with Dr. Smith or her nursing director, because I felt like this wouldn't be a great timing, because of all the COVID issues that they've been dealing with over the past two and a half years. The, the nursing staff has been, you know, running around like crazy for since the beginning of the pandemic. And I get that, and they've been making home visits, and they're dealing with the with the, you know, immunization sites and all that. But I would love to have a conversation about that, because I feel very strongly as a non-nurse, that even though even though the regulations in homecare allow... not in home care... in in the OFA world allow for a PCA level two to work for us directly. PCA level twos have to have certain things to satisfy their certification every two years. And that's my other hat that I used to wear. They have to have in service training, they have to have supervision, they have to be able to go to a nurse to say I have this issue that I don't know how to deal with, with my client here or they have a tube or they have a Hoyer lift, they don't you know, can't remember how to do this or whatever. They just need someone as a resource. And I think a nurse, an RN, would be the perfect solution to that.

Chair Eve Walter

Yeah, I guess I would ask, in addition to understanding how much more what kind of staffing in terms of case management would be necessary, also just have a sense of this RN position, whether it's a part time or full time. And, and, you know, I think that this is the time to explore whether there's room in the budget to, to look at these types of programs. I think this is a highly vulnerable population. And an important one, and I think the work you're doing is important. And the idea that anyone who needs it doesn't get it was a problem for me. So, you know, if you are interested in pursuing what it would look like to request, you know, understandably, there is an RN shortage. So, you might request an RN and not fill it. But I think that's the secondary problem. The first problem is whether you'd actually be attributed alive. And I think this is a conversation personally worth having with Dr. Smith on having your office have access to an RN for these needs. As you said it saves a lot of money because when these patients are hospitalized to have somebody follow up with them, the transition of care immediately should end up keeping them out of the hospital and you know, get them healthier, faster.

Director Susan Koppenhaver

And then the hospitals want to do that too, because they get charged. If somebody goes back in, I actually think the more ideal situation for this is to have an outside agency contracted as in our RN.

Chair Eve Walter

That's kind of what we're stuck with anyway.

Director Susan Koppenhaver

So yeah, I mean, because they can offer all of these in services and trainings that we would have to almost become a licensed agencies to be able to do that.

Chair Eve Walter

Absolutely. But I think, you know, Deputy Executive Rider, this is an important thing for us to look at as to what our possibilities are, but I'll open the floor. I know, Legislator Erner. You had some things you wanted to talk about.

Legislator Phil Erner

Yeah, thanks, Chair Walter and Director Koppenhaver. Thank you so much for the presentation. I learned a lot. What? What age do you start serving the people of Ulster County?

Director Susan Koppenhaver

60.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay. And where can we get those pamphlets that you showed us?

Director Susan Koppenhaver

Whenever you would like them? I'll be happy to send them out. I can do them electronically or in paper or both?

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay. That bus I see parked at Development Court a lot. What, what do you use that for?

Director Susan Koppenhaver

So um, that was actually established many, many years ago by, like, a three predecessors ago, she was a nurse, and they used to take that out into the community and do health screenings. They would do finger sticks; they would do blood pressures out into wherever they did. We did take it once to New Paltz to the Aloha Acres campus or whatever you call that kind of often off the beaten path there. And we brought some, we brought the lawyer, we brought the HICAP, we brought New York Connects, and I would, the whole idea was mobile county government. We're doing it anyway through, through, you know, the general government, but this would be OFA services inside the bus. There's an audio booth, there's a huge sink that needs to be removed, and then we'd have enough room inside the bus to have two kind of meetings going on. So that's my dream for that bus. I had a friend deconstruct the audio booth, but it's so heavy that he can't get it out of the bus. And then somebody needs to kind of destroy the sink. So that's why it's over there. We did drive it though. And it did work. And we thought it was cool, but it needs some inside work to make it work better.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay, thank you for that. My last question is about Hospice. I a, the Circle of Friends for the Dying gave me a tour of their facility under construction here in District Six recently. Do you maintain a list of Hospice services? And what's your relationship like with Hospice providers around the county?

Director Susan Koppenhaver

Um, well, there is one Hospice provider per county, and that's the Dutchess and Ulster Hospice, and Circle of Friends for the Dying. I know about their house that they're building. And I think it's a wonderful idea. If people need a referral for that the New York Connect staff know who to get a hold of and who the numbers are, that we refer to them. We don't you know, we're not homecare. We're not nursing homes. So we don't do anything but make referrals very much.

Chair Eve Walter

I have another question. How do you how do you satellite what you do across the county? Do you have set times that you are in different locations? And is that information easily available? So that kind of like DMV? Do people have that ready, ready access to Office for the Aging?

Director Susan Koppenhaver

No, what we try to do is, we I don't know how much my predecessors got out to the outer edges of the county and I'm specifically talking about the Route 28 corridor and Wallkill and down there. My understanding is that they didn't. Not a criticism. It's just they didn't. So, I've been trying. I've been recruiting people for the Advisory Council board who live out there who live in Big Indian, who live in Pine Hill and High Mount. And then I've got some people from Wallkill and Napanoch and Ellenville down there to bring them into to let us know what kind of meats they are they have and what they're looking for. So, we've been trying to focus on bringing services, information, lunch and learns and just our general presence as much as we can to sort of those outer areas of the county for the last couple years as much as we've been able to, and it's been working we've had several visits to Pine Hill, which is a really busy, vibrant community center out there. And we're, we're trying very hard. I've been out to Wallkill a couple of times in the last few months to bring information for that Am I apparently it was the first time we've been down there. And we're doing some fun things and some educational things for them as well. So, it's not like a set schedule, like the DMV, although that would be great with that bus, you know, when it's usable problem with the bus is that you have to be CDL certified to drive it. And I am not, and none of our staff is. So that's another thing we have to deal with. But the point is, is that, even though we don't have a bus to drive around, and we make sure that where we're going is covering as much of the county as possible.

Chair Eve Walter

So that's another thing I think we need to really talk about. I know that I've heard definitely from a needs assessment I did down in Ellenville, that many of them feel like they don't have access to the Office of the Aging. And I've heard this in other places. And, you know, there have been these conversations of how do we satellite county services, especially this one, really across the entire county. And I think we need to think of some more innovative ways, even if we associated with the DMV truck of van, but you know, I think that having, having some ready like knowing that on Tuesdays, those people in the Northern quarter have an access to an Office for the Aging person they can go to and knowing on Wednesdays down in Ellenville, there's a person that can go, I think it'll certainly be utilized. Go ahead, Deputy Executive Rider.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I think we have done some of that with mobile mental, mobile government, we don't get, I think part of the issue is that the communication with the residents is not as great and so we don't get a really good turnout at those events. And so, we need to do a better job of, of using you all, especially to help get it out to your constituents. We have started to follow the bus so that people who use the DMV bus can also go inside the building wherever they're at, and, and use mobile government services. But it is a program that has been started this last year. Started

right before COVID. We took a hiatus and then we've, Laura Nordstrom has been reactivating it the last few months. So, the fact that we don't even know about it that much in here, gives me pause that like we need to communicate that more for sure.

Chair Eve Walter

Yeah, especially for this one, because this is a population that can't easily travel...

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Exactly.

Chair Eve Walter

...and get to service. Legislator Erner. Did you have another question? Well, thank you so much.

Director Susan Koppenhaver

You're very welcome.

Chair Eve Walter

I think you know, it's not the end of the conversation, the conversation. You know, I think that we're in a place right now in our county, that if there is a time to really explore enhancements that are necessary to better serve our constituents. This would be the time. For now, I would say from my point of view, as a legislator, don't feel shy to talk to me or any of the other legislators about what you really need. And we can see what we can do about helping you get it.

Director Susan Koppenhaver

I appreciate that.

Chair Eve Walter

All right,

Director Susan Koppenhaver

If you have any questions, if you need stuff, I'm happy to send you anything electronically, like I said, or in paper, if you if you want to have a supply of what we have to further, by the way, just so you know, we have a newsletter that comes out every month has all this stuff in it. We have 2700 plus people on our mailing list. We distribute about 2500 copies around the county everywhere. We send it to some of the senior groups. So, they, again, kind of amplify it to other folks. So, we do get the word out and I'm surprised to hear that about Ellenville because that's one of the places where we're down there a lot.

Chair Eve Walter

Yeah, I mean I'm aware of that.

Director Susan Koppenhaver

We have programs and we have a congregate site there twice a week. We do Lunch and Learns down there. We, I went to the hospital for, for a couple of different, we're I'm on their rural health network board with their grant going on down there so I am surprised to hear that but.

Chair Eve Walter

Yeah, I think it's a difference between having the programs there and having people know when and where they are and I think that's what the it was more communicated about.

Director Susan Koppenhaver

I just need more... like how do I get how do I get to these folks? I have a good in with the with the housing down there. The Healthy Living folks. They're very helpful when I need something. I assume you use the library's, right. Yeah, we're having our public hearing down there. October 6. They're very good, too.

Chair Eve Walter

All right. Well, you know, I again, I think there's there are ways just like people figured out where the DMV truck is. We can figure out anything else but thank you so much.

Director Susan Koppenhaver

You're very welcome.

Chair Eve Walter

I'm gonna, we're gonna move on to the resolutions.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Okay. Thanks all.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. So, Resolution Number 139 has been withdrawn by the sponsors. I'm going to ask Vice Chair Lopez to take the next resolution, please.

Legislator Craig Lopez

Sure. Yep, we will. Resolution 200 setting a public hearing on proposed local law number seven, amending the code of the county of Ulster in relation to evictions. Do I have a motion for discussion?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

If I, if I could jump in. Deputy Chair Lopes, I don't know if I'm happy to motion it for discussion. But I'm also happy for there to be not happy I accept that there. I'm not pressing for action on this tonight. So if you want to take no action, we could just move on. But if you want to take an action to postpone it, I can move it for discussion.

Legislator Craig Lopez

Yeah, I think we would have to have to move it a second time.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

So, I move it I move her discussion.

Legislator Craig Lopez ,

Do we have a second?

Legislator Phil Erner

Second.

Legislator Craig Lopez

Okay. Sorry. And your request is for no action.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Yeah, no action or a postponement? You know, this is still it's the appeal is being heard for the Albany Law. And I also think we still don't have a full ethics board to navigate the landlord question.

Legislator Craig Lopez

Legislator Erner

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you, Deputy Chair Lopez. Just in this resolution. There's some language around an exemption for housing that's incidental to employment. And I just wanted to highlight that because I've heard that discussed in some other county legislative committees recently as we try and tackle this housing crisis. And I know from personal experience, how vulnerable a person can be whose housing is incidental to employment. So, I just want to urge us here, in the legislature to whether it's in this particular resolution, if we ended up moving forward with it at any point or further business, we conduct around that. I am not a big fan of the public lending support to company housing, if, if I will, and I'm happy to go over further reasons why if that discussion continues. Thank you.

Deputy Chair Craig Lopez

Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Thank you, Deputy Chair Lopez. I think that given the current ethics board statements that we should take no action. And so I think we should move on.

Legislator Craig Lopez

Okay, well, per the request of the sponsor, we will take no action. And I'll hand this back to the Chair.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Thank you for letting me finish my hamburger. So, next we have Resolution 340. AR, ARPA food security and access. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Phil Erner

(inaudible)

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Erner. Second Legislator Nolan. Discussion. So, I have brought up the question, I recognize the chairs meeting was all of yesterday, and that this may not be available for us. Now. The one question was, I definitely appreciate that change where the money is going more towards delivering food services rather than studying the delivery of food services? I think that's great. I guess the the one question was related to how it's going to be determined and defined as to how who's getting targeted? How much are they getting? What is it? You know, just sort of the parameters of that of the RFP, so to speak, or I guess it will be an RFP to these foods serving organizations or is it more like we know exactly who all of them are and we're just going to help every single one of them, which I am, I don't have a problem with but you know, I don't know how you pick one food serving organization over another necessarily. But so, I don't know. Deputy Executive Rider if you have anything to say on that.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I believe that, That's what the contract through Ulster Corp is about. But I'll I can follow up with the ARPA team and with Deputy Kelly.

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Nolan. Oh, sorry. Go ahead, Dennis.

Director Dennis Doyle

I'm sorry, I apologize. Just the discussion. And the way this works. And what we've sort of tried to model it after is the continuum of care work that's done for homeless housing. And what you end up doing is as you bring the folks, the providers together, and they you work with them, so they established their own priority, so it becomes self-regulating. And an understanding works like that. And then the group gets together. And if there's any, any conflicts, you try to work those conflicts out by consensus. And, and that's the way it we've done, we've done work with respect to the COC. And we think that it's a good model. And it, it sort of what it tries to do is to say, is to say, to try to put the most, the most needed priority being established by those folks that essentially have boots on the ground with some indication that you have a moderator in the room to have to make sure that that happens, and a robust discussion moving forward in terms of making sure that it happens. And one of the things that we're, we're talking about is in order to get them in the room, is to essentially say that if you're not in the room, then it's not likely that you're going to get funded. So that that's the that's the character bring them into the room.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

That is Ulster Corp's roll, Dennis.

Director Dennis Doyle

That's, that's Ulster Corp's roll. That's correct.

Chair Eve Walter

So, it's not so much a competition, it's going to be a collaboration and figuring it out. That's makes me very happy to hear because for these organizations to be competing with each other, so to speak. All right. Legislator Nolan, did you want to follow up before I go to Legislator Erner ?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Yes, I've had some conversations that headed in the direction that Director Doyle gave us more detail on so that's my understanding as well, that it should be serving essentially everybody by trying to serve those in most need first and then working back.

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. I'm very pleased to see the change here to make Ulster Corps the, the organization we're going to work with, I've worked with them on the farms I've worked at, and I'm happy about that. I'm going to support this.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, any other questions up? Go ahead, Dennis.

Director Dennis Doyle

I just I, you know, sometimes stuff gets gets lost in some of these discussions. And I just want to give a lot of credit to Amanda LaValle for, you know, taking in the work that essentially were the comments from the legislature and restructuring this program and doing a lot of outreach. There's been a substantial outreach in her part. I just want to give her credit for that.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay. Thank you, Amanda. All right.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

That is, in fact, the person that I had spoken with. So thank you for bringing in the names. Dennis. Appreciate it.

Chair Eve Walter

So, all in favor of Resolution number 340.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

All right. It's unanimous. Resolution 414 authorizing the right to cross the right of way owned by Ulster County for the Ulster Delaware railroad quarter near mile point 4.8. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

(inaudible)

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Uchitelle. Second, Legislator Nolan. Any discussion? Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Sorry, have we got the amended version that the it looks like we did in the packet here, but do we need to, to move to accept it.

Chair Eve Walter

They've already made those amendments. So, we don't have to make a motion. We could just approve it as it is, Jay whereas the didn't you? You got us the updated one right.

Jay Mahler

My mute game is so strong. I couldn't find the unmute button. My apologies in one of your Resolution packets, I believe it was the one with backup. You had the correct version and I omitted the correct version from the one that was attached to the email. So what you see on the screen is what was adopted in Economic Development and in half of your committee materials.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

So, to clarify is the Resolution that we have in the packet. Um, I didn't see any strike throughs. But I didn't see most of this language. So, do we have basically the accepted changes version is what we're looking at? Right?

Jay Mahler

You have this version in the OneDrive materials that included the giant PDF with a backup information.

Chair Eve Walter

So no, you're so it's not the accepted changes. It's this one. It's just that there's two different place, places you can look. And if you look in one, you'll see it and if you look on the other, you don't. But so this, these amendments have already been accepted before presented, presented to us.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

But the version that will go to the floor is the version we're looking at right now.

Chair Eve Walter

Exactly. Okay. without us needing to make any approval of an amendment because it's been done.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Right. So when we vote on this, we're voting on the, the amendments already incorporated.

Chair Eve Walter

Yes.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Thank you.

Chair Eve Walter

Any other questions? All right. All in favor of Resolution 414.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Okay to unanimous. Resolution 432, establishing a positive policy to dedicate the surplus revenue received from Ulster County real property. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Phil Erner

(inaudible)

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Erner. Second, Legislator Uchitelle. Okay, discussion? Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Yeah. So, I put this through as seeing that, again, we are needing to invest to deal with this housing crisis. And that's really just us, this just commits us to taking the surplus from auctions and putting it into different different types of things that will hopefully help keep people in their homes and build new housing, both for emergencies and for low-income folks, and that would be affordable. And the 1/3 1/3 1/3 was just mathematically easy. But there's not any real further analysis that went into that, I admit. And I'm happy to answer questions are here any discussion?

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Thank you Chair Walter. I like the thrust of this, I have a couple of concerns. One is that a policy locks us in. And this is for three options. And, and I like flexibility to maneuver as situations change. I also didn't think that the third, third, third, was appealing to me here because I thought directly providing housing, either emergency housing, or more long-term permanent housing is far preferable to me, then investing in the anti-displacement effort. Those are valuable and can be needed. But I don't know, I guess I just feel that they're, that we, if we invest in the housing, then we don't need the displace anti displacement efforts as much. So, it's going more to a root cause. So, I guess the questions I would have are, you know, should we have discussions maybe in this group, or others about committing this percentage of that surplus money to, to this general area? And I think the answer for me on that is "yes". And then the second question is, do we get do we have this right? Or would it make more sense to say, You know, reserve 10% or 25%, maybe even the third for other efforts, but those could be determined whether, you know, if we have some permanent housing opportunity in front of us, I would hate for a policy to

be committing us to the money in the anti-displacement work. Um, so I guess, as I'm saying this out loud, I guess I would even be happier not specifying between permanent housing and temporary emergency housing, because it would give us some flexibility to meet those needs, rather than the policy saying those monies go here every, every year. You can always change the policy, but I don't like creating a policy with the intention that we will need to change it.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, others...Deputy Executive Rider.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

My only, this is the first time that we're seeing this. And I would just say that given there's not going to be an auction until, you know, first quarter of 2023. I would ask that this be postponed. I think it's a great idea. I share some of Legislator Nolan's concerns on specifying exactly where it goes. And I'm sure the administration can figure out a way to work with Legislator Erner in something that works for all parties. And this committee, but I mean, obviously, it needs the moment we we're in a housing crisis. And so I applaud that the efforts, I just think we, we should have a little bit more thought in creating the plan.

Chair Eve Walter

Dennis is your hand up?

Director Dennis Doyle

If I may, Chair Walter, appreciate it. I just want to echo Marc's comments, Deputy Executive Rider's comments, because I think it's, it is, it does meet the moment, and it is something we need to think about, I would, I would go back and reiterate the concerns from, from Legislator Nolan. We're looking at other things that we can do relative to housing and, and sort of putting the money in a box may not be the best, the best way that you want to think about this. The other things that we're talking about. And one of the things that it's in the, is in the recommended, is in the housing action plan is the establishment of a Housing Trust Fund. And so, moving this money generally into a Housing Trust Fund, and then deciding how to spend it on it, depending upon the that moment that you want to spend it. Maybe that may be something that the legislature wants to consider. And certainly, we could work, again, work with Legislator Erner relative to, to those kinds of thoughts. But the, the thrust here is essentially to try to find a way to fund a Housing Trust Fund. And that would be one of the ways to look at this. And I would, I would applaud that that effort as well.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. So, I would just say that I assume, I completely agree with what everyone else is saying. I support the intent behind this. And I've always have. I will say that, for example, the first resolve is kind of an action already, because we put out an RFP for eviction services, and next month, you'll hopefully be having that Resolution to fund those services. So, I would agree with Legislator Nolan, the specificity here, I don't know if we're ready to agree on this particular specificity. I do like the idea that that is brought up of sort of allocating a fund. I know that when I put out the resolution, several years ago for the Airbnb, and I wanted to allocate a certain amount of money towards housing, one of the criticisms I got was, where was I allocating the funding towards there wasn't a thing. And so by creating a thing that we could be allocating money for, I think would be great. I also think it's important to have a conversation with the Executives office, in terms of what other uses are already coming from this money, because, you know, they're there. Some of this money also pays for DSS and Office of the Aging or

other, you know, perhaps, and so how much of this we want to utilize? I think that's an important, we don't necessarily want to take all of this revenue and allocate it directly without a conversation. Because, you know, it was it, it did come in a million more than it was estimated, but it wasn't, you know it. And that's nice, just like sales tax. But again, it's not like these, these revenues aren't a part of our overall bucket that we utilize to provide the services. So, I would want to just have better conversation about what that amount really should be. Deputy Executive Rider.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Yeah, I just want to bring up the point that this year, we had kind of the perfect storm of both an influx of people who wanted to buy these properties, we went online, so people from New York City could, could participate in the auction. We had two years of auctions that were up we don't typically see a surplus like this. So in fact many years we don't even meet the, the total amount of back taxes. So, this is not going to typically be this huge pile of cash that we can spend on other things. I think that's why it's more important to you know, set it aside for housing or whatever we decide to do but not completely dictate to where it goes.

Chair Eve Walter

So, Legislator Erner, on that you had suggested that you are willing to postpone this. Is that true?

Legislator Phil Erner

It is true. Yeah, I am happy to move that we postpone. And if I could also make a comment after we, if there's a second for that.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, second Legislator Nolan. Do you want to make a comment before we vote? Or do you want to?

Legislator Phil Erner

If I might. Did, did. Did Legislator Uchitelle have something to say though.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

I was just trying to second.

Legislator Phil Erner

Second. Oh, thanks. Okay. Yeah, um, yeah, thanks for the feedback so far. And, you know, point taken from the Executive, that is the first time you're seeing it. So, I'm happy to work together with you. And, and thanks for sharing your preferences, Legislators Nolan. I, I do want to say that, for me, our body, whether or not our body addresses displacement to me is, is actually, if it feels more, much more urgent to me, then, then we have really been acting. It may not be the fundamental issue, but it is what is affecting the most people that I know right now. And we need to we need to do something. It's not enough to commit to build affordable housing. It's not enough to establish emergency shelters. We do need to do that, especially for the people who have nowhere to be, but there are people who are on the verge of having nowhere to be that I feel as though we're doing very little for and promising to build something that may even get erected, even as soon as a year. These folks are going to be out

of out of Kingston, out of Ulster County, that's been happening. And I'm not suggesting for a minute that passing this Resolution along right now would stop that. But we do need to really be acknowledging that people are being forced out for reasons of money. And if we have access to money or some other resource that can prevent that, then we should be, we should be doing that.

Chair Eve Walter

All right. Thank you. So I'm all in favor of the postponement.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

All right. Any opposed? Unanimous, thank you. It's important conversation, and let's keep having it.

Director Dennis Doyle

Chair, if I may, my apologies to the committee, I have to jump off I have...

Chair Eve Walter

Can you stay on for one more? One more because we need you still.

Director Dennis Doyle

Okay.

Chair Eve Walter

So the next one is Resolution 461, adopting revised austere county fund balance policy for dedicated funding for housing justice. A motion to discuss.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

(inaudible)

Legislator Thomas Corcoran

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Uchitelle, second, Legislator Corcoran. Okay. Discussion? Do you want to start us off with what you said you should talk?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Yes, I will say I think the conversation that we just had is a perfect segue into this. So, this, you know, I view this as a moment of, you know, excess in the fund balance, we know that this is a the fund balance has to be dealt with, you know, in for a variety of reasons, but at the same time that we have an unbalanced surplus. We also have this immense housing crisis. I think that philosophically, we're all aligned, that that's where a lot of this money should be spent. And the, you know, a lot of the details of my Resolution here, 461, are probably already being fulfilled. This really ensures that we set aside a significant portion of the fund balance money, I would say

it's perhaps not significant enough. I thought about going more aggressive with this and decided to stay at 25%. This does not specify what types of housing, what types of anti-displacement, what types of policies are put in place, the existing legislative process would govern, you know, would still be, you know, in place. This is really just defining the lower threshold of how much of the excess surplus should be spent on housing programs, and allocates a portion of the current surplus to that, and I think this is particularly important to pass now, because we do have, we know that we will have a new County Executive coming in. So, this sends the message from the legislature to the incoming administration, that this is something that we expect to keep providing resources for the sets aside those resources. And I think it I think it's philosophically where we are, but really just lays out the structure of it.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. And so Dennis since you are you do have to go. Legislator Nolan, do you mind if we kind of give Dennis a chance to talk about any, you know, things you or anything you're concerned about or anything that just Yes, just to get your input on this one.

Director Dennis Doyle

So, again, I'll go back to the idea of the expectation, here. The expectation would be is, is that you can try to, when you start looking at the sums of money that we're talking about, we need to start to think about the implementation of that money. And the idea of putting it in something, I want you to think of some of these things like ARPA, that effectively, what you end up doing is as you, you begin to start to think about, you begin to start to look at these that these are accomplished over time. That somehow, between now and next January, the ability to spend millions of dollars on housing is going to be difficult to bring up and move forward. But the idea of essentially a commitment to spend millions of dollars on housing is not going to be difficult to do and to move forward. So, if you think about this, as you think about this, like you did ARPA, that we want to see these things, essentially, you know, obligated by, by the end of 23 and spent by the end of 25, or something like that, that gives us all an opportunity to start to a really think things through and get it right, in terms of how we spend the money. Make, make that funding transformative. And it also gives us an opportunity, I think, to do those things that Mr. Erner, Legislator Erner is really concerned about. To make sure that if there is a crisis, we can put money towards it. And the example I would give you is in the in the COVID issue. We took a substantial amount of substantial money, but we took about \$200,000 of our CDBG funds. And we put it to landlord assistance to basically pay the rent for those people that were behind. We paid, we paid up to three month's rent for those people that were behind that could prove that they were impacted by COVID, 19. And those are the kinds of things that you can think about making sure that people stay in housing, which gets to Legislator Erner's concerned that that some people lose their jobs or lose their ability to pay for housing, we have rapid rehousing programs. Those are types of things that you can begin to think about it. But the idea of, of funding this in this in this manner and starting off with a bucket of money that you can move, move forward makes a whole lot of sense.

Chair Eve Walter

Great. So just to clarify, is there any language in there that you feel does not do what you just said would be the way to go?

Director Dennis Doyle

I...the short answer is, is that I would... if we have issues we can work them out. I'm not, I'm not concerned about any specific language. This is a result in terms of policy and where we're going to go and I'd like an opportunity

to move through and comment on it if we have to. But the idea that we're where we're headed is not one that we that I'm, I'm adverse to.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay.

Director Dennis Doyle

But more importantly, I would be supportive.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay. Was that what you're going to ask, Legislator Uchitelle?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Yeah, I just wanted to clarify the comments of support for Dennis. Sounds like he's supportive.

Chair Eve Walter

Deputy Executive Rider.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I got, if you don't mind, this is just a question through your Chair to Legislator Uchitelle? Well, I guess I don't understand the strikethrough. Where it says "if it is determined by the Commissioner of Finance, it is not possible to or prudent to adequately adjust the value the assigned fund balance to the succeeding year." That's why we're striking that in trying to get to this policy. It's in fund balance policy itself. That's, that's

Legislator Kathy Nolan

It's page 4 under Roman numeral IV policy statement, the fourth paragraph.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

It can be something that was already struck and prior. I don't think so I think it happened in this meeting, or in this resolution. But

Legislator Kathy Nolan

So, if the sen, the sentence then begins "25% of any unassigned fund balance above the maximum allowable threshold shall be assigned and used to pay for affordable housing as defined herein." It's just that when you get the strikethrough, you, beginning the sentence with a percentage. So, it took me a while to figure out, but I think that's what it means.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Well, there's still the paragraph starts with "an unassigned fund balance" above. The I just I worry a little bit about taking some discretion. I support using the fund balance for affordable housing. Looks like we're taking all discretion from the Commissioner of Finance, which gives me a little pause.

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Uchitelle, do you want to respond?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Yeah, I don't think that our, I mean, you know, this is an area where we're saying, we're leaving 75. I think one way to read this is that we're leaving 75% discretion in coming back to the... because there's this in plain English is, you know, the fund balance policy requires the Commissioner of Finance to come up with a plan for how to address the excess. And this is saying that, well, that plan can include 75% of the excess, but 25% has to be for this fund. And that's an automatic thing. That that's my read of it. That's what we're trying to achieve here. If if you feel and counsel on your side feels that that is not achieved by this, I'm certainly open to adjusting it to ensure that that's what we're achieving.

Chair Eve Walter

I mean, this has to go through Laws and Rules anyway. So maybe you can...

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

I'd rather make those changes there. I would love to see this pass out of this committee...

Chair Eve Walter

Do you have the language of what you would like to change it to? I guess I didn't know if you felt ready at this moment.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Is that question to me?

Chair Eve Walter

Yeah. On, on, on. Whether you would like time to review this language...

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I don't need time, as far as anything stopping this committee? I think it can be dealt with in Laws and Rules. I do want to go to the county attorney and maybe legislative counsel,

Chair Eve Walter

That's what I am saying is that we could, we could vote on it as is, knowing that. All those you'd have some time to make those tweaks and amendments.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Yeah, I'm good with that. I just need to do a little bit more, deeper research before Laws and Rules.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, That's what I was assuming is that you wouldn't want to right now, at this moment, decide how to restate this or suggest have restated. Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. I had a couple of questions for the sponsor through the chair. There's a whereas that says "the Comptroller's fund balance report dated July 7 2021, had 54 million". Is that the rate year?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

That might be an error? It's yeah, if that's meant to be 2022, then we can fix that.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay. And I think there's a typo that I could either mention here or offline that says residents with a "cs" and I think it should be a "ts". So I'm pretty sure. Let me see. I had another question. Or did...

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

December 31, 2022. Hasn't happened yet.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Oh, that's a good point.

Legislator Phil Erner

Well, it was July 7th. Right. Okay. Thanks. Yeah. Okay. So maybe switch those years in those two paragraphs.

Chair Eve Walter

Right. So you can take I mean, I think the small edits you can work on with Legislator Uchitelle. Let's just talk about bigger picture. And I will say I was wrong. So, this isn't Laws & Rules, its Ways and Means. But that still gives time to, we can make the amendments there. Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Yes, thank you. My focus was on that same paragraph in the policy statement, Roman numeral IV. The 25%. I like this Resolution for the flexibility, I think a quarter is a good number. And but "affordable housing as defined herein it" might be worth checking in with Director of Planning Doyle to see if we should include that housing trust as a place for this or whether they're, that that definition includes everything we want it to include. It does include emergency housing, which I think is really important. And it you know, it's it gives a bucket of all the things we want to do. And to the extent that anti displacement efforts include helping people meet unpaid rent, I'm very happy with that. I thought that was more targeted towards legal defense, which can also sometimes be needed, but sets up a more of a conflict situation. So, I'm happier with it going to help pay the agreed upon rents, than...

Chair Eve Walter

Are you asking that it that rather than it go to something called a assigned to "affordable housing" that you're asking for to go towards the Housing Trust?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

No, I just would like the sponsor to have those conversations with Dennis Doyle in this instance. I thought there were some helpful ways of thinking about it and decide with that information, what we want it to be, I'm happy to pass it out tonight with the notion that that would all happen. And if there are going to be changes in Ways and Means and then come to us on the floor.

Chair Eve Walter

Did you want to respond to that Legislator Uchitelle or go to Legislator Erner?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

No, I'm I like this conversation. And we can address all of these things before the Ways and Means meeting.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. In the definition of affordable housing, it seems circular to me at the end of where it says "programs designed to increase the availability of affordable housing". But we're, we're, we're, we're in the process of defining what those would be. So, I'm wondering, can we say that? Can we say that differently? Or can we say what we mean, in that case?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

I would say that's definitely something that we can, that we can look at before this...

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Just strike "available." I mean, "affordable". "Programs designed to increase the availability of the housing for Ulster County residents."

Chair Eve Walter

And, yeah, I guess, I think that that I would love, Legislator Uchitelle, for you to spend some time also with Dennis Doyle on just that specificity of the purpose, that one sentence. Because I could also say, for myself, it's, it's not, it is protections for those who are harmed by the crisis, but it's protections for also those people, maybe it's not a housing crisis. But where you have bad landlords, or they have, you know, there's, we want protections, not just because of housing crisis, but always to have protections. And so, but I think that, that sort of the purpose of resolve, getting that sentence as, you know, specific as possible, you know, specific in general as possible, I think is, I would love if you would work with Dennis on that. Dennis.

Director Dennis Doyle

Yeah, just to give you a sense of

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Nolan, do we, did I interrupt you? Yeah. Okay, Dennis, go ahead.

Director Dennis Doyle

So, just to give you a sense of sort of the buckets that you can think about is, you know, sometimes the, the ability to essentially influence the affordable housing as you're not funding the housing. The example I would give you is sometimes you can fund the road to the housing, you can fund the infrastructure, the water and sewer, to the housing. Those are the types of things that you can, that you can, you can intervene on that. That will help move the housing bucket forward. So I would not say we're doing this generally, but with a bird in hand, a project in hand, that basically wants infrastructure, the county could fund out of a housing trust fund infrastructure, and you can think of a Housing Trust Fund divided into buckets, just like it divided ARPA into buckets, divided into those

buckets. And then you can start to think about what the interventions look like and make sure that we don't end up with people homeless. And, and then you begin to start to say, we're not only talking about the supply of housing in terms of adding additional units, but we're also talking about intervention so that people essentially don't end up being homeless because of something that happens to their housing situation. And you can think of that as lost income, you can think of that as, as raising in rents. Those are the types of things that you can target portions of a housing, housing trust from for. And you can fund various portions of it. You could fund only the addition of housing with respect to this money. You can find there's going to be other types of things that you think about, and not to preview in terms of our discussions with, with respect to the budget, but we've advocated in terms of, in terms of looking at the amount of surplus that was available to us. We've advocated the formation of a Housing Trust Fund, and funding a Housing Trust Fund is part of our discussions with the budget office.

Chair Eve Walter

Deputy Executive Rider.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Just two quick points in Dennis's last point. I mean, I think it was part of the release for the inflation relief plan, but we talked about adding 5 million in that trust that helps with both the purchase of property and infrastructure. So, I think this goes along well, with that. And, you know, I applaud the, the doubling of the effort. I do think the definition of affordable housing does include the, the catch all at the end where you struck out the affordability or the affordable wording, but that would encompass everything that Dennis just talked about. And I think keeping this simpler, and having a catch all phrase like that, I think is probably best.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Yeah, so a lot for you to think about, Legislator Uchitelle. The only other thing I want to add, just for your thoughts. And this may not be for us this year, but for next year or the year after is, we want to be sure that there's a good amount of money for housing work, even if the fund balances and supply. And so how do we make sure that we actually are allotting money towards this housing trust on an annual basis, whether it comes from the fund balance or something else, I don't think it needs to slow this process down. But I think we need to recognize like, this may not always be the resource it is. And we wouldn't want to lose the efforts because of the lack of money, excess money in the fund balance, especially because if we do this, and we may, we may not see any excess in a future year, and then what happens? So yes, Dennis.

Director Dennis Doyle

So, one of the things I think that we've been cognizant of, is that exactly what you talked about. And if you if you remember, last year's capital program, there isn't a capital program, something called a Community Development Fund. So, if you don't have money in the operating budget, or in a or in a trust fund. The idea that you can actually help in some way shape or form with respect to housing by using a community development fund where you can bond against it is the other thing that we were looking at. So this, it's just not one tool, we're looking at a number of tools. And the bonding, the bonding issue would help us with respect to with respect to work on on infrastructure. Similarly, what we used to bond for some of the economic development where you could bond infrastructure for housing.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Okay. So, anything else on this? So, recognizing that they'll be the amendments made? at either the first or the second Ways and Means depending on how quickly you get to it? All in favor of, I've lost track... Resolution 461.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Opposed. Okay, so it's unanimous. Resolution...

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Just for clear, as a point of order, was it unanimous?

Chair Eve Walter

I don't. Is there an opposed?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Okay, I wasn't sure. Great, awesome, thank you?

Chair Eve Walter

Um, I guess..any abstain. Sorry.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

No, no one needs to. Oh, I didn't hear anyone abstain. Sorry. Thank you.

Chair Eve Walter

Next, we have Resolution 439, confirming appointments of members to the Community Service Board. Motion to discuss

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Second?

Legislator Phil Erner

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

By Dennis...Erner. Any discussion? All in favor of Resolution for 439?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

All right. Any opposed? Okay, unanimous. Resolution 440, Confirming an appointment of member to the Ulster County Youth board. Jasmine Kay.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Second. A second Earner. Any discussion? I'll say I think Jasmine Kay is amazing. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye. Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Resolution 441, authorizing the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an agreement with the New York State Office of Victim Services for victim crime that motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I'll move it.

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Second.

Legislator Thomas Corcoran

Motion.

Chair Eve Walter

Cochran. any discussion on this one? Legislator Erner

Legislator Phil Erner

Just a typo on the third to last financial impact in anticipated rather than in dissipated.

Chair Eve Walter

Do you see that? Is that correction noted by whoever needs to note that correction. Thank you. All in favor of Resolution 441.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Anybody opposed? Abstain? All right, unanimous. 442, amending the 2022 Ulster County budget to accept allocations of pandemic emergency funding for Department of Social Services. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Legislator Thomas Corcoran

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Second Corcoran. Any discussion? All in favor of Resolution 442.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

All right. Unanimous. Resolution 443, approving the execution of a contract for 100,000 for Industrial Medicine Associate for DSS. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Second. Questions? Any discussion on this? Legislator Erner. Did you ever discuss about...

Legislator Phil Erner

Yes. Thank you Chair Walter. I'm getting to it here. It's on page 194 of the complete packet. This mentions the county of Dutchess. And can the Commissioner of Social Services comment on the reference to the county of Dutchess here?

Commissioner Michael Iapoce

Um, I cannot. Legislator Erner. I don't have page 194 in front of me. I'm not sure if one of my colleagues might be able to respond to that. I see our contracts paralegal. Amy Borden and waving her hand. Amy, could you respond to Legislator Erner, please?

Amy Borden

Sure. I don't have the packet in front of me. But the reference to Dutchess, I assume has to do with the fact that we piggyback off their RFP. So, we just make reference to that as our source of procurement.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Any other? All right, all in favor of Resolution 443?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Okay, unanimous. May I get a motion to block 444, 445, 446 and 449, which are all transportation for DSS. Nolan. Second, Uchitelle. All in favor of the Block.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

(inaudible)

Committee Members

Aye. Aye. Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Legislator Phil Erner

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Second, Erner, any discussion? Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

I actually would have rather taken these separate. I'm voting no on the block. The reason is the, I just would like to hear separately a little bit about the rates. I see. Bernie Bus for example, is down a bit for the new contracts. And I see they cover our Ulster Orange and Dutchess counties; it looks like Matt Bus is down a bit as well. They cover Green and Columbia. But then the third company which takes folks to Dutchess and Orange, their rates went up about 6%. So either way, can we do we know what's going on with these rates? Is there any reason that some went down, another went up?

Commissioner Michael Iapoce

Sure. I'll have our deputy commissioner of Children and Family Services who previously oversaw the early intervention and preschool program and has intimate knowledge of all of the rates, which are essentially state set. The differences I believe are because of the regional subtleties. But Rita, could you please respond to Legislator Erner?

Rita Wood

Sure. So originally, Bernie and Matt, the, both companies covered all the areas because of busing issues regarding drivers and vehicles and Bernie's ability to meet our need. We had to go back out last year and do another bid for the Orange County area and the Dutchess area and Orange County bus picked that up. For us, they won that bid. So, they have more money because of course the rates increased when we might have to bid for that. And then these are all now based on approximate numbers that we have and where students are living, along with the increase the CPI increase from the State Transportation Department under State Ed.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you for that. I have a follow up if I might. Is there any consideration being given to the possibility of bringing any transportation, more transportation services in house?

Rita Wood

We don't have school buses. For the county we need to contract that out. We would need our own bus depots or on buses or on drivers, training. We would never be able to afford that. It's a whole nother unit.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay, thank you.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay. So, all in favor of the block of the you know all the resolutions,

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? All right, unanimous. Next we move to Resolution 447, approving the execution of a contract amendment for 455,315 for Liberty Resources,

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan, second on discussion?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Uchitelle. Any discussion? All in favor of Resolution 447.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? All right. It's unanimous. Resolution 448, approving the execution of a contract for 79,588 also for Liberty Resources Department of Social Services. Motion discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Nolan. Second? Legislator Uchitelle. Any discussion? Legislator Erner.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

(inaudible)

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. I have the same question here as I did before about the busses. Is this sort of service something that Department of Social Services could handle in house or not? Or what would it take to do so?

Chair Eve Walter

Commissioner? I don't know if you're the right person or...

Commissioner Michael Iapoce

Yeah. I'm going to have Rita Wood respond to that. Thank you.

Rita Wood

So, the intensive family therapist, it's a specific training that they go through very much similar to the MST unit. And we don't have we don't have staff that are trained for that. They're specialized in their education and the ongoing continuing licensing and evidence-based program that they provide. So, it's specialized. And it would service as a certain population to make sure that they, hopefully, do not go into the criminal justice track through JD, juvenile delinquency.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you,

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Thank you, Chair Walter, I'm picking up on Legislator Erner's theme. Maybe at a future meeting, we could discuss where in the offices throughout the social service sector, we could bring things in house. And where those are large programs that would be very difficult to start up, staff and go on. This committee yet as a whole has expressed an interest in having more services provided through the county, if possible. And so having that discussion, maybe after the budget season, so that we could really look at it say where would it make sense, I think might be a good way to approach that.

Chair Eve Walter

Yeah, I don't know if you need to wait for after. This might be as good a time as any to think about for moving things in house, because we haven't approved anything yet. But

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Yeah, fair enough. So maybe as part of that budget process?

Commissioner Michael Iapoce

Sure. Thank you, thank you for the opportunity to consider doing that. And it's something that we do carefully evaluate. And taking into consideration a lot of dynamics around qualifications, education, licensing, current job titles that exist in the civil service structure, as well as what we're facing in terms of just vacancies and staffing issues. Right now, I think across the entire spectrum of human services, we're seeing difficulties filling vacancies. So, I'm very appreciative of the support that's demonstrated here about potentially exploring opportunities to bring in projects or initiatives or existing work that we outsource, while at the same time being mindful of some of the challenges that we would have to be able to meet to accomplish that. You know, it's clear this committee has demonstrated all year their support for trying to create the opportunity for us to do those types of things in house and to do it with Ulster County providers. So, thank you.

Chair Eve Walter

Any more questions on this or comments? All right. So, all in favor of Resolution 448.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed. Abstains? All right, unanimous. Resolution 450, approving the execution of a contract with \$979,241 entered into the county for LaSalle School, Department of Mental Health. Motion to discuss?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Legislator Thomas Corcoran

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Nolan. Second, Legislator Corcoran. Discussion? Legislator Erner

Legislator Phil Erner

One typo I found on page 334 of the complete packet Under Item F. Roman numeral IX it says "extra circular interests". I believe that should be "curricular".

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, others. So I had several questions. I have support the overarching goal of this project. I've had many conversations with Commissioner McDonald and Deputy Executive Contreras. I still I have several concerns still remaining that unfortunately, we had a small window to for me to express them and a small window for me to hear answers and a small window for me to respond. I'll just say outline a few of them. One which was brought up in the chairs meeting as sort of this confusion of whether this is ARPA money or not ARPA money. And it will, was an understanding that it was ARPA money. But it had never gone through the ARPA committee. And so somehow that got missed. That's a small thing it's going to be put on to the ARPA committee. But yes, I thought it was. But apparently, Vicki checked and never had been. The, in terms of the specific projects that I have, I'll just express the concerns that I lay out laid out for Commissioner McDonald and Deputy Executive Rider. So, first of all, I'm, the scope of services state 100 youth. And if that divides by five schools, that's 20 of youth. Total,

I know that there was a message saying it would be 400 youth, but that's not what the scope of service says. The scope of services 100 youth so that's 20 youth total, if each dyad is has basically two schools, we're Kingston counted as one, then we're talking 10 kids a year. And so that worries, makes me wonder why is this number such a low number of kids being served. It also says for three to six months with the estimate that it'd be more like three months, which I was wondering if that's really evidence based, that all of this kind of comprehensive care could truly be achievable in three months. So I was, I wanted more information about the logic behind choosing a three-month time period. There's also, there are two people serving these 20 kids at a time. So, it doesn't seem to equate to a full-time job. So, it's kind of I would like to see the details of the budget of how this is broken down. Because it's \$800,000 worth of salaries. But if they're only if two people are seeing a total of 20 kids. It again, it seems hard to understand how this turns into a full-time position. And also, other questions like if there's only 10 kids at a time, how did this get? How did that, you know, how do you make sure that those are the right kids? What is the reasoning and rationale behind that as opposed to just making it available to a larger pool of kids? So, I just, I feel like it's a lot of money to spend for very few children served, and I don't, you know, seeing how caseworkers, you know, I don't know, the average number of kids in a typical caseworker at DSS. But I'm guessing it's more than 10 and a year. And so, you know, I recognize these are high needs, but so are the caseworkers who serve in DSS. So, I just feel like there's a lot of things that I would like to understand better about this. We're funding a third-party company, which I understand. I know that there's the last thing is, you know, I, none of these people have been hired yet. So, the reality of the rollout is not going to be probably for several months, one way or another, whether we postpone this now or not. It's not like it would start in October, because none of these people have been hired yet. So, you know, my general sense is given all of those questions, and I recognize, again, the Chairs meeting was very late. And I didn't get this detailed information until very recently, to give you time, but I'll just say, for my sake, as much as I support the program, the money and the deliverables are not matching for me right now. I'll leave it to you, Tara, if you want to respond now, to my concerns, but you know, I understand you've had very little time to hear them.

Director Tara McDonald

So, thank you, Chair Walter, I actually I appreciate your outlining of the questions, and I drafted a email. So, I'm gonna send the email. I didn't want to send it and beat disruptive during this time, but I got it right before but I can respond to it and hopefully give you a little bit more context in answering the questions. And I'll do it as quickly and concisely as possible. So, the program is a 12-month program, the teams would be supporting students and their families throughout the school year. So, a lot of the questions that we're having with the schools is in terms of spacing and to make sure that there was access to the school campuses, or at least to some school staff that would be assisting in the support of the students over the summer months. But it is projected for them to get support throughout the entire year. In with regards to the three-month timeframe feeling quite limited and asking if it was empirically supported. For this. I wanted to give a little bit of content In terms of how we were able to come up with the pilot, and we, what we did was that we use the pieces of traditional clinical services that are within our system and molded them together to make this program and one of the services that we use is called High Homebase crisis intervention services. And what that does is that it is a crisis service for you that utilizes family systems work, it targeted, whatever that one symptom is, that is putting the youth at risk of hospitalization. So that's their target, we want to keep you out of the hospital. It's not everything that the youth is struggling with, but it's what's putting them at risk of hospitalization. And for HBCI, it's a clinician that goes in six weeks, very intensive 120 minutes' worth of clinical work in the home for that six weeks. And so when speaking with the school districts, they didn't want yet another clinical service, yes, there is a dearth of clinical services. And that is something that our system needs to be able to participate in to take care of. But what they were feeling is that

between the additional resources that the ARPA money, they could reinforce their social work staff, they really needed for folks to be able to go into the community. And so this program for the mental health in schools would not necessarily be the clinical, but it would be intensive and immerse, the diet's would be immersing themselves in the lives of students by doing that same sort of assessment that the HBCI does in the home, but they would also be doing it in the school, they would be doing it at the Boys and Girls Club, wherever the kid is, they're orienting themselves to the life of that youth in the three to six months that they're there with them. The program isn't meant to be long term, it's meant to be a quick shot in the arm to do an assessment and identify why the student is not able to achieve their goals at school, and then link them to services that are built to be longer term. And those services are big wait for them to be built as to be billable. So that they're sustainable. This is supposed to be a quick, intensive sort of ability to look at globally, what someone may be dealing with that is impacting their education.

Chair Eve Walter

Thanks. So, I guess what, you know, in the scope of services, it never delineates that extensive amount of hours that each caseworker or clinician will provide to the family. And so, if it's not in their scope of services, it's hard for us to know that it actually is going to happen. So, it'd be, you know, I feel like the scope of services in this contract should really specify that. The, I, I still, you know, I hear you say, three months, but then three to six months, would obviously changes if it's six months on how many kids are served versus three months. So, to have a little bit more clarity as to that. And this, again, if you couldn't address that you had an estimated it would actually be 400 kids for a year for this whole time. But the, the scope of services say 100, so you know, I don't know if that means edits and corrections to the scope of services. But you know, what you tell me now sounds great. I just don't see that, um, this scope of services.

Director Tara McDonald

So there's two different issues that are happening here, both of which that can be an opportunity, the fact that it's not billable, it's not licensed, there's no regulation that puts limits on how it is that we perform the service is why I can only say it's three to six months, it allows for us to dictate, to have the youth needs dictate how long we're in there for. You know, it gives us flexibility, we don't have anyone to answer to but that family. So, you're absolutely correct. If we ended up having kids longer than six months, and that's, that limits the amount of youth that we would be able to rotate in and out. But that wouldn't be for every youth, there's some kids, we're going to be able to get in there be really intensive. Be in and out in four weeks. And then there's some kids that are going to need for us to be there six months and looking for an extension.

Chair Eve Walter

I understand. I guess it's stiff. This is a pilot and we want to know if it's working. We want to know what the real expected goal of how many kids will be served. And by putting 100... Like, I don't know if you really mean 100 If you really mean 400 Or if you want to pick a number in between. The other thing if you could, like at one point, Deputy Executive Contreras talked about it being kind of like, almost like a not-to- exceed like if they don't provide services, they won't get the money. It's not quite clear how this is going to be paid out. Like how is it sort of first if you see this many kids like what if they only one if they don't start for another five months in one school? What if they only see two kids? And so how Are you tracking that process to assure? So, you know, again, I don't need you to fully answer it. Now I just, and especially we could, you know, perhaps by Ways and Means, but I feel like all of that kind of detail is really, really important to know that we're not just giving this organization this huge chunk of money with a very small, you know, like, we want to know if this works. And we want to know

what working looks like. And I don't feel like it's specific enough in the scope of services of what our true expected deliverables would be. So that we know whether we've achieved it, and not necessarily their fault, but like whether, you know, how staffing impacts things and how schools impacting? Yeah, Marc.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I would just like to recommend that we get the contract to you backed by Ways and Means in a sufficient way that we've fixed the scope of services. I would say that, you know, you mentioned off the bat that postponing it, because the people haven't even been hired, it shouldn't matter and won't delay. They're not going to hire people until we get this contract approved. So if we postpone it, then it will postpone people from getting hired, I would just,ask that...

Chair Eve Walter

I understand. I guess I'm saying, to not use the argument that says, oh, it's already September, the school year started, because it's not going to start anywhere near the beginning of the school year, no matter when we pass this, but I'm willing to not postpone it, and just but need to have all of the details for Ways and Means. Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Yes, I just also agree that I think it is time sensitive, even though we're in September, and perhaps even more so because we're into September, into September. So I'd like us to pass this out with the idea that these questions can be answered. And that this will be looked at, again, in Ways and Means.

Chair Eve Walter

Sure, again, it may very well not start till December, even if we approve it, but because they have to hire all these people who are

Legislator Kathy Nolan

and if we don't approve it, then that wouldn't start until January. Each month, we push it back here means another month that students go without services.

Chair Eve Walter

Understood. So any other comments? Any if there if we're if we're getting more information? Oh, sorry. Go ahead, Commissioner McDonald.

Director Tara McDonald

I'm sorry, there were just two pieces that I wanted for the committee to, to know that we would be invoicing for services. So they would have to submit an invoice and they only get paid for what it is that they're able to substantiate they put out and resource to provide the service. So, that would that's one response that I thought you would want to hear. The second is that they have already posted it started to do interviews for, for, for possible applicants. So, the ball is rolling and LaSalle has been in good faith, putting out some of these, doing some of these activities in order for the program to start as quickly as possible. And the work with the districts has also under, undergone.

Chair Eve Walter

Good, thank you. I appreciate that. Anything else on this? All right. So again, I'm my go vote in favor of it knowing that with the expectation that in Ways that Means we'll have much greater and improved details. That if I don't see it, I guess I'll could not vote in favor of it then. But I you know, I'm always in favor of the the intent of this program. I just, you know, it's a very important one that we need to make sure it's done. Exactly right. And I appreciate your leadership on it. Tara, I know that you're the best person to be leading the charge. All in favor of Resolution 450. Any opposed? Okay. Unanimous. Resolution 451, approving the execution of a contract for \$503,000 entered into the county. This is expanding the services of access. Motion to discuss

Committee Members

Aye.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Second, Uchitelle. Legislator Erner, you have discussion.

Legislator Phil Erner

A point of order. Did we deal with Resolution 449?

Chair Eve Walter

Yeah, so that was included with the other transportation ones. We..

Legislator Kathy Nolan

It was part of the block, yep. That you voted against the block of four four

Legislator Phil Erner

The block of four, four earlier resolutions?

Chair Eve Walter

There was 445-445-446 and 449. I

Legislator Phil Erner

I see. Okay. All right. So, I guess I voted yes on that which is fine, because that's how I wanted to vote on that. Thank you. I don't have a question on this one.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, anyone else? So, the only thing I have and again, it was just brought up to Deputy Executive Contreras yesterday and Deputy Executive Rider is just, well, you've expanded mobile mental health two or three times, I think, which is fine. I understand that. And it's that's how it unravels. But it would be very helpful to know and the 2023 budget, like, what does this now cost us? Because it's hard to keep track with each of the different

expansions. I know that the expansions of the walk in... are there once we have the crisis stabilization that'll move, but we're not changing the mobile mental health. So it's, it would just be nice to know. Not only what is this now costs us in 2023, as it stands, but any other projected expansions, just so that we have a full picture of what our mobile mental health system is. That would be great to have. And I don't mind waiting till Ways and Means just to have that larger picture as well. Any other conversation on 451? All right, all in favor of Resolution 451.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Eve Walter

Opposed? Okay, Resolution 452, approving 2022 resource allocation plan and authorized inter municipal agreements with various municipalities. For the youth Bureau. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Legislator Phil Erner

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Second Erner. Any discussion? Erner, Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you, Chair Walter. I'm sorry that I cannot address my questions to Director Dawson. But I had a couple of concerns reading through this. I saw the the different agreements with the municipalities list, for example, including my own municipality list some workers who are paid under the minimum wage. Do we know if that's legal? Are they considered contractors with the county? Or is there an exception? Because they might be under they might be minors? Or do we do we know that, that's okay?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I can follow up. I mean, I know this is going to Ways and Means as well. I'm happy to follow up with both Deputy Contreras. And, and I'm my guess is that that it's okay, because this is an annual Resolution that we passed, but it's a good flag. And I'll just make sure that I check in with them.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. And I don't know,,Legislator Erner. If you want to be a ways and means when that gets presented. It's a good point, especially if it breaks the policy that we have. Do you want to respond to that Legislator Erner, before I move to Legislator Nolan?

Legislator Phil Erner

I did have a follow up. Yeah, thank you. And, and I do have reasons to be at Ways and Means so, I'll see you there. At least one town, also. I, the way that the, the like the, the wage is listed and the total for the term is confusing that, that's a state form that I'm looking at. So, it might be something that we can't directly address. But the OCFS application program budget form, it seems like the different municipalities are not consistent in how

they're listing their wages, even though they do break them down by, by the pay period. It still doesn't quite add up to me. Town of Saugerties was one in particular on page 558 that I, that confused me. That's the only other thing. Thank you.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I was just gonna ask for some page numbers. So, you're saying 558?

Legislator Phil Erner

That's in our legislative packet. I can ...

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

I have it I have the full so the packet with the backup. You're saying 58 is one example.

Legislator Phil Erner

Yeah, that's one example. But the here are the towns. And the mean, here's the municipalities that had the submit the sub 15 That I could see: City of Kingston, Town of Rosendale, Town of Wawarsing, at least those three.

Chair Eve Walter

We will look into it. It has to be the longest backup I've ever seen. And usually, the Sheriff is the one it gives us 100 pages. Legislator Nolan?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Yes, I agree that we should look specially you know, with the change in policy, but my recollection is that some of these are youth programs with minors. So, I'm, hope that that is the explanation. If it's not then we need to get it changed. And so I appreciate the careful look.

Chair Eve Walter

All right. So are you okay with this being discussed in Ways and Means, Legislator Erner. Okay. So, all in favor of Resolution 450, a 452?

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Eve Walter

Opposed? Okay, unanimous. So, this are there any updates from the housing working groups. I know that the request was that we would have some draft resolutions by October that is coming around the corner. So, are we... do we count Legislator Lopez, we lost one of our group? Okay.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Can we count Legislator Erner and Legislator Uchitelle's resolutions towards that goal?

Chair Eve Walter

Sure, although the goal was that we would have draft ones that we could then discuss it, so that we could see them all on one picture. So... But assuming those actually came out of their working groups, and with their involvement,

sure. Do any other... we'll start with you two, Legislator Uchitelle and Legislator Erner. Any other updates on your?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Yeah, well, so I'll just say, you know, you don't have to assume. Because they did come through the working groups. They weren't, they, they didn't originate there. But I mean, where does anything originate? There's a list of topics that we're working towards, in the low-income group that each represent potential resolutions. And I think we our next meeting next week. So that's, that's what we plan on kind of getting through is framing those and putting them into draft form.

Chair Eve Walter

Wonderful. Perfect. Legislator Nolan, do you want to talk about...

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Yes, we had to cancel our group this last month, but there are projects out around the county that are relevant to our work. And I think maybe for our next meeting, which we have scheduled for later this month, we'll maybe we'll bring up the question of what can we envision in terms of resolutions? We haven't really focused the conversation that way. It's good, good focus.

Chair Eve Walter

Great. Yeah, it'd be great to have a couple by next month, so that we could, because these, these working groups are not for perpetuity. The idea that they would be completed by the end of this year. So that's great. And does anyone go to Legislator Lopez's Working Group? Do you know if they are on track with coming up with some draft resolutions?

Legislator Phil Erner

I did go to the last meeting or part of the last meeting. I guess I don't know the answer to that. I know that there will be another meeting in the next couple of weeks.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, um, in terms of new business, there are a couple of food insecurity resolutions that are coming forward for us to look at. I believe Legislator Sperry. I will say that the, the RFP that I worked on with the Executives office on eviction services, is its due its final due date is later this month. They did issue we had questions which I provided responses to I don't know if you saw that, Marc. But I provided the responses to the questions because they have to be there by Friday. But, you know, in reference to questions or comments that Legislator Erner and Uchitelle have brought up an element of this is promoting it and, and letting people know that these services would be available. That was one of the deliverables not just providing the, the legal services, but making sure people are well aware that those legal services exists. And I could say that from the questions that were asked, they're recognizing it because they asked about it covering other people besides just those people who provide the legal services such as you know, to do doing the outreach, and letting people know so they, they're recognizing the importance that they can't just offer the service without making sure our constituents know that the service is available. And so, hopefully, once we have a sense once the, the applications are in and we identified by I'm, I'm hopeful that next month if if there's no major problems that we can put in a Resolution to fund that and get that

started as soon as possible. Any questions on that one? All right, any other new business? Okay, I will take a motion to adjourn. Okay, saying goodbye. Or do you want to say something?

Commissioner Michael Iapoce

I wanted to say something if like and I don't want to stand in between a motion to adjourn.

Chair Eve Walter

You're not a long talker. So go ahead.

Commissioner Michael Iapoce

Okay, Ill be very brief with my remarks. But I really feel compelled to piggyback on something that Director Koppenhaver spoke to during her presentation, which I think is a vital, vital importance. And in the spirit of the receptivity that I've witnessed by both the administration and the legislature to seriously consider taking on more areas of subject matter and responsibility. It is becoming very apparent, I think, to those of us who deal with our aging community around personal care services, that while no one can tell the future, or predict what's going to happen, you know, the analogy I would make is that if we knew 10 years ago, where we would be with the housing crisis, we probably would have implemented much more effort to create affordable housing stock that would have been insulated from the economic dynamics that are leading to a lot of the resolutions that you're considering right now. When it comes to health home aids, DSS does administer the personal care assistance level one and level two programs. And we are witnessing an incredible crisis in the home health aid industry. It is primarily a privatized industry, and while there is consumer directed care, and that we also make arrangements for our clients who are eligible for personal care level one and level two, we again, are facing a lot of challenges with regard to lining up those clients with personal care home aides. And if this is something that we really look at closely, I think it's an area of consideration that we need to contemplate maybe creating, you know, with the health department with OSA potentially with DSS, creating a job title for a home health aide with a case manager with more RNs and become a county in New York State, and maybe in this country, that creates a model or sets an example that people can age safely and remain in their homes and Ulster County, because our population is aging in front of us. And over the next 5-10 years, if we're not able to support those aging individuals in our community, they're not going to be able to remain in their home safely. And there's really not a lot of other facilities for them to move into. So again, in the spirit that I've seen demonstrated here over the past couple of years, and as we go forward, it might be an area of responsibility that we seriously consider taking on, you know, my longevity with the county is at a point where I've seen a lot of trends. And I wish I knew as much 20 or 30 and 10 years ago, as I tried to keep track of now. But I do see this as something on the horizon, and getting out in front of it, and maybe creating a part of our workforce that can be responsive. So, you can be a home health aide and receive a dignified salary with benefits and be able to do that job with the respect and recognition that it deserves. You know, a lot of people make private arrangements on the side under the radar. And they're not always the safest arrangements. And that's where we become involved a lot of times and Adult Protective Services. So just the cautionary remark. You know, it's not directly under the DSS umbrella, but it's part of something we all do as the human services departments and Ulster County, and our population is going to age. And just like we've demonstrated with other areas of activity and responsibility, we can take this on, we can do something, you know, there's revenue streams, you know, there's the Medicaid programs that are going to be able to pay for portions of the salaries that the home health aides would be getting compensated through, there might be a county share to you know, I don't know what the numbers would look like. But I really think that rather than waiting five years, 10 years, you know, because this this is on the horizon. So, I really thank you for listening to me for a

Chair Eve Walter

few minutes. I disagree with one thing, which is it's not on the horizon. It's here. And I think that we, we already heard from Sue that there because there's a challenge. And we also know that this is a population of workers who are underpaid and undertreated and, and, and who can blame them for not wanting to stay, I think that this is the time, I don't think this is something we should wait on, I think we should really sit down and think about what this looks like, and try to get it into the 2023 budget, it's only the beginning of September. And we have this opportunity. So, it's not here right now. But Mark is, and I think that we should not only think about how to improve the quality of life and unemployment of home health aides, but also add to that the conversation about working with Department of Health or whoever to make sure that there's an RN that's available to this population. So, I'm committed to supporting something, I think we, this is a very, this is one of those years that we're not on this, you know, shoestring and and if there's ever a time to sort of be innovative and creative and really address these issues, that again, it's it's, I'm sure Sue could say this was true five years ago. And so, like, now's the let's just, let's start fixing this. And so I'm, I'm hoping that Marc, you'll be open, and we'll have some conversations about really being cutting edge on how we are taking care of our elderly population.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

Yeah, I mean, I'm open to the conversation, I'll say that, you know, being in the middle of the budget process now and having about a month before, it's presented all to you that there are a lot of requests in us that we're having to balance. And so, I get that we're not on a shoestring. But we have to look at everything. I think this is really important. And, and what I would say is that, you know, when you talk about 10 years ago, Dennis Doyle was talking about a housing crisis 10 years ago, and it, we're now in it. So I get that this is timely conversation. And we are in a crisis when it comes to this. We just have to look at what the best way for us to be involved if it's bringing these on board, or if it's providing assistance to the agencies so they can pay more. Right. So we just have to, I think, look at that. And I'm willing to work with you all and in partnering on that.

Chair Eve Walter

Yeah, so let's follow up on that, especially because there are ways of getting reimbursable and everything and let's just let's figure out a plan. It may not be the perfect, it might not achieve the 100%. But maybe we can get to 80% this year. So, let's not forget about that. And, Jay, we'll make sure we have a meeting very soon for anyone who's interested in that conversation with Sue so that we can figure out and if it doesn't get, you know, we always have the room for amendments, so it didn't work out in yours and I'll put it in and we'll see where it goes. All right. Thank you and with that, any other new business. Okay, so all in favor of adjourning?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Motion to adjourn.

Chair Eve Walter

I think we made the motion to do a second. All right. All right. Thank you. Good night, everybody. Bye.