

## Public Health & Social Services Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

**DATE & TIME:** March 1, 2021 – 5:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,  
Meeting ID: 984 4208 5043  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chair Craig Lopez  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Nettie Tomshaw  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Mary Wawro, Deputy County Executive Marc Rider, Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance

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

---

**Motion No. 1:** Moved to Approve Minutes & Transcript of the February 1, 2021 meeting  
**Motion By:** Legislator Criswell  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Uchitelle  
**Discussion:** None  
**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Lopez, Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Minutes/Transcript APPROVED

---

- Dr. Doyle Health Alliance (see transcript)

### Resolutions for the March 16, 2021 Session of the Legislature

#### **Resolution No. 29: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$173,689.00 Entered Into By The County – HealthAlliance Hospital Broadway Campus – Department Of Mental Health**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves a contract for \$173.7K with HealthAlliance Hospital, Broadway Campus.

**Motion No. 2**                    **Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 29**  
**Motion Made By:**            Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:**        Legislator Uchitelle

**Discussion:**                    See attached transcript.

**Voting In Favor:**            Legislators Lopez, Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:**            None  
**Votes in Favor:**            5  
**Votes Against:**            0  
**Disposition:**                Resolution adopted.

---

**Resolution No. 30: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$100,000.00 Entered Into By The County – HealthAlliance Hospital Broadway Campus – Department Of Mental Health**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves a contract for \$100K with HealthAlliance Hospital, Broadway Campus.

**Motion No. 3**                    **Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 30**  
**Motion Made By:**            Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:**        Legislator Uchitelle

**Discussion:**                    See attached transcript.

**Voting In Favor:**            Legislators Lopez, Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:**            None  
**Votes in Favor:**            5  
**Votes Against:**            0  
**Disposition:**                Resolution adopted.

---

**Resolution No. 104: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Department Of Health For LHD Support For Flu And COVID19 Response – Department Of Health**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute a contract with the NYS DOH for LHD support for flu and COVID-19 response.

**Motion No. 4**                    **Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 104**  
**Motion Made By:**            Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:**        Legislator Uchitelle

**Discussion:**                    See attached transcript.

**Voting In Favor:**            Legislators Lopez, Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:**            None

Votes in Favor: 5  
Votes Against: 0  
Disposition: Resolution adopted.

---

**Resolution No. 105: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$284,859.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Services, Inc. – Department Of Health**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract for \$284.9K with Family Services, Inc. for the substance abuse prevention campaign. 100% Federal. Contract date 1/1/21 – 7/31/22.

**Motion No. 5**                    **Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 105**  
**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Uchitelle

**Discussion:** See attached transcript.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Lopez, Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Resolution adopted.

---

**Resolution No. 106: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$112,500.00 Entered Into By The County – Samadhi Center, Inc. – Department Of Health**

**Resolution Summary:** Approving the execution of a contact for \$112.5K with the Samadhi Center, Inc. for the expansion of the recovery outreach program to cover 24 hours, 7 days per week. 100% Federal, Contract term 1/1/2021 – 7/31/2022.

**Motion No. 6**                    **Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 106**  
**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Uchitelle

**Discussion:** See attached transcript.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Lopez, Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Resolution adopted.

---

**Resolution No. 107: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$100,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Hudson Valley Community Services – Department Of Health**

**Resolution Summary:** Approving the execution of a contact for \$100K with Hudson Valley Community Services for the development of a street outreach program for Ulster County residents struggling with opioid disorder. 100% Federal, Contract term 1/1/2021 – 7/31/2022.

**Motion No. 7**                    **Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 107**

**Motion Made By:**            Legislator Bruno

**Motion Seconded By:**      Legislator Uchitelle

**Discussion:**                    See attached transcript.

**Voting In Favor:**            Legislators Lopez, Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle

**Voting Against:**             None

**Votes in Favor:**             5

**Votes Against:**              0

**Disposition:**                Resolution adopted.

---

**Resolution No. 108: Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Funds From The Redlich Horwitz Foundation To Enhance The County’s Family First Readiness Initiative – Department Of Social Services**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution amends the 2021 Ulster County Budget to accept funding from the Redlich Horwitz Foundation to enhance the county’s Family First Readiness initiative.

**Motion No. 8**                    **Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 108**

**Motion Made By:**            Legislator Bruno

**Motion Seconded By:**      Legislator Uchitelle

**Discussion:**                    See attached transcript.

**Voting In Favor:**            Legislators Lopez, Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle

**Voting Against:**             None

**Votes in Favor:**             5

**Votes Against:**              0

**Disposition:**                Resolution adopted.

---

**Resolution No. 109: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute Intermunicipal Agreements With The Town Of Saugerties And The Village Of Ellenville To Provide The Services Of Domestic Violence Investigators To The Ulster County Family And Child Advocacy Center – Department Of Social Services**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute intermunicipal agreements with the Town of Saugerties and the Village of Ellenville providing domestic violence investigative services to UC Family and Child Advocacy center.

**Motion No. 9**                    **Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 109**  
**Motion Made By:**            Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:**      Legislator Uchitelle

**Discussion:**                    See attached transcript.

**Voting In Favor:**            Legislators Lopez, Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:**            None  
**Votes in Favor:**            5  
**Votes Against:**            0  
**Disposition:**                Resolution adopted.

---

**Resolution No. 110: Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Child Abuse Or Neglect Prevention And Treatment Act (CAPTA) Comprehensive Addiction And Recovery Act Of 2016 (CARA) Funds From The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services – Department Of Social Services**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution amends the 2021 UC Budget to accept an allocation from CAPTA and CARA funding from NYS Office of Children and Family Services.

**Motion No. 10**                    **Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 110**  
**Motion Made By:**            Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:**      Legislator Uchitelle

**Discussion:**                    See attached transcript.

**Voting In Favor:**            Legislators Lopez, Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:**            None  
**Votes in Favor:**            5  
**Votes Against:**            0  
**Disposition:**                Resolution adopted.

---

**Resolution No. 111: Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Additional Allocation Of Funds From The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services To Continue Safe Harbour Programming – Department Of Social Services**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution amends the 2021 UC Budget to accept an additional allocation of fund from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services to continue the Safe Harbour program.

**Motion No. 11**                    **Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 111**  
**Motion Made By:**            Legislator Bruno

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Uchitelle

**Discussion:** See attached transcript.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Lopez, Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 5

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Resolution adopted.

---

**Resolution No. 127: Confirming Reappointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board And The Community Services Board's PW/DD Subcommittee**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution confirms the reappointment of a member to the Community Services Board and the Community Services Board PW/DD Subcommittee.

**Motion No. 12**                    **Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 127**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bruno

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Uchitelle

**Discussion:** See attached transcript.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Lopez, Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 5

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Resolution adopted.

---

**Resolution No. 128: Confirming Reappointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution confirms the reappointment of a member to the Community Services Board.

**Motion No. 13**                    **Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 128**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bruno

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Uchitelle

**Discussion:** See attached transcript.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Lopez, Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 5

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Resolution adopted.

---

**Resolution No. 129: Confirming Appointment Of Members To The Community Services Board's Mental Health Subcommittee**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution confirms the appointment of a member to the Community Services Board's Mental Health Subcommittee.

**Motion No. 14**                      **Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 129**

**Motion Made By:**              Legislator Bruno

**Motion Seconded By:**        Legislator Uchitelle

**Discussion:**                      See attached transcript.

**Voting In Favor:**                Legislators Lopez, Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle

**Voting Against:**                None

**Votes in Favor:**                 5

**Votes Against:**                 0

**Disposition:**                    Resolution adopted.

---

New/Old Business:

See Transcript – Dr. Doyle Health Alliance

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

**Adjournment**

**Motion Made By:**                Legislator Bruno

**Motion Seconded By:**        Legislator Criswell

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**TIME:** 6:18 PM

Respectfully submitted: Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Staff

Minutes Approved: April 5, 2021

**Ulster County Legislature**  
**Public Health and Social Services Committee**

**Meeting Transcript**

**March 1, 2021**

**Chairman Lopez**

Alrighty. I will call the meeting to order. And if I could get a motion to approve the minutes.

**Legislator Criswell**

So moved.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Second.

**Chairman Lopez**

Any discussion. All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chairman Lopez**

All right, very good. Well, with that out of the way, I would like to welcome Dr. Doyle. And thank you for joining us this evening. We reached out to you with hope that you could address some of the concerns that we as a committee had last month regarding the 40 mental health beds, and the unanswered questions of when and if they will return, and a timeline for when we could expect that to happen, when and if it does. A before, before we get started, I just wanted to mention, for the for the minutes, that the 40 beds in question, were part of the state mandate to free up space to make accommodations for the potential influx of COVID patients early in the pandemic. And in those bed's I was under the impression would return as the virus became more manageable. So also, as part of that concern we had, we have is for months now despite the efforts of the Legislature I know the County Executive reached out a couple of state senators, and I know that there was also a mentioned, I think in the New York Post, we are still without answers. So with those prelims out of the way, I would like to give you an opportunity to discuss, you know, the issues at hand. And yeah, open the floor to the committee to ask questions as well. So with that said, Dr. Doyle, the floor is yours.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

Okay, well thank you, Mr. Lopez. And thank you. Thank you all for having me here and give me the opportunity to speak about this. I know it's a it's a it's a tremendous concern for the community and I, as a psychiatrist, share the concerns you have. But the reality is that we move those beds wasn't planned, It wasn't what we were intending to do. We move those last March, because, as you mentioned, to free



up beds to create 236 bed hospital that thankfully thank god we didn't need. Okay. But with that we've consolidated now on one campus, all right, there's certain financial pressures that drove that consolidated on one campus and that campus Broadway does not have inpatient behavioral health beds here. All right. We're working with the state to increase the capacity for those beds, we meaning WMC Health, at WMC Health at down in Mid- Hudson region to ensure that those 40 beds, that capacity stays within the system and stays reasonably local for our patients and for our population, and increasing the capacity and Mid-Hudson region to accommodate, you know, for that need. All right. And so that's the activity we're doing now. As to your question of a timeline for the return, there is no timeline for them to return. I would I would not say never, never say never, for right now, you know, we are not planning on bringing those beds back, we're working with the state to increase the capacity Mid-Hudson Region. We got a temporary increase for COVID for 15 beds there. We recognize that it's not equivalent to 40. And so we have an application apart with the state to increase that, meanwhile, moving forward, WMC Health with a capital improvement plan and Mid-Hudson Region, to then expand that capacity and outfit, the units there, so that those beds remain available and are accessible to our county and our residents who need them. So that's, that's the frank of it. That's the upshot of that. Okay.

**Chairman Lopez**

Okay, this AI? Oh, I don't know if you had you. Did you have your hand? No. Oh.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Peter has his hand up.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

Yeah. Two questions. Could you clarify what reasonably local means? And can you clarify what the Mid-Hudson Region comprises.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

So reasonably local, these are patients, the beds are moved 20 miles away. Okay. There are many communities that don't have access to inpatient psychiatric beds within that region. This is still consistent with what I would consider, you know, the Mid-Hudson Region, which is really I mean, the state says it's from Westchester all the way up to kind of the north end of Ulster County we when look at how the state classifies it. But you know, those beds are accessible by our community at Mid-Hudson Region, all right. And really, you know, for me, when I look at that, and we think about what we, you know, what we're aiming for, what we want to do, is, I think in terms of ambulance rides, and ambulance rides, that save lives. Okay. In our community hospital, our community desperately needs, you know, lifesaving capabilities, like we're bringing to Ulster County with percutaneous coronary interventions, or cath labs, or we're putting it here, you know, to treat certain types of heart attacks that need intervention now, that right now we're leaving the community, where time is morbidity and mortality, for stroke care. Those kinds of things that, you know, that I think have to be very local and accessible to the community. You know, 25-minute ambulance ride for a suicidal patient. Again, psychiatrist, is not life in danger. Okay. So a lot of that has to be taken into context. So immediate care needed in you know, here are those that are lifesaving, and we're focusing on that. And keeping those beds very local, but understanding that there's a regional approach to health care now that we really have to look at and in order to sustain and provide,

you know, and meet the needs of the community as a whole that we're driving for with this. I think Abe was asking..

### **Legislator Uchitelle**

Yeah, hey Dr. Doyle thank you for being here. I very much appreciate it. And I do, you know, you brought up an issue which is really close to me, and I appreciate you confronting the ambulance issue head on. You know, you mentioned the ambulance rides between locations. And you know I'm, I have personal experience of, you know, I coated in the ER and Kingston Hospital and, and had to be transported to Westchester Medical, which required an ambulance ride to, from one campus to another even before I could get on the helicopter. And so, this was to, to, you know, facilities within the same, within the same organization. The every - your, you know, your organization has had was great about the medical bills, you know, in dealing with dealing with everything, dealing with our insurance company. Even air methods was great dealing with our insurance company believe it or not. The only the only entity that was horrible to deal with, and I will go on record as saying this was mobile life services which transported, which transported us transported me, unfortunately, by myself from by myself because the helicopter wasn't going to have space for my wife to the helicopter pad. And we were able to get an \$80,000 or a \$70,000 helicopter ride paid for by insurance. We're able to get a you know five day stay at Westchester Medical paid for by insurance. And yet, Mobile Life Services couldn't figure out what everyone else had figured out about how to bill and they sent it to collections for about \$400. This whole thing cost over a quarter of a million dollars for me to receive the care that I needed, and we really benefited from it they sent that to collections of \$400 and I can only imagine had my stroke resulted in serious brain damage that had not been reversed effectively by TPA in your ER as it was, that my wife would have had to deal with all of those bills without me being cognitively present. And I appreciate that the changes might potentially make more care for an urgent case like that present in Kingston which I'm happy to hear about, but I'm very concerned about the mentally you know, the mentally unwell population. The population of people who are seeking mental care having to deal with those extra medical bills that you don't think of things like an ambulance ride. And so particularly when it comes to having to deal with insurance and having to deal with those extra trips that you might not expect when you're getting checked into you know, Kingston Hospital and you don't you know, and you're having an episode and that's where they bring you because that's the you know, closest thing and it makes sense and then you're gonna have to fight the ride that you really had no choice about over to another facility and, you know, I considering the ambulance providers, you know, that's what I'm really concerned about. One of the things.

### **Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

And too we're actively involved in in negotiations with Mobile Life on this issue on the cost of ambulance transfers. You know, some of that is strictly Mobile Life with insurance companies but at the same time, you know, Mobile Life happily has always paid for those ambulance rides which is a different story. But this is an ongoing issue we have with them and I've had with them and will continue. I don't know where that will go at this time, we had a contract with them, and we're just in the process of renegotiating it. But it's, it's when we just reformat this a little bit, when patients who have mental health care needs, you know, whether they you know, when we had inpatient services here in Kingston, the point of entry was to the ER, and that will remain okay. You know patients who need mental health care services often come to our ER 2019. And the data through 2000 (inaudible) looks very similar. 75% of patients, you know, leave the ER without needing inpatient psychiatric services. Those who do, whether we had the, you

know, the care on Mary's Avenue, or now down at Mid-Hudson 2.8 needed an ambulance ride. Okay they got in an ambulance and went either from the Broadway ER over to Mary's Avenue, or now going forward from the Broadway ER, and they go to Mid-Hudson Region. We work with those stations, you know, I not had and not had feedback, that there were significant issues in, you know, through Mobile Life and our discussions with them around payment and payment concerns. So the issue you're describing has existed previously, okay, that patients have an ambulance ride, that then has to be paid for, for the service provider that will continue, but that through this contact we've had with Mobile Life, and we'll look to continue and work out with Mid-Hudson Region should be minimized that impact okay. That's roundabout way of trying to say that. Okay, I don't know if that answered your question.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Appreciate it.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

Al, you were, Al was next Laura I'm sorry. We'll come back.

**Legislator Bruno**

Thank you, Dr. Doyle. My my question is, especially you should probably have the answer better than anybody being a psychiatrist. Is the region when somebody is admitted for psychological reasons for mental health issues, I mean 25% of the people that do you need inpatient care, and they're transported to 20 miles away. Well, that means as far as the billing, that doesn't even cross my mind, to be honest with you. I understand a Legislator Uchitelle it does, and I understand why. But in this case, part of the mental health is having their family and their support structure around them. And when you take them and move them 25 miles away across the river down to Poughkeepsie, that could be a hurdle that you're putting in front of their family for contact or from the support group that they're used to having. I mean, they're, they're out of their element completely now. So that's got to have a compounding effect on their mental health as well. Not just the fact that that's where the beds are. And I don't, I can't, I mean, I look at both of those buildings, both on Broadway and on Mary's Avenue. And I look at St. Francis, Mid-Hudson Regional sorry. And I look at the space, overall space and 40 beds. Are you building 40 beds worth of cardiac cath care or post cardiac cath care? I find that almost like a, and I mean, this would all respect almost like a weak argument.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

Oh, no.

**Legislator Bruno**

We need both. We need to have the we need to have the ability to do both for many years, we had both. And now all of a sudden, we lost 40 beds. 40 beds is nothing.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

For many years, we had a hospital that was failing. Okay, we had two...

**Legislator Bruno**

Not because of that.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

Okay, two hospitals were financially distressed. Okay. And the dollar has to fit in, you know, there's just that one dollar can only go so far. And if we have to choose how we're going to apply that dollar, I think we need to choose to apply it to life saving care here in Ulster County that we're not currently providing, as the, you know, the the Executive Director, Chief Medical Officer seated. On your point on the beds, no, those rooms still exist. Okay. I think the issue that I was, you know, alluding to and speaking about, let me just back up historically. On December 18, last year 2019, so a year ago, just to talk this through, we with an outside consultant looked at those rooms and said, You know, these rooms could be better from a safety standpoint, centers, Medicaid, Medicare services and make a point about reducing what are called ligature risks. We'd had outside consultants come in, and you know, with them made the determination that we could do better. So on December 18 of 2018, we made a capital investment and improvement that lasted into February around improving those rooms. Okay, those units know those of you who know the Mary's Avenue campus, we have two inpatient psychiatric units there one was on 2 south, the other was on 2SMC. So the 2 South unit by mid-February was brand spanking new. I mean all new, you know, faucets and sinks and door handles and hinges and light fixtures and you know, the hooks that the ceiling tiles go into all locked down, you know, to prevent - to limit to, you know, eliminate the risk of someone hanging themselves. I mean, this is a real thing. Again, we didn't have issues with that. But we as an entity, we as an organization said, you know, we can do better. And on December 18 2019, we made that commitment. And we're just moving on to working on 2SMC room by room when we had to shut the hospital down. And then we took out all of that equipment to outfit Mid-Hudson Region hospital at that same level of safety. Okay, because it again, the dollar only goes so far. It just does. All right. And so there's still a significant, you know, and I mentioned, distressed hospitals. COVID, has made a significant impact on finances for everybody. And right now, we have to come up with a viable solution for going forward. And we really think that the best for the region is to consolidate those inpatient behavioral health services in one location and not duplicate them just 20 miles apart. To your point on the families. Okay, as an as a psychiatrist, yes. You know, having family involvement, okay, can be beneficial, can be, alright, it's not a requirement. It's not essential. And sometimes, it may not be helpful. And we've working, especially in the time of COVID, to find ways to do that, that aren't as burdensome as traveling 20 miles. COVID has taught us a lot about telehealth and telehealth capabilities, and the meaningful experience that this type of format can provide. And and, quite frankly, that has shown to be helpful and beneficial, even in family therapy. All right. So I think there are ways to bridge that gap. All right. And I think that's a reality right now.

**Legislator Bruno**

So it comes down to money. Bottom line.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

Well, it comes down to money and doing the best we can with the money we've got. Okay, you know, for necessary services that we really have to provide.

**Legislator Bruno**

I think as a community, though, you while it is a region and this is my own opinion, I apologize Craig for kind of doubling up on the question.

**Chairman Lopez**

No go ahead.

**Legislator Bruno**

But we're a community. We are the county seat in Ulster County. Kingston is the place to go. That's where all our services are to all our constituents across the board and taking them to a different county, whether it's 20 miles, five miles, or 50 miles is, is it's very disingenuous in my opinion. I can't see where you can't have both. Yes, money is a driving factor, I get that. But at the same time, you also have to look at the services. We have communities Ulster County is a huge county and it stretches from Ellenville to Saugerties to Kingston to Shawangunk to all over. And for them to have to go outside of the county, regardless of who owns it, whether it's Westchester Medical happens to cross county lines is one thing, but to require the families and the services to have to cross county lines is a whole-nother ball of wax. And I think you're taking a vital service that Ulster County needs to provide to its constituents and to its taxpayers. You know, we're asked from time to time to support funding for these very services that are not here. And it's difficult to do that, to be honest with you. And I think you can come up with a compromise. I'm not saying you personally. But I think Westchester Medical Center can, whether it be in Mary's Avenue, or whether it be Broadway, whether it be in a separate building as an outpatient, a physical small building a lot of county buildings around, but those services need to be provided.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

I think you're I think, you know, the tremendous need in Ulster County is for outpatient behavioral health services. You know, when you look at those numbers, it's 75% of these patients come to the ER and leave the ER. Now we're working hard, we've created positions, we've provided grants to other agencies to help with transitions for folks who leave the ER, but there's a tremendous need for outpatient services. Okay, there just is. And you reduce that out, you know, the demand for inpatient beds by providing adequate outpatient services, which we are not doing and then that's a collect, you know, and Westchester Medical Center Health Alliance is committed to increasing our outpatient behavioral health services. And we're gonna we can't do this alone. And we have to work in partnership with the county and other agencies in the county to do that, to reduce the demand for those inpatient beds. We just...

**Legislator Bruno**

I think you would get more cooperation if you provided the inpatient services as well.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

Laura, I'm sorry, I'm trying to avoid do go ahead Laura,

**Legislator Petit**

That's okay. Just to follow up on Legislator Uchitelle's, you know comment about the transportation and and Legislator Bruno. So it is a two part question and I mean, we all understand that any any not for profit essentially has to at least break even. But, and your your colleagues speak very highly of you. So I know you're in a difficult position. And they said he's a really nice I chose to go easy on him. But the transportation folks is, so this is the first question. If somebody is stabilized, it's say Ellenville Hospital. And, you know, for whatever, I guess they could even spend a couple of days there, if they had to. They

are, they then have to be transported to Kingston, where apparently there's another analysis before they would send to Poughkeepsie. So again, we're talking about multiple, multiple ambulances or other means to transport someone to get the mental health care that they need. And I don't know if there's a way to fund that transportation and kind of take make that less of a burden to somebody who's already in distress. Here we go. And then and then, the second part is, it's my understanding that if someone goes in because they're distressed, or there's a substance abuse issue, and if you find once they're stabilized and evaluated, if they do not, if they're not in danger of hurting themselves, or someone else, essentially, you know, they're back out the door, which could mean if they're still distressed, you they could end up back in the emergency room in a couple of hours. And in the contract with Health Alliance, a mentioned a couple of times links. But so how, how far do you take, you know, the links? Is it just a matter of saying, Well, you know, you're okay, you're not going to hurt yourself, call this person tomorrow? Does your staff take a step above? Will they reach out and make sure those appointments have been made? You know, I'm as as Legislator, Bruno, I'm looking for the real help, you know, instead of putting a bandaid on it, you know, that these folks get good local mental health care, before something terrible, they do something terrible to themselves.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

So let me take each question in part, okay. The first question. No, it's not our practice to have folks go from one ER to another ER here and Health Alliance, Steve Kelly, and I reached out to talk about that. I work closely with Matt Stubble on this issue. I think what it comes down to is their capability in say, a place like Ellenville, to hold a patient who has behavioral health concerns to your point up to 48 hours, and a perception that with our psychiatric emergency room, we have better capability to do that. So if that happens, it's on a case by case basis to provide and enhance the safety of the patient. It's our preference in working with the WMC Health Transfer Center, and behavioral health psychiatry within WMC Health to have those patients go directly to the hospital where they're going to get their care. We do that with adolescence, you know, it's the same same kind of approach in principle that we want, we don't want to have multiple transfers for a patient. You know, and in a rare circumstance, where there's a capacity or capability issue in whether it's Margaretville Hospital, one of our hospitals or Ellenville, another critical access hospital where they simply cannot manage or maintain that patient safely. All right, so that's one, but that's rare. So more often than not working with our transfer center, and our behavioral health team within the network, getting those patients to a bed within the network, and if not somewhere else that where the care is available. On the second question, I'm trying to figure out how to say that. I'm actually had it can you restate the question. I had it a moment ago. Sorry.

**Legislator Bruno**

Yeah. My question was, you know, looking at the contract and kept referring to links and stuff at the links, right.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

Correct. Yeah so you know, in working with agencies, like People USA, Samadhi, other groups we have, and then internally, we have care managers in the ER that are embedded in the ER for the purpose of doing just what you described - reaching out to the resources in the county in the community, where we can then connect these patients who don't meet criteria for inpatient admission, but are still at risk. And that's to reduce the frequency of utilization. We track and work closely on in with individuals who have,

you know, repeat visits to the ER and to find a way to address the needs that they're seeking. And that's what our care managers embedded in the ER do. It's what we have with peer counselors in particular for substance use to help connect these folks as they're leaving ER with a peer counselor through People USA and sometimes Samadhi. And to reduce that need to come back to the ER. So that's to answer your question. Yes, we do that. Now sometimes, you know, if the patient's leaving in the middle night, we may not have the ability to create an appointment, but during, you know, usual business hours, we do make those appointments. Okay. And then yes, our care managers following up with the patients after, you know, the following day by light of day as well, to ensure that they're making that those connections as best they can. Okay, so we've got the contact information we have that from the patient's we're discharging, and we work to follow up with them after they leave the ER.

**Chairman Lopez**

Okay, does anybody have any other questions? Um, okay, go ahead.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

Pete has a question.

**Legislator Peter Cristwell**

So um, you're obviously aware that there's a huge public outcry about this situation. How do you propose to gain the confidence of the general public?

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

I think that you're just through our actions, okay. Through, you know, working to increase behavioral health access in the community. All right. I think that by showing that the level of care we provide is, you know, equivalent to, if not better than what we were providing. All right, I think these are things we have to do and have to go back and speak to, you know, within the community. I think we have to partner, okay, with the county with you to develop, you know, an action plan around how we address the mental health needs the care needs. I know, again, this isn't just a Health Alliance, you're asking, you know, issue or WMC issue, but I think that, you know, I think that this issue around the inpatient beds leaving really is a lightning rod, okay, around, you know, nationally, you know, locally a mental health crisis in our country. Okay, about resources, and about, you know, the paucity of those and how impoverished communities can be around mental health. All right, and, and keeping these beds here. I know, there was one quote, you know, someone once said, or it was the county legislature, County Executive talked about, you know, how can we do this with opioid, you know, the crisis is going on and death rates from that. The location of inpatient beds doesn't have an impact on that it's outpatient service, it's addressing, it's doing the things that count is already doing, say, to address an opioid use, but it's going farther and working to increase access to outpatient behavioral services and decrease the need for those beds. Okay, but I think the, the bed issue really is a lightning rod for that. And it's a focal point. And I understand that, that, that this is folks are anxious about it, to feel that just once again, emphasizes this, this fear and this concern that we don't have enough resources to take care of our people. All right. And that's real. And I think that we do that. And, and we're committed to doing that in, you know, bringing on a licensed mental health counselor in our primary care location. We're actively working with the state right now to establish our own behavioral health practice, we have a license for that. Now just have to activate it again,

and get it staffed to increase mental health capabilities within the county, and then again, partnering with other agencies to do that. Because we can't do it alone.

**Legislator Criswell**

Thank you.

**Chairman Lopez**

You know, this is it's indicative of a bigger issue, you know, obviously, and bring those 40 beds back, like somebody had mentioned before. It, it is a bandaid on a bigger problem. Um clearly you're facing these issues, prior to COVID. And what kind of bothers me is that I feel an advantage was taken of a situation where those 40 beds under any other circumstance would not have been available, or as easily accessible to make these changes without COVID. And the way it transpired. So, and I think that I also have other colleagues that share the same sentiments.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

Right. I know they do. And I mean, if your minds made up, I won't confuse you. But the facts just say, we've made a significant investment in December, January to keeping those beds here and to engineering, the quality and safety. Okay, and then we got told by the state, we want this hospital, and we want the patient's gone. Okay. And, you know, I actually when I met with the state, you know, and one of the Saturday said, Hey, how about this hospital? This one, we're going to close in two years, when we make a health village? Why don't we use this for COVID. And I wasn't aware of the scope and scale, it was contemplating when they said 236 beds, but I was very much aware that by doing this on Mary's Avenue, we would lose that inpatient psychiatric service that you're working to enhance the safety of in question. Okay, and so all that went out. So I agree with the optics of it may not, you know, be (inaudible) what I'm being, you know, heartfelt and say, that wasn't the intent. All right, and now, now, we're into this, okay, we've (inaudible) consolidate services on this campus. Just to be clear on that from a finance standpoint, and we need to make the best of the situation we have and create a high quality equivalent program. I'm in the region, which I think we can do. But I know what it looks like. I agree. I understand.

**Legislator Peter Cristwell**

Can I ask a quick follow up? When you say the state? Could you clarify what you mean is that the Department of Health or who specifically at the state level with - made that edict?

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

I recall it being Department of Health and the governor's office, you know, saying, hey, we'd like to use this hospital. We were one of several hospitals that were selected to be COVID hospitals, I don't recall where the other three were, it might have been four. Okay, last year.

**Legislator Peter Cristwell**

Wouldn't that had been the moment to push back and say, we just did this huge investment, we we can't eliminate these inpatient mental health beds, this is a non negotiable. Is there some other way we can work with you to provide what you need, while still keeping this critical service that's needed here in this city?



**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

I don't think so. Not at the time. No. I mean, we had folks, you know, dying in hallways in New York City at the time. Okay. And so I don't think that was the time to have that conversation.

**Chairman Lopez**

Anybody else? Any more questions, comments, no?

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

And please you know feel free. You know, I know, Craig, you wondered about the community, please feel free to reach out to me. I'd be happy to have this conversation. I want to be open about this. Again, I think I think, and Marc and I have talked about this before, you know, I think the way ahead is, you know, yeah, there's going to be disagreement, but we really, I think, have to work together collaborate and, and come together on how we address the mental health needs of this of this population. It's a great community. And I think we can do this together. I do.

**Legislator Peter Cristwell**

I just want to say, just one more thing. So, you know, from our perspective, we're getting hammered by our constituents about this issue. So, you know, it's, it's really difficult to go back to them and say, well, the state said they had to do it, or, you know, I totally respect and hear what you're saying. But those are hard pills to swallow for people who really believe that the mental health beds should be restored here in the City of Kingston. It's, it's just, I could go back and say all those things that you said, and it still will not satisfy the questions out there. So how do we as legislators and you know, people who serve our constituents, how do we go back to them? And how do we talk to them?

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

I wish I wish I had an answer. I mean, I think that we can speak to, you know, again, the services we're providing, I think that we can speak to, you know, that the new hospital, you know, and the current hospital, here for the community to meet the community health care needs, you know, that right now are paramount. And that's, that's the lifesaving care, the care for the medically ill, the injured, alright, as well as serve as you know, emergency intervention for psychiatric patients, which we provide. All right, and will continue to provide. We're going to continue to provide, you know, methadone treatment for the county. We're the only methadone treatment provider in the county, we're going to continue that. We provide, you know, bridge backs, you know, outpatient behavior, substance abuse, treatment and counseling, we're going to continue to provide that. Meanwhile, we're going to grow other services, like I mentioned, you know, that patients are leaving the county. So in risking greater morbidity, because of time, like cardiac, you know, heart attacks, you know, we're working to address that. And we're sorry, we can't provide everything for everyone. But on the on the triage list, let's provide the lifesaving care. You're right, Al, it's not 40 beds about that, but it's, it's how do you how do you cut those resources dollars. And how do you do that, and legislators, you know, that, you know, and so, you know, prioritizing those and speaking to the things that together we are doing, and and the services we are providing that are vital to this community, I think there's a way to address their concerns. And here that's, you know, you know, your constituents, I'm not running for office, you know, so but yeah, that's, that's, that's what I my opinion.

**Legislator Criswell**

Thank you.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

Yes, sir.

**Chairman Lopez**

Anybody else? All right. Well, we appreciate you coming out and being candid, and, you know, It's an unfortunate situation, you know, and I've expressed my, my disappointment and where I think that, unfortunately, this is coming from and it's gonna be tough to go back to our constituents and get out and try to explain, you know, and that's something that we'll all going to have to do and, you know, hopefully be able to work together in the future really to fix the bigger picture.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

If it helps, I can work with Marc or Craig, I can work with you. You know, some of those things we are doing, I can create elevator talk talking points that things that, you know that from a, you know, public health, social - social services standpoint that we are doing, and working with the county and the community to do if that's helpful to have those talking points, I can certainly provide those. Okay, as a follow up to this meeting and just so that you can say this is a, this is what they are doing.

**Chairman Lopez**

Right no, and I get it. And I'm not talking from a political perspective. I'm talking about from a personal and, you know, a perspective of what's actually going on. And, you know, I, I don't care about politics of it, I just care about, you know, doing what's right by the county and by the people that need this help, and that help will not be available. So.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

Okay.

**Legislator Bruno**

Can I ask, what would you need from us? And would you be able to move those 40 beds over to your Broadway campus? Is that on the table at all?

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

No, I mean, because of the the licensing and certifications around that. All right. The plan for the consolidations campus is floated with New York State in the was that it would have one campus in this hospital. The Broadway campus would not be an inpatient services. This is going to be outpatient services. All right.

**Legislator Petit**

Thank you.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

Yes, ma'am.

**Chairman Lopez**

Great. All right. Well, thank you for joining us tonight Dr. Doyle.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

Thank you for the invite. I appreciate the opportunity to talk. I really do. Thanks for this.

**Chairman Lopez**

All right.

**Dr. Michael Doyle MD HealthAlliance Hospital**

Thank you all. Have a good night.

**Committee Members**

Thank you.

**Chairman Lopez**

All righty.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Did you guys have questions on those two resolutions did you, because he's no longer here.

**Chairman Lopez**

I don't think so. I think that..

**Legislator Bruno**

Well, one's a pass through with (inaudible)

**Chairman Lopez**

Right, and the others..

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Methadone that we have to have.

**Legislator Bruno**

So we have to have so we're kinda like caught between a box of rocks and a hard place.

**Chairman Lopez**

Definitely. I think we all know why the reason we held them up? Well, anyway, okay.

**Legislator Bruno**

Well they pretty much know that those beds are never coming back.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah, they're never coming back.

**Legislator Bruno**

So I think as a county, and we'll bring this up now under discussion, I think the county should start looking elsewhere to create that sort of a facility. Somehow, whether it be one of the county buildings, whether it be contracted with another entity that can provide those services as an inpatient emergency care. But I think we need to start an outreach investigation somehow to try to bring him back because all of everything he says may be true, but we still need inpatient mental health beds for not only mental health, but for opioid addiction has to happen here in Ulster County. 20 miles, maybe.

**Chairman Lopez**

Laura.

**Legislator Petit**

Yeah, Chair, thank you, Chair. I think if we could maybe next month, we could bring back that discussion of having the stabilization center and stabilization being a little bit different than what they would consider stabilizing an emergency room. You know, obviously, if somebody's hurt, or in need of, you know, medication or whatever, that that's a whole different thing. But the stabilization program that they have over in Dutchess County, brings people in for just a little over 23 hours, it has to be less than 24 hours. But they also have counselors to speak with them. They have, they will make the appointments and make sure there's follow up. So that may give someone a better chance, you know, rather than go into the emergency room, having somebody care for them for an hour or two and then putting them back out. And I guess, you know, in some cases that the police need to be called two three times for the same person within a day, you know, just because if they're not in danger of hurting themselves or someone, you know, they're back out. But you know, we could, we could bring that back to the table. They're running a very successful program and Dutchess, it was initially brought to my attention by somebody who works with the Dutchess County Probation Department. You know, because again, if someone's acting irrational, you know, rather than arresting them for disorderly conduct, they have the option to take them to the stabilization center. So, you know, and then even Chief Sanagra from Saugerties had brought it up again last year, I think. So I mean, I would like to take further look at that and see if there's funding which is that potential and of course they coordinate and work with Health Alliance. But, you know, I believe we need more. I mean, I don't know if I can handle getting any more phone calls about young people suicides. I got three this week, and they're all in their late 20s. And so it's just it's very sad. And it breaks the family's hearts, you know, talk about adding more emotional stress onto an already bad time. But we can't afford to keep losing our young people.

**Chairman Lopez**

There was that there was a recent obituary where they literally called out blame the county, for happening.

**Legislator Bruno**

In Saugerties.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

And we were working with, you know, that individual. I, you know, I don't want to go too far.

**Chairman Lopez**

Sure.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

But I do want to say that I do think that while inpatient services at Broadway's not something that they're willing to look at. I do think maybe we should look at encouraging them to to at least lease space to a provider that would do a stabilization type center. Because if it is for 23 hours or less, then they wouldn't have to necessarily have that inpatient licensing. So while he said that they weren't willing to look at 40 inpatient beds at Broadway, you know, there that medical village is going to have lots of opportunities for them to lease out and partner with other organizations. I will say that, you know, the, the facility we've talked to People Inc, probably two or three times, they're the ones that run the facility over in in Dutchess County, and it is great. It's not a self-sustaining program by any means. Dutchess County is, is providing lots of resources to that facility. They thought they were building it to a degree where it was going to be sustained by, you know, charging the patients etc, and insurance and they're still, you know, it's still underwater and Dutchess County kicks in the rest of the money. So it's an expensive thing, but I think it's something we have to look at.

**Legislator Bruno**

I agree. We got it, we got to start thinking outside of the box. It's not coming back to normal ways, however. And I tell you I know, this is awful. I keep looking at Tech City. Like what a great building to turn into a hospital, a mental health hospital. I mean, if it was possible, I mean, I don't know all the logistics behind it. But the incredible feat, and maybe not something that we should dismiss so easily. We're gonna turn into a COVID Hospital overnight. I mean.

**Legislator Petit**

Yes.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

It was something we were looking at.

**Legislator Bruno**

That's right. Clearly, we're not getting we're not getting cooperation from Westchester.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

The one thing I mean, they, they were going to have to those beds were going to be lost for some point in time. During construction, so you know, when they were going to when they're building, they're under construction on the new building, those 40 beds, were going to go away no matter what, during that construction period. It wasn't just moving. I mean, moving them out for COVID helped facilitate that, but they were going to be gone anyway. We always thought they were gonna be gone temporarily. We always thought they were gonna come back.

**Legislator Bruno**

Here's how I look at it. I look at it just just like the landfill up in Syracuse is getting closed, and we're gonna have to deal with our trash very shortly. It's the same thing with the mental health. Those beds

went away so that we have to deal with that, too. It's just another element that falls on our shoulders that we have to deal with. And I think we really should.

**Chairman Lopez**

I just don't like the way it transpired. You know, it just, it just feels dirty. It's wormy, you know, it I just, they took advantage of a situation, you know, whether we were ever gonna get them back or not, I think is irrelevant. It's just...

**Legislator Bruno**

They're using Covid as an excuse.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah, no. Absolutely. Absolutely. And, and and it's not going to be looked at as anything more than yeah a money grab so..

**Legislator Bruno**

And he point blank said that.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yep.

**Legislator Bruno**

It's financial. That's the only reason why we don't have is financial - doesn't make them enough money.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah, absolutely.

**Legislator Bruno**

Let's face it. The people that have to utilize those beds are more than likely don't have the financial means to begin with. It's part of the reason they're there.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah I mean it was more than 40 but I think was 60 beds ago. Weren't they're 20 beds that were specific for for for substance use related issues.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Yeah, there was 40 mental health beds and 20 substance abuse beds for a total of 16. Now, I do think that 20 substance abuse beds carried over to exactly 20 substance abuse beds at Mid-Hudson Regional. It's the mental health beds that went from like 14 to 15, or whatever it was. And he was talking about them trying to work out to to have it actually be 40.

**Legislator Bruno**

Marc, Marc if I could ask you, sorry. Sorry Craig.

**Chairman Lopez**

Very good.

**Legislator Bruno**

I'm sorry, I kind of break the rules of decorum here. What's the actual percentage that we have now in accounting, the increase in opioids and mental health, opioid deaths, and we have is like something like an increase of like 75%, or COVID, or something stupid, right?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

We were down, like one year, and we had a drastic cut. And now we're up slightly to where we were prior to that decrease. So we went from, I don't have the exact numbers, I can bring you back the numbers for 2020 and get you the numbers for 2019. But from 2018 to 2019, we went way down in our opioid overdose deaths, not overdoses, overdose deaths. Because we had Narcan that was readily available out in the community in the police agencies and lots of Narcan was being used. And there was other reasons that we went way down. We are back above the 2018 levels right now. And in 2018, I think we were second or third worst county in the state, something like that.

**Legislator Bruno**

So what I guess the point I was trying to make, though, Marc was that at a time COVID has increased that substantially in a time where we needed the most is when they pulled it away from us. And they use COVID as the driving force or the engine to take it away from us, when in reality that should have been the driving force to keep it. And I guess that's the part that's a hard pill to swallow you know.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Yeah, I will say that they were not left with a lot of choices. I mean, at that point,

**Legislator Bruno**

I get it.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

The governor's office had taken control over the hospital systems. They told them they wanted to build a COVID Hospital at that location, and to empty it out and have it ready. And again, like Dr. Doyle said, there was people dying in the streets and in hallways down in in overburdened hospitals down. It was a totally different time. But at the same time, I agree with you COVID has made everything worse from a mental health and substance abuse perspective, because everybody feels so isolated. Right?

**Legislator Bruno**

That's what I was getting at.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Yeah.

**Legislator Bruno**

Are the numbers actually increased or COVID - because of what the pandemic has done to people. No, not. I think we need to, we need to stop relying on WMC right now. And I think the counties look in other directions to try to bring those services back to Ulster County. And that's something we need to work on however. Whether we have to provide it ourselves or find an outside vendor to do it for us, but we need to get that back. We need..

**Chairman Lopez**

Well, we'll get into resolutions. We'll start with Resolution 29. Approving the execution of a contract for \$173,689. with Health Alliance hospital Broadway campus. This is for state OMH. Pass throughs so.

**Legislator Bruno**

It's a pass through so I'll make the motion.

**Chairman Lopez**

Alright. All in favor?

**Legislator Uchitelle**

I'll second it.

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye. Resolution 30. Approving the execution of a contract for \$100,000 with Health Alliance hospital Broadway campus for the methadone treatment program.

**Legislator Petit**

I'll make that motion.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Second.

**Chairman Lopez**

All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chairman Lopez**

Okay Resolution 104. Authorizing the chair the legislature to execute a contract with New York State Department of Health for LHD, LHD local health department. Support for flu and COVID response. Motion.

**Legislator Bruno**

Motion.

**Legislator Petit**



I'll second.

**Chairman Lopez**

Second. This is \$39,153 from the feds.

**Legislator Bruno**

Marc, can you give us a little background on that?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Yeah. So I mean, this is a, this is both for flu, a and COVID clinics. It's just it's state aid. I think it's probably coming from sorry, let me pull it up.

**Chairman Lopez**

This wasn't - these weren't federal funds. I thought that they were federal funds.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Yeah, it's coming from HEALING, but it's its overall state DOH. Not healing sorry. It's coming. It's Care's Act funds being distributed from the state health department in order for us to put together you know, our health, our flu, and, and COVID clinics, and it's mostly for educational purposes getting out.

**Legislator Bruno**

I thought the flu disappeared, since we've had COVID.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

And all that almost did I mean, if you think about it, wearing a mask all the time, it's like, we knew that was gonna come because Australia who had their flu season before us, it dropped almost nothing so.

**Legislator Bruno**

Because of the masks.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah, people actually washing their hands.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

They're not going to work sick.

**Chairman Lopez**

Right seriously.

**Legislator Bruno**

Sorry, I just had to bring a little levity to it.

**Chairman Lopez**

Not everything. I've noticed um even cold. My goodness, I I have the twin toddlers in daycare and they they've been good. Like they don't have colds or there aren't any stomach viruses when used to be rampant yeah knock on wood. Are you knocking for me there AI?

**Legislator Uchitelle**

People keep saying their vaccine. You know, the vaccine makes you feel a little under the weather for a couple of days. And I'm kind of like, great. I haven't been under the weather in a year.

**Chairman Lopez**

Sure, yeah.

**Legislator Bruno**

Hey Abe, I got my second shot. And I felt like the next day I felt like a truck hit me. But it was only for only for like one day and I was fine. So I'm good - one day.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

I look forward to getting run over by that truck.

**Legislator Bruno**

Exactly.

**Chairman Lopez**

It's better than the alternative. No, I don't. Mine made me so tired I slept for like 10 hours, which I usually only get like, five hours a night. And I'm not a sleeper.

**Legislator Bruno**

The next day. You felt great. Didn't you?

**Chairman Lopez**

Oh my god. I woke up the next morning. I never felt better. I don't know what happened. Or what killed inside of me. It was amazing.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

And great 5G coverage too!

**Legislator Bruno**

Say it worked great for me. The next day, I felt amazing.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah, yeah. So alright, we'll keep going. Um, Resolution 105. So improving the execution of the contract. \$284K.

**Legislator Peter Cristwell**

I don't think we voted on..

**Chairman Lopez**

Oh, we didn't vote. Okay. All favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chairman Lopez**

Sorry too much fun. Yeah. All right. 105. Approving execution of a contract for \$284,859. with Family Services. This is for substance abuse prevention campaign.

**Legislator Criswell**

Motion.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Second.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

So this came out of our HEAL taskforce. So they basically did an RFP type system and they had working groups work through each of these contracts and Family Services were selected to private provide these services through that.

**Legislator Petit**

And what do they mean by education Marc? I mean, are they going to do outreach? They're going to do Narcan workshops.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

So they're gonna work. I'm just going off the Schedule A here but that they're going to do a Student Leadership Council and put student work groups together in the schools. It's mostly through that school leadership. So it's at various Ulster County school districts and they're going to work with the Leadership Council to get prevention out in the schools.

**Legislator Petit**

Okay. Thank you.

**Chairman Lopez**

Good. Thank you. Alrighty, um all in favor.

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chairman Lopez**

All right. Resolution 106. Approving the execution of a contract for \$112,500 with Samadhi - yeah okay, center for expansion of the recovery outreach program. They cover 24/7 days a week.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

I'll just say I think Samadhi is a great program. It's in my district, and I've spoken with their executive directors. You know, they work very hard over there. And I've definitely support them.

**Chairman Lopez**

Samadhi, Samadhi it's pronounced. I have an "H" in it. That's why it didn't.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

It does have an "H" in it. I think it's silent.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah, gotcha.

**Legislator Bruno**

They do amazing work.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

This is another one of those federal pass through, through the Healing grant.

**Chairman Lopez**

All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chairman Lopez**

Resolution 107. Approving the execution of a contract for \$100,000. with the Hudson Valley Community Services for the development of a street outreach program for Ulster County residents struggling with opioid disorder. Move for discussion.

**Legislator Bruno**

I'll make that motion.

**Legislator Petit**

I'll second.

**Chairman Lopez**

Discussion again, this is another federal pass through I think.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Same thing Healing, yup it's for harm reduction and prevention.

**Legislator Bruno**

Can't go wrong with this.

**Chairman Lopez**

No brainer right AI.

**Legislator Bruno**

Pretty much no brainer.

**Chairman Lopez**

All right. All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chairman Lopez**

All right. 108. Amending the county budget to accept an allocation of funds from Horwitz Foundation, for \$10,000 to enhance the county's family first readiness initiative.

**Legislator Petit**

I'll make that motion.

**Legislator Criswell**

Second it.

**Legislator Bruno**

I'll second it for discussion.

**Chairman Lopez**

Any discussion?

**Legislator Bruno**

Marc, yay, to this (inaudible)

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Foster parent trainer to enhance our foster parent training program and outreach. This, this foundation gives us various grants throughout the year, ranging from \$5K-10K. Sometimes it's to buy computer equipment. It's typically for this is for professional services for training for foster parents. They focus on foster parents.

**Legislator Bruno**

Marc, can I ask how many? How many people this is actually effect? (inaudible)

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Um, I mean, this is just for doing -I don't have a set number because this will be used to help us with our outreach efforts and just for training. I don't I can come back and find out how many parents.

**Legislator Bruno**

I'm just saying typically, I mean, how many are we? Are we talking 100? Are we talking 10? Are we talking 5000?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

No I think this is in the 100. You know, 80 to 100 range is what we would use this for, that's we do a couple of training sessions, etc. 40 or 50 people I think. We certainly don't have 1000's of foster care families in the county. I wish we did. Probably need for it right. But um...

**Legislator Bruno**

That's what I was asking. I don't really know the answer to that.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Yeah, it's it's in the hundreds.

**Chairman Lopez**

Okay. All right. All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chairman Lopez**

All right, Resolution 109. Authorizing the chair the legislature to execute intermunicipal agreements with the Town of Saugerties in the Village of Ellenville to provide domestic violence investigators to the county, Family and Child Advocacy Center.

**Legislator Bruno**

No brainer.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

This is a program we've had..

**Chairman Lopez**

Move it for discussion.

**Legislator Petit**

I'll move it for discussion - Second.

**Legislator Bruno**

Second.

**Chairman Lopez**

Okay, go ahead Marc.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Because of the budget cuts, we had notified each of these municipalities last year that 2021 we were not going to be able to team with them. We were going to continue these services with our own investigators. But this program, we paid the salary of a village police officer in in Ellenville and one in Saugerties, in one of the town police in Saugerties and and the town pays the fringe. They get trained, they work with us for a year or two. And then they go back and they have these skills. Unfortunately, when we were looking at last year's budget, this was one where we felt like we could redistribute the work to the coexisting teams that the county had. You know, I'm not going to say that our budget situation is bright and shiny, but it's gotten to the point where we at least recognize that this which isn't very much needed service and the case numbers are increasing all the time that that we felt like it was time to get this back on, on on the books. So we reached out, and both Chief Sanagra and Chief Matrition and Supervisor Costello and the Mayor up in Ellenville we're all, you know, a static that we could we could do this program again.

**Chairman Lopez**

Absolutely. It's that it's an important one. It's unfortunate that, you know, we need things like this, but um, yeah, I don't know. But if you're, if the committee is familiar with exactly what they investigate, but it's, you know, all child related abuses, from, you know, physical abuse, to sex trafficking to, you know, all the really bad unfortunate stuff. So it's great, great program.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

It can be family as well. So, okay, it could be, you know, spousal, it could be, if it is, it's typically the most kind of, you know, reprehensible and violent and various different cases. So these are not, you know, fun caseloads to work. But as you know, Legislator, Lopez said there, it's very important, and unfortunately, we need it.

**Legislator Petit**

Marc what about the caseworkers? And the ADA's and our staff? Do they get any assistance? I mean, they must see horrible things, you know, photos of crime scenes, and, I mean, it's just a little left side of this resolution. But you know, I mean, some of these, these acts of violence are horrendous.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Yeah, I mean, we have EAP services like employee assistance services that that we do through personnel for any employee. So if somebody felt like they, you know, went through a traumatic situation working one of the caseworkers or anything else, we would get them the help they need.

**Legislator Petit**

Okay.

**Chairman Lopez**

Amazing, amazing special people. I don't know how to do it.

**Legislator Petit**

Yes.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah. So anyway, all in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye, Aye.

**Chairman Lopez**

Okay. Resolution 110. Amending the county budget to accept an allocation of child abuse or neglect, prevention and treatment, comprehensive addiction and recovery act funds from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services in the amount of \$70,000. Move?

**Legislator Bruno**

I'll move it.

**Chairman Lopez**

Second?

**Legislator Petit**

I'll second it.

**Chairman Lopez**

These are, these are all state funds. I believe.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

It's a it's a formula grant state funds state - its federal funds flowing again through the state OCFS. You know, they notify us there's an attachment here that shows what each county gets. They notify us that our award is this year was 70,000. It was budgeted for we just don't actually put it in. I mean, it was anticipated. We just don't put it in the budget until we know exactly what our allocation will be.

**Chairman Lopez**

Sure.

**Legislator Bruno**

It's a no brainer.

**Legislator Petit**

Yeah.

**Chairman Lopez**

All in favor?



**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chairman Lopez**

Resolution 111. Amending county budget to accept an additional allocation of funds from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to continue the Safe Harbour program.

**Legislator Petit**

I'll move it.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Second.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

This is human trafficking prevention.

**Chairman Lopez**

\$33,000. State again, this is beds through the state Marc?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

This is actually state revenue.

**Chairman Lopez**

It's just state rev.

**Legislator Petit**

And these are actual Ulster County residents? Or is this...

**Deputy Executive Rider**

This is a prevention. This is to help with outreach and raise awareness of the problem more than anything.

**Legislator Petit**

Okay. So there should..

**Deputy Executive Rider**

33,000 doesn't get you a whole lot. These are our, you'll see we do like advertisements on Safe Harbour. It's outreach on the program. And then we have caseworkers that OCFS you know, at our family child services that work with. If anybody calls in to the hotline or whatever we would have them work with our team over at DSS with Family Services, but um.

**Legislator Petit**

And the outreach probably targets more than younger people.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Correct.

**Legislator Petit**

Thank you.

**Chairman Lopez**

All in favor.

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chairman Lopez**

Resolution 127. Confirming the reappointment of a member of the Community Services Board and the Board's PWDD subcommittee. This PWDD the people with developmental disabilities. Acronyms have always kind of thrown me for a loop. That's why, if I don't recognize them, I like to share.

**Legislator Bruno**

I'm glad you clarified that because I had no idea what PWDD was.

**Chairman Lopez**

Move for discussion?

**Legislator Bruno**

I'll move it.

**Legislator Petit**

Right yeah, I'll second it.

**Chairman Lopez**

And this is for the appointment of Claire Peterson, with the term expiring. Well, I guess, to be yeah, I'm sorry?

**Nettie Tomshaw**

Reappointment.

**Chairman Lopez**

Okay. All right. With the term to expire on 12/31/2024.

**Legislator Petit**

Marc, that there's been discussion on maybe bringing some professionals on on that board, or being able to serve on that board. Has there been any other advances on that, or?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

I mean, some of the people who serve on the board are professionals. Are you referring like, we're required to have a psychiatrist on the board.

**Legislator Petit**

Okay.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

And we don't currently have one. But, uh, there's not too many, not too many in the county. But, but we are trying to always recruit psychiatrists and other physicians to the to the committee to the board, I should say. But like one of the ones who has a resume on here, Denise Ranaghan, I mean, she's a licensed LMAC. I don't even know what that is actually - a mental health counselor.

**Legislator Petit**

Very good. Okay. I've attended some of their meetings. You have a good group of people there.

**Chairman Lopez**

All in favor.

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chairman Lopez**

Resolution 128. Confirming the reappointment of the member to the Community Service Board and the board's Mental Health Subcommittee. Second. This is for John Brown with the term to expire 12/31/24. Discussion.

**Legislator Petit**

I'll move it.

**Legislator Bruno**

Second. It's a reappoint. It's a reappointment right.

**Chairman Lopez**

Reappointment. All right. All in favor.

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chairman Lopez**

Last Resolution 129. Confirming the appointment of members to the Community Service Board and Mental Health Subcommittee.

**Legislator Bruno**

Discussion.

**Chairman Lopez**

Second.

**Legislator Petit**

I'll second.

**Chairman Lopez**

Alright.

**Legislator Bruno**

This a reappointment?

**Chairman Lopez**

No, these are appointments for a new appointment. No, I think resumes are always attached these right Nettie?

**Nettie Tomshaw**

Yes.

**Chairman Lopez**

I don't know if anybody's familiar with the names Terrence Conklin, Julianne Spearman, Daniel Bliss and Diane Ranaghan.

**Legislator Bruno**

Marc, help us out.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Sure, well, Terry Conklin works at a Institute for Family Health. And applied for the board. He and I had a good conversation and thought that he would be a positive addition to the Community Services Board. He's also working on getting -he's a care navigator for the Institute for Family Health. So he works on getting people with mental health needs. They you know, met with services and he's well, kind of. He's knowledgeable about mental health services in Ulster County. Daniel Bliss is a currently works down as an adjunct professor down at Fordham. He's a neuroscientist. He has his PhD in neuroscience and has pretty substantial volunteer work through Nami or other depression and bipolar support groups. He had it and other projects with psychiatric outreach. Again, he and I had a good conversation in an interview. Julianne Spearman is a mental health counselor, as is Denise Ranaghan. Both are mental health counselors in Ulster County. We, we sort like, up until this month getting these appointments, and we've been not able to make a quorum for many of these Community Service Board meetings. We had a few people recently term out, a few others have resigned, and we really needed to get people on board. We actually still have a few openings to add some other positive individuals, if any of you know people interested in working in the mental health community.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

I know someone that might be interested.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Great.

**Legislator Petit**

Great.

**Legislator Criswell**

Yeah, I think all their resumes look really great. And there's an interesting variety here. You've got some people with children, you know, working with children, working with adults. So an interesting mix.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

I think they're all going to be great additions to the board.

**Legislator Petit**

And thank you for taking this on Marc. I know you attended one of their last meeting where they were concerned about, you know, not having enough members on and Marc actually set it up. So they had a special meeting so they could take a look and approve these people. So he was very diligent in getting those board back up and running.

**Legislator Criswell**

And it's just what we were talking about tonight. How can we support as much as we can the efforts that we've got already going? So I second that, thank you.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Well, with COVID I've been falling down on the job. I should have probably got these members on the board months ago, but.

**Legislator Criswell**

You are pretty much a slacker we know that Marc.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

I know.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah, you could only recruit a neuroscientist from Fordham.

**Legislator Petit**

Under achiever. Did we vote - did we right?

**Chairman Lopez**

No. All right. All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chairman Lopez**

All righty. Well, that wraps up the resolutions.

**Legislator Petit**

Thank you.

**Chairman Lopez**

Anybody have anything really good of the committee?

**Legislator Criswell**

Can I, can I say thank you for bringing Dr. Doyle today. Really appreciate that effort to, you know, hear directly from him. I didn't love all the answers. But it was good to hear the answers directly. So thank you for that.

**Legislator Bruno**

I agree Peter. I mean, we may not have liked it. But he was honest and straightforward. And it's what it is. Thanks.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

I do have good news on the vaccine front. If you don't mind me sharing really quick.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah, absolutely.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

So there's been a push, obviously now with the Johnson and Johnson vaccine getting approved. New York State had gotten an abundance of Pfizer vaccines last week that they needed to move. So this week, we received so far 3300 vaccines, which is a significant increase from the 700 that we had been getting. The vast majority of those are only to be used for seniors. But that's a good thing because they're one of our more vulnerable groups. Will do about another 400 essential workers and the rest go to either seniors or, or those with come with underlying conditions. So we'll have you know, three clinics set up this week. One on Thursday, we're going to use SUNY Ulster gymnasium for the first time because we actually have a local pharmacist, Neil Smaller has been doing a lot of work, but he's going to run out of our field house on Thursday of this week, and he's going to do - what he got 3200 as well just for seniors. So we're going to work our way through the 65 plus group fairly quickly, hopefully in the next few weeks, as long as numbers stay like this, and that'll allow us to get to the other groups sooner than than we had thought. So that's a good thing. I would encourage anybody who hasn't seen it to, if you ever want a tour of, you know, the fieldhouse, we're going to be running there Friday and Saturday of this week, and I think it's, it's quite impressive, when we have it, the ability to do about 1500 people there a day, and we're going to be getting about max capacity 1400 on Friday and 1200 on on Saturday, so..

**Legislator Bruno**

These are these are all made through appointments.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Yes. But if you ever want to see it in action, feel free to, you know call me. I can arrange for walking you through it.

**Legislator Criswell**

Thank you.

**Chairman Lopez**

Great. Very good. It's good to hear. And I was kind of yeah.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

It's been frustrating.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah absolutely. Absolutely. Good. Okay.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Hopefully this is a one time I mean, they call it a onetime supplemental. But hopefully, as the numbers go up, we're also going to be I was on a call with the governor's office today, they're looking for numbers of homebound seniors that we have in our county. And because they're going to get an allocation of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine out this week. So we only have to go there once as opposed to going there twice. So we're gonna work on getting to about 125. homebound senior's houses.

**Legislator Petit**

You're tracking door to door?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Yeah, we're gonna go to their house.

**Legislator Petit**

Wow. Okay. That's that's..

**Legislator Bruno**

Woe.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

There's more than that in the county. That's about what we can do in a week when we have everything else going on. You know, it's a team, you have to be there for about a half hour at least.

**Chairman Lopez**

Right? So.

**Legislator Bruno**

They should -don't have any reaction to it, and all that stuff.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Exactly you have to observe them for, depending on their underlying conditions, it could be anywhere from 15 to 30 minutes of observation after the vaccine is given. Okay.

**Chairman Lopez**

All right. Nobody has anything else then.

**Legislator Petit**

We're gonna see.

**Legislator Bruno**

Should we adjourn?

**Legislator Petit**

In 5 minutes anyway.

**Legislator Bruno**

I'll move.

**Chairman Lopez**

Second.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Second.

**Chairman Lopez**

All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye. Aye.

**Legislator Petit**

Thank you.

**Chairman Lopez**

All right.

**Legislator Bruno**

Thank you, guys.



**Chairman Lopez**  
Have a good night.

**Legislator Petit**  
You too.