

## Public Health & Social Services Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

**DATE & TIME:** June 1, 2020 – 5:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,  
Meeting ID: 998 6473 1741  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chair Craig Lopez  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Victoria Fabella, Jay Mahler, Nettie Tomshaw  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Eve Walter, County Executive Patrick Ryan, Deputy County Executive Marc Rider, Karen Winkle-Gorsline Founder and CEO Painted Love, Inc., RCAL Olmstead Housing Specialist and Commissioner Kingston Housing Authority

Chair Lopez called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

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**Motion No. 1:** Moved to Approve Minutes & Transcript of the May 4, 2020 meeting  
**Motion By:** Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit  
**Discussion:** None  
**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Lopez, Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Minutes **APPROVED**

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### Resolutions for the June 16, 2020 Session of the Legislature

**Resolution No. 195:** Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Gateway Community Industries, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment in excess of \$50,000.00 with Gateway Community Industries, Inc. for the increase amount of funding provided by

NYS OMH, OASAS & OPWDD. 96% State, 4% County, Sole Source Amd. Amt. +\$197.2K, Total Amt. \$2,722,544.00.

**Motion No. 2**                      **Moved to Discuss & Adopt Resolution No. 195**  
**Motion Made By:**              Legislator Criswell  
**Motion Seconded By:**        Legislator Petit

**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

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**Resolution No. 196:**    Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – The Trustees Of Columbia University In The City Of New York – Department Of Health

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment in excess of \$50,000.00 with The Trustees of Columbia University In The City of New York (amendment #2) for the increase funding from the Healing Communities Grant. 100% Other Revenue, Prior Term 10/1/2019-3/31/2023, Amd. Term 4/1/2020-3/31/2023. Prior Amt. \$289.7K, Amd. Amt. \$501.9K, Total Amt. \$791.5K

**Motion No. 3**                      **Moved to Discuss & Adopt Resolution No. 196**  
**Motion Made By:**              Legislator Petit  
**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

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**Resolution No. 197:**    Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment Causing The Aggregate Contract Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – James McGuinness & Associates, Inc.– Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract (amendment #9) causing the aggregate contract amount to be in excess of \$50,000.00 with James McGuinness & Associates, Inc. for software maintenance and support for software in use by the County's Preschool program.

100% County, Professional Services Prior Term 1/1/2010-12/31/2019, Amd. Term 12/31/2019 – 12/31/2020, Prior Amt. \$257.5K, Amd. Amt. \$27.5K, Total Amt. \$285K.

**Motion No. 4**                      **Moved to Discuss & Adopt Resolution No. 197**  
**Motion Made By:**              Legislator Petit  
**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

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**Resolution No. 207:**    Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Department Of Health To Continue The Drinking Water Enhancement Program – Department Of Health

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution authorizes the Chair of the UC Legislature to execute a contract with the NYD DOH to continue the Drinking Water Enhancement program to staff positions to improve its ability to oversee and implement the public drinking water supply program including regulatory requirements and other areas of drinking water protection. This is a five year contract, 4/1/2020 – 3/31/2025, Revenue \$1,009,095.00.

**Motion No. 5**                      **Moved to Discuss & Adopt Resolution No. 207**  
**Motion Made By:**              Legislator Criswell  
**Motion Seconded By:**        Legislator Petit

**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

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**Resolution No. 208:**    Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept HEALing Communities Study Funding And Create Positions – Department Of Health

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution amends the 2020 UC Budget to accept HEALing Communities Study funding and create positions – a collaboration to test the impact of a community engaged intervention on the primary outcome of community-level opioid overdose deaths. 2-year funding \$501.9K from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. All positions created will be removed when funding is no longer available unless other state, federal or other funding is provided.

**Motion No. 6**                      **Moved to Discuss & Adopt Resolution No. 208**  
**Motion Made By:**              Legislator Petit  
**Motion Seconded By:**        Legislator Bruno

**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

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**Resolution No. 209:**    Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept Supplemental Public Health Emergency Preparedness Funding From New York State Department of Health for COVID-19 Crisis Response – Department Of Health

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution amends the 2020 UC Budget to accept supplemental public health emergency preparedness funding from NYD DOH for COVID-19 crisis response. \$15K Revenue. No county match.

**Motion No. 7**                      **Moved to Discuss & Adopt Resolution No. 209**  
**Motion Made By:**              Legislator Criswell  
**Motion Seconded By:**        Legislator Petit

**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

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**Resolution No. 210:**    Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept Supplemental Public Health Emergency Preparedness Funding From New York State Department Of Health For Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Activities – Department Of Health

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution amends the 2020 UC Budget to accept supplemental public health emergency preparedness funding from NYD DOH for Coronavirus (COVID-19) response activities performed during the period of March 5, 2020 through March 15, 2021. \$211.6K Federal Revenue Dollars. No increase in County contribution.

**Motion No. 8**                      **Moved to Discuss & Adopt Resolution No. 210**  
**Motion Made By:**              Legislator Criswell  
**Motion Seconded By:**        Legislator Bruno

**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

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**Resolution No. 211:** Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Funds From The Redlich Horwitz Foundation To Support Virtual Family Connectivity Within The Foster Care Program – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution amends the 2020 UC Budget to accept an allocation of funds from the Redlich Horwitz Foundation to support/enhance remote connectivity and support virtual family driven care to families and youth within the County’s Foster Care Program. \$20K Revenue dollars.

**Motion No. 9** **Moved to Discuss & Adopt Resolution No. 211**  
**Motion Made By:** Legislator Criswell  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit

**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

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**Resolution No. 225:** Calling On Westchester Medical Center/Health Alliance Of The Hudson Valley To Return Inpatient Mental Health Services To Ulster County And Calling On The County Executive To Reestablish Mental Health Care As A County-Delivered Service

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution call on Westchester Medical Center/Health Alliance of the Hudson Valley to return inpatient mental health services to Ulster County and calling on the County Executive to re-establish mental health care as a county delivered service. Financial impact to be determined.

**Motion No. 10** **Moved to Discuss & Amend Resolution No. 225**  
**Motion Made By:** Legislator Criswell  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bruno

**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

**Motion No. 11**                      **Motion to Approve Resolution No. 225 as Amended**  
**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Petit

**Discussion:** See attached transcript. (Note: Legislator's Petit and Bruno added their names as sponsors)

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

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New/Old Business: None

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

### **Adjournment**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Petit  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Uchitelle  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**TIME:** 6:31 PM  
Respectfully submitted: Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Staff  
Minutes Approved: July 6, 2020

## Public Health & Social Services Committee Transcript

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**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,  
Meeting ID: 998 6473 1741  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chair Craig Lopez  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Victoria Fabella, Jay Mahler, Nettie Tomshaw  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Eve Walter, County Executive Patrick Ryan, Deputy County Executive Marc Rider, Karen Winkle-Gorsline Founder and CEO Painted Love, Inc., RCAL Olmstead Housing Specialist and Commissioner Kingston Housing Authority

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### **Chairman Lopez**

I will call the meeting to order. And if I can have a motion approve the minutes.

### **Legislator Bruno**

I'll make that motion.

### **Legislator Petit**

I'll second.

### **Chairman Lopez**

All in favor.

### **Chairman Lopez**

Aye. Aye. (5-0)

### **Chairman Lopez**

Okay, very good. Well, tonight we have joining us, Karen... is it Gorsline? Or... how do you say...

### **Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

Gorsline.

### **Chairman Lopez**

Okay, all right, Winkle-Gorsline.

**Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

Gorsline. Yes.

**Chairman Lopez**

Okay, very good. To discuss immediate housing options and actions for Ulster County. So, the floor is yours.

**Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

All right. Well, I just want to first say thank you for the opportunity to speak with you tonight. And for your time during this crazy period. And I did just put a one-page explanation that this gives a bullet point of the ideas that I share. So, I will just mention the Homeowners Association idea or concept as a type of emergency housing solution that we might be able to use now. There is an emergency shelter contract that I would like to become a vendor, with the Department of Social Services, and provide community-based housing, in a safe environment, for people that are currently being housed at the hotels.

I would like to build it up as a Homeowner's Association because then it would solidify [permanent] [residences] that are available, that can grow. After the idea is [inaudible]. This may also be used for ADU's - accessory dwelling units that can be added, now, that's immediate. By using the rooms for rent, and then adding detached and attached dwellings that can be separate units, that would allow people to then keep their benefits, and remain in the household, and not being mixed together. So, there's the permanent, and the immediate solutions that I have, and I would really like to answer any questions in reference to them. I was never able to put a contract together because they needed 20 to 40 units in order for me to propose a contract, and no landlord is going to leave their places empty. It's too fluid. And there's too much time in between without income.

**Chairman Lopez**

Laura.

**Legislator Petit**

So, Karen, do you have an idea... oh, somebody playing outside now. Do you have an idea of what, I mean, what the shortage looks like? I mean of course we don't know what it's going to look like in another month or two when they start lifting the deferments for rent payments. But I mean, obviously, there's a shortage now. You know, could you kind of give us some more information on how bad that looks and why you, kind of, come to us with an out of the box idea? Which I think we should be looking at, honestly, because



again, we don't know what we're in store for the next month or two, certainly over the next couple of years.

**Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

Yes, I think there'll be a shifting of places as people get evicted. There'll be empty spaces and others will come in. I think people will be more amenable to subsidies and programs that guaranteed them rent. However, there's waiting lists at the Housing Authority for three years at the Brigham (Brigham Senior Housing Kingston), which is senior housing. I know with the Section 8 housing list is at least 1,200 on the waiting list. Waiting lists are only open for a few times a year where you can even get on them. And the rents are high, and they're not affordable. So, they're staying where they are, or they're doubling up in place. There is a need for property management for people with disabilities, and people with disadvantages. So, my program the Olmstead Housing subsidy, we will pay their rent, but people with disabilities cannot shovel their snow, or there, you know, make the housing safe, they just get the rent paid. So, there's a need for people to be able to learn and grow and property management and create traditional trades, and we can do this if there's a plethora of properties that are in need of that and that are in this like kind of organization.

[Inaudible]

**Legislator Petit**

Any you think maybe a trend, you know, as you know, people have lost their jobs and they have mortgages that they may be looking to do house shares and...

**Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

Yes.

**Legislator Petit**

Yeah.

**Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

The Airbnb has allowed people to continue paying their mortgage. So, they have the short-term rentals that supplement their income. And it'll help, also with those wanting to become homeowners. They can buy multi-families and rent the other units out. So, I'm involved with the Veterans Agency, the Veterans Administration. I got into contract with them to provide services, the beginning of the year. I am with the NHTD (Nursing Home Transition and Diversion) program, which is seven counties. I am licensed in the State of New York and Minority Business Enterprise Certified for home property real estate asset management, and to homemaker services for elderly and disability persons, and then wholesale durable medical equipment and furniture. I did clean outs for the Ulster County

Department of Finance. So, there's furniture that we can use when the State's go away, and store, and for people with homeless they're going to need a whole household of furniture. Some can't afford storage. So, it'd be in phases. So, we'd have to just work on just the contract and getting the rules in place and learning from experience. Then go to Phase 2 with an official Association, so, that we can have rules that are in place. And then a Phase 3, with the ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Unit) and permanent housing.

**Chairman Lopez**

Okay. Anybody else have questions? So, you can't really anticipate, right, as of now, what the potential influx of people looking for housing will be, right? It's kind of as it happens, correct? As rents are no longer being subsidized or at least that there's a hole that people don't have to pay. And, so, what... how many units are out there now that you would be able to provide for?

**Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

With the expansion of those code or zoning policies that might be able to expand, we can use existing infrastructure to create more housing now. The Olmstead Housing subsidy would bring State money to our County that this would lift our economy. And the current emergency housing is now going to Greene County and Orange County to house people because our hotels are full. So, then, the numbers are all... When I put a for rent sign out for my property, I get about 19 calls. 19 to 20 calls in days.

**Chairman Lopez**

That's a pretty overwhelming. And I had made a comment, it was probably at our last meeting, that people are going to recover from the virus a lot quicker than the economy is going to recover. So, you know, with that in mind. You don't really know. Like, it could be really bad out there. And a to anticipate that I think it's kind of scary. So, you know, I think what you're doing is a good thing, and hopefully, you know, perhaps we can... The funding will come down at the State maybe. Is there anything at the Federal that you anticipate that could help as well? Are you looking mostly to State?

**Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

I am trying to make this a self-funded program by contracting with DSS (Department of Social Services) because the additional funds that are included with those rents would allow me to pay a homeowner more than they would get with a traditional rental. And help the person with self-sufficiency by forming an action plan with them, and having them progress, and reporting on that. So, if they need to stay in their community for school or work, they can do that. If they need to find a job, they have a phone. They're currently using hotel room numbers. And it's difficult in a hotel to not be a red flag for an employer. So, I'm thinking using the funding that is in the contract, I wouldn't need to ask for any funding,

I would just want endorsement to work with this fiscal management company to do the contracts, and then build on it.

**Legislator Lopez**

Okay. Now, do you know... Oh, go ahead, Peter.

**Legislator Criswell**

Yeah. Just a quick question. I was just curious if you had any conversations with RUPCO about this idea?

**Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

I did not because I sat on the board for RUPCO for five years. And they do not handle the emergency shelter, they handle the Section 8. So, they... I did talk to them about landlords and relationship with landlords and what Section 8 does, as far as damaging the landlord relationships when they're not good tenants. And they, they took the view that the landlord is in the business, this is a business for the landlord. And I also approached them about tenant education, and how to be good neighbors, and how to respect property. And I never got a program to do that through them. Though I respect them. I just feel that people need training, and they need to be able to appreciate their community.

**Legislator Criswell**

Thank you.

**Chairman Lopez**

Well isn't the eviction process difficult and long. In order to actually evict somebody? I've heard from a number of people, landlords as well. I've gotten calls over the past year saying that the process is so difficult. That, you know, judges often side on, or with the tenant, not necessarily the landlord. Especially if they can prove some sort of hardship at the time, that they can't actually displace them. Is that true?

**Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

That's very true. It's never... I have Legal Shield, and I can call an attorney at any time and they'll answer my legal questions, and walk me through the whole process. With my program, they would be temporary tenants and they would be licensed to use this space, so they wouldn't have a lease in order to be evicted. They would have an agreement that would give them 10 days to leave. So, I have 10 days to have them out. It's not a lease. And I'd have them sign every other week, so it's within the 30 days. I guess after 30 days they become a resident. So, I've had them sign every time I got the DSS payment, they would have to renew their stay, every two weeks.

**Chairman Lopez**

And out of the inquiries that you're getting, are there are a large number of people with disabilities that are displaced, that are looking for housing?

**Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

I would also work with families and individuals as long as they are not a threat to my homeowner. And yes, there are. I do believe that there are people with disabilities, of physical and mental, that our homeless.

**Chairman Lopez**

Okay. And with these... And I'm sure it would be difficult to make the proper changes or the renovations in order to make these units, accessible. Especially if somebody has a physical disability. You know, ramp-wise or wheelchair accessible, showers. Like, all those things you have to take in consideration, as well. It would make it more difficult, especially, if you're looking for the funding to do so.

**Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

We do have a Gilles Malkine at (RCAL Architectural Modification Consultant & Loan Closet Representative/Accessibility Issues)

**Chairman Lopez**

Gilles is great.

**Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

He is ... and he finds tax deductions and tax credits if you want to do that. There are just grab bars by the toilet and bathroom in the shower that could be done without like really changing the structure of the home.

**Chairman Lopez**

Sure.

**Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

There are portable ramps, so I was the RCAL E-MOD provider for the Nursing Home Transition Diversion Program which we only did E-MOD's. So, there are difficulties with accessibility, but we need more. We need more of them, and we need more education. Even in the real estate field, there's no training to help people with a disability get into homes. So, our facilities are overrun for that. They just can't find space that accommodates.

**Chairman Lopez**

Right. Now how active is RCAL? Are you working with them as well? I know that you do work with RCAL, right?

**Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

I do. I just got hired with RCAL this year. And I am the Ulster County Housing Specialist. However, I was told that I'm the Lower Hudson Valley Specialist, so, I deal in Dutchess. Also, and other counties. And I had to start 48 clients, and I'm told there's like another 30 on my caseload that are waiting to transition into housing.

**Chairman Lopez**

Wow. Okay. Are there any other...

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Yeah. Could I ask two questions? One, can you say more about how it's self-funded, or like what the kind of how that works? And then I'm also curious, similar to the question Legislator Criswell asked about RUPCO. I'm curious if you've spoken to the Family of Woodstock, which I think does administer emergency housing.

**Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

So, the self-funding the... contract pays Family of Woodstock, \$130 a night. So, the Family of Woodstock, for a family of nine, received \$40,000 in two weeks. So, my program, I would only ask for \$50 to \$75 per night. That would give me an average about \$1,500 dollars per person, per month. And that's enough to pay the landlord and get them started in some kind of self-sufficiency goal. Family of Woodstock. I've mentioned in the past, it's very hard to work with nonprofits. I mean, I've been on the board for Kingston Housing Authority, trying to get education to the tenants, and they're finally looking at it, and it's been a year since I've been on the Board. So, I did go to the Department of Social Services and speak to them about this. And about four years ago, and I did... I was able to - well, Mike Iapoce said if I can get the legal kinks worked out, he would contract with me and to talk to his people. And that was the end of the conversation. Because I submitted it with the legal kinks worked out, and I didn't get an answer, and I submitted twice. So, I'm not believing that I do need Family of Woodstock. They are actually looking for landlords themselves. I'm a licensed real estate broker and I do property management. So, I'd be able to contract with them myself. And now, with the help of a fiscal management for the income. Did I answer your question?

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Yeah. Thank you.

**Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

You're welcome.

**Chairman Lopez**

Okay. Anybody else. No. Okay. All right. Well, oh, Pete, I don't think you're... Are you trying to say something? You were muted.

**Chairman Lopez**

All right, very good. Well, thank you for joining us tonight and I appreciate the information.

**Karen Winkle-Gorsline**

I Thank you, and have a good evening everybody. Thank you for your time. Good night.

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**Chairman Lopez**

Okay. All right. Are we good? Should I move on? Go on to resolutions?

**Chairman Lopez**

We will start with resolution 195. That's Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Gateway Community Industries, Inc. For an increased amount of funding from OMH, OASIS, and OPWDD.

**Legislator Criswell**

I'll move there for discussion.

**Chairman Lopez**

Second, I think that was.

**Legislator Petit**

Me.

**Chairman Lopez**

Oh, okay, Laura's the second. All right, discussion?

**Chairman Lopez**

And this clears about \$197,179. Four percent County; there is 96 percent State.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

There's about nine programs that go with this contract.

**Legislator Bruno**

This is for the substance abuse stuff at OASAS, right?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

It's a supportive housing contract: treatment apartment, vocational rehab, certified work activities, sheltered workshop, comprehensive recovery-oriented services with a clinic, non-Medicaid care coordination. There's a few programs.

**Chairman Lopez**

Business services, I think, is...

**Legislator Bruno**

How much of an increase is this from last year?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

It's a \$197,000 increase.

**Legislator Bruno**

Increase.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

It's the same term. They're just adding pass-through money. OASAS is basically adding money. This isn't adding... The prior contract was from.... It was for this year, 1/1/20 to 12/31/20. We're not adding time here. We're going and adding... it was a \$2.5 million contract, previously and OASAS is adding \$197,190 to the contract.

**Chairman Lopez**

Right. It's pass-through dollars, it's not an addition, it's...

**Deputy Executive Ryder**

Right.

**Legislator Bruno**

Okay, just want to be clear on that.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Yep.

**Legislator Bruno**

I'm just... the reason I'm bringing that up, as much as I support this, well, given our circumstances throughout the County and throughout the State after COVID, I think we have to be a bit careful.

**Deputy Executive Ryder**

I agree.

**Legislator Bruno**

Where our monies are going (inaudible) to have to make difficult cuts. I just want to make sure that we make the right cuts in the right places. That's why I'm asking if this is an increase or, what this is about, exactly.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Not an increase in County cost; an increase in State.

**Legislator Bruno**

Not that they're going to be in better shape than we are.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

I hear you. They've committed to it though.

**Legislator Bruno**

If they've committed to it, I'm okay with that.

**Chairman Lopez**

Laura



**Legislator Petit**

Marc, that's... I mean, Al made a good point because contract is with the County. What do we do if the State, all of a sudden doesn't ante up the money, or is it already there and available?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

I mean it's a task so we...Go ahead Craig sorry.

**Chairman Lopez**

No, it's already budgeted. It's already there.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

The State has already guaranteed. I mean if they didn't... If they came in and said they weren't going to reimburse us, we wouldn't spend the money. If this was part of the, you know, cuts that's coming down from these tranches, then we would just reduce this contract. We wouldn't spend the full amount.

**Legislator Petit**

Okay. Okay.

**Chairman Lopez**

Alright anything else?

**Chairman Lopez**

All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye. (5-0)

**Chairman Lopez**

Resolution 196: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – The Trustees Of Columbia University for increased funding from the HEALing Communities Grant.

**Chairman Lopez**

Move for discussion.

**Legislator Petit**

I'll move it.

**Chairman Lopez**

Laura.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

I'll second.

**Chairman Lopez**

All right discussion?

**Chairman Lopez**

Your familiar with the HEALing Communities Grant, correct? Everybody?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

This is our year-two. This is funding year-two of the study.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yep. Year-two. And it's a three-year study, right? If I remember correctly, it was what a \$2.5 million grant for a three-year study.

**Legislator Petit**

Are we going to take into consideration, I mean, the opioid deaths and use are on the rise, but I mean these are - It's a COVID epidemic, so, I'm sure part of that is, you know, the way people in need are coping? Are we going to take that into consideration when we look at the overall County needs?

**Chairman Lopez**

I would assume so. Because it's in real time. So, it would, I would assume they would take into consideration as things are happening. Marc, you would agree, correct?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Yeah, they're definitely... I mean they're looking at things as we go. And the working group, which is somewhere between 50 and 70 people, is helping make decisions. Like Craig said, in real time, on the different programs.

**Chairman Lopez**

Right, circumstances. Okay. Anything else?

**Chairman Lopez**

All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye. (5-0)

**Chairman Lopez**

All right. Move on to Resolution 197: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment Causing The Aggregate Contract...

**Chairman Lopez**

Yes.

**Legislator Bruno**

Craig if can interrupt you just for a second. I'm sorry, Eve was trying to ask a question before.

**Chairman Lopez**

Oh, was she? Okay.

**Legislator Bruno**

But she was muted.

**Legislator Walter**

Well I wasn't called on. I didn't...Okay, I just, just trying to say...

**Chairman Lopez**

Just chime in - I can't see everybody at once, so.

**Legislator Walter**

It's not a big deal. I just... I'm part of the HEAL working group. So, if you have any questions, I could happily answer as well.

**Chairman Lopez**

Okay. Laura, was your question answered?

**Chairman Lopez**

Okay, we're good? Can we move on?

**Legislator Petit**

Could Eve update us on what the committee's doing? I have looked at some minutes, but I mean you've obviously been meeting, and I don't know if there's any new programs out. We have a wonderful person out in New Paltz, Phoenix, who is really on top of opioid use in mental health issues. You know, and opens it up to the community so they have all these avenues and resources. And she's been concerned that there's an increase.

**Legislator Walter**

So, if Craig wants, if you want to put me on the next month's agenda to talk about what's going on, I'd be happy to have something prepared for you.

**Chairman Lopez**

Sure, I actually think that's a great idea. Okay, very good. We will do that. Are you good with that, Laura?

**Legislator Petit**

Absolutely. Thank you.

**Chairman Lopez**

Okay, cool. Alright very good.

**Chairman Lopez**

We'll move on to Resolution 197 then: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment Causing The Aggregate Contract Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – James McGuinness & Associates, Inc.

**Chairman Lopez**

Move for discussion.

**Legislator Petit**

I'll move it.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

I'll second.

**Chairman Lopez**

All right, discussion – anything?

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Yeah, would it be possible just to have an overview of this from Deputy Executive Rider?

I just would like that kind of elevator pitch for what's going on here.

**Chairman Lopez**

Well this. Okay, got it. I don't know, I was going to say that it extends the term of agreement, increases funding for software maintenance, right. It says that, that's this contract?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Yes.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah, and it's for the preschool program. But if you want to elaborate on the actual program, you can Marc.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Yeah, so, it's contract that we use for preschool intervention, which is mainly driven by the State. We actually don't have a lot of, say in who we give the services to, or who we use as providers. This contract itself, or the software itself, is used a lot for payroll of paying the providers. It's entering the system to track account for children, which is something that's required by the State. It enters the evaluations as vouchers. They provide maintenance and fiscal reporting. So, it's just revolving around, and what our preschool unit uses to track, and pay the vendors used for preschool intervention.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

And it's not. We don't have... When you say it's, you know, State program, we don't have much autonomy in procurement?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

No.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Okay, because I just you know for me, I look at a contract increase for software. Well yeah, I look at something that has dates going back to 2011. And I'm, you know, I don't use any software today from 2011. And here we are paying an increase for software from 2011.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

I hear you. I mean it's a yearly the maintenance contract. I don't know if I'd say...

**Legislator Uchitelle**

It is worth acknowledging that the yearly costs for how software gets updated so that it doesn't act like software from 2011, and that's not work. But you know, software is like a garden that needs to be attended to. It's not a house that you just build and leave behind. So, I understand that.

**Legislator Bruno**

And I find it interesting there's that kind of money for, not belittling preschool, but we're such a small segment. I get it Abe, I see where you're coming from. You look at the technology back in 2011, you know, a \$100,000 you know what I mean for a handful of kids in preschool. We have kids that aren't graduating from high school, it what's going on in our world.

**Legislator Criswell**

I have to say, I had the same impression. I thought, wow, it's like glorified QuickBooks, or something. You know it's a lot of money to spend for tracking. If that's what we're doing, saying you're tracking payments, you're tracking vendors. That's a lot of money to spend on tracking payments and vendors.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Honestly, think it's one of these things that we pay for but then we don't really have much say in determining who the software is used. Because each county is using the same software for this.

**Legislator Bruno**

Does this go out to some sort of a bid that this particular company bid on it and got the low bid? How, I mean granted I'm a new legislator so I wasn't around when this happened. So, I'm curious as to how they picked this particular company and the pricing.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Yeah, I wasn't around when this company was picked. But Professional Services, my guess was, I mean it was, it was done in 2010, like, it was pointed out. You know, through our

procurement manual we require that to be some kind of RFP. But again, I believe, I can go look at the original contract. I believe the State had a lot of say in kind of how this was chosen.

**Chairman Lopez**

Alright.

**Legislator Criswell**

It'd be great to see if we're if we're able to put this out to bid again next year, just as a comparison.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Yeah, we'll take a look at that.

**Legislator Bruno**

I think we need to look at that closely because 2010. 10 years old. We're basically, what we're doing is we're accepting their increases in spending almost carte blanche. Like you know, they can put any number they wanted on there and we're pretty much I don't want to say held hostage by them but, that's what it kind of seems like.

**Deputy Executive Ryder**

Fair enough.

**Chairman Lopez**

Alright. Any other discussion? All in favor.

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye. (5-0)

**Chairman Lopez**

A reluctant aye? Okay.

**Chairman Lopez**

All right, Resolution... Where are we at 207? Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Department Of Health To Continue The Drinking Water Enhancement Program.

**Chairman Lopez**

Move for discussion.

**Legislator Criswell**

I'll move that.

**Legislator Petit**

I'll second.

**Chairman Lopez**

Discussion.

**Legislator Petit**

Oh, you're reading my mind. You're awesome, thank you.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

This is how we fund a lot of our environmental health positions, the ones who go out and do reviews, and regulate water systems. So, the State Department of Health gives us a grant. This is a five-year grant for the million between now and 2025, and it helps us offset some of those staff positions.

**Legislator Bruno**

So, if given what's going on again, I know I sound like a broken record here but, given what's going on, if the State decides that there not going to fund that, what happens? Are we on the hook for them?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

So, this is offsetting. We're mandated to regulate these water systems, these public water systems. It's one of the Article 6 Public Health mandates. So, this gets us, allows us I think a 35 percent reimbursement on the salaries. But yes, to your point, if the State decides that they're going to no longer fund these reimbursements, we would likely have to pick up these, the additional costs because we don't have a choice but to regulate these.

**Legislator Bruno**

Or we'll be in a position where we will end up having to downsize the staff.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

It's possible, if we were able to do it within, you know, and still get the work done. It's something we'd have to evaluate.



**Legislator Bruno**

Okay.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah, that was the case, you know, in the State, couldn't provide funds on a number of programs, we'd be in a lot of trouble, but...

**Legislator Bruno**

Honestly, I foresee that happening. That's why I keep asking the same kind of questions. I don't mean to sound like a broken record. But... yeah, I see he's on here as well. I mean everybody knows this, we're going to be in financial straits. And I'm thinking we need to think this way.

**Legislator Criswell**

Well, would they in any way adjust their mandates? Or would the mandate stay the exact same, and say, suck it up County?

**Legislator Bruno**

Based on history, they'll probably say 'suck it up, County.'

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah absolutely I would agree with the latter. No, they have... And you would think that if they were going to then, they would find less critical places to draw from. Because, if you're going to, if it's going to affect our water and our quality of water and, you know, potentially new problematic, you know, and regulatory requirements, they're going to deny, that becomes a problem. So, you know, I and there's plenty of programs out there that I would assume would take precedent over things that, you know, could potentially be harmful or, you know, affect the health of our County. But you never know. It's the State, so.

**Chairman Lopez**

Laura go ahead.

**Legislator Petit**

Thank you. We've had in the past, resolutions that have created jobs that are grant-funded. From what Deputy Rider said this is only 35 percent. But given that we put a paragraph in there, stating that this was a grant-funded job. So, it wouldn't be surprised to the person who's filling that position if the grant money dried up and they no longer had a position. Should we put that into this resolution, as well? Or wait for it to go through Ways and Means?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

I don't know if you can see me Craig, do you mind if I just say something real quick?

**Chairman Lopez**

Oh yeah, no, was that the question was directed at you, correct? Yeah, okay. Okay, go ahead.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

I didn't know if it was a question that was directed to the whole group for me. These are a different. I mean this is not exactly a grant-funded position. These are the people in our Environmental Health Division they do a lot of this type of work, and they go around, some of them, in any given day, will work on these water programs. And then also, they have to clock their time to various different programs and various different State funding. I think this is different than saying it's a grant-funded position. Yes, we get some reimbursements back through Article 6 of the State, but it's not exactly a grant. So, I don't think that we... if it was like this was 100 percent position, and we could say if this grant goes away, we could remove the position. I think that would work. Each of these individuals work on maybe 6-7-8 state funded partially programs. And I don't, I don't think of this in the same level as a grant fund. We're going to have a resolution, maybe even the next one, where we're creating some HEALing Grant funded positions. That's, that's where that kind of language, belongs not on a resolution like this.

**Legislator Petit**

Thank you.

**Chairman Lopez**

Okay. Anything else? All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye. (5-0)

**Chairman Lopez**

Resolution 208: Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept HEALing Communities Study Funding And Create Positions.

**Legislator Petit**

I'll move it.

**Legislator Bruno**

I'll second it.

**Chairman Lopez**

Second, discussion.

**Legislator Criswell**

Again Marc, this is year-two of this program?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Yes, year-two. Project Manager, Data Surveillance Coordinator, these two positions were mandatory by the HEALing Communities Grant. And the Community Engagement Facilitator was one highly recommended. They had a few different Community Engagement Facilitator and Technical Assistance Specialists they allowed us to put that position into two, or two positions into one, but they, they really wanted us to have each of these various positions. And then part of the other money will go towards the interventions that we talked about that Legislator Walter will come back and kind of talk about next month. But those are the different programs. They wanted us to send some of the money toward staffing that will work with the Columbia group.

**Chairman Lopez**

And this is one of those contracts where the positions will be removed when the funding is no longer available. Kind of what, you know, Laura was alluding to, with grant related funding. What happens when it's no longer there. And this is an example of a contract that does it.

**Legislator Petit**

But should we put that language in this now? So, when it gets kicked over to, you know, to Ways and Means, it'll be in there already.

**Chairman Lopez**

What? That the position will be removed when the funding is no longer there?

**Chairman Lopez**

Is it in the contract, it may be in the contract.

**Legislator Petit**

I don't know if I saw it.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah.

**Legislator Petit**

Because I've got two tablets going at once it's really slow down. I'm overloading the internet.

**Chairman Lopez**

Let me see. Anybody else. It may take me a second.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

I don't see it in the resolution.

**Chairman Lopez**

They don't. Okay. All right. Yeah, if that's something that we could add. Or we can bring it up in Ways and Means. Let me see. I thought I read that somewhere.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Oh sorry, my bad. It is on page three for the lovable created will be removed when funding is no longer available unless other State or Federal funding is provided.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Okay, yeah, I thought I had read it some place. Very good. All right. Any further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor.

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye. (5-0)

**Chairman Lopez**

Resolution 209: Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept Supplemental Public Health Emergency Preparedness Funding From New York State Department of Health for COVID-19.

**Chairman Lopez**

Move it?

**Legislator Criswell**

Move it.

**Legislator Petit**

I'll move it or second it.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah, this is in the amount of \$15,000 and it'll cover Social Security, retirement, health insurance. And this in a couple of parts right that there's a Resolution 209, and 210, and it covers different time periods, right Marc?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Correct yeah, so this first one goes just from January 20, 2020 through September 4, 2020.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yes.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

And it's just a small... You know, I think it was part of the first passing of the Cares. And then the next resolution goes much longer period and it's a much larger amount. This one's only for \$15,000. But it's used to offset some of the employees that we've had to use directly towards COVID.

**Chairman Lopez**

Sure.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

You like it when you get an email that says here, we're giving you \$15,000 or \$211,000.

**Legislator Bruno**

How do you say no?

**Legislator Criswell**

You don't.

**Chairman Lopez**

Very good. All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye. (5-0)

**Chairman Lopez**

All right, Resolution 211: Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Funds From The Redlich Horwitz Foundation To Support Virtual Family Connectivity Within The Foster Care Program

**Legislator Criswell**

Did we vote on 210?

**Legislator Bruno**

We skipped 210.

**Chairman Lopez**

Oh, 210 That's right. Because it's two separate values.

**Nettie Tomshaw**

You need to do 210.

**Chairman Lopez**

Gotcha. All right, this is: Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept Supplemental Public Health Emergency Preparedness Funding From New York State Department Of Health For COVID-19

**Legislator Criswell**

I'll move on to discussion.

**Chairman Lopez**

All right. The second

**Legislator Bruno**

Second.

**Chairman Lopez**

It is the same as 209, for different time period. Any other discussion?

**Chairman Lopez**

All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye. Aye. (5-0)

**Chairman Lopez**

Now, 211. All right. This is Amending The 2020 Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Funds From The - how do we pronounce it, Redlich Horwitz Foundation To Support Virtual Family Connectivity Within The Foster Care Program.

**Chairman Lopez**

Now we can move it.

**Legislator Criswell**

I'll move it.

**Chairman Lopez**

Second?

**Legislator Petit**

I'll Second.

**Legislator Criswell**

I had a question is this is this a match fund?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

No, I think this was just this organization reaching out and, again, giving us \$20,000 in order to help some of our clients with virtual services.

**Legislator Criswell**

Okay. Thank you.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

So, it'll get used for the purchase of hardware or phones.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah, hardware, software, cell phones. Yeah, like it is said in the title, for connectivity within families. So, it's a good one. It's good. It's a good program too. So, Any other discussion?

**Chairman Lopez**

All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye. (5-0)

**Legislator Criswell**

Do they have any more money that they would like to fund us at this moment?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

We always go back and ask.

**Legislator Criswell**

We can always go back and ask.

**Legislator Petit**

Maybe we could get them to fund the Family of Woodstock that's been on the table now for noncustodial parents and supervised visitation.

**Legislator Criswell**

Actually, Marc, I had a question. Is there a grants management office in Ulster County?

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Ulster County does not have a singular grant management office. And so, we don't have like a grant manager or, you know, there are various people in each department that are skilled at going after grants, and grant writing, and administration.

**Legislator Criswell**

I just know in the City of Kingston, once they established that office, and really... they've hit it hard and they've gotten some humongous grant some really, really good grants. So, I'm just curious. I didn't know what the setup was in the County.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

In the past there has not ever been one.



**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah, I thought for some reason, under, under Mike, there was a she had a grant writer. I don't know if they were on staff or just somebody in particular that they used. So, I may be mistaken. Alright, we will move on... oh, wait. Oh yeah, we voted.

**Chairman Lopez**

All right, Resolution 225: Calling On Westchester Medical Center/Health Alliance Of The Hudson Valley To Return Inpatient Mental Health Services To Ulster County And Calling On The County Executive To Reestablish Mental Health Care As A County-Delivered Service

**Legislator Criswell**

I'll move that.

**Chairman Lopez**

You got a second.

**Legislator Bruno**

I'll second.

**Legislator Petit**

Alright. If it's alright with the sponsors, I mean I realized my name's on here as a committee member, but I'd like to have my name added. I think that's really wonderful. Thank you.

**Legislator Petit**

Eve has her hand up.

**Chairman Lopez**

Okay. Yeah, sure, Eve.

**Legislator Walter**

Hi, thanks. So, as a sponsor I just wanted to really reiterate... First of all, I really appreciate that the Executive and Jen Metzger, Senator has come up and publicly referenced the same thing.

**Legislator Walter**

My dog is now biting my hand. And he was so quiet this whole time.

**Legislator Walter**

So, this is a big deal. And on two levels, there's kind of two things I'm asking for. Whereas Peter and I are asking for on this resolution.

**Legislator Walter**

The first one is really joining the Executives and Senator, and trying to not only encourage Westchester Medical Center to bring back the inpatient mental health. And for those of you who don't know... You know, it's not only inpatient for mental health but they also have rehab and detox. And so, we have no rehab or detox inpatient care in the County right now. And, and if someone shows up at our ER (Emergency Room), they also have to be transported. And if there's no room in Poughkeepsie, they go down to Port Jervis, or Valhalla. Which then also consumes our EMS services, so, they can't be responsive to other kinds of emergencies. And so, this is a big deal. But it also relates to the fact that we've had the County privatized several years ago. This is why privatization is not a good idea. Because this kind of thing can happen, and we have absolutely no power to stop it. So, I really, I know... on the Executive side, and many other Legislators have talk about how we need to really do something about the privatization [super-sizing policy] now. I really would love to see representatives from the Department of Health, Mental Health, here at this committee. You know, at the next meeting, or meeting after, and to talk about how we can really start moving towards regaining some of these programs back in the County. Enough talking about it. Let's start making a plan. And so those are the two elements.

**Chairman Lopez**

Al

**Legislator Bruno**

First of all, Eve, as well I'd like to put on as a sponsor, if I could. I think this is paramount to this to the health of Ulster County right now. If somebody's having an issue and they have to be transported to Poughkeepsie, or Valhalla, or somewhere else, not only does it play place of confusing hardship on them, but their families. One of the key things with this is that they had to support the local supportive of families when they're going through this hard time. And now it's creating a situation where families have to travel to where they're at as an inpatient. Or even as an outpatient. They have to do services, to go back and forth to Poughkeepsie. And they don't have the means to do it. I think it's extremely short-sighted, on whether it be Michael Doyles, whoever made that final decision, to do something like this. Ulster County is a huge, huge county in the land area. And to force the constituents to travel to another county is, it's beyond my comprehension of why they would do that.

**Legislator Walter**

I don't have evidence of this, but there is rumors that this was the plan all along. I went to Westchester Medical Center. I have no idea if that's true, you know, even before the COVID decision to move them out for the space. But you know, that's why this, this is calling on them. If they're not moving them back, they need to tell us they're not going to move them back. Don't keep that information. So, that we can actually figure out what we have to do.

**Legislator Bruno**

I think it was pretty... Honestly, I think it was kind of underhanded for Westchester Medical Center to use a crisis such as COVID, where we needed the extra beds, as an excuse to pull them out of the county. And especially when we realized that we didn't need those, they should have been brought back immediately. And what I also find interesting in this whole scenario is that, and I'm not saying, I'm not a conspiracy theorist here, but the interesting fact is Michael Doyle, who is now Director of Health Alliance, it's interesting that he was the medical director of Vassar Brothers Medical Center, prior to coming to Kingston. And Vassar Medical Center in Poughkeepsie doesn't have it either. They don't have a mental health facility. Including, at this point, the new per patient [inaudible]. And he was part of that. He comes to Kingston, and all of a sudden, the mental health facilities are going away there too. They're going to another hospital. I find that almost too ironic, to be honest with you.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah, go ahead.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

I was just going to say, you know, to just underscore the issue with, you know, avoiding needless medical transportation between facilities. It's one of the most difficult bills to deal with, when you get your medical bills, after an emergency. And I went through this with Westchester Medical and with, you know, being put in an ambulance, and then a helicopter, that I wasn't expecting. And it was a nightmare. Particularly the ambulance. And particularly the, you know, the one that Westchester called. And it's just so challenging. So, you know, for that reason I feel very strongly, and for all the other reasons mentioned. And then the other thing I'll just add is, you know, Eve, you know, gave a shout out to Senator Metzger and County Executive Ryan. And you know, always to give credit where credit is due, I also want to recognize Assemblyman Cahill who did also speak out very strongly about this, as well. So, you know, want to recognize Assemblyman Cahill for speaking out on this.

**Legislator Bruno**

You know, if I can, I'm pretty passionate about this if you haven't noticed here. You know, Health Alliance is in the process of remaking their hospital. Moving the emergency room to the former Benedictine Campus and using Broadway campus to become a medical facility, as well. Actually, there is no reason between the two hospitals that they cannot provide 16 beds, 65 beds, total I think it is. I mean, it's just there's no justification. I can't see a justification, either financially, or morally, for an action such as this.

**Legislator Criswell**

This is also some of our most vulnerable population. And so, to not serve them is just wrong. So we have to move this forward.

**Chairman Lopez**

What I think is important, and I didn't notice any language in this resolution, but it is a financial evaluation. As part of any plan for the County to reacquire mental health services, I think what would be important. I think we all realize that the direction we decide to go in, would no doubt be with substantial price tag. If you're going to reacquire mental health services here in the County, especially if you can't do it in-house, and you're looking at new hires. In order to do so, you know, it will come with a cost. And I think that's something that should be addressed, you know, in any plan that they come up with. So, yeah, I just didn't notice it. And if anything, I thought that, including that language, you know that the fiscal aspect of this is equally important, you know, perhaps in a resolve. I think would be something that we should consider.

**Legislator Walter**

I'd be happy, if you want to make suggestions. I'll just say that I intentionally kept it vague. I just wanted them to start the work. Because we have been talking... I mean I haven't been on the Legislature, but I know that people on the Legislature, people in the community, have been talking about... We need to just start the conversation about what we need to do. And so, obviously, that is going to be an important element. It may be that several things still also remain privatized but that there'd be some kind of coordination of effort. But you know one way or another, we just need to start. And then of course, what the cost would be to the County. And which ones are recoverable from the State. And you know, that that's totally important. I just wanted the conversation to start.

**Chairman Lopez**

Sure.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Do you mind. It looks like Pat wants to jump in.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yeah, sure Pat.

**County Executive Ryan 59:31**

Hey everybody. Thanks for letting me crash. I wanted to jump in, it's actually the first time I've ever joined a committee meeting. Sorry, to hijack for a second. But I obviously, I didn't catch the whole thing. I just came in for this part. I agree with what everybody said, particularly about the Health Alliance departure. I do want to, in the spirit of just being candid, raise some concerns or questions about the second half of the resolution. Because the concern I have, is just that, I'm open to the discussion as you said, Eve. I think we have to have it especially in light of the potential Health Alliance piece, but I think introducing the discussion in this way might set expectations that are unfair to the public in terms of our ability to frankly do something like that right now. I mean, the scope of what we'd be talking about from a budgetary perspective is, I mean I don't know because I haven't done the analysis but it's, it would be 10s of millions, if not hundreds of millions a year between we'd have to build their own facilities, hire staff, build that whole capacity. I just don't know, without some more specificity, I'd have real concern about introducing the concept and setting an expectation that the County... to just be totally blunt, is even in a position to take things back over right now when we have a potential \$35 million hole. So, I don't mean to be a naysayer because I've called out these issues too. I just want us to work productively together. And not set an expectation with the public, through a resolution, that we can't deliver on. So, I did think it was important to raise that now, through the committee and I'm committed to having a discussion we can make our staff available myself available. And we've been engaging. I had a really good call. Sorry, I'll be done in a second I had a really good call with Mike Israel this morning, actually the Westchester Medical (WMC) CEO to raise the concerns. And I think coming out of that regardless of whatever happens from their side, we obviously need to take more ownership of this, and not count on others as much to do it and wrap our arms around the whole continuum of care from inpatient to outpatient and all the other pieces that go into it. I'm committed to that. I guess what I've asked is that if we're going to introduce such a pretty big idea, and I love big ideas, but that there, you know, there needs to be a little more analysis into it. Particularly on the cost side. And then I'd want to hear from you guys the expectation of what you mean by... County... what was the term... County delivered. So, which services do we provide? At what cost? Do we build physical space? Are these County employees? Are we contracting out? And how responsible is that given our current budgetary situation which is an absolute disaster right now. So, I'll stop there. I appreciate you letting me go in and just raise that.

**Legislator Walter**

May I respond, Craig?

**Chairman Lopez**

Well, the good thing about this resolution it's, it's basically, but it's memorializing in nature. So, it's non-binding. I think it just opens... starts the conversation. Right. Correct, Eve?

**Legislator Walter**

Yeah, actually, yes we're talking about, and also beginning the conversation is essentially, free. I mean, I could have gone a little farther and suggested a Task Force, but I feel like we're all overwhelmed with Task Forces, right now, I just think that what this is going to look like, we don't know. This resolution is not saying that the County is taking on all mental health services that are currently privatized. It says that we're going to start the conversation about what is feasible and what is reasonable. And to bring back, to what Legislator Bruno said, or maybe it was Lopez, I can't remember, is not until we do those steps, could we even understand what kinds of costs would be there. It may turn out that there are minimal County provided services is the decision. Or it may be some kind of oversight committee to what is privatized. Who knows what it looks like. So, we can't know how much it's going to cost. All I'm asking is that the conversation get started. And I thought that it'd be... I was trying to rein back on just asking for yet another Task Force. That might be what we have to do... is form an actual group. But I just wanted to be a little softer on that. But that may need to be the direction and that could be its own resolution. But I just thought if it came... if this conversation started, then we can figure out what's the best path forward is.

**Legislator Bruno**

I want to just reiterate what Eve just said. She's absolutely right. I think we need to have a conversation. And while it may not have to be a full takeover. I think there's all kinds of in between privatizing and full County takeovers. You know, co-opting it, contracting out. But the conversation... I really believe, after what just took place, needs to happen. I think... I'm actually more for a Task Force than I think Eve is because we don't know what we don't know. And the only way we're going to learn anything is if we actually look into it. I mean, that's how you do it. How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time. So, I think looking into that and starting that conversation is really good thing to do. Thankyou Eve for writing this. I think it's spot on.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Do you mind if I just add in?

**Chairman Lopez**

Sure, go ahead, Marc.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

My only question is, has this gone through Legislative Counsel? I know the County Attorney hasn't looked at it. I just get worried about language in a resolve that says that the policymaking body of the County government calls on the Executive to begin the process of, you know, developing a plan to establish mental health as a County-delivered service. I just get what maybe the intention behind the resolution was, and I think it's a great intention. I just worry, you know, unless Counsel has looked at it what this really begins.

**County Executive Ryan**

Yeah, and I know, I want to build on that. I think we are all on the same page here. But it's more of a style versus substance question, which is just that same flag that... I just think it's important that if we want to have a discussion... I'm saying to you all right now, and joining the meeting to say, we're happy to have that discussion. And by your own admission, the resolution isn't binding. So, I guess if the goal is to broker the discussion, then we're happy to do that. And if anyone had reached out to ask, I would have been happy to do that without a resolution. So, I'd just as soon do that, and make the resolution about something that's actually achievable, so, that we're setting expectations to the public, that we can deliver on collectively. Rather than... I know how complex this is, and you all do too. But to introduce a County-delivered approach as the starting point to the public face of this... I'm just very concerned that we're never going to be able to meet that. Or if we did, it would be, I mean it would probably add... I don't know 20% to our annual budget to do. There's a reason, whether we agree with it or not, there's a reason that hospital systems don't want to do this work. It's because the reimbursement rates are so pathetically low. That it's highly unprofitable to do. So, I think the taxpayers have a right to understand all those components to this. And I don't think this resolution, as its stated, fairly portrays all the pros and cons. Or the trade-offs that would come with this from a budget, and ultimately tax burden perspective. Because I have no idea how we raise the revenue to do this.

**Legislator Walter**

I would like to reiterate that this is a memorializing resolution. And this is a mechanism that the Legislature can use to inform the Executive that this is something that's important to us. And as a memorialized resolution, this is our communication tool. And I appreciate that you're open to do it. So, it shouldn't be a problem. But what we're asking is that the conversation start. And I appreciate that you're willing to start those conversations, and just letting the public know that we care, and letting the public know that we're taking it seriously. And also, letting public know we're not going to just let it slip by. If we vote for this, we're going to make sure these conversations really do start. And that's what our job is.

**County Executive Ryan**

My proposal... I get that, my proposal would be that... It sounds like the majority of the concern is about the first half of this resolution. That sounds like where there's consensus and unity with all of us. From our State Legislators, to me, to us all. It's the second half. It would be my request that be either delayed or considered more in depth, and not attached to another issue where there is consensus. Because I feel that if asked about this, we'd have to provide some sense of the cost. And I think once that came to light, there would be much less support for it. And so, I guess, in some ways it's maybe even just asking you all to consider separating them. Because they really are separate issues. And I think they'll even get conflated in people's mind. That, for example, we would somehow be able to take on these 60 beds. For example, which there's just absolutely no way we could do in any time under five-years type of a thing at the soonest. And again, with a huge tax increase. So, my point to you all is, just being candid, if asked about the second half of this, I would have to say that I have serious concerns about the County taking this on. And once you put it out in the public, in a resolution, I'll probably get asked about it. And I'd rather us be aligned, rather than not.

**Legislator Walter**

I hear you. I recognize that it could be read in two ways. It could be read that the County is delivering some mental health service. Or it could be read that the County is delivering all mental health service. The intention wasn't that the County was going to be responsible for 100 percent. I'm happy... I'm not... I want to keep that second resolve because I think the conversation is important. But I'm happy to work with Peter, and other sponsors, on how we can clarify that sentence so that it's not suggesting that we think the County should do 100 percent of the of the mental health, because that wasn't the intent.

**County Executive Ryan**

Yeah, I think it comes across that way.

**Legislator Walter**

I see that. I can see how you can read it that way. That wasn't my intent. I didn't read it that way, but now that you mentioned it. So, Peter and I will get together, and anyone else who wants to, and just tweak it enough so that it's clear that we're not suggesting that 100 percent of mental health services in the County are fully delivered by the County. I wouldn't support that. I work for an organization that delivers all services, so...

**County Executive Ryan**

Well actually, then we're already... then there's nothing, I mean we already are delivering mental health services.



**Legislator Walter**

We will change the words to match our intent. Which is that we want the conversation about what we need to do better and we'll get [inaudible].

**Legislator Criswell**

And again, I want to see this as an opportunity. You know, it's like, here's a chance that we can actually start this conversation, which needs to happen. Let's think creatively about it. I think that's what Eve has in mind anyway. Like, let's figure out, is there some interesting partnership that can happen or something... Something way out of the box that we haven't even thought about. But we have to get to the table and start actually talking about how this can get resolved. So, I agree. I think we should go back we'll tweak the language and, but I do feel like we need to move this forward at this point.

**Chairman Lopez**

Well if we're going to go back and tweak the language, then perhaps we should hold off on it until you have an opportunity to get the language, right. And perhaps, you know, I could work with you as well to address, my fiscal concerns. And what type of language should be included. And, you know, at the very least to resolve that would address those issues. Or at least bring to light the possible, you know, fiscal impact, of not being able to do this in-house could cost the County by having additional hires.

**Legislator Walter**

We could amend this on the floor. I mean, you know, it's the preferable if you're supportive of where we're going, and you understand the intent of this memorializing resolution.

**Chairman Lopez**

No, and I understand that. But I also don't see the rush in moving forward, it's not... If we hold it off for a month and get a right, and you know, what's another four weeks, instead of moving forward and doing it on the floor?

**Legislator Criswell**

I think I'm going to disagree with that. I actually think that there is an urgency to get this.

**Chairman Lopez**

An urgency for... But it is a non-binding memorializing resolution. Yeah, so, but yeah, it's not necessarily going to move anything but the conversation forward. But don't you want to have, you know, other input, or get the language, right? Because from what I get, in this discussion is that, yeah, there's some things that you will consider changing or clarifying. So, to me, I would, I would be more comfortable... Let's hold it off for a month. Let's get the language, right. And that way we're all on the same page. And maybe during that time,

we can address the issues, both that Pat brought up, and you know, that I brought up from a fiscal standpoint.

**Legislator Walter**

Again, the intent is not necessarily going to change, even if the language is clarified to not be misconstrued. So, I would hope that you would vote on it, but that's my opinion.

**Legislator Criswell**

I also feel like there's a timeliness going on right now. There's a lot of people kind of jumping on this. And I don't want to feel like we're kind of left behind in this. And I know that might sound strange, but I do feel like there's an urgency that the public is seeing right now. And I think if we're a whole month behind... they will say, where was the legislature on this?

**Legislator Bruno**

I think since it is, honestly, I think since it is a memorializing resolution I understand where you're coming from. I think the one word that concerns everybody is "County-delivery" phrase. Delivering mental health services. And I think those are the only two words that would probably be changed that I can see from what I read.

**Legislator Walter**

And we have 15 days before session. So, we have plenty of times here.

**Legislator Bruno**

I think you can tweak it before then. I don't see why it should take that long. You can still get it as a late resolution.

**Chairman Lopez**

I don't think it's going to qualify as a late resolution, being that it's a memorializing resolution. So, I don't... Yeah, If Vicky is still on. I don't know if she can speak to what would qualify for a late resolution. I just don't believe it a memorializing...

**Clerk Fabella**

Not a late resolution but it can be amended on the floor, it can be amended here. Those are your options really, or to postpone it.

**Legislator Bruno**

I mean, Executive, Ryan, Pat? The two words... the words that were concerning you, were the same ones... where the county will deliver mental health... is that what it is?

**County Executive Ryan**

I mean, in a perfect world, the concern I had is conflating the two issues into one resolution. I hear you, Legislator Criswell, on the urgency. Particularly around raising concern, to Health Alliance pulling the rug out from under us, at a time when all these services are needed even more than they have been in a long time. I think the urgency on a County-delivered healthcare... I mean that's a very weighty issue that we'd have to, to everyone's point, take a lot more time on. So, I guess, not that I have a vote in this, obviously. But it would be to move urgently on the first half, and then put more thought into the second piece. And I'll commit to you all, either me, and or my staff, sitting or whatever it takes, to have that fulsome discussion. And consider all the you know the specific pieces of what we deliver, costs, timing, and other impacts would go with it.

**Chairman Lopez**

And for me personally, like considering, you know the concerns that were raised. You know, I'm not somebody that likes to rush things. You know, especially, and I go back to this... it is memorializing in nature. You know, it's non-binding, and it's not in my opinion, that time sensitive. Of course, it's a hot issue at the moment. But I think in order to do this right, and have, you know, an inclusive conversation and get people's input. And I would be comfortable holding off for a month, and I'm working on the language tweaking it a bit, and bringing it back in July. So...

**Legislator Walter**

Craig.

**Chairman Lopez**

Yes.

**Legislator Walter**

I'd like to propose, with Legislator Criswell's permission, to change the end of the last sentence to, "begin the process of developing a plan to how to best deliver mental health care in our County." So, I'd like to strike "to reestablish mental healthcare as a County delivery service." Strike that out. And change it to, "to how best deliver mental healthcare in our County."

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Will you make an amendment to the title, as well? Because the last little bit of the title, still says. "reestablish mental healthcare as a County deliverable."

**Legislator Walter**

Yes. Yes. So, wait. Let me take a second to think about it. You talk about the first thing.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

If that's a motion, right now, to amend, I second it.

**Chairman Lopez**

Discussion on the amendment.

**Deputy Clerk Mahler**

Eve can't make the motion.

**Legislator Walter**

Right, I'm not making a motion.

**Legislator Bruno**

Can I?

**Chairman Lopez**

Yes. Okay, anybody, anybody. Yeah other than Eve.

**Legislator Bruno**

I'll make the motion to amend the second half of the resolution to the words as Eve has come up with.

**Legislator Petit**

I'll second.

**Legislator Walter**

Okay. You want the language for the title? I would suggest, and someone else make the motion... So, strike "to reestablish mental healthcare as a County-delivered service" to and change it to "begin the discussion of the trajectory of mental healthcare in our County."

**Legislator Bruno**

I'll make that motion to add amendments to the title, and adding to the first motion I made earlier.

**Chairman Lopez**

I think there was a motion on the floor.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Yeah, I think Al can just take that as a friendly onto his motion.

**Legislator Bruno**

Yeah, just add that to the original motion.

**Deputy Executive Rider**

Can I ask a quick question? Are you calling on the County Executive to begin the conversation? Or are you beginning the conversation?

**Legislator Walter**

I mean, the intent was to call on, actually, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Health to start that process. So, I'm calling on the County to begin... calling on the county to begin the discussion of the trajectory mental health care in our County. If you look at the resolve, it's not calling on the Executive, specifically. It's calling on... well, it does call the Executive, in consultation with the County Commissioner. Yeah, so I guess it is calling on the Executive. I un-strike that strike. It's asking him to take the lead on that, or his office. Does that sound reasonable, Executive Ryan?

**County Executive Ryan**

Yeah, absolutely. And I think that's closer to the intent of where I think most of us are. I really appreciate your all's willingness to have that discussion.

**Legislator Criswell**

And how will that work for you in terms of the press? If the press gets hold of this, to ask questions about? Do you think the direction is clear, but it's vague enough that it gives you room to say, we're just starting a conversation?

**County Executive Ryan**

Right, exactly. And I think this is a conversation that I wanted to have, as it relates to the 2021 budget, anyway. Based on what I've heard from so many of you, and from all the town halls, and everything that we knew was a big challenge for us. And now it's just accelerated by the potential of what, you know, Health Alliance may or may not do, depending on if we can, if we can fight them on that one. But yeah, I think that's right. Which we know the current situation doesn't work, even pre-the 60 beds. And so, what's the proper role for County government? What's the proper role for not for profit partners?

And are there other new... I mean if somebody has a great idea here, I'm all about it. Because a...

**Legislator Criswell**

And who knows who is going to raise their hand all the sudden, you know, hearing this. So, this again, might be an opportunity. So...

**County Executive Ryan**

No, I think it's great.

**Legislator Bruno**

It's starting the conversation.

**County Executive Ryan**

Exactly. I think that's how this is supposed to work. So, I really appreciate it.

**Legislator Criswell**

Good

**Chairman Lopez**

Alright, so, second the amendment? Do we have a second on that?

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Yeah, Laura seconded it.

**Chairman Lopez**

Any other discussion? On the amendment. All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye. (5-0)

**Chairman Lopez**

On the resolution as amended?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye. Aye.

**Chairman Lopez**

All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye. (5-0)

**Chairman Lopez**

Very good, I think that's it, right? That's the last resolution.

**Chairman Lopez**

Any old business, new business to discuss?

**Chairman Lopez**

Hearing none, motion to adjourn?

**Legislator Bruno**

I'll make that motion.

**Chairman Lopez**

Second.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Second.

**Chairman Lopez**

All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye. (5-0)

**Chairman Lopez**

Very good. All right, thank you very much.

**Chairman Lopez**

Thank you, everybody. Stay safe.

## Karen Winkle-Gorsline

Founder and CEO | Painted Love, Inc. | Principal Real Estate Broker  
Olmstead Housing Specialist | Commissioner, Kingston NY Housing Authority

### **People-Centered Housing Expert • Licensed Real Estate Professional**



What I do is connect people in need to the funding streams and resources for their housing solutions.

My experience has led me to combine a “systems change” perspective with a practical “on the ground” understanding of how things get done. The goal for me would be to build a capacity of community members in ways that generate shared commitment and achieve real results.

In 2011, I founded Painted Love, Inc. to assist various segments of the population that are underserved, such as: veterans, people with a physical disability, and seniors, with social and environmental enhancements and modifications to improve their living situation. I draw on a wide range of experience in social services, nonprofit advocacy and government to creatively navigate the bureaucracy of regulations in various disconnected programs in order to provide a seamless set of outcomes for those with whom I help.

As CEO of Painted Love, Inc., my projects have included efforts such as

- Nursing Home Transition Waiver Program as an Environmental Modifications and Vehicle Adaptation Provider of Service and project manager, facilitating subcontractors in making medically necessary changes to the home
- Currently providing Assistive Technology, supplying Durable Medical Equipment (DME)
- Veterans Agency Provider of Service for service members with a physical disability
- Secretary and Commissioner for the Kingston Housing Authority helping to oversee the operation of six public housing apartment complexes
- Among others

These specialty services have not only attracted people with housing needs, but various social service agencies in local government. Painted Love is a New York State certified Minority Women Business Enterprise (WMBE) that has a certification in providing real estate asset management, sales, and services.

I also have a range of experience in real estate and property management. Under Karen Winkle Realty, I am individually licensed as a Real Estate Broker and a Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES). In the past, I have designed cost-effective ways to empower my clients to combine continuous “learning and doing” into daily activities that achieve priority-driven, measurable outcomes.

Currently, I am serving Resource Center for Accessible Living (RCAL) as an Olmstead Housing Specialist (OHS), where I help to transition nursing home residents back into a community-based setting with financial housing assistance that connects them with local agency supportive service provision.



The following are proposed solution outlines to create additional residential housing inventory with models that benefit temporary tenants and home owners.

With the help of the Human Service community, we can secure an emergency housing solution to provide temporary shelters that transition participants into permanent housing. We would need to become a “emergency housing vendor” for the UC Department of Social Services for both eligible homeless families and individuals.

Painted Love, Inc. is a certified NYS MWBE (Property Asset Management) and NGOH, LLC (as Fiscal Administrator) will partner to contract with UCDSS. We are willing to provide resources to develop a reliable standard through a residential network with community cooperation and courtesies of the association members and job training through volunteering with non-profit organizations.

Two companies will facilitate an alternative to housing through a “Community-based Home-owner Association” and “Satellite Sites-Owner/Landlord” partners for monitoring and oversight for a better-quality housing experience verses the current hotel room accommodation model currently being utilized.

We can build resources to create a viable emergency residential resource providing safe spaces of any size to offer these community-based added services.

This would allow human service organizations to enjoy uninterrupted service provision with tangible contact information, so they may continue with programs that effectively help move them to permanent housing solutions.

This model will become self-funded and provide jobs skills through services and “Emergency Housing” funds. With community partnerships we can also seek permanent housing through attached and detached “Accessory Dwelling Units”.

A “Community-based Home-owner Association” provides a different perspective for helping participants gain skill sets for job readiness. It will seek non-profit organizations to offer volunteer opportunities and give hands on experience to create actual job experience and opportunities or small business.

It is a discrete way to develop tools that establish a mindset for self-sufficiency and address individual issues while evaluating progress for the participants who are currently unstably housed with very little support systems.