

Public Health & Social Services Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: July 6, 2020 – 5:00 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,
Meeting ID: 993 6928 3072
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Craig Lopez
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Nettie Tomshaw, Laurie Lichtenstein
PRESENT: Legislators Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Eve Walter, Deputy County Executive Marc Rider

Chair Lopez called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

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

- Legislator Eve Walter – Update on the Ulster County / Columbia University HEALing Communities Study (See meeting transcript)

Resolutions for the July 21, 2020 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 245: Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept Increased Funding From The New York State Office Of Addiction Services And Supports For Minimum Wage And Workforce Cost Of Living Adjustments – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the 2020 UC Budget accepting additional funding from the NYS Office of Addiction Services (OASAS) and COLA adjustments. \$8250.00 Revenue

Motion No. 2 **Moved to Discuss & Adopt Resolution No. 245**
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. 256: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Primecare Medical Of New York, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract in excess of \$50K with Primecare Medical of New York, Inc. for the purchase of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) medications for inmates utilizing a one-time funding provided to the County from the NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports. Sole source, 100% State, \$50K, Contract term 1/1/2020 – 12/31/2020.

Motion No. 3 **Moved to Discuss & Adopt Resolution No. 256**
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

Resolution No. 257: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Alison Krause, LMSW – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract (amendment #1) extending the term of agreement and increase the not-to-exceed amount for behavioral clinical services in collaboration with Child Protective Services (CPS). Professional Services 100% State, Prior Amt. \$70K, Amd. Amt. \$70K, Total Amt. \$140K. Prior Term 7/30/2019-/6/30/2020, Amd. Term 6/30/2020 – 1/15/2021.

Motion No. 4 **Moved to Discuss & Adopt Resolution No. 257**
Motion Made By: Legislator Bruno

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

Resolution No. 258: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – NYSARC, Inc. DBA The Arc Of Delaware County – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract in excess of \$50K with NYSARC, Inc. DBA The Arc of Delaware County for preschool special education professional services. 59.5% State, 40.5% County, Term 7/1/2019 – 6/30/2023. Rates anticipated to exceed \$50K.

Motion No. 5 **Moved to Discuss & Adopt Resolution No. 258**

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

New/Old Business: None

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

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Uchitelle

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bruno

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:00 PM

Respectfully submitted: Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Staff

Minutes Approved: August 3, 2020

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ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Eve Walter, Deputy County Executive Marc Rider

Chairman Lopez

Yes. Okay, great. All right. Very good. Well, welcome, everybody. I hope everybody's doing well. And you had a good Fourth of July. Nobody lost any fingers, I assume, which is good. Yeah. You don't want to end up in the ER these days. So, all right. We will start with motion to approve the minutes.

Legislator Bruno

Yes, I'll make the motion.

Legislator Criswell

I'll second.

Chairman Lopez

Discussion on the minutes.

Chairman Lopez

All right. Hearing none, all in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. (5-0)

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Very good. We will, actually we have Eve with us tonight. And she wants to give us an update on the Columbia partnership for the Communities Program.

Legislator Walter

All right. Well, I hope you want the update on the project as well.

Chairman Lopez

Absolutely, that's why you're with us.

Legislator Walter

Very good. So, just as a little bit of history there, our county has an existing Opioid Task Force that predates the HEAL grant. It includes a lot of people from different health care agencies, community based organizations, government, etc. And so, for the past few years, a lot of different organizations across the county have been doing various different responses to the opioid epidemic, including NARCAN trainings, access to medical treatment, support for individuals with opioid use disorder. Each of the groups mostly operate independently with some overlap. And I think the idea of the commission that was it's being headed by Vin Martello is to allow for more coordination between these groups and overlap and sharing of ideas.

Legislator Walter

So, this existed before Columbia came into the picture. So, Columbia University got a grant to test the impact of their intervention on several outcomes related to opioid use disorder. And so this is a very big national project. There includes other states, so in addition to New York, Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Ohio are part of the HEAL consortium funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). And in New York, there are sixteen communities that were selected to be a part of the New York HEAL, which is headed by Columbia. And then last October, we were informed that Ulster County was entered into Wave 1. They basically staggered their intervention into Wave 1, Wave 2. And so, Ulster was put into Wave 1. And stop me anytime you have any questions.

Legislator Walter

So, the idea of the HEAL grant is that through community vision, shared goals, and targeted strategies that use evidence-based practices and data, they're hoping that they could reduce deaths by 40%. That was their goal, really, opioid use disorder related deaths, but they also wanted to increase those trained in Naloxone, or Narcan, which is the medication that you give to somebody who's... if someone has an overdose the Narcan holds them over until an ambulance can come. So, they want to increase the number of people who are trained in Narcan. And if you get a training, you actually get a little kit that you can keep with you in case you need it. Also increase the number of people who have opioid use disorder who are on buprenorphine, which is a medical treatment, also called Suboxone, and reduce the over-prescribing of prescription pain medication. So, those are the outcomes that HEAL is

intended for. But I'll just clarify, those are all outcomes that were relevant to the county before HEAL, as well.

Legislator Walter

There're four work groups that are part of HEAL right now. The first one is to increase Naloxone or Narcan training. So, before there was the heal grant, there were several organizations who are already conducting these trainings. So, the Sheriff conducts the trainings, Family of Woodstock, Department of Health. Since HEAL started, their efforts are to increase this training by adding more organizations. So, from the last report in Ulster County, about 140 people were trained. I don't really know how much before HEAL, but I know it was happening a lot. I mean Family of Woodstock did a lot of Narcan training. The Sheriff's, if anyone went to the Ulster County Fair last year, the Sheriff's van they did a lot of Narcan training. So, there was several happening, but I don't know how the numbers exactly compare.

Legislator Walter

The second workgroup is intended to increase access to medical treatment. For HEAL, this is still in the planning stages. There are a few challenges to increasing medical treatment for people who have opioid use disorder. Doctors need to have X waiver to prescribe, and not a lot of doctors necessarily do. So, they haven't really gotten off the ground in really increasing the access. But at the same time, Ellenville Hospital has its own grant, and has been increasing prescribing Ellenville Hospital. The Sheriff also has his own efforts to increase MAT (Medication-Assisted Treatment) in the jail. We have a resolution in front of us that provides funding to related to MAT in the jail. So, both of those are unrelated to HEAL.

Legislator Walter

The third work group is to reduce over-prescribing. So, this is still also in the planning stage. A lot of its related to planning patient and provider awareness campaigns. So, anecdotally, what I've heard, and this was before HEAL, there are in Ulster County, there's only a couple of doctors who over prescribe, it's not it's not ubiquitous, there's just a couple of doctors who just don't seem to get it. And from what used to be true, and Marc and correct me, is that the state is not forthcoming in the names of these doctors, like they collect the information of prescribing on a state level, but they weren't necessarily telling us who they are. Is that still true? Yeah. However, the Sheriff did make an arrest several months ago, I think. I don't know, a birdie informed him and they sort of, I don't know what their technique was, but they basically there was a provider that was arrested for excessive prescribing. But those were not related to HEAL at all, those were on their own. So, they're still in that working group that's at the planning stage.

Legislator Walter

And then the fourth workgroup is the media campaign. And the media campaign is focusing on mostly on encouraging medical assisted treatment, trying to normalize that. But they also have in their campaign is informing people of the Narcan trainings, when there are trainings set up. And they might use it to reduce over prescribing, I don't know.

Legislator Walter

And then the last element which isn't part of a workgroup, data collection. And the data collection includes things like EMS calls, hospitalizations, and deaths related to OUD. It's not really complex. And it's not actually anything we weren't really collecting beforehand. It just wasn't a part of the grant. But different groups were collecting it. Yeah. I'll pause for you, Laura. Yeah.

Legislator Petit

Well, thank you. Well, I'm going back to the Columbia study. It's my understanding that is strictly for the data collection. So, are you giving us history on new programs to lead into what they're studying or...

Legislator Walter

These... so, this is the... So, the Columbia study is, in essence, if I was to simplify it, is their research question is: if we come into a county, and we help organize them, and coordinate them, and kind of guide them through a process, will they reduce their OUD deaths? And so, their intervention primarily is them coming and working with us. But a part of that is to have these workgroups. So, the part of their intervention is can I help you as a county have more Narcan trainings? Can I help you as a county to increase access to medical treatment? Can I help you as a county to reduce over prescribing? So, the data collection is not the whole thing. Data collection is an element of HEAL, but a large amount of the money which goes to Juanita, is like coordinating and organizing. Making sure these work groups meet, meetings are held. Sometimes it's a meeting of everybody, sometimes it's a meeting of the workgroups. And a lot goes to the media campaign. That's a good chunk of the money, as well, So, the money covers the staffing, the data person, and then sort of program manager, and what's the title of the other position, Marc? Not the data person, and not Juanita?

Deputy Executive Rider

It's like community facilitator, like community and outreach.

Legislator Walter

Okay.

Deputy Executive Rider

It's like a long like, six word, but it's basically community facilitation and outreach.

Legislator Walter

That person works with Juanita. So, Juanita is supposed to have the bigger picture of it, and that position kind of work because works within it. They both show up at the different work groups. So, I guess what I would say is, just the last point is, in my personal opinion, HEAL in itself, is not a game changer. There were efforts in place in our county by many organizations that we're doing quite a lot. The benefit of HEAL is allowing some kind of coordination, and an organization where, you know, instead of a bunch of people operating separately, it allows it to be a little bit more coordinated. I'm just saying, one more point, there are other things that are still happening that are completely separate from HEAL. Like, for example, Ellenville Hospital has gotten several grants. So, in addition to increasing MAT in the hospital, they have started a Fatality Review Team, and a Crisis Intervention Team. And if you come to the Law Enforcement meeting, Brandon is going to talk and explain about those two groups, which one is to really assess what happens if someone dies of an overdose. And the other one is, if anyone is identified as being addicted to opioids, there's a whole follow-up. Like a bunch of people who know what they're doing, and help them to get treatment, and check in on them, and find out why they missed appointments. And so that's an Ellenville program. It's for the whole county, but Ellenville got that grant. So, you know, the money is nice from HEAL, but it's stuff we already are doing, in my personal feeling. It's sort of like we're exchanging getting that money for giving them some credit for it if the numbers go down. But I think it's important to know that the county was doing a lot of this work already.

Chairman Lopez

Is this a one-time grant or is it...

Legislator Walter

It's a three-year grant.

Chairman Lopez

Okay.

Legislator Walter

Yeah.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. So, and this is year one, obviously?

Legislator Walter

No, we're sort of entering into two. Year one with a lot of preparation.

Chairman Lopez

End of year one.

Legislator Walter

Peter?

Legislator Criswell

So, is this then, this information that they're gathering, is this going to be used as a model to go apply to other counties, to give it to other states? Like what's the end goal for this program?

Legislator Walter

Yeah, I mean, so NIH paid for this, for the whole country. They identified four states that had high levels of opioid use disorder. And I guess the idea is to, should it be successful, although, you know, there's a lot of noise to measuring success because we don't know a counterfactual, like, we don't know what our rates would be without HEAL, we'll just, you know.... But I guess the idea is that they could then, for generalizability, say if you have coordinated efforts, and you apply these-evidence based practices, you too could reduce your opioid.

Legislator Criswell

So, I just want to be really blunt. Are you telling us this information because you think we should use this money somewhere else?

Legislator Walter

Oh, we can't.

Deputy Executive Rider

There is no money.

Legislator Criswell

Okay. Okay, thanks. I was just wondering if there was some other reason why you were giving us this information.

Legislator Walter

No. It's important to know all of the efforts that are happening for opioid use disorder in the county, knowing how HEAL contributes to all of that. But also, knowing that there are a lot of efforts that are not related to HEAL that are also happening in the county.

Legislator Criswell

I just thought maybe there was some other reason.

Legislator Walter

No. No. We want the money. It's good. They're giving it to us. It's a lot.

Legislator Bruno

Yeah. Eve, do you remember when we were up in NYSAC, up in Albany? I know Tracy and I went to the seminar about opioid addiction, which was given by a woman, by the name I believe her name is Cheryl Moore. I don't know if you were there as well? Abe, did you go to that one as well?

Legislator Uchitelle

No.

Legislator Bruno

They're from Erie County. She was from Erie County and they did an incredible drop in their opioid addiction. And I found it interesting some of the things that you were saying. First and foremost, they found to be most effective was the data collection. And they coordinated across all agencies throughout the county. Every town police department, every ambulance squad, every ER. And they had a base of all... they asked the same questions, filled in the same data. And that's where they started. They were able to reduce their overdose and death by, I don't know, I don't want to lie and give you the wrong number, but it was significant. The woman's name and actually while we're up there, we asked her she does other presentations. It behooved us if we could somehow find a way to get her down here to Ulster County, take a look, and listen to her, she really has great information.

Legislator Walter

Right. Whether you would... I'd also encourage you to bring in Victoria from Ellenville Hospital. I mean, a lot of this thing is that the data is, or when the data is all in separate places, it's hard to know if somebody did an ER, did they have medical treatment? If they did, are they ever hospitalized later? Do they ever die? And so, there is an effort to create some singular data base that allows for all of this information to be linked, so that you would be able to follow an individual through their whole experience. That's happening

both related to HEAL and Department of Health, as well as Ellenville Hospital. They're kind of both working on it at the same time. So, somebody will have to...

Legislator Bruno

I think the data... before you can treat the problem, you have to know what the problem is and where the problem is located. And Ellenville is doing what they're doing is great. I think it's fantastic. But I think it should be coordinated effort, not only with Ellenville but with Kingston.

Legislator Walter

Oh, yeah. No. Ellenville is the whole county.

Legislator Bruno

All the medical practices [inaudible].

Legislator Walter

Ellenville is not just Ellenville Hospital. The MAT is just Ellenville Hospital, but it's the whole county in effect, Ellenville partners with Columbia and Greene. I will say, that originally, it was hard to get Kingston Hospitals on board with the Ellenville project. Kingston Hospitals are now coming on board more, but when they originally applied for these grants, they wanted Kingston Hospital to also be a part of these emergency room. So, basically in Ellenville, when someone shows up in the ER with an OUD, and they get connected with MAT treatment, they connect to treatment after they're out of the ER, it's an excellent program. Ellenville is also connected with the Sheriff. They're really working.... So, they got the grant but it includes the whole county.

Legislator Bruno

I think if there's a way, Marc, if I can ask you a question? I see you raise your hand real quick. So...

Deputy Executive Rider

Yeah, Can I just add one piece to that? And then, can I just jump in and add one part to that? Is that they are, Ellenville Regional Hospital, as Eve said, this task force was established before HEAL. And so, it's kind of what we used to implement the HEAL study. But it's always been there, and Ellenville Regional Hospital has always been like one of the core partners of that task force.

Legislator Bruno

Is there a way, and again, my... whatever you want to call it that we could bring, I tell you was an incredible, incredible presentations that she put on up in NYSAC. And I really wish

Tracy was on board here too, because she wouldn't she would agree, I'm sure, if we can bring her to the county, and maybe to one of our meetings, Craig, and do a presentation.

Legislator Walter

So, can I just out... So, the one of the challenges that I originally experienced when Colombia came, was it felt, and I'm not saying they really were this way, and over time, it's elaborate, but that it wasn't acknowledged that there are people doing some really good work in our county.

Legislator Walter

So, while I like the idea, you know, I think that inviting someone else, but before you do, I would strongly encourage you to bring the people in our county who are doing this because, you know, there are like, I think, again, at Law Enforcement, you'll hear from Brandon, which is the Fatality Review Team and the Crisis Response Team. But we have some outstanding people doing some amazing stuff here. Family of Woodstock has been doing Narcan training, what the sheriff is doing, is pretty remarkable. And so...

Legislator Bruno

I understand that Eve..

Legislator Walter

Yeah.

Legislator Bruno

And I agree. What I'm saying is that they had the same issue. Let me let me try to rephrase this in a way, and I mean this in the most respectful way to everybody involved. Every county has an addiction problem. There's not a county in the state that doesn't have this issue. Ulster has a pretty big one, in my opinion. Erie County, and Buffalo was rated as one of the biggest in the state. So, they felt they found a way that worked. And it really worked. Now, I'm not saying that we don't have people that can do that. But I think we can learn from what they've done. Not necessarily make them do it, but we could we have great people, but there's information that they already have that can help us, and help the people in Ellenville, help our Sheriff's Department, coordinate it all. So, we can maybe get similar or better results than they did. That's all. I'm just trying to enlist the help of other counties that have already been through this ahead of us. That's all.

Chairman Lopez

Right. You know, and I agree with that. I think a good approach is to get everybody on board. You know, if we could reach out to the lady that had given, you know, that talk up at NYSAC. I think it is a good thing. If we can reach out to Ellenville Hospital and we can get Victoria, we can even get, you know, Steve Kelly, who's been instrumental with the whole opioid issue. He gives talks all around the country. You know, he can come in, yeah.

Legislator Bruno

It's not taking away from anybody else.

Chairman Lopez

And to share with this with us his ideas, and I think if we all get on board, you know, we can reach out to everybody, ultimately, I think we all have the same goal. And if we can coordinate that, I think it's a good thing. Yeah, I wouldn't exclude anybody. But yeah, definitely with the best intentions for our county, you know, first and foremost, and if that includes, you know, reaching out somebody in Erie, that could possibly, you know, give, bring something to the table that could help them.

Legislator Walter

To clarify, I was just thinking that before, that the step one would be to really know what's happening here. Then step two might be, because we don't know how much maybe Steve Kelly is working with Erie for all we know. So, I guess what I'm saying is like, let's start with what we know here, the task force and those people, and then figure out where the next steps should be.

Legislator Bruno

And that's the data collection is the foremost thing, you have to know what you're working with before you fix it. And that's the biggest thing.

Deputy Executive Rider

Abe's got his hand up, Craig, I don't know if you see him.

Chairman Lopez

Oh, yeah. No, I don't. Yeah, sure.

Legislator Uchitelle

So, first of all, I just want to thank Legislator Walter for presenting this. And I know this is something that our committee asked her to do, and very much appreciate it. And I also, I don't know who exactly this question is directed at, but I'm curious why the Opioid Task Force reports to the Law Enforcement Committee and not to the Public Health Committee.

Legislator Walter

They don't. So, just to clarify, the presentation that's being done is, and they will absolutely come to you. The presentation that I invited Brandon to is because I happen to be on the task force on that group also. And I know that in order for them to do their Crisis Review Team, they need buy-in from Police, and Sheriff, and the DA, and Probation. And to make their lives easier, rather than them... I just said they're all in the same place at this meeting. So, if you want to come and talk about what you're doing. Plus, a lot of people in law enforcement in that committee are very interested in this as well. You know, drugs cross crime and health, right? As does violence. And so, Brandon would be more than thrilled to also present to you guys. But you guys have, HEAL is under you, and all that stuff is under you.

Legislator Uchitelle

So, just to follow-up on that. And I appreciate the approach of getting what needs to get done, getting that done, especially when the people that need to do it are in the room. But I'll just point out that one of the many areas that I think we need to revisit the role that we can play in the health of our community is when we make decisions, and I realized that is not what's happening here. But, you know, this isn't a decision to go to law enforcement rather than the public health route. But I think we really do have an opportunity to create a brighter future by approaching these as public health problems and solving them on a, you know, individual-focused basis rather than as criminal problems. And I realize that that's not why they're presenting to the Law Enforcement Task Force. But I would love to see our committee continue, as we have here, asking you to present this information to us. And then going forward to take a larger role in some of these public health crises that unfortunately, manifest in our society as law enforcement problems, when the reality is police are not the ones that ought to be taken care of are really troublesome relationship with opioids.

Legislator Walter

And we just also clarify EMS is under that committee too. So, it's not just law enforcement. There are several different people who would touch a life of someone who's having an overdose. In both sides. But I hear you I mean, although I did write a book called Epidemiological Criminology, because a lot of these things do intersect, and you're welcome to read it. But I mean, I...

Legislator Bruno

Can I get an autographed copy?

Legislator Uchitelle

Yeah. Who's the publisher?

Legislator Walter

Taylor and Francis, and it costs too much money. If you buy it, I'll sign it. But yeah, you know, and I don't think it's, I think that it is recognized, even among the law enforcement that this is a public health problem. They just happen to sometimes be the first line there. The first person....

Legislator Uchitelle

And quite frankly, I feel bad that we've asked so much of the police to do things like that. And I think that some of the other grants that we're looking at tonight might be the ones that would prevent that from happening, as is the case on many nights of the public health committee.

Chairman Lopez

A lot of these issues were addressed a couple years ago. I don't know. Well, for the new people that are here in the Ulster County Coalition of Narcotics, like UCAN. That was a committee that was put together and it comprised of law enforcement, health officials, various people from around the county. And they came up with a comprehensive plan, I think over the course of six months, that they implemented, and or continue to implement, you know, based on the input that they got, you know, over that course of many months of holding this committee. So, you know, if we can continue on that, you know, also with what we get out of this Columbia project, and maybe reaching out to some other people, I think would be the right direction to go. And, yeah, I really thank you, Eve, for updating us and, you know, keeping us in the loop. You know, that grant.

Legislator Walter

Yeah. One thing, because I know Marc has his hands up. You know, I've been very much closely working with the nonprofit's and health organizations in Ulster County for over two decades. And we are a very [inaudible] County, our strength is that we have a lot of incredible organizations doing amazing things. Our weaknesses is that we are so big that sometimes they operate in their own vacuums, and they're not coordinated together. And so, any efforts that can happen out of the legislature to sort of pull their strengths together, for many issues, because again, we have no lack of incredible services and programs. It's just they sometimes overlap. They don't, you know, have... Your example of UCAN as an

example of pulling them all together. But more ways of getting them to talk to each other is great.

Deputy Executive Rider

Yeah, I just wanted to bring up that I'm happy to have Juanita and the HEALS team come and present at a month upcoming on, you know, other pieces that maybe weren't touched upon here. And then I just wanted to bring up that as far as the work that has been done, and this is pretty much work that had been done pre-Colombia, but we went from 56 overdose fatalities in 2018, all the way down to 33. Now, much of that is in 2019. Much of that work, unfortunately, post-pandemic has been erased because we're just in... it's really, people are starting to write about it now on the on the national level, but this is an epidemic that's kind of underlying the pandemic is, you know, opioid overdoses are just shooting back up. People are, are feeling like there's no support, they're feeling isolated. And we're in problems seeing problems again.

Legislator Walter

And getting access to medical treatment is harder during a pandemic. So, the two together are a pretty bad combination.

Legislator Petit

Actually, the timing is very good, though. I'm involved in a couple of studies that how COVID impacts, you know, just various different programs. So, this, this was convenient, you know, and I was going to ask Marc, I mean, how much... has it gone back to our 2018 numbers?

Deputy Executive Rider

Not quite, it's hard to tell. It's definitely high. You know, we're, we're at least pre, you know, 2019, early 2019 wasn't as good as late 2019. And so, we were hoping to carry kind of the last half, or the last quarter of 2019 into 2020. And I think it was, that that momentum was riding, and then, again, February March hit and it's gone well back up now. If there's any bright note, it's that we are.... that Narcan is being used a lot more, and it's saving people's lives. So, you know, there's many, many more overdoses that aren't fatal right now, which is a good thing. But we're in a surge. Anytime I get, you know, notifications from the state when we're in a surge, which is, I think, five overdoses over a 72- hour period or something like that. Now, many of them are non-fatal overdoses. But I'm getting those emails. You know, unfortunately, more frequently than then I would like. So, get your Narcan training. We can also have someone come to this committee meeting when we're off the Zoom world, and bring Narcan. And it's about a ten minute training. And we can get you all trained.

Legislator Criswell

I did the training at the African American Festival.

Deputy Executive Rider

Great.

Legislator Bruno

Yeah, and the Saugerties Police Department has been doing it on a regular basis.

Legislator Walter

Yeah. Saugerties has been doing it and they still do it.

Legislator Bruno

And I've got to give my hat's off to Chief Sinagra and them. I've run them for the progress they're making. Probably 30% or 40% of the cars driving down the street in Saugerties have a Narcan kit in the car.

Chairman Lopez

Sure, yeah. I got one, you know a crazy story. A couple of years ago, I was out campaigning and I had knocked on the door. And they were talking to me about their son and his girlfriend's addiction. And they weren't sure if they were using opioids or what they were using. And they were afraid you know that they were going to come home one day and one of them were going to be on the floor and unresponsive and they wouldn't know what to do. And I happen to have two kits on me. Because I carried them after I did two Narcan trains. I did one in Walker Valley and on one in Ellenville. And since then, I had always carried two. And I gave them a kit. And about three days later, there was a call from the Walker Valley Fire Department that they went to that house, and somebody was unresponsive. And one of their parents had used the kit that I gave them in order to, I guess to reverse the effects of whatever they had OD'd on and.... I actually thought... it felt pretty good. You know, unfortunately, you know, something like that is a possibility now, but just having the training, or having the kits available, and readily available for people, you know, saves many lives. You know, and there was a... I used to get a lot of pushback from that too, because there's people who don't believe in giving second chances. But you know what, Narcan is there for the not just the person who had OD'd, but it's for the unsuspecting, or the surprised, you know, the parent, friend, or a loved one that walks into a situation where their kid is lying on the floor in, you know, their kitchen unresponsive. And you know, since then, I always have two kits on me. And it's...

Deputy Executive Rider

And it's no different than this. I carry this for a bee sting allergy. It's an epi pen. And addiction is a disease and it's really no different, right?

Chairman Lopez

Yep.

Legislator Petit

I'd be up for a refresher course, Marc, if it's okay with the Chair, to bring somebody... I had training maybe two or three years ago, so I'm sure my Narcan kit is expired, but I still carry it with me.

Chairman Lopez

It really doesn't expire. Like I know that they can... they're effective even like two or three years later, of course everything has an expiration date. I think that's more of a marketing ploy sometimes. But, you know, I don't encourage people to use expired medication, but when in a situation, you know, that's potentially life or death. I think I would go with it rather than not.

Legislator Bruno

I tell you what, you know, one of the things that occurred to me based on again, that seminar, I went to a NYSAC, where I learned quite a bit. Everywhere in the county, and I and don't know how to bring this motion forward in the form of resolution, but I hope to do this in the future. Would be everywhere that there is an AED, there should be Narcan box. They have wall mounted Narcan boxes, it should be in every county building. It should be in every office building. It should be mandatory in every commercial building that there's a Narcan kit, right alongside of that AED that we have. I mean, it's that kind of an emergency. And I think it behooves us not to do that.

Legislator Walter

Can I add something that behooves you to do, or us to do? There's, and Marc, maybe you know, the latest with it. But you know an effort to have all pharmacies provide a disposal box. You can't throw pain medications, you can't dump them. You can't put them in your garbage. You can't dump them down your toilet. And a large percentage of addiction starts with access to prescription pain medicine that someone got out of maybe their own or from someone else's medicine cabinet. So, these should be readily available for people to dispose their unused pain meds. And then there was trying to be legislation on a state level to get the pharmacy, the drugstores like Rite Aid, the big chains, to make sure they have it like our small Detrick's has it and I think Nekos-Dedricks pharmacy or wherever in Kingston they still exist. I think we have two pharmacies that have it. But to get to make sure that

these drop boxes these safe drop boxes are located everywhere. Yeah. In a police department, but sometimes you can get in, sometimes you can't. They just need to be pharmacies are the best places and drugstores because that's where people are going. But they should be everywhere. Because you'd be surprised how many people have these leftover pills in their houses.

Legislator Bruno

You're absolutely right. And you know, it's sad. But I think one of the, I know this sounds kind of like, what do you want to call it morbid or whatever. Not only should we have dropped boxes at every pharmacy, and that should be a state mandate. I really believe that. I think that goes beyond what the county would do. I also think that, and this is morbid as this might sound, that every funeral director who does this... because a lot of times, that's not something that's discussed with the family when they're planning that. I mean, a lot of these people, some of these elderly people have like hundreds of drugs in their medicine cabinets. And that's not something that's ever discussed with them, you know, they close up the house and they throw it away or whatever they do. And I think that's something that should be part of the discussion there as well. Because every person who passes away, leaves behind them, especially if they're elderly, you sometimes dozens of different drugs. And a lot of them are opioids and addictive. And I think that's something that we can work look forward to and work towards as well.

Legislator Walter

Yeah.

Legislator Bruno

And there's a lot of neat things that we can also all do, collectively, to make this better place. I think a that's an awesome idea. I actually was, had a discussion with Tracey once before. But which I think is great. But I think there's all these things that can all work. We're in the right community. I think we have enough people that could make it work.

Deputy Executive Rider

I know in 2018, late 2018, the Governor signed the law to require the chains to do that. I have not followed up to see if they're in everyone.

Legislator Walter

No. There's something, you know, as of a few months ago, somehow there's something that's that they're fighting it, or they're there's.... there's some process and Vin Martello could explain it to you more. But whatever that effort was at the state level has been interceded by something. Again, I wish I could be a little bit more articulate about it.

Legislator Criswell

It's also an environmental issue. So, I wonder if there's something in environmental legislation that talks about disposal of medications.

Legislator Walter

Very bad to dispose of them in the garbage. All right. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Yeah. Very good.

Legislator Walter

Thank you for meeting.

Legislator Bruno

Thanks, Eve.

Chairman Lopez

Appreciate the update. All right. Very good. Well, then we'll move into resolutions.

Chairman Lopez

We will start with Resolution 245: and that's increasing funding from the New York State Office of Addiction Services for our minimum wage and workforce cost of living adjustments. It's called adjustment. That's \$8,200 from the State.

Legislator Bruno

I'll move it for discussion, if we need to. We need to do that Nettie?

Chairman Lopez

We need the second.

Legislator Bruno

Yeah.

Nettie Tomshaw

You just need a second.

Legislator Uchitelle

I'll second.

Legislator Bruno

So, I've got a question. This is a simple resolution where we're going to get money from the state because we're increasing it, right.

Chairman Lopez

Right.

Legislator Bruno

It's a no brainer.

Deputy Executive Rider

Yeah. You almost get these every month, I think.

Legislator Petit

Yeah, we one last time.

Legislator Bruno

I just wanted to make sure that we had it right.

Chairman Lopez

That's all it's just a formality. And it's pass-through money, so, yep. All right go ahead.

Legislator Uchitelle

Can I can I say something just on this? I, you know, I have no problem with this at all. But I do, you know, one of the things like the overarching themes of public health I feel in this country right now, is that we've been fulfilling more and more of these types of requirements on the public side through subcontracting to private entities. And if you look at the budget, there's a number of line items and the county is one of them. But I think it's like 10% of the budget that's covered in this. And when you have such an important public health benefit, that you're outsourcing to these other entities, and you realize that a minimum wage increase, like materially changes the cost, it should give you a pause for a second to think about the way that we have taken public health out of the public space and put it in the private sector, where we're dealing with minimum wage, you know, increases, and that's a material impact on our budget. When in a different version of the reality that we live in, these would be union jobs where minimum wage isn't even a consideration. These might be jobs where you can actually make a family and own a home. And that's not the situation that we're in, we have this incentive to always find the lowest cost of doing

such important work that really is in the public space. So, I will, this was probably the not the last time you'll hear me make that comment on minimum wage increases in a resolution like this where we're accepting the funds.

Legislator Bruno

Abe, I agree with you.

Deputy Executive Rider

If I can add one point to that, and I am fully in agreement with you on that. Abe. But the only piece that I'll add is that a lot of this OASIS (New York State Office of Addiction Services) funding is merely pass through funding, that where the grantee the subcontractor is decided by the state, and it's coming in through our budget and going right back out. We don't even, it's not like we put this out to bid, and look for the lowest bidder. It's just straight--flows through our budget. And so, we don't really... And I think, to your point, maybe 10 years ago, 15 years ago, the state would have provided this financing and it may have been a county employee, or at least a contractor that paid more. And then the state funding for mental health through OASIS and OMH has just gone down so drastically. In that amount of time that this is what you see. Where you're right. A COLA a minimum wage increase drastically affects this. To where it's \$8,500 here one month, \$1,500. You know, it's like every month these COLA increases happen.

Legislator Bruno

It all adds up. And that goes back to that \$15 minimum wage.

Legislator Uchitelle

It might be two divergent issues here. That's a whole other issue.

Legislator Bruno

Yeah, exactly. You know where that was going, right?

Legislator Uchitelle

I do.

Chairman Lopez

Alright, Any other discussion? All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. (5-0)

Chairman Lopez

To resolution 256, approving the execution of the contract and excess \$50,000. This is for the purchase of Medication Assisted Treatment. That's the, yeah, the MAT that Eve was talking about earlier.

Deputy Executive Rider

And this is in the jail for inmates, specifically.

Chairman Lopez

Yeah. Move for discussion.

Legislator Criswell

I'll move that.

Legislator Bruno

Second.

Chairman Lopez

Yeah, this is a one-time payment, right? \$50,0000?

Deputy Executive Rider

Yeah, it's a not to exceed \$50,000. This is a, I think the first amendment on this contract.

Chairman Lopez

Right.

Deputy Executive Rider

Or, actually, this is a new contract, but we typically give \$50,000 a year for these services.

Legislator Bruno

Yeah, no issue on my end.

Chairman Lopez

All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. (5-0)

Chairman Lopez

All right, Resolution 257: proven execution of contracts in excess \$50,000. This is to extend the term of clinical services in collaboration with Child Protective Services.

Chairman Lopez

Move for discussion?

Legislator Bruno

I'll make a motion to move for discussion.

Legislator Petit

I'll Second.

Chairman Lopez

A second.

Chairman Lopez

This is 100% state and \$70,000. Right, this I think it's going be a total of \$140,000. That's over the course of the past four years I believe.

Legislator Bruno

My question, Craig is, do we look at this from time to time at least to find out? I mean, Alison Krause, who is the licensed....

Chairman Lopez

Sure. She's a social worker.

Legislator Bruno

Social worker. Yeah. I was trying to think of all of the title, as long as it might be. Is this something, maybe Marc even knows, goes out to, like bid, or we just arbitrarily every year going to keep renewing this? I mean, this is, we're basically up to \$140,000 at \$70,000 a year. Is there somebody else that may be doing it \$50,000 a year?

Deputy Executive Rider

Yeah, I mean, I think this is another one of those where the state kind of chooses the grantee. So, it may have been done through the state procurement at one time. And then this is typically the person who we use. Like Craig said, it's 100% state funded. So, it's another one of those basic pass-through. And I believe that in the grant funding, that this is a grantee, like a subcontractor, already put in place.

Legislator Bruno

So, my question, Marc, is if let's say we were to say no, just hypothetically, what would happen?

Deputy Executive Rider

Um...

Chairman Lopez

It's actually a good question.

Deputy Executive Rider

It is a good question.

Chairman Lopez

I brought that up in the past, but what did you say no to? The majority of everything that comes through this committee is state mandated. What? Well, yeah...

Deputy Executive Rider

You know, we would probably, my guess is what would happen and I don't I hate to say this kind of thing, because I don't like... Potentially the state could come back and look at other funding, right? And say, look, you know, you didn't approve this contract, we're going to look at funding other ways, I don't think that would happen. I think that we could work with the state. I never like to say that like there's ultimatums where like if this doesn't pass, we're going to lose all sorts of funding, but the reality is, is like this is one of those things that's just kind of a pass-through. And I don't know that we have a lot of say in the selection of a vendor. I can follow up with Mike at DSS. I know this has to go before Ways and Means too, and just find out if there's ever a time that we've done, like, let's say an RFP, because that's what it would be for this kind of professional services.

Legislator Bruno

I think I just like, I mean, it almost seems like this person, Alison Krause, pretty much has a lock on business forever.

Chairman Lopez

Right, you know, and some of the... the issue some of the time also has to do with the services that they provide. Is it limited to what the county needs, and they're able to provide for? You know, I often got that question as to why we outsource to other counties, or neighboring counties, and we don't, you know, strictly to Ulster County and use Ulster County services. And it's often the case that, you know, Ulster County and the professionals can't provide those services for the county. So, I don't know if that has any role in this. But yes, she has... she's been the go-to person for many, many years. I've seen this come through a number of times. And during my tenure in the legislature, and yeah, I don't know if it's just this state prefers or...

Legislator Bruno

It almost sounds like she's got a job for life, as long as he wants it, because year after year after year, it keeps getting yes, because a mandate from the state. I'm not so sure I'm buying that. Sorry, Marc.

Chairman Lopez

She's got good lobbyists.

Legislator Bruno

Especially when we're going to be \$35 to \$40 million in a hole.

Deputy Executive Rider

Right. I mean, the only piece I'll say is that if we turn down this contract, we just won't get the revenue associated with it, right?

Chairman Lopez

Right. Yeah, no, of course. And it's it sounds

Legislator Bruno

It sounds like extortion.

Chairman Lopez

Well, I didn't say that.

Legislator Bruno

I did.

Chairman Lopez

But yeah, and it's 100% state. So, yeah, they're paying the bill. So, all right. Anything else?

Legislator Bruno

Ultimately our constituents are paying the bill.

Chairman Lopez

Well no, of course. No.

Legislator Uchitelle

Well, it's a case of abdicating one aspect of governing to the state.

Legislator Bruno

I don't mean to be a pain in the butt, but you understand where I'm coming from, right?

Legislator Uchitelle

No, no, Al we're going to have some great political theory conversations in the years ahead.

Legislator Bruno

I hope so. You know it's funny. I agree with you on a lot of things Abe. It's almost scary.

Legislator Uchitelle

I'm enjoying this conversation very much. I won't tell Ken.

Legislator Bruno

No, please don't, I will.

Chairman Lopez

Right. Anything else? All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. (5-0)

Chairman Lopez

All right. Resolution 258: approving the execution contract Nexus \$2,000. With New York State ARC, this for Preschool Special Ed services.

Legislator Petit

I'll move it.

Legislator Bruno

I'll second.

Chairman Lopez

Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. (5-0)

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Opposed? Very good. Alright, carried.

Chairman Lopez

And that's it with resolutions, right? Yeah, it's the last one. Okay. Is any old business, new business, anything the committee wants to bring forward.

Deputy Executive Rider

Oh, can I just ask, are you all interested in having me have someone like Juanita, the project manager from HEAL, come present next month or...

Chairman Lopez

Sure.

Legislator Bruno

That would be great.

Deputy Executive Rider

You know, I could ask Mike to come in from social services and talk about some of these pass-through contracts and etc. But...

Legislator Uchitelle

Specifically, sorry, Laura, go ahead.

Deputy Executive Rider

Go ahead. I was going to say whatever the committee wants.

Chairman Lopez

Yeah, no, I think that's a good idea. Yeah. If you want to reach out to Mike, if you want to, even if... from Eve's recommendation, you know, we could... I could reach out to Steve Kelly, you know, or Victoria, and see if they're interested in coming to talk about the opioid issues. And yeah, even if we wanted to reach out to, who is that the lady out from Erie County?

Legislator Bruno

Cheryl Moore, I think her name was, I got to look it up to make sure, but...

Chairman Lopez

Yeah, I think that's something that that we should consider, you know, if the committee is on board with that, then we should, we should reach out to them have them come in and talk...

Legislator Bruno

The more information we get, the better we can all do our job.

Chairman Lopez

Sure.

Legislator Criswell

I definitely like Eve's suggestion, though, of getting a really good understanding of what we're doing here so that we can then invite somebody from outside. So, that we're all really well informed about all... because I know I'm not. So, it be great, you know, really comprehensive view of the efforts here.

Legislator Bruno

I think, Marc, if I may, based on what Eve was saying, I think the county, in a lot of ways is fragmented when it comes to the opioid addiction. I think we need to become more centralized and have a more combined approach to the problem. Not just town by town, or but, entire as a county. And I think the way to do that would bring somebody outside, who's not who's really not connected to anybody in our county, but can take, you know, from the outside looking in, to look at picture as a whole. Maybe that's how we can move forward. That's just my opinion.

Deputy Executive Rider

I do want to bring up that that's kind of part of the point of the Columbia HEALing Communities Grant is, we're going to get information coming out of this, because and this is why they did it in Wave 1 and Wave 2 is they identified a bunch of counties in the four states, 16 in New York, that are all about equivalent, as far as the problem of drug addiction. And then in Wave 1, they take some counties and implement the intervention strategies that Eve identified. So, you can kind of see how those counties are doing. And then they have Wave 2 go in and implement a year or two later. And see the difference, you know between. Okay, why is County 1, who is in Wave 1, doing better than County 2, who wasn't in Wave 1? And then you add four other states into the NIH study. And I think we'll get a lot of good data. Now, it's going to be three years down the road, too many people are going to have died of opioid deaths in the meantime. But I do think a decent study, at least getting the data and the information.

Legislator Bruno

I think data is our biggest ally. We have to get the data. I absolutely agree.

Legislator Petit

It sets benchmarks. Marc, going back to a statement that Al had made. There's seems to be multiple task forces. I mean, I pulled up some information under the Health Department, and we also have an Opioid Task Force, which I think recently had its name changed. We've got Steve Kelly, who's nationally recognized for his program. Could we have someone pull together some of the information?

Deputy Executive Rider

Yeah, we could. I mean, but the task force that has turned into the HEAL study grant, Steve Kelly is part of that. All these other groups, Institute for Family Health. There's about 50 people that are part of this task force that was there before the HEAL grant. But all of the nonprofit's, I mean, the reason Legislator Walter is in the study is not because of the work on the legislature, but her work with Institute for Family Health. So, all of these different nonprofits that are in the opioid world, do come to this Task Force. And, and then there's also the Ulster Prevention Council, which is also part of the Task Force, and now part of the HEALing studies grant. I would say, at one point I would be in agreement that we were too segmented, too fractured. I think right now, we have every basically group, represented in both that study and that Task Force, in a way that we are, you know... Samadhi comes. People Inc., who does you know the Stabilization Center across the way in Dutchess, and does some opioid work here. People from Access Supports for Living. People from Family Services, Ulster County, I mean, the Sheriff's Department. There are a bunch of groups that are part of this Task Force already. That's why I think it would be helpful if either, I have somebody from the HEAL study come and present.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Do you want me to reach out to Steve to see if he can come speak with our committee? Or is that a...? It's up to the committee. You know, he can come and talk, and Victoria can come with him. Or maybe she come in separately. But you know, I think Steve would be, you know, a great one to reach out to talk a little bit about his program and how the Ellenville Hospital is involved and what they've been doing over the years. So...

Legislator Uchitelle

Let's do that. Especially with the information that Marc was sharing around these spikes in opioid overdoses. Even if, you know, the mortality rate is different because of the proliferation of the Naloxon. I think it would this is going to be something, well, God willing, the dust settles on COVID at some point. I suspect this is something that we'll be dealing with.

Chairman Lopez

Sure, okay. I can reach out to him. Now, is that something you would want for next month? I don't know how we're going to be meeting. Whether it's going to be in person or it's going to be another Zoom meeting. Yeah, I guess we can play it by ear that way. And I could see what his schedule is like as well. If he has the availability, then I think it would be good to reach out for him to participate.

Legislator Uchitelle

That would be great.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. All right. Very good. Well, I will reach out to him then. Is there anything else? Anybody? All right.

Chairman Lopez

Well, hearing nothing, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Uchitelle

Motion to adjourn.

Legislator Criswell

Second.

Legislator Petit

Third.

Chairman Lopez

Very good, all in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. (5-0)

Deputy Executive Rider

Okay, good night, everyone.

Chairman Lopez

All right, Everybody. All right. Bye.