

**Public Health & Social Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: June 3, 2021 – 5:00 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,
Meeting ID: 973 0916 4952
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Craig Lopez
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Nettie Tomshaw
PRESENT: Legislators Criswell, Bruno, Petit, Uchitelle
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Parete, Legislator Heppner, Vice Chair Tracey Bartels,
Deputy County Executive Marc Rider

Chair Lopez called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

Motion No. 1: **Moved to Approve Minutes & Transcript of the May 3, 2021 meeting**
Motion By: Legislator Bruno
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell
Discussion: None
Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Criswell, Bruno, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4 (Petit arrived 5:03)
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes/Transcripts APPROVED**

Resolutions for the June 15, 2021 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 246: Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Bliss to the Community Services Board. Term: Present to 12/31/2024.

Motion No. 2 Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 246
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. 247: Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board

Resolution Summary: This resolution This resolution confirms the appointment of Ranaghan to the Community Services Board. Term: Present to 12/31/2024.

Motion No. 3 Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 247
Motion Made By: Legislator Uchitelle
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. 248: Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board

Resolution Summary: This resolution This resolution confirms the appointment of Spearman to the Community Services Board. Term: Present to 12/31/2024.

Motion No. 4 Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 248
Motion Made By: Legislator Uchitelle
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. 250: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Memorandum Of Agreement With The Kingston City School District For The Operation Of A Point Of Dispensing Site At The Kate Walton Field House – Department Of Public Works (Buildings & Grounds)

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair of the UC Legislature to execute a memorandum of agreement with the Kingston City School District to operate a “Point of Dispensing Site” (PODS), at the Kate Walton Field House. Estimated approx. \$50K

Motion No. 5 Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 250
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. 251: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services For A Mobile Child Advocacy Center Unit – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair of the UC Legislature to execute an agreement with the NYS OCFS for a mobile child advocacy center unit to provide a safe, child friendly setting to conduct interviews. Contract # C029062, State 100% 250K, Contract Period 4/1/2021 – 9/30/2021.

Motion No. 6 Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 251
Motion Made By: Legislator Uchitelle
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. 252: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$73,511.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract with Family of Woodstock Inc. for the Title XX Domestic Violence Program – professional services. \$73.5K, 36% Federal, 29% State, 35% County. Term 1/1/2021, 12/31/2021.

Motion No. 7 Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 252

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. 253: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$200,000.00 Entered Into By The County – J & D Ultracare Corp. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract for \$200K with J&D Ultracare Corp. for preschool nurse attendant (LPN or RN) to travel to school with the student and remain with the student throughout the day. 59.5% State, 40.5% County. Term 9/1/2021 – 8/31/2023.

Motion No. 8 Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 253

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. 254: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$200,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Unlimited Care, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract for \$200K with Unlimited Care, Inc. for preschool nurse attendant (LPN or RN) to travel to school with the student

and remain with the student throughout the day. 59.5% State, 40.5% County. Term 9/1/2021 – 8/23/2023.

Motion No. 9 Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 254
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.

Resolution No. 255: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$159,176.00 Entered Into By The County – Liberty Resources, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract for \$159.2K with Liberty Resources, Inc. for a trauma specialist case manager. 36% Federal, 29% State, 35% County.

Motion No. 10 Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 255
Motion Made By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bruno

Discussion: See attached transcript.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Criswell, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 2 (Bruno, Petit)
Disposition: Resolution adopted.

Resolution No. 256: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$21,956.00 Entered Into By The County – PEOPLE: Projects to Empower and Organize the Psychiatrically Labeled, Inc. – Department Of Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment #1 for \$22K with PEOPLE for reduced funding for HRMT guidance and support services. 100% Federal, Amd. Term 9/1/2020 - 8/31/2021.

Motion No. 11 Moved to Discuss and 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 For \$368,450.57 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 #3 with the Trustees of Columbia University to provide funding for the HEALing communities grant study, from 4/1/2021 – 3/30/2022.

Motion No. 12 Moved to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 257

Motion Made By: Legislator Bruno

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: See attached transcript.

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution adopted.

New Business: (see transcript)

Family of Woodstock, Director Michael Berg (Living Wage)

Legislator Petit, Child Support unit payments

Old Business: (see transcript)

American Rescue Plan Funding

Reschedule July meeting to Thursday 7/8/2021 at 5:00 PM due to the county building closed on 7/5 for Independence Day.

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

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Criswell

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6: 32 PM

Respectfully submitted: Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Staff

Minutes Approved: July 8, 2021

Ulster County Legislature
Public Health and Social Services Committee

Meeting Transcript

June 3, 2021

Jay Mahler

That's a new zoom thing, folks. I'm super sorry, we can't turn it off. So,

Legislator Bruno

Click on it and it goes away.

Jay Mahler

There you go. Perfect.

Chairman Lopez

Okay, all right. Well, we'll get started. Just after five so I'll call the meeting to order. And if I could get a motion to approve last committee meeting minutes.

Legislator Bruno

I'll make that motion.

Legislator Criswell

I'll second that.

Chairman Lopez

Second. Any discussion? All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chairman Lopez

Very good. Alrighty, well, welcome, everybody. It's good to see everybody back again. You know, hopefully, we can start doing this in person - it looks like maybe on,

Nettie Tomshaw

Here comes Laura.

Chairman Lopez

On our June session, we'll be able to get together which will be good, start feeling normal again. So with that said, we have a couple of guests this evening. And I want to welcome Barbara Hall. She is a

constituent of Legislator Uchitelle. And he wanted to give her an opportunity to share her thoughts on the county's mental health. I guess some of the issues that we're having and share her thoughts and ideas on how to get it moving, maybe in the right direction, and fill some of the gaps that need to be filled. So with that said, I don't know a Legislator Uchitelle if you want to add anything to that or introduce her or if we should just, you know, open the floor. Yeah, for her for her presentation.

Legislator Uchitelle

Yeah, I'll just say that, Barbara is more than just a constituent on this topic. And more than just someone that deals with it, but has a lot of experience dealing with it. And based on my conversation with her, I felt that it would benefit the committee. It just as any, you know, as any constituent could come but also just in particular, after talking to her, I wanted to make sure that we gave her some time to start the meeting. Sure. So Barbara, if you would, if you would, yeah, way we're The floor is yours.

Barbara Hill

Okay, I'm gonna do the cliff notes version. Um, so yeah, I am. I know some of you know me already. I know, Peter, Laura for years, Michael for gazillion years. And I sent my resume, cuz I do that because I have a lot of that systems experience. And I've worked exactly in some of the organizations that are contracted agencies. I think my first gig in the county was at Department of Social Services. I ran a youth and family initiative. That's how I met Michael, that was over 20 years ago. So I've been on the all kinds of levels. I've been in the health system. I did work at Westchester Medical Center, worked on some of the funding they got for the whole hospital project, I was working on the healthy village project, actually interviewed a lot of the local agencies for that project that was back in 2015, hasn't happened yet, but we hope it will. Um, I worked at a regional consortium of 30, behavioral health center, behavioral health organizations, some of them are contracted agencies. Access Supports For Living started that that IPA. I'm working now a little bit pro bono, some with Family Services, doing an innovative project over in Poughkeepsie. Um integrating health, mental health and substance use services and having a full of full service pharmacy. So that would be in concert. You know, it would be a it'll be yeah, it's a \$3 million capital grant. And that's coming along really well. I'm also I was I worked at Hudson Valley Mental Health. And I worked on transitioning from the county mental health services to that organization. So that was another thing I've been involved with. Um, I guess what I'm here about is I'm also a family caregiver and I have a brother who has, who's a person with Schizoid Affective Disorder. He's got several health issues. You know, he's obese, he's got high cholesterol, high blood pressure, severe sleep apnea, ten medications, etc. Um, I've been, I he's tried hooking up with just about every service in the county. And it's been very challenging. I mean, I have. So this is I'm sure you see family caregivers show you the files and the piles, and you know, I did every housing application I possibly could, when my partner didn't want him living with us anymore. I had to go through what's the definition of homeless, there's like five different definitions in the county. So that was enlightening. There's a it's a, it's a real challenge to have worked in the health, health field and, and mental health field for like over maybe 45 years. And we're still talking about integrating health and behavioral health services. So I am quite a good navigator of services, I do make a great care manager. And it does, it does take a lot of work takes a lot of work. I have tried to figure out how to get more input. As a family caregiver to the system, I did serve on the Ulster County Community Services Board for a while. Laura got your hand up?

Legislator Petit

I mean, it's interesting that you're saying this and you know how to navigate the system. And I don't. And we just had a crisis with a family friend. What why is our system broken? Or is that too broad of a question? I mean, we have funding coming. How do we how do we fix it so you don't have to have a PhD or a master's in mental health? in our system? I think that's my question. Is I listening to you speak, because I have known you for many years. And this is your background? And that in grant writing? I mean, how do you? How do you not have to be a professional to navigate the system and to get the appropriate care for, you know, folks in need?

Barbara Hill

Well, that's why I got reactivated when I saw the county task force that was assembled, and then I didn't see anybody representing family caregivers, except for those organizations that do have an awareness of that, um, that I got all reactivated. And I am interested in giving input to where I see the gaps are. Yes, I have. I am a, I have a social work degree. And I have two, I have a Master's in Public Health Administration and an undergraduate. And I'm mystified that I, as recently as the past few weeks, I'm still completely shocked at the treatment my brother and I have received from contracted agencies. And so I don't know what to say. But I'm about that Laura, I mean, that's, you know, a million dollar question. I just don't want to give up trying to, you know, passing along what I know. And I know Michael Berg's on the call so it's hard to even speak, because Michael's been in the bowels of this too. And I think it's it's I yeah, I think, you know, one thing I said to Michael, maybe two years ago, I said, Michael, what I like about you is you're always thinking out of the box. And then he turned to me and he said what box, and I think that says something and I want to give kudos to Family of Woodstock. I mean, not just because you're here, Michael, but because it's how organizations have to scarp together services because if there's no reimbursement for them, how do they survive? How do they provide the care? So where do you get the money. So it's always kind of trying to catch up and so um, I guess how to spend my time, because I had just a few minutes, but I did send this slide. And it's the social determinants of health, right. And we all know what that means. Sort of, it's getting more and more press, hallelujah. But, um, you know, so my brother, I look at him, and he's, he looks very old, and he's younger than me. And on average, people with mental health challenges lived 25 years, yes, less, than others. So I'm watching him deteriorate, regardless of the fact that I have all these degrees. And I know the system in and out, and I know executive directors of agencies, and I've been through both, you know, on and on. Um, so if 20% of a person's well-being, or health is from healthcare, and these services, we're trying to coordinate, that's great. But 80% are their health behaviors and their physical environment, like housing, or, you know, money, jobs, so I'm coordinating all of that for my brother. You know, it's like, it's a full-time job, and it has impacted my career profoundly, as well as my own mental health. So, um, yeah, it's a, it's very intense to, to do that, and to see, um, to be present, for organizations, they're lobbying to do a certain kind of service. And then on the ground, I know how my brother's just been treated by that same organization. And, as recently as the past few weeks, I've been an hour on the phone with one of the executive directors, no feedback loop to the input I had not getting back to me. It's hard. It's hard. And that's somebody who was a colleague, who I knew from some of my work at Westchester Medical Center, regionally. So it's, um, I want to, you know, I have some, I didn't want to go on about my experiences, because in 10 minutes, it's hard to reveal that it's very emotional for me, as you can tell. I would like to be able to get you know, I also have a lot of ideas, and solutions. And just to say, not only have I worked in community engagement in seven counties, regarding

community based organizations, but my wife, Rachel, just, she worked for the Montefiore health system for five years doing a similar thing. She's also a family caregiver to my brother. So, and I want to say one really positive thing is they did find out who the consultant is on the Mental Health Task Force. And I feel like you're in good hands everybody because Kristin Woodloch is a rock star. The woman who will be the consultant. So I almost feel like when I heard that today, or when I learned that, that I was like, Oh, I can step back and say, you're in good hands. And I feel like she knows a lot of these gaps that I would speak to. But and I would still like to have input into that taskforce, and I would like to attend if I could possibly be invited. Albert, am I allowed to call on people? Or Craig?

Legislator Bruno

No, that's fine. You know, I don't see everybody at once. So if somebody just speak up, if you want to say something, you know, just hop in there because I can't see everybody at the same time. Actually, I don't even know how you're able to do that. Are you able to get everybody on the screen at the same time? It's gallery view Craig. Top right hand corner of your screen. Okay. So Barbara, first of all, my name is Al Bruno, I'm a legislator District 2, which is Saugerties. I read your resume prior to the meeting. And thank you for forwarding that, it gave me a very good insight in you. And I'm actually in awe, and everything that you've accomplished, to be quite honest with you. And I guess I want to expand a little bit on Laura's statement, slash question is, if you had a list of 10 things, I mean, on the task form, personally, I think you actually belong in that task force. I think there's people that belong in a task force that should be on there. I think there's people that don't belong in that task force. They shouldn't be on there. But that's just a we can go around that forever. But the -my point is if you had a list based on your experiences and your professional experiences, and not only with your brother, but also where you're coming from. You had a list like three things that we as Ulster County as a government can change to make that process easier. I mean, what would be the top three things that we can do?

Barbara Hill

I think for me, as a family, caregiver and working in the system is all yours I've tried to come up with, what are the referral systems? like where do you get the best referral referrals? And how do you close the loop on that referral, because that's the gap. It's fine. You have like the county, there's like 2 million referral lists. And that's where I have to be the care manager is finding which list has the best information on it. Now, again, to Michael Michaels got the longest running hotline in the United States going on over there. So they have a great, they have a great resource list. And actually, the best they ever saw was an org, you know, they use Family of Woodstock's.

Legislator Bruno

Do you think it would make sense?

Barbara Hill

Excuse me?

Legislator Bruno

You think it would make sense to have one organization, one list in one, one system, as opposed to multiple systems and multiple contractors and multiple organizations trying to do the same thing? Not to mention the efficiency of it all?

Barbara Hill

Yes. And I would like to see, there are products, like the whole state of Pennsylvania in the whole is has adopted a certain referral product. And then they link it to the whole health information exchange. The whole state of Arizona that so there's these pilots going on, it does not - having that available, where people can see the resources and everybody it's available to everyone does not take away the warm handouts and real people like what are on the ground CBS like the LGBTQ Center provides or Michael provides. It doesn't take that away. But I agree. I just went on the county, you know one website. How would I know if I'm in crisis to call? You know, I look at wellness recovery website, I look at this one, I look at that one, I get confused about what the best list is AI. You know, and maybe each one has a little bit better, you know, more specificity. But yeah, so I yes, that would be my that actually is my top thing. And the other thing I'm finding lately is as much as there's different agencies, and I hooked my brother up with this peer and that peer and this one and that one, people move on. So he develops a relationship he already has a hard time. That's part of his mental health challenges is he doesn't know how to reach out. He's not assertive. He doesn't know how to call. He's used to stopping by. He doesn't know how to make appointments. So he can't do that this past year. But even before that, so but there's turnover, it's a staff market. People are moving on. He's had, and he has, you know, so yeah, training retention, more money for staff. I mean, you've heard that over and over right.

Legislator Bruno

Yeah.

Legislator Criswell

So is this about more caseworkers and trying to figure out getting more caseworkers connected with clients and trying to have them have long term relationships with the clients?

Chairman Lopez

Yeah, you know, and yeah, if I could jump in here, um, and that's kind of what I've learned over the years. I don't know how many people know my, my, the details of my background, but I got hurt when I was 18 years old. Yeah, there's almost 30 years ago, which, yeah, has. I've learned a lot over the years, I've learned how difficult this system is to navigate on. And what I have learned as well is that the system is completely overloaded. It's completely overloaded. Um these caseworkers have hundreds of clients and people that they're dealing with on their own. So they don't, and what I've noticed that they often don't have the time to spend with an individual to make aware Yeah, what's available for them. you're often playing phone tag, people don't get back to you. Um, you know, I don't know how many times I've spent, you know, hours on hold only to be hung up on at the when, you know, I didn't get an answer on Yeah, and it's really, it's playing phone tag. It's just, and I think it all it's all impart on because of how overwhelmed the system is. And I think that's where a lot of this is. A lot of these changes have to begin. Yeah, I don't know if it's having more people available to provide that one on one time or just some time to spend with an individual to explain to them, what's available out there. And then it's just layer and layer of bureaucracy on top of each other, as well, there's so many rules out there. It's like a

full-time job, just knowing what you're entitled to what's available, and how to go about getting, and if I wasn't able to advocate for myself, you know, I feel really bad for people who are unable to do it, because they're the ones that got lost in the system. And there's so many people that are in the system, because, yeah, they just don't have the time. And they don't have the manpower. And, yeah, I think that's, in part, you know,

Legislator Bruno

(inaudible)

Chairman Lopez

the answer that we're looking for, you know, it's some you need, you need more

Legislator Bruno

It almost sounds like a good argument for shared services, where we need to put everything under one umbrella and have some kind of cohesive, this is an I'm just using the term. This is the mental health department of Ulster County, and they handle everything. Yes, they can utilize the tools at their disposal, such as Family and Access and all of those, you need to have the buck stops here. You need to have somebody in charge in a hierarchy, and then the caseworkers on the frontline.

Michael Berg

Can I add something. And I think that Barbara made reference to it before. There isn't an integration of service. There are mental health services, there are substance abuse services, there are criminal justice services, people are struggling with health services. But they're whole people. And they're dealing with all of those issues, but they're having to go to different places. The way that our system is structured and if you look at the list of funding sources that I sent all of you, you will see that in order to present a whole service, I'm writing four or five different funding sources and separating out when I worked at this hour, I did this and this, how I did this, but their whole people. And so you know what you were saying, Craig, about the complexity. Our caseworkers serve to be that resource for people as they go to the multiple because they don't know, and they don't understand what they're told. And so what happens is that you need somebody to navigate the system for the person to get service. I would like to add one more thing that Barbara said, which is so disturbing. The amount of turnover, at places like Astor and the Mental Health Services is tremendous now. But let me tell you what that means. It means that I have a kid or an adult who has a therapy session, and the next week, the person isn't the same. So they start to tell their story all over again. And then two weeks later, it's a different person. At what point do you give up and say, this is a waste of time. Without that stability I mean, we're talking therapy, we're talking counseling. If the person doesn't even know you, you don't have any trust in that circumstance. So these are the situations that Barbara and many, many, many of us are confronting every day. And it's built around the fact that funding is done by legislators who isolate a particular problem and put money to it. But the problem is part of a bigger issue a bigger situation. And so to compartmentalize the money makes it very hard to provide a comprehensive service unless you're prepared to write six grants to put the money together to provide a comprehensive service. It's a lot of work.

Legislator Bruno

But Michael can I ask you a question and?

Michael Berg

Of course.

Legislator Bruno

And I'm wanting to thank you guys both of you. But it's like you mentioned a few other states like Arizona, I heard and a few other states that have different systems. Is there a particular model that maybe Ulster County can use and possibly in New York State as, that we could model off of and give us a goal, something that we can work towards, you know, of a particular place, it's done differently than the way we do it and how we could possibly change it?

Michael Berg

Not in the funding sources that I work in. The state compartmentalizes we have to respond, we may know what the service that's needed. I'm sure Barbara could tell you an hour's worth of time of what her brother needs. But finding an integrated space that that could be done by one group is very, very hard. And the funding does not support that, Barbara go ahead.

Barbara Hill

Well, I don't know if you'll have an opportunity, but Kristin Woodlock, who will, who is the consultant, I believe, to the Mental Health Task Force has so much experience and she's worked regionally, her husband's really well known. I'm a fan of both of them. She knows what's going on regionally. But she's also from the National Council on Behavioral Health Care. She's a national consultant. And she's great at bringing organizations together and looking at workflows. Now workflows mean, she's paying attention to where the gaps are, and how to make sure before people get funding. They know. Like somebody shouldn't get funding to do a program if it's not seamlessly connected to the next organization. So she's very aware of that, I get a little emotional about this. She also knows family caregiver issues. And even like her husband runs a facility down in East New York, which is like Premier, he talks about it all the time all over. They not only have the person's total health as Michaels talking about in their system. They, they consider generational health, because it's not it's like the family that person comes from and even before that, so they try to link in the whole family. I mean, that's deep. So Woodblocks, the Woodblocks have really, I mean, not the answer to everything, but it's I'm so heartened to learn it. Peter.

Legislator Criswell

Yeah, Barbara you and I had this conversation before about, at one point, mental health was a little bit more coordinated under the county, and then it got separated out. So what was the dysfunction that was happening on the county level that caused it to be separated out? Because what Al's kind of calling for is for it to be brought back in again, whether it's under the county or center under one kind of larger, you know, entity.

Michael Berg

Peter.

Barbara Hill

Well, some of that is. Oh Michael, Michael's speaking. Are you speaking Mike?

Michael Berg

I'm trying to say that our mental health department used to have large numbers of employees. Now they have seven. So when you start to look at what happened, the leadership, we used to be able to go to mental health when we needed a special service. We can't do that now. They don't have it to provide. The state has removed a lot of the resources including taking the rehab and detox and putting it in Dutchess County. It's hard to make up.

Barbara Hill

Yeah, I, I just had dinner with a friend of mine who used to be at the county, Cheryl Kumar, before, you know, before, all the decimation of, you know, the reimbursement streams, somewhat, we went to a county executive form of governance. But yeah, there's a lot of pressures on why the mental health department isn't the way it is. Um, it's, I don't even know what to say I don't. There's other counties are also struggling to. They've had to do the same thing with their mental health services, contract them out to a private nonprofit. It's happening a lot. So yes, that's unfortunate. Um, other counties are scrapping it together to. Um, I'm just I was heartened to see okay, so there's some money coming into the county. What can be - how can that money be used in a way that sustain that is given to sustainable projects? And maybe it's some infrastructure in terms of information systems. So yes, I know everybody wants to write it right away plug the holes because of the hospital beds being moved to Poughkeepsie. Um, so yes, I understand crisis treatment is really important. The opioid crisis is definitely important. And the mental health issues are continuing to be very prominent. And I just looked it up. But I think the enrollment in Medicaid has gone through the roof this past year. So we have that burden to going on. So there's a lot to consider here. I mean, it's not easy. I just am so heartened by who's at the table that this taskforce is being convened. It's sad, it hasn't been this kind of a taskforce or they used to call it the providers meeting has not been convened over the past few years. I do not know why it has not been. So I guess the County Exec has to do this kind of thing. And there's money. So I hope it's used wisely.

Chairman Lopez

Al.

Legislator Bruno

Yeah, I got a question for, actually for both of them. So I'm asking a lot of questions, because I'm learning here. And I hope everybody else is too. You think this is indicative of what New York State has done, closing only, for lack of better terms, the institutions. Because of a bad one that happened in Long Island, they seem to shut down all the mental health institutions like the Mid-Hudson Center, the Orange County center, all these huge institutions were closed down. And it seems that which was back in the 70s, and the 80s. And it seems it's been a constant, like, degradation of the system since then, in my opinion, and if I'm wrong, maybe we need to get back to some kind of a central location or some kind of a service like that.

Barbara Hill

Al you're going deep, that's, that's deep. But my goal

Legislator Bruno

I think outside the box.

Michael Berg

I think that the problem with the institutions that you were describing was that they put people away. And as a humanity, and looking at the system occurred, people recognize that we were putting the problem in the corner, so we didn't have to deal with it. And we weren't necessarily providing quality service to the people that we were serving. But it hasn't gotten to the point where the quality of service that we can deliver in the community responds to the needs, while still giving some freedom and some ability to do what they want to do within their lives. That's a real challenge when people are not functional.

Legislator Bruno

Maybe find something in the middle.

Michael Berg

(inaudible) housing in terms of a lot of the services that we provide. But it is really a challenge. You know, there are systems that say you have to give the apartment to the person that's the most that needs, the most that risk, the most in danger. But if that person is not ready for service, the apartment gets trashed, then the landlord doesn't want to do business with you. So there has to be some, some understanding and some trust and communication between the providers that are in the front line. And the people that are making decisions that are so far away from the front line.

Deputy Executive Rider

If I could just speak on this one issue, it, it's really very similar to like in the education world, what happened with No Child Left Behind, right, like, there was no funding associated with it. So we think that society as a whole has said, we don't want to put people and lock them up in institutions. But we're not willing to provide the federal dollars behind what that means. So oftentimes, people end up homeless or in other situations where they are, what Barbara is talking about, and people also have a choice. And so we can, as a mental health department, find what we believe is the best system solution for somebody, and they can turn it down. And they have a choice to sorry, um, they have a choice of where they go.

Michael Berg

They have that right.

Deputy Executive Rider

Right, but they may not want the services that we're providing. So I'll give you an example Chiz's, right. And there's been a lot of communication around Chiz's. There's still about 10 to 20 people in Chiz's that we could potentially find placement for but that would require them going to group meetings or having other services provided to them that they aren't interested in having provided to them. So they decline

those services and we're in a situation where we have ten to twenty people who still need a place to live. They have a right to a place to live. We don't have a, and we can only place them where we believe is a place that matches with what their needs are.

Legislator Bruno

We need some place in the middle.

Barbara Hill

Yeah, well, you know, I've been - my brother did live in Chiz's place for a while. So that was quite an experience. Let's put it that way. Um, but I, I think that forget what I was gonna say, I got distracted by that. Um, yeah, it's just so it's so huge for me. It's like, I think this matters to me more than just about any category of things in my life. I feel so passionate about this. I mean, this is what I put my life's work in both professionally and then, oh, I know what I was gonna say. My brother would be dead if it weren't for me. You know what I mean? Let's say how many times I have scooped him up. I've - worse than one I mean, he was in a locked ward in East Orange, New Jersey. I mean, I've never seen anything like it. My wife, thank god agreed to bring them up here. And cobbled together, whatever we've cobbled together. But it's, it's, I have to say that I adore my brother, and any of you. And usually, and the peer movement says nothing about him without him, he should really be here on this call. So I don't like to do that to him. Because it's a little hard for him to see how passionate his sister is. But um, yeah, it's I feel, I'm that's it. So

Chairman Lopez

Yeah if one, if one thing's for certain Barbara, you bring a lot to this committee, you're obviously have a lot of experience and your wealth of knowledge, and, you know, what you've done and how you've learned, you know, to advocate for your brother. And yeah, we would like to have you back. Yeah. As in our committee, you know, and have further discussions. I think, yeah, you, you bring a lot to the table. And I think we can only benefit as a committee with, with your, your experience and your ideas. And, you know, maybe we can start coming up with solutions on how best to fill these gaps and move the county forward and identifying the changes that have to be met, and, and how to go about doing it. So, you know, with that said, You know, I really appreciate you being here today. And we should definitely stay in touch. And, you know, have you back and continue this discussion.

Legislator Bruno

Marc, are you listening?

Barbara Hill

So, I don't know what you're Craig, are you talking about? What are you talking about me participating on the task force, or this group, or I'm not sure exactly the forum.

Legislator Lopez

Well, you can come back and speak with our committee, I don't have control over the task force, that would be a

Deputy Executive Rider

There are over 30 people on the task force. And there are other individuals who do represent. I mean, before talking to Barbara, the Community Services Board, we had sent out an invitation to Nami, and there's others. Look, there's people on the way off that aren't on the behavioral health Task Force, Barbara being one of them. In an ideal world, if we could have 100 people, they would all be there. But it's already a very, very lengthy, robust Task Force. And at this point, we're leaving the membership, as it is. Now Barbara's talked to several members of the task force and advocated on her own behalf and are informing them of things to bring to that table. And we've provided her with the information from the last meeting. So

Barbara Hill

Yeah, it's just a very labor intensive process to do it that way Marc. So I will continue, because I feel so strongly. And, you know, like, I'll reach out to Michael, keep doing that. But it is harder, because there is no tape of the meeting. And there's no real minutes. There's just ideas. So it's hard to get put it into any kind of context, but I will continue to, to do what I need to feel engaged in that I get my input and. All right, thank you.

Legislator Lopez

Okay. All right. Thank you, Barbara.

Legislator Criswell

Thank you, Barbara.

Barbara Hill

Am I able to stay on to hear Michael's presentation?

Legislator Lopez

Yeah, sure, no, absolutely. Yeah. Um, now Michael, you are under new business. I don't know if we want to buss through resolutions get that out of the way and then

Michael Berg

I'm fine.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. All right. Well, then we'll Uh, yeah.

Deputy Executive Rider

I got to jump off after the resolutions.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Yep. No, definitely. All right. Well, we'll get into resolutions then. All right, we will start with Resolution 246, Confirming the Appointment of a Member to the Community Service Board. Moved for discussion.

Legislator Criswell

Move that.

Legislator Bruno

Second.

Chairman Lopez

Any discussion? This is for Daniel Bliss? Hearing none.

Legislator Criswell

Is this a reappointment?

Deputy Executive Rider

He - we appointed him a couple months ago, the mental health subcommittee.

Legislator Criswell

I remember the name as I was asking.

Nettie Tomshaw

All of them.

Deputy Executive Rider

Neuroscientists from UC Berkeley or University at Fordham got his degree at Berkley.

Legislator Criswell

Nettie saying all of them, all of them that we're gonna see tonight are

Deputy Executive Rider

Yes, yes.

Legislator Criswell

Can we, can we?

Chairman Lopez

Want to block them?

Legislator Bruno

Can we block as a group?

Chairman Lopez

Yeah. That may take longer to block them. And then then if we just buzz through them, so let's yeah,

Legislator Criswell

Let's buzz through them.

Chairman Lopez

All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Resolution 247, Confirming the Appointment of a Member to the Community Service Board.
Move for discussion.

Legislator Uchitelle

I'll move it.

Chairman Lopez

Again, that's for Denise Ranaghan. Is that how you pronounce her last name?

Legislator Bruno

Second.

Deputy Executive Rider

Ranaghan.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. All right. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye. Aye. Aye.

Chairman Lopez

Resolution 248, Confirming the Appointment of a Member to the Community Service Board. Move for discussion?

Legislator Uchitelle

Move it.

Legislator Bruno

Second.

Chairman Lopez

Any discussion? All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Move on to a Resolution 250, Authorizing the Chair the Legislature to Execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the Kingston City School District for the Operation of a Point of Dispensing Site at the Kate Walton Fieldhouse. Move for discussion?

Legislator Bruno

I'll move.

Legislator Uchitelle

Second.

Chairman Lopez

A second any discussion?

Legislator Bruno

This is for um, Marc is just for not for COVID inoculation?

Deputy Executive Rider

It is for COVID vaccines. This is already actually happened. Kingston school

Chairman Lopez

It is.

Legislator Bruno

Barely.

Deputy Executive Rider

The Kingston School district was going to submit for FEMA reimbursement on their own. But FEMA has told us that they can't do that. And so we are submitting - they're gonna charge us and we're gonna get reimbursed through FEMA because it's our pod. Can't hear you Marc. Kingston school, can you hear me?

Legislator Uchitelle

Just for clarity. This is this is for this is for the existing what has already happened. This isn't a new.

Deputy Executive Rider

Correct.

Legislator Uchitelle

Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Anything else. All in favor?

Legislator Petit

So this is additional (inaudible).

Legislator Uchitelle

It sounds like this is just moving, moving it onto our books so that we can bill FEMA.

Deputy Executive Rider

FEMA told us that we couldn't have been reimbursed about a month ago. So the whole time they were planning on submitting their own FEMA requests. Now we have to do it for them. And we have to have a MOU in order to do that.

Legislator Bruno

More bureaucracy.

Chairman Lopez

But anything else? All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chairman Lopez

All right. Resolution 251, Authorizing the Chair the Legislature to Execute an Agreement with New York State Office of Children and Family Services for a Mobile Child Advocacy Center Unit. Motion.

Legislator Bruno

Move it.

Legislator Uchitelle

Second.

Chairman Lopez

Any discussion?

Legislator Criswell

Yep Marc is this, is this state money?

Deputy Executive Rider

It is. it's purchasing a trailer. It'll be like an RV that we'll be able to take out in the community and do interviews with child victims and others, in a more comfortable place than them coming into the (inaudible).

Legislator Bruno

So this will be like the mobile DMV.

Deputy Executive Rider

Correct. But for the family child advocacy center. Correct.

Legislator Bruno

And do we already have this bus?

Deputy Executive Rider

No. So originally OCFS was going to just purchase this for us and donate it to us. And then throughout this grant, they decided that they were just going to provide us the money, and we have to buy our own.

Legislator Bruno

So this will be a bond issue as well.

Deputy Executive Rider

Probably not because we're just we're receiving the money from - I don't think we'll bond this, because we're receiving the money directly from OCFS.

Legislator Bruno

So we have passed through.

Deputy Executive Rider

Correct.

Legislator Petit

It's a I'm just trying to wrap my head around this because I know, you know, very often if there is a you know, a child victim, rather than taking them into, you know, an office or police station where it's very cold and uncomfortable. Wouldn't it made more sense to have a room somewhere? I mean, are you saying they go to the site of where the crime happened? Or I'm just trying to wrap my head around that the program it? It just seems like some of these mobile programs mean, we need more staffing. And, you know, what happens if that funding runs out. Is there a sunset on these folks? It just, I feel like we're adding more layers.

Deputy Executive Rider

Yeah, so we're not we won't add staffing, this is just for the piece of equipment, and we will utilize our, you know, staffing that already exists. This gives people an opportunity to go out into the field and do the investigation and won't be at the crime scene. But for people with transportation issues, if there's other reasons that the family doesn't want to travel to the center now, which is in Kingston, we can go out into the community and have a place that will be more comfortable. That and, and private that we can interview victim's.

Legislator Bruno

So will this thing be - will this be planned, like, let's say Ellenville on a Tuesday, Saugerties on a Wednesday, or just random?

Deputy Executive Rider

Now, this would be us planning with the victim's family and the and the family. And we would go out and meet them at a location that works for them. But again, this is 100% state funded, this is a grant that I think they're providing to many of the counties with these office and victim services, you know, domestic violence services programs, so

Legislator Bruno

I'm not I'm not against it necessarily, but I'm just trying to wrap like Laura said wrap my head around it. It just seems to me when this bus, I see this, you know, RV, so to speak, you know, pulling up into a town and the people are looking at it and say, Oh, my God, you know, what a waste of money. You know, I'm saying because I get it. It's been it's coming from state and federal. But that's taxpayer money as well. Just I mean, I have to think of that. I mean, I think it's a needed situation. I visualize a tragedy, where there's, you know, multiple people that are involved in this bus needs to go to whether it be a school or someplace where they need, you know, where you see a lot of times where there's I'll say a death for some whatever reason. And they offer counseling to the classes. I see that being the place that this would show up as but going, you know, driving 150 miles, because one person can't get a taxi to drive to Kingston almost seems a little bit of a waste. And that's what I'm trying to wrap my head around and hopefully this doesn't happen.

Deputy Executive Rider

Yeah, I mean, I'll just I'll read a read from the actual grant, where it says these units will allow for team members to choose a centrally located safe space to meet family and children right in their own community. Utilizing the mobile unit will increase accessibility to a child safe space and the services that will be been then available to that child and their family. Ultimately, the increased accessibility will lend itself to reducing the trauma for these child victims and beginning the healing process earlier. So it's, it's really about just being able to, it's not about just them coming into town and it's about being able to go to them and being in a less traumatic situation.

Legislator Bruno

My question with this is kind of going to go to Michael and Barbara Hill as well. You see the outright need for this (inaudible) you guys. Family Woodstock does incredible work and I'm just saying you know. So I would I would like I will kind of put more credence into your services as well, as well, because they're all over. They're everywhere in the county that I know of. So is this redundant to what Family does and that we're paying Family for.

Michael Berg

It's not redundant to what we do because the county itself has to do this work, because there's an abuse situation. They're studying the safety of the family. I, I think that having a safe, comfortable place to do these kind of interviews would be welcomed by the family and the child. I also have some of the same feelings that you do about, you're going to spend 30,000 -\$40,000 on a vehicle. I can have a staff person with that, but but there is reason for it. And if done well, it can really help a very difficult situation be better.

Legislator Bruno

Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Anything else? All right. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chairman Lopez

Well move on to Resolution 252, Approving the Execution of a Contract for \$73,511 Entered Into by the County with Family of Woodstock. For the XX was, is that is that roman numerals the XX 2020 domestic violence programmer or

Deputy Executive Rider

Yep. Title 2020 Domestic Violence Program.

Chairman Lopez

Gotcha. All right. Move for discussion.

Legislator Bruno

I'll move it.

Legislator Uchitelle

Second.

Chairman Lopez

Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Resolution 253, Approving Execution of Contract for \$200,000 with J & D Ultra care Corp. for a preschool nurse attendant. Motion. Al. Abe motion second. All right discussion?

Legislator Bruno

Preschool nurse? Can't hear you Marc.

Deputy Executive Rider

For transportation. I don't know what's wrong with my mic but um. These are a nurse which is either an RN. They provide services while we provide transportation to preschoolers with special needs to and from school.

Legislator Bruno

So it's the nurse rides on the bus basically?

Deputy Executive Rider

Yes.

Legislator Bruno

Okay. \$200,000.

Chairman Lopez

That's to 2023. Okay. Anything else? All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chairman Lopez

All right. Resolution 254, Approve the Execution of a Contract for \$200,000 with Unlimited Care for a preschool nurse, same as 253 but with a different provider. Move for discussion?

Legislator Petit

I'll move it.

Legislator Uchitelle

Second.

Chairman Lopez

Second. Discussion?

Legislator Bruno

Why do we have two different providers doing the same thing.

Deputy Executive Rider

They provide these services to several youth throughout the county and just depending on the location, and also the needs of each child may need a slightly different specialized nurse. But you know, there's many of these. We transport many children with special needs throughout the county to different schools. And so there's oftentimes a bus on each or a nurse on each of these buses, so

Legislator Bruno

The one company doesn't do it all? It just surprises me it's contracted out to several different companies.

Chairman Lopez

Well, I think if that if the company is unable to provide what the needs are, you know, I'm okay. Yeah. So if Unlimited Care is able to provide you know what they're looking for, then I'm sure that's why they contract with

Legislator Bruno

It's specific to the child as at whatever issues he has.

Legislator Criswell

Just a quick question is this billed up to 200,000? So it's only it's only billable hours and the max is the that total max?

Deputy Executive Rider

I think they bill us \$44 an hour.

Legislator Criswell

Okay, great. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Okay, anything else? All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chairman Lopez

Alright. Resolution 255, Approving Execution of a Contract for \$159,176 with Liberty Resources for a trauma, trauma specialist care manager. A motion.

Legislator Petit

I'll move it.

Chairman Lopez

A second.

Legislator Bruno

Second.

Chairman Lopez

Alright discussion.

Legislator Bruno

Trauma, I'm going to ask the questions, trauma care manager?

Deputy Executive Rider

Yes. And they work with children, they access the needs of the family and the child. As far as better than they're able to stabilize the children in the home. They do referrals. They arrange for transportation assistance where needed. They make weekly

Legislator Bruno

Is this what the bus will do?

Deputy Executive Rider

No, I mean, that's, that's a different that's a nurse on the bus. This is a case manager that works with the families and the children.

Chairman Lopez

Where you referring to the Mobile Child Advocacy Center AI?

Legislator Bruno

Yes that's what I was referring to.

Deputy Executive Rider

Oh. yeah. I mean, so that is literally doing an investigation of the law enforcement type where we have to interview children that are victims of domestic violence and family violence. That that's totally separate. Then, again, this is a case manager. This is a social worker, working with a traumatized child.

Legislator Bruno

I just and I'm not, I'm not against it. I'm just what I'm seeing the layer on the layer on top of the layer what Michael was talking about. There's just it seems like there's so many people doing the same job. And we're spending so much money in so many different directions that I feel sorry for like it. And like Barbara was saying, I see how difficult it would be to navigate it all. Because we have just here in these few resolutions. We have duplicity over and over again, that we need. Let's say we don't but yes, I think definitely need this whole system needs to be streamlined.

Legislator Petit

Yeah, I mean, I think it would be more traumatizing to be interviewed by a police officer than be interviewed by caseworkers and social services. And now we're adding in a trauma I

Legislator Bruno

Just so many different people.

Legislator Petit

That would be traumatizing. You know, we have to talk to these scary adults that they, you know, have no relationship with. I think we could better spend our money.

Legislator Bruno

I think that taskforce has got a lot of work to do.

Chairman Lopez

You do we know the details of the trauma specialist care manager, you know, is it, it's, I would doubt that it's a uniformed police officer, right. It's somebody who

Deputy Executive Rider

These are apples -like the contracts are apples and oranges. These are totally different services. Totally different children. They're not at all the same. (inaudible)

Legislator Petit

Case up, if there's a child victim, you would have an officer and then you would have somebody from DSS and now you have a mental health provider?

Deputy Executive Rider

It's not necessarily- these children have had some trauma, and they're in family court, but they're not necessarily, again, the same children that have gone through abuse or family violence. These are just, they've gone through a traumatic situation, that they have a family assessment service plan through family court and this is their caseworker.

Legislator Bruno

Trauma nurses a caseworker is what you're saying? Did I get that correctly?

Deputy Executive Rider

These are trauma specialist case managers. These are not nurses.

Chairman Lopez

It's not a nurse Al.

Michael Berg

These people are really advocates for the family and the child. They're seen as the people that are supporting them. This system has its, you know, it has a police officer, it has a DSS worker. But this is a person that's been trained and very sensitive to the needs of the family and the children. They are trained in trauma informed care. This is a form of training. We do it for every caseworker that we have. It's very important that people be sensitive to the damage and how it's impacting upon them. I think that's what this worker does. And I see them more as an advocate for the child and the family that is part of the system.

Legislator Petit

And this is a voluntary program or is it mandated so on top of say, you know, the caseworkers and the law enforcement and whatever mental health provider the family may choose they'd be mandated to deal with this trauma nurse?

Deputy Executive Rider

Often times in family court as part of a plan. So in that way, it's, it would be a mandate. But as Michael said, they're advocates for the family. They try to get the family in services that are working for the child and for the family.

Michael Berg

After the DSS police officer deals with the family, this is the person that works with them to get help for the family to get counseling for the child to make sure that it's not lost in the system. It really is a different role than the role played by the police or by the form of Department of Social Services.

Legislator Bruno

So is this possible just so I can understand this completely. Is it possible that one instance one particular child or family who has a crisis whatever it may be, from what I've heard, they could have two or three different caseworkers working on the same case? Yeah. It seems almost bizarre.

Michael Berg

Think about it a little different way. The police officer has the responsibility to determine what happened and was there a crime and somebody has to do.

Legislator Bruno

I'm not talking about the police department.

Michael Berg

But (inaudible) going to work with the family on an ongoing basis afterwards, to try and help them heal. I don't see it as the same function. I really don't.

Legislator Bruno

No I wasn't referring to the police department. That's not what I was referring to. And I understand that part. I'm just saying because it just seems like there's like this caseworker is specialized in this and this caseworker is specialized in that in this case worker. So we have like two, three or four, whatever number of caseworkers working with one child. Now that one child talk about being confused, I understand what Barbara was saying before. I mean, you get you get so tired of it, you just walk away from it. You know, It just seems layer upon bureaucracy, to the me. I'm sorry. But I just see what an incredible waste of money we have in the mental health system. Sorry, I think you can get one person who's got a doctorate that can handle all of those things. I just seemed it just seemed bizarre to spend that much money on so many different caseworkers working with one child in a crisis. Maybe I'm wrong. I you know, and I really do this, trust me this. This, I'm very passionate about this committee and about the work that it does, and Family, I think they do incredible work. And I'm just trying to, but it's broken the system. So I mean, we're never going to fix the system if we keep adding layer on top of layer. And that's what I think we're doing. I'm not going to vote against this, because it's already part in motion. But I think we really need to take a hard look at this mess. Because I think it's a mess. I really do. Sorry.

Deputy Executive Rider

Just for the record, these last three or four resolutions development DSS resolutions, not mental health resolutions that are not related to the mental health system that they're the social services (inaudible)

Legislator Bruno

They sound like they should be one of the same though.

Legislator Petit

Yeah.

Legislator Bruno

At face value it does, Marc. I mean, I'm not trying to give you a hard time, I'm just, I'm just looking at it, you know, just you got to see the layers that we're seeing,

Deputy Executive Rider

They work together, they're integrated, and they definitely, you know, there's pieces that that come together, but they have separate and apart functions.

Legislator Bruno

Okay.

Legislator Petit

I mean, my, daughter was in two programs where she worked with child protective services, one was voluntary, the other was mandated. The voluntary one works much nicer because when they're mandated, you don't want that person in your house as a general rule. And they used to have to go in pairs because it was too dangerous, in most cases, for a caseworker to go in by themselves. So I and that was just a temporary program. I don't think they're functioning anymore. Um, you know, and it was someone going in and they called her a teacher, which I guess was a nice way of saying that she made suggestions and did some evaluation of where the kids should be going. So, yes, that program was an additional layer. I don't know how I feel about this. I'd rather take the money and, you know, give it to Michael for another caseworker.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Alright anybody else? Alright all in favor. Aye.

Legislator Bruno

I'm going to go with an aye. I'm going to say yes with trepidation.

Nettie Tomshaw

Any opposed?

Legislator Petit

I'll be opposed to this until I can wrap my head around it. Not that I'm opposed to any, any programs that help families, but there's so many separate programs out there. You know, and especially after

Barbara Hill's presentation about, you know, integrated health care system, you know, I really think we should be looking at fixing it instead of putting duct tape on it.

Legislator Bruno

Honestly, you know what, I I'm gonna agree, Legislator Petit on this one as well. I just I think we really need to take a better look at that. And at this point, I'm going to be no. Still pasted. It's just too much.

Chairman Lopez

All right, (inaudible) Well, then the votes are recorded Nettie?

Nettie Tomshaw

Yes.

Chairman Lopez

It still passes. Okay. All right. We will move on to Resolution 256. So Approving the Execution of a Contract Amendment for the \$21,956 with PEOPLE to reduce funding - oh this is with PEOPLE okay. To reduce funding HRMT guidance and support services. A motion.

Legislator Criswell

I'll move it.

Legislator Bruno

Second.

Chairman Lopez

Second. Any discussion? Hearing none, favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chairman Lopez

All right. Final Resolution No. 257, Approving the Execution of a Contract Amendment for \$368,450 with the Trustees of Columbia University, providing funding for the HEALing communities grant. Move for discussion.

Legislator Bruno

I'll move it.

Legislator Uchitelle

Second.

Legislator Bruno

Alright any discussion? HEALing with this grant is for what Marc? How does it work?

Deputy Executive Rider

This is our opioid that we've studied that we've done with Columbia University, this is the last - the third year of that we're receiving the money.

Legislator Bruno

That's what I thought, just making sure.

Chairman Lopez

Yep, it's 100% federal. Okay. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Deputy Executive Rider

Thank you, everybody I got to run.

Chairman Lopez

Yep. Sure. Thanks, Marc.

Deputy Executive Rider

Take care.

Chairman Lopez

All right we will move on to new business. And yeah, I'm sorry.

Legislator Petit

I have new or was, oh, the Legislative Parete making the presentation on the resolution? No?

Legislator Uchitelle

This is

Chairman Lopez

Yeah, this um

Legislator Uchitelle

We've invited Michael Berg with Family of Woodstock to join us.

Chairman Lopez

So I want to give him an opportunity.

Legislator Parete

Say that, say that again?

Chairman Lopez

Michael Berg is with it. Yep. So, um, yeah, he was under new business. I wanted to give him an opportunity.

Legislator Parete

Yeah, Laura I'm here just because I'm interested in this issue for a long, long time. And I come about it from a little different position, where many of you folks are involved. For a variety of reasons. The job I have had, and being a father and a grandfather and an uncle and all those good things, put me in a position to because of my job of seeing things that happen. And seeing changes that can happen in a day. And I have some issues but I'm not here to show for anything. I'm just want to know what's going on. And as my time runs out in his place, I'll do what I got to try to do, but that's the only reason I'm here.

Legislator Petit

Okay. Well it's nice to see you.

Legislator Parete

Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Alright, Michael, the floor is yours.

Michael Berg

Okay, well, I guess the background to this is that we were asked how much money it would cost to raise our salaries so that the baseline for any worker would be \$15 an hour. And my special my finance person did a calculation and came up with something in the neighborhood of \$779,000. And I guess that surprised the legislature. And so I'm here to try and explain that. And I have to start by saying that, for me, that's a lot of good things. But one of the things that we don't do well is we don't advertise. People come to us, we have tremendous numbers. But we don't take that much credit in the community as perhaps we should. And my board is actually looking at that. So Family runs what we count as 22 major programs. I'm talking about things like shelters, the longest running hotline in the country, the walk-in centers in Woodstock, New Paltz and Ellenville and our huge activity in Kingston now. We have taken it as our mantra to start with, we respond to the way that the community asks for service. And so we've always started with a very rudimentary program. I mean, the first homeless shelter that we ran was the living room floor of somebody that we had housed in our houses, who came back and said, I found an apartment, there's no shelters in this county, pay half my rent, I'll give you my living room floor. And for six months, that was the homeless shelter in this county, before we opened one. And how we built our programs is just to listen to the people that we're serving. So in 1978, if you came into Family of Woodstock at 9:45 at night, you would find that the place was filled with women and children. And we really didn't understand that at first, that was our introduction to domestic violence. And so we opened the shelter. And for the first three years, we were over capacity every night until shelters in the other communities opened. And from that we build programming. But I wanted it to county to know and I sent you some information that I thought would be relevant to the committee's knowledge. I sent you two summaries of services that we provide. These are just the top line of those services, but I sent you 2020 and I sent you 2019, because I thought the committee might be interested in what the difference

in the COVID year from the previous year was. I also sent you an analysis of our budget, listing all of our revenues. And what it says is that we run an \$11,900,000 program for those 22 programs. Over 10 million of it is money that we're bringing into the county that would not be in the county otherwise, with the exception of the money that largely the county puts in to match money that it is required to all of the rest of the money we are bringing in, whether it's through fundraising, foundations, grant writing, and that's how we build programming. So I would also want, the other thing that I said which I find interesting and I wanted people to understand. Um, we came to Kingston late. We opened Family of Woodstock in 70 and Ellenville in New Paltz in 75, as the county asked us to put timelines in from Kerhonkson and New Paltz, so that we would be toll free county wide. And for those that don't understand in 1970, Saugerties was a long-distance call from Woodstock. So in 71, when the county put two Ti-lines in for Kingston, it was because Kingston was free to the entire northern region of the county, that calling Phoenicia was a long-distance call. And so we want people to be able to call us. I just want to say that the Woodstock New Paltz and Ellenville offices are the main deliverers of human services. And when, when Barbara was talking about the social determinants of health, that's exactly what we're about. But understand that we realized early on, that people wouldn't just come to total strangers to tell them that they're being abused by their husband, or their being sexually abused by their brother. They would test us. So we give people a lot of ways to test us. They could come in and use our phone. They can use our food pantry, they can they can look at our employment good. These are all ways that people can test us to see if it's safe to reveal what's really happening in their lives. And so that's the way that we built the programs. They're very significant - they do a huge amount of service? The county is 14% of our overall programming, but it's only 6% of our walk-in centers, the three that are not in Kingston, and those centers have a fundraising goal of \$314,000. It's a huge lift for us. So I would hope that the county would see these outline posts as the real deliveries of a lot of mental health services, and other services. Right now, all of those offices are taking people in and helping them to get rental assistance, reimbursement, utility assistance reimbursement. If they weren't local the people wouldn't get that help. I would answer any questions. And I would also ask Abe, if there's something that he wanted me to cover that I haven't.

Legislator Uchitelle

Yeah, I would just, you know, Michael, if you could speak to the impact of, of, you know, the living wage, what the living wage impact would be more specifically, because I realize it's not only on employees that fall into that category, but potentially more broadly.

Michael Berg

Well, I mean, think about it for a minute. And I'm embarrassed to say this. We employ people that do the overnights and weekends on the shelters, they deal with maybe one other person as support. We sometimes they've had to dispense NARCAN and try and revive people that they found dead in the, in the bathroom. I'm paying them \$13 an hour, McDonald's pays \$15.40. I can't just raise that position. So it's a lift of the entire agency. We realize and we know that we've underpaid people for a long time. And I have to say, you know, I was at a meeting with the head of mental health and she happened to say, Well, I started my career at Family, and half of the leaders in the room acknowledged that they had as well. So what happens is people come to us, we train them, and then they go on to another county and private agencies that pay better. We feel terrible, but we're doing everything that we can.

Legislator Bruno

Um yeah Michael, first of all, I want to say thank you. You don't remember me and I, but I remember you. I was gonna say 18-19 years old, in Saugerties, a skinny little kid that was about this big around them. And I was into doing sound work and lighting and you came to me, you needed I believe it was a sound system for one of the programs that you were going to do. And it was because you had a women's shelter, you were opening up. And this is back in the late 70s. And it was just a program. And I remember I provided a speaker and an amp and a couple of mics for you to talk to whatever it was. And here we are 40 some years later, and you're still doing it. So first of all, I can't thank you enough for everything (inaudible) throughout those 40 years. I know and I'm not even going to put a number on it - multiple people that have benefited from Family of Woodstock, from your service or from your shelters from everything that you guys do. And to think that you have employees that are working there at 10, 12 \$13 an hour and the work that you guys do is (inaudible). I will absolutely without question and it with a smile on my face, approve any kind of funding to make sure that you get that money you need because there's not another agency in Ulster County that does the same work that you do. And I can personally as a man, as a resident of Saugerties, and as a legislator I cannot thank you enough. And I will be there to support you any way we can. Period.

Chairman Lopez

John.

Legislator Parete

Yes. Mr. Berg. Thank you. Um, you know, I have asked four times, not to you, Mr. Berg. To others to give me a list of because I've heard this 700,000 - three quarters of a million dollars, personally, that's less than 1/3 of 1% of our total budget. We cannot afford not to do this. We cannot afford not to do it. But my question is if I can, um, sometimes I've asked for job descriptions, job titles, not names of the positions. So I, in my own feeble mind can evaluate it to see if even that figure that you presented is accurate. Now I'm saying that with, with respect just so I could look at the numbers. I mean, I don't know how many folks you have 100, 180, 200?

Michael Berg

188 staff.

Legislator Parete

How many?

Michael Berg

188.

Legislator Parete

And so you're not including your volunteers in this?

Michael Berg

No we have 300 of all volunteers.

Legislator Parete

Right because I saw that in the information that Nettie sent out today. Now. If you need this much to bring those folks up to a living wage, then we are really behind the times. You and other others, people who help people in need, people with special needs, people who are just sick or infirmed. And so the figure that I hear is doesn't scare me one iota. Ulster County can afford it and Ulster County cannot afford not to do it. And I when you say it would, it could, we're not talking about you bankrupting your budget, we're talking about us, making sure that you get it, so that your folks can be proud of their job. And, you know, the ironic part about it is any of the raises are gonna come right back into the community anyway.

Michael Berg

Absolutely.

Legislator Parete

Whether they be at the food market, or wherever. So, you know, that's fine. Thank you very much. I just wanted to make sure though, that, you know, when I was suggested come here, and I've been very interested, I could go back to 2013, with my sons and I were working on mental health issues in the schools, and we were turned down. There's a law on the books, local on number one of 2013 to start addressing these. And as I said before, not to be cavalier about it, but on my way out, you're going to hear from me, and then we'll go where we have to go. So thanks for letting me sit on Craig or, Mr. Chairman, thank you for letting me sit here and listen. I know it's a it's a devilish job. I see it out here where I'm gonna go in a few minutes. I don't know if you know what my job is, Mr. Berg, but I run a -my kids call it a restaurant. Some of my enemies call it a gin mill. But it's, I see it all the time. And I'm interested in it. Thank God. Not because I have a problem and my family that I know of. But because I see it.

Michael Berg

Absolutely.

Legislator Parete

And I thank you when the committee and I'm going to go to work now.

Michael Berg

John I'd like to say that I would be happy to give you what you asked for in terms of the staffing of the programs. And I also would tell you how long people have stayed with us. Even though we have terrible salaries, they're committed to the work.

Legislator Parete

And one way that you reward people, sadly, is money. But it's, it's part of the deal. So thanks for thank you all for letting me come. I do have to go to work.

Chairman Lopez

You got it. Thanks, John.

Committee Members

Thanks John for being here.

Chairman Lopez

And thank you, Michael, as well. You know, obviously, you're an amazing advocate for the people that you advocate about, and you're a believer in what you do. And, you know, I would it would be beyond me not to bring your passionate plea to my caucus and have that discussion with them as well. So thank you so much.

Michael Berg

Thank you. I'm available, if any of the material that I sent out that is unclear or you have some questions about. John wanted some salary, information. I'm happy to give anybody that that has questions what I can have of answers. And thank you, Abe, and thank you for the committee for giving us this opportunity. It feels really good to be acknowledged.

Chairman Lopez

You got it. All right. We have one more thing on the agenda here and that, that was a potential question on Local Law on No. 2 of 2013. This was brought up last night to the Law Enforcement discussing an opportunity to use some of the rescue plan to address the opioid epidemic as a matter of public safety, and more specifically to do within the county school districts. Um, I don't know if anybody had a chance to look at it. Yeah, I glimpsed. But I didn't catch all the details. I also know that school districts get a little funny about us, you know, poking our nose into things like this. So I'm interested to hear the thoughts of the committee. You know, regarding this, so I don't know if anybody has any comments.

Legislator Uchitelle

Thank you, Michael.

Legislator Bruno

You got my full support. Absolutely. Thanks Abe for bringing him here. I think as a as a committee, and as a county as it isn't, I don't care if the school districts get funny about it, we need to stop the epidemic. And, and we need, you know, what we need to start working together with, with the school districts to try to put an end to it, because, honestly, a lot of the biggest portion of these, if you look at statistics started in school. That's, that's where it starts. And that's where we need to stop it from. I don't see why that should be an issue.

Chairman Lopez

No, absolutely. I couldn't agree more. And, and not that I'm hesitant to do it, um, they just have to go about it a different way where we can bring everybody in and have that discussion and work toward a common goal. That's all.

Legislator Bruno

Well yeah, I mean, again, we need to, you know, communication is the biggest key. And I think, as our committees and as a county, you know, if we, you know, we hold roundtable talks, as it were with, with

schools, with not only the school board, but with the people that are on the ground, in a lot of ways, the school boards, and I'm not saying any particular school board, because we have enough of them, are actually disconnected from the students that are on the ground. And I think that's what we need to keep that in mind to really bring these programs forward.

Chairman Lopez

Sure.

Legislator Bruno

Actually, actually work with the teachers, and the principals that are in the buildings and get a coalition of them who actually have the hands on. And you know, whether it be the SRO's or whatever it is to get in to help them with their tools that they need.

Legislator Petit

Before they ended up in the restorative justice system.

Legislator Bruno

Exactly. Exactly Laura.

Chairman Lopez

Yep. So okay well if a

Legislator Petit

(inaudible)

Chairman Lopez

Yep, sure.

Legislator Petit

Um, it's a child support. I've gotten several phone calls about it being virtually impossible to get in touch to the Child Support Unit. And that more money than the non-custodial parent owed has been taken. And in some cases, as long as a year, I tried, myself and I couldn't get through, it ended up at a voicemail that says, do not leave messages here. And then it said the box was filled. So I did forward an email to Director Iapoco, who got Wendy Rick, the senior counsel in touch, and she proceeded to send me authorization forms. Now, these authorization forms give me access to all of these individual's personal information. And that's not what I was looking for. Surprisingly, they willingly signed it over stating that maybe I would have better luck. You know, but we have cases where these noncustodial fathers have overpaid three, four \$5,000. And yet, when the accounts are looked at the account that the child support goes into, they're empty, which means somebody is getting the fund. I'm going to keep working on this. They offered to have a zoom meeting with me and their legal counsel. You know, again, I'm not sure why I need all their personal information. But you know, I mean, talk about mental health issues when you have a father who's got \$1300 coming out of an \$1800 paycheck, every two, because he says I make really good money, but I just don't get any of it. And he has to live on \$250 a week. If there's -there's issues. So

Legislator Bruno

I find it interesting that you said that they want to have a meeting with their lawyers.

Legislator Petit

Yes.

Legislator Bruno

That's the first thing that set off my red flags. Why do you need a lawyer?

Legislator Petit

It sounds like another department we're having problems with. But yeah, I just I'm trying to follow the money here. And none of these noncustodial parents have declared they don't owe money. You know what I mean that they don't want to pay it. They want to take care of their kids. So that is not the issue. The issue is when they work a second job to make up for the money that's being taken. And then because we contract out for the service, the same amount of money is taken out of their secondary paycheck too, so now they're paying twice as much. It's a little broken. I've already talked to March Gallagher about it. I'm not sure if we need, you know, an audit on this as well, not that she has time. But if you looked at the audit for the restitution report that was bad. So that's it - update you.

Chairman Lopez

Kind of theme of the night, you know, navigating a broken system. Yeah. And to your point that you just made, it's just another instance where, you know, people are getting lost and nobody's getting any answers. So if you can keep us in the loop, you know, follow up with the committee let us know what you found and then, yeah, when and if you speak to Commissioner Iapoce. You know, yeah, I appreciate if you can follow up with me on that.

Legislator Petit

Okay, thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Yep. Thank you. And with that said, I know um the Environment Committee is waiting, so maybe we can end.

Committee Members

Thank you, everybody.

Legislator Criswell

Make them motion.

Barbara Hill

Thanks for your call today, Craig. Really nice.

Nettie Tomshaw

Second?

Chairman Lopez

You got it Barbara. Alright.

Legislator Petit

I'll second.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Take care guys.

Legislator Uchitelle

Take care everyone. Thank you so much.