

**Health & Human Services Committee**  
**April 30, 2024**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Committee Chair Anthony Doldo, Legislators Tina Bartlett-Berarup, John Peck, Christopher Boulio, Frances Calarco, Board Chair William Johnson

**Others Present:** Legislators Philip Reed, Michael Montigelli, Daniel McBride, James Nabywaniec, Patrick Jareo, and Steel Potter, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Dylan Soper, County Attorney David Paulsen, Office for the Aging Deputy Director Louise Harakza, Community Services Director Tim Ruetten, Public Health Director Steve Jennings, DSS Commissioner Karen Marcum, Veterans Service Agency Director Dave Pavey, Information Technology Director Sean Vincent, Planning Director Michael Bourcy, Purchasing Agent Michael Bagley, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Doldo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Committee approved the minutes of the March meeting without correction.

Community Services Director Tim Ruetten made a presentation to the Committee concerning a Bi-County Mobile Crisis Program with Lewis County. In concert with the roll out of the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (988) he said the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) is proving funding for counties who do not currently have a mobile crisis program. On top of that there is a new initiative called Daniel's Law that is focused on removing the responsibility for responding to emotional crisis calls from law enforcement and putting it with trained mobile crisis responders. Gov. Hochul provided \$600,000 per county in start up funds for mobile crisis programs and he explained the reasons the Community Services Board felt a bi-county response with Lewis County was best for everyone. With part of the start up funds he hopes to contract with a uniquely qualified local entity who will design and build the program so that it complies with all laws and regulations, and is supported by the stakeholders using it. No County funding will be used, he has other OMH funding that is underutilized as well as programs being transitioned to different funding streams so those funds can be used for the Mobile Crisis Program. He answered questions of legislators related to this developing program/initiative.

Chairman Doldo offered privilege of the floor, however no one present wished to address the Committee.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2024 County Budget Relative to Community Services Department Court Commitments and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Bartlett-Berarup and seconded by Legislator Calarco. Legislator Peck reiterated concerns he expressed a couple months ago when transferring funds for this program. He said if we continue to deplete fund balance for the sake of this program that the State is mandating us to do, without even engaging counties on how to

remedy the situation, he will continue to vote no and recommend that other legislators do the same. If we can get other counties to vote no too the State might realize there is an issue. He said it is a horrendous way of treating individuals.

Community Services Director Ruetten said the last resolution transferring funds covered up until April 1<sup>st</sup>, and this resolution covers what they have estimated it will cost for the four people in restoration until September 1<sup>st</sup>. He asked legislators to keep in mind that there is no communication from the State with regard to when people enter restoration services or more importantly when they are discharged out into the community. They receive a quarterly report from the State with a name, the date they were admitted, the medications they are taking, and what the diagnosis is. Since 2021 when this cost became 100% County responsibility he has worked to educate judges and people in the legal community who didn't understand that 730 commitments for restoration services are not mental health services or treatment. There are treatment services available that are much cheaper. He has also worked with the DA, Public Defender and Probation departments to reach these people and get them treatment before it gets to a 730 evaluation. Following discussion Committee Chair Doldo and Committee members Peck, Bearup, and Calarco voted nay and Legislator Boulio voted aye; the resolution will be forwarded to the Board with a negative recommendation from the Committee.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2024 County Budget to Allocate Additional State Aid for Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addictions and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Bartlett-Bearup and there being no discussion the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Appointing Members to Community Services Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Peck and there being no discussion the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement for Provision of Related Services in Connection with the Program for Preschool Children with Disabilities for the Period of May 8, 2024 through June 30, 2024 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Boulio seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no discussion the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement with NYS Department of Education Approved Agency for the Provision of Special Education Services for Preschool Children with Disabilities for the Period of May 8, 2024 through June 30, 2024 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Bartlett-Bearup and there being no discussion the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement for Provision of Related Services in Connection with the Program for Preschool Children with Disabilities for the Period

of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Boulio seconded by Legislator Peck and there being no discussion the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement with NYS Department of Education Approved Agency for the Provision of Special Education Services for Preschool Children with Disabilities for the Period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Bartlett-Bearup and there being no discussion the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

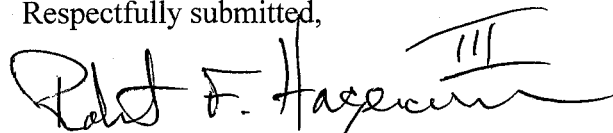
Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Appointing Member to Office for the Aging Advisory Council and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Boulio and there being no discussion the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements in Connection with Leading in Lead Prevention Pilot Program and Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Bartlett-Bearup seconded by Legislator Peck and there being no discussion the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Legislator Peck said with the new authority authorized in the NYS Budget for communities to enact local laws that allow for the padlocking of unauthorized cannabis shops both the Village of West Carthage and the Town of Champion are looking into passing local laws, and he wondered if the County would do the same. County Attorney Paulsen said he had seen emails from is County Attorney counterparts, but was not familiar with the matter and would do some research and get back to legislators.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Boulio and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m .

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert F. Hagemann, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "H" and "A".

Robert F. Hagemann, III  
County Administrator