

**Health & Human Services Committee**  
**March 26, 2024**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Committee Chair Anthony Doldo, Legislators Robert Cantwell, Tina Bartlett-Bearup, John Peck, Frances Calarco, Corey Grant, Board Chair William Johnson

**Others Present:** Legislators Philip Reed, Michael Montigelli, Daniel McBride, and James Nabywaniec, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, County Attorney David Paulsen, Confidential Assistant for Fiscal Affairs Ashley Durham, Office for the Aging Director Bethany Munn, Community Services Director Tim Ruetten, Public Health Director Steve Jennings, DSS Commissioner Karen Marcum, Veterans Services Agency Director David Pavey, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Doldo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and offered Privilege of the Floor however no one wished to speak. The Committee approved the minutes of the February meeting without objection or correction.

DSS Commissioner Karen Marcum updated the Committee with regard to the status of items in the Child Welfare Services Plan that had not been completed to date. Her update included the remaining action items which she divided into 3 categories: Quality Assurance and Training (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade A Supervisor, weekly topics group trainings, and monthly scenarios training); Fiscal Deliverables (leasing 5 vehicles, staffing), and Employee Wellness and Safety (physical and security upgrades at the HSB, metal detector in lobby area, trainings in de-escalation and situational awareness by County Safety Officer). Ms. Marcum answered questions of legislators related to staffing information contained in their monthly newsletter.

Office for the Aging (OFA) Director Bethany Munn said OFA is celebrating 50 years in Jefferson County in 2024; she provided the Committee with information on the demographics of individuals over 65 in terms of population, income and home ownership in the County, and the number of clients OFA serves. She said in the future Jefferson County will have more older adults who will need additional services to allow them to remain at home due to the lack of availability of assisted living and senior housing. She said it will be more economical to invest in OFA programs to help keep senior citizens here, then to have residents move out of the area to find suitable services and housing. She outlined current programs, new programs, and new projects her office could explore to fill the gap in services to serve current and future senior citizens. Ms. Munn answered questions of legislators related to existing and proposed programs.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement for Provision of Consumer Directed In-Home Services by Western New York Independent Living, Inc. and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Accepting Funding from New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) American Rescue Plan and Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation

There to 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.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Accepting New York State Office for the Aging American Rescue Plan Funding and Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation to Caregiver Support Services 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 Amending the 2024 County Budget to Reappropriate Federal Medicaid Administration Reimbursement for the Community Services Department and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Bartlett-Bearup seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements with NYS Department of Education Approved Agencies for the Provision of Special Education Services for Preschool Children with Disabilities and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

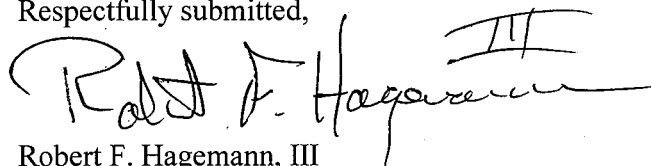
Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements and Establishing Rates for Provision of Related Services in Connection with the Program for Preschool Children with Disabilities and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Bartlett-Bearup seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements for Provision of Mental Hygiene Services and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Bartlett-Bearup seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation to Strengthening U.S. Public Health Workforce Funding Grant and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Bartlett-Bearup seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Cantwell and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert F. Hagemann, III  
Clerk of the Board