

Health & Human Services Committee
May 27, 2025
Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair Anthony Doldo, Legislators Robert Cantwell, Tina Bartlett-Bearup, Karen Freeman, Christopher Boulio, Frances Calarco, Corey Grant, Board Chair William Johnson

Others Present: Legislators Philip Reed, Michael Montigelli, Daniel McBride, Patrick Jareo, Robert Ferris, Steel Potter, County Administrator Ryan Piche, Deputy Administrator Dylan Soper, County Attorney John Sabik, Conf. Asst. for Fiscal Affairs Kristy O'Shaughnessy, Fire and Emergency Management Director Joseph Plummer, Director of Information Technologies Sean Vincent, Deputy Director of Information Technology Jody Dick, Office for the Aging Director Bethany Munn, District Attorney Kristyna Mills, Community Services Director Tim Ruetten, Public Health Director Steve Jennings, Social Services Commissioner Karen Marcum, Director of Human Resources Valerie Nugent, Director of Insurance Matthew Roy, County Auditor Stefanie LaPier, Confidential Secretary Jaimie Lee

Chairman Doldo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and offered Privilege of the Floor however no one present wished to speak. The Committee approved the minutes of the April meeting, as written.

DSS Commissioner Karen Marcum made a presentation to the Committee concerning child care benefit changes. She advised that child care services in New York State are mandated for families receiving protective or preventive services and those on Public Assistance engaged in employment activities. The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), funded through the NYS Child Care Block Grant and Title XX, recently received increased funding, bringing the total allocation to \$2.2 billion. However, due to rising demand and no expected future increases, many counties may face funding shortages and implement waitlists. Key regulatory changes include expanded income eligibility (up to 85% of the State Median Income), mandatory payments for up to 80 absences and 20 program closures, and a 10% differential rate for homelessness and non-traditional hours. Presumptive eligibility is now required statewide, and despite a recent \$400 million state budget increase, with \$50 million immediately available for districts, our district may still experience a funding shortfall by September 2025 without a waitlist. She said caseloads have increased significantly since 2023, and additional regulatory changes with financial impacts are expected by August 2026. Also, waitlist implementation requires state approval and will prioritize federal and state mandates, not local preferences.

Office for the Aging Director Bethany Munn made a presentation to the Committee concerning her Department's goals. She said OFA supports adults aged 60+ in Jefferson County to remain at home independently through a range of supportive services, and this is done in cooperation with the Jefferson County Public Health Service and the Jefferson County Department of Social Services. She said Jefferson County has a growing aging population with

over 24,000 residents who are 60+ years of age, or 20.53% of the total population. OFA delivers over 130,000 meals annually and offers case management, in-home services, transportation, legal aid, and more. The cost-effective model supports 14 clients for the cost of one nursing home resident, and recent innovations include expanded respite care, senior engagement, farm-fresh food programs, and tools to reduce social isolation. She said staffing shortages have led to service waitlists, but new funding and contracting solutions are underway. The aging population is expected to continue increasing through 2042 which requires proactive planning and expanded support infrastructure.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending the 2025 County Budget Relative to Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Bartlett-Bearup seconded by Legislator Boulio and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Miracles by the Acre CSA for the Provision of Fresh Produce to Underserved Older Adults Living in Food Deserts and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Freeman seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Accepting NYS Department of Health Grant Award Extension in Connection with Rabies Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant seconded by Legislator Bartlett-Bearup and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Quantify Consulting for a Homelessness Data Analytics Platform and Implementation and Amending the 2025 Budget Related Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Bartlett-Bearup and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Bartlett-Bearup seconded by Legislator Grant and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Piche". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ryan" and last name "Piche" clearly distinguishable.

Ryan Piche
Clerk of the Board