

Health & Human Services Committee
September 30, 2025
Minutes

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

Others Present: Legislators Philip Reed, Michael Montigelli, Daniel McBride, James Nabywaniec, Patrick Jareo, Steel Potter, County Administrator Ryan Piche, Deputy Administrator Dylan Soper, County Attorney John Sabik, Conf. Asst. for Fiscal Affairs Kristy O’Shaughnessy, Office for the Aging Director Bethany Munn, Public Health Director Steve Jennings, Social Services Commissioner Karen Marcum, DSS Director of Housing Jillian Redder, Veterans Service Agency Director Dave Pavey, County Auditor Stefanie LaPier, Highway Superintendent Joe Waselewski, Human Resources Director Valerie Nugent, Insurance Director Matt Roy, Real Property Tax Services Supervisor Alex Marchenkoff, Sheriff Pete Barnett, Undersheriff Kris Spencer, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones, Confidential Secretary Jaimie Lee

Chairman Doldo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Committee approved the minutes of the August meeting as written, and Chairman Doldo offered Privilege of the Floor.

Bruce Wright, Broadway Avenue, Watertown, President and CEO of Guilfoyle Ambulance and Chairman of the EMS Advisory Board, spoke against the resolution to accept the Jefferson County Public Health EMS Rural Healthcare Grant. He argued that the grant-funded services are already being provided by other local agencies and that using taxpayer money would unfairly compete with private businesses. Mr. Wright also said pursuing a Certificate of Need, as proposed in the grant, would be a waste of resources and create problems for the County. Additionally, he criticized the process, noting that the grant was not discussed by the EMS Advisory Board and that stakeholders were contacted individually. He concluded that the grant does not address any existing EMS issues or crises.

Dominic Doldo, 26525 Three Mile Point Rd., Chaumont, and Vice President of Emergency Services and Security for Carthage Area Hospital (CAH), commented on the EMS Grant noting that CAH’s proposal for an ambulance service under the North Country Health Alliance was denied a Certificate of Need (CON) due to a lack of demonstrated public need. He had to limit comments on that as their CON is currently under appeal at the State level. Mr. Doldo said that the County’s plan to apply for a municipal CON circumvents private and other entities from applying. He stated that if the County allows Samaritan Medical Center (SMC) to operate an EMS vehicle under it’s CON, the same opportunity should be extended to CAH. While he supported County’s effort to strengthen the EMS system through grants, he urged that it be fair and include all hospitals.

DSS Commissioner Karen Marcum and DSS Director of Housing Jillian Redder provided the Committee with an update on initiatives and efforts throughout the summer to address homelessness in the County, and how the Board's investment and commitment toward these efforts has been assisting them in successfully providing the necessary services and supports to the unhoused in the community. Ms. Marcum said efforts have been focused on creating a data dashboard that will assist in providing important information about emergency housing, shelters, and support services. The information will be used for future planning purposes, and she referenced a displayed chart that showed enrollment by program for those services from January 1, 2025 to August 31, 2025.

Ms. Redder provided an update on cooling center utilization and street outreach efforts. Usage at cooling centers (Salvation Army, New Life Christian Church, and Emmanuel Congregational Church meal program) has steadily increased between May and September. She said Street outreach began in December 2024 (NRCIL) and late July (ACR Health), engaging a total of 128 separate individuals to assist with applications, IDs, and referrals (benefits, housing, medical/behavioral health, etc.). These efforts are focused on connecting individuals to services that lead to permanent housing. Additionally, a DSS Caseworker specializing in family-centered case management for hotel/motel residents has successfully moved 60% of their caseload into permanent housing since April 2025.

Deputy Administrator Soper presented three data dashboard charts for tracking homelessness. The first chart shows daily participation across programs from January 1, 2025 to August 31, 2025 (hotel/motel placements, New Life/Salvation Army cooling centers, and street outreach), indicating strong program utilization during the summer. The second chart tracks the total homeless population by day (defined by unique touch points across programs within the last 30 days) for that same time period. As of the end of August, the homeless population stands at approximately 150 individuals. The third chart, which is a work in progress, is designed to measure program effectiveness and system movement. It will track individuals from initial street outreach contact through various stages (shelter, supported housing, subsidized rental, etc.) to show measured outcomes over time. The contractor is currently refining this chart.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Appointing Member to the Jefferson County Long Term Care Advisory Council 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 2025 County Budget Relative to Public Health Accounts for Security and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Grant seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Establishing Charges for Certain Public Health Services and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Bartlett-Bearup seconded by Legislator Freeman and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement in Connection with New York State Department of Health County Emergency Medical Services Support Grant and Amending the 2025 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. The resolution failed to receive a motion.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing the 2025/26 Comprehensive Planning Resource Allocation Agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and Authorizing Contractual Youth Development Program Agreements and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing the 2025/26 Comprehensive Planning Resource Allocation Agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and Authorizing Contractual Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Program Agreements and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Bartlett-Bearup seconded by Legislator Freeman and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Authorizing the 2025/26 Comprehensive Planning Resource Allocation Agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and Authorizing Contractual Youth Team Sports Program Agreements and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced an additional resolution not listed on the agenda Authorizing Agreements with Treehouse Child Care Center for the Provision of Special Education and/or Related Services 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.

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 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ryan Piche
Clerk of the Board