

Office of the County Administrator
Historic Courthouse
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Ryan Piche
County Administrator

Dylan Soper
Deputy County Administrator



January 30, 2026

TO: Members of Health & Human Services Committee

FROM: Ryan Piche, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Health & Human Services Committee Agenda

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RP', enclosed in a simple oval.

Please let this correspondence serve as notification that the Health & Human Services Committee will meet on ***Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.*** in the Board of Legislators' Chambers.

Following is a list of agenda items for the meeting:

Presentation:

Committee Goals – Ryan Piche, County Administrator

Resolutions:

1. Adopting the 2026 Strategic Priorities for the Health and Human Services Committee
2. Authorizing an Agreement for the Provision of Caregiver Services Program to Provide for Music Therapy for Older Adults Who Receive Respite Services
3. Authorizing an Agreement with G.R.O. Energy Solutions LLC of Jefferson County for Provision of Home Modification Program Services
4. Authorizing an Agreement for Provision of Legal Services for the Elderly of Jefferson County
5. Authorizing an Agreement for Provision of Personal Emergency Response Systems Funding with the Henry Keep Home
6. Authorizing Agreements for Provision of Personal Care Services to Elderly of Jefferson County
7. Authorizing Agreements for Provision of Transportation Services to Elderly of Jefferson County

8. Authorizing an Amended Agreement with the Home Care Association of New York State and Iroquois Healthcare Association Related to Additional Funding for the Community Medicine and Paramedicine Programs
9. Authorizing an Agreement in Connection with New York State Department of Health County Emergency Medical Services Support Grant and Amending the 2026 County Budget in Relation Thereto
10. Authorizing Funding in Connection with New York State Department of Health Local Health Department Performance Incentive Initiative and Amending the 2026 County Budget in Relation Thereto
11. Expressing Support for New York Hiring for Emergency Limited Placement Statewide Program
12. Appointing Member to the Jefferson County Public Health Service Professional Advisory Committee

Informational Items:

1. Monthly Department Reports:
 - Office for the Aging
 - Public Health
 - Veterans Service Agency

If any Committee Member has inquiries regarding agenda items, please do not hesitate to contact me.

RP:jdj

c:	Office for the Aging	Veterans Service Agency
	Community Services	County Attorney
	Public Health/EMS/Medical Examiner	County Treasurer
	Social Services	

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
Resolution No. _____

Adopting the 2026 Strategic Priorities for the Health and Human Services Committee

By Legislator: _____

Whereas, The Jefferson County Board of Legislators recognizes the importance of setting clear, ambitious priorities to guide the work of its standing committees and ensure effective service delivery and resource management.

Whereas, The Health and Human Services Committee has reviewed and recommended its priorities for 2026 to provide a strategic focus for its efforts while allowing flexibility to address emerging issues, and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Jefferson County Board of Legislators hereby adopts the following 2026 strategic priorities for the Health and Human Services Committee:

1. Improve security conditions at Human Services Building in concert with capital improvements.
2. Continue to track and support homeless initiatives.
3. Conduct and begin executing results of a comprehensive housing study.
4. Execute customer service training across forward-facing county offices.
5. Solve medical examiner vacancy and reduce coroner transportation costs.
6. Launch Lead Rental Registry program for the City of Watertown.
7. Support Public Health Department in its pursuit of public health accreditation.
8. Support the Department of Social Services efforts to improve performance metrics.

Resolved, That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Seconded by Legislator: _____

State of New York)
County of Jefferson) ss.:

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. _____ of the Board of Legislators of said County of Jefferson with the original thereof on file in my office and duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board on the _____ day of _____, 20____ and that the same is a true and correct copy of such Resolution and the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Clerk of the Board of Legislators

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
Resolution No. _____

Authorizing an Agreement for the Provision of Caregiver Services Program to Provide for Music
Therapy for Older Adults Receiving Respite Services

By Legislator: _____

Whereas, By Resolution No. 207 of 2024 and Resolution No. 53 of 2025 the Board of Legislators approved a contract for the provision of music therapy with Memcara for the CareSuite Program under Homemaker Services for caregivers of older adults and Respite Haven Program for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, and January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, and

Whereas, Music therapy is structured to promote memory recall, stimulate imagination and encourage physical movement and interaction for seniors experiencing memory loss, cognitive decline, dementia and Alzheimer's, and

Whereas, The Office for the Aging Director recommends that this contract be renewed for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators be and is hereby authorized to execute such agreement with Memcara for music therapy, at a cost not to exceed \$10,800 on behalf of Jefferson County for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with the approval of the County Attorney as to form and content

Seconded by Legislator: _____

State of New York)
County of Jefferson) ss.:

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. _____ of the Board of Legislators of said County of Jefferson with the original thereof on file in my office and duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board on the _____ day of _____, 20____ and that the same is a true and correct copy of such Resolution and the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Clerk of the Board of Legislators

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
Resolution No. _____

Authorizing an Agreement with G.R.O. Energy Solutions, LLC of Jefferson County for
Provision of Home Modification Program Services

By Legislator: _____

Whereas, The Jefferson County Office for the Aging works for the establishment and expansion of programs and services which assist older adults in the areas of their most urgent need, and

Whereas, There exists a demand for handyman services to support the Home Modification Program, which can aid older adults in maintaining independence in the home, and

Whereas, G.R.O. Energy Solutions, LLC has proposed to provide handyman services for a rate of \$97 per hour, plus materials.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That pursuant to Section 95-a of the General Municipal Law, the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with G.R.O. Energy Solutions, LLC for handyman services for the Home Modification Program at a cost of \$97 per hour plus cost of materials, for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, subject to approval of the County Attorney as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: _____

State of New York)
County of Jefferson) ss.:

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. _____ of the Board of Legislators of said County of Jefferson with the original thereof on file in my office and duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board on the _____ day of _____, 20____ and that the same is a true and correct copy of such Resolution and the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Clerk of the Board of Legislators

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
Resolution No. _____

Authorizing an Agreement for Provision of Legal Services for the Elderly of Jefferson County

By Legislator: _____

Whereas, By Resolution No. 66 of 2024, The Board of Legislators authorized an agreement for the provision of legal services for persons 60 years of age or older for the period January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025, and

Whereas, The Director of the Office for the Aging recommends renewal of the agreement for provision of said legal services for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, at a cost not to exceed \$25,000 annually.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That pursuant to Section 95-a of the General Municipal Law, Jefferson County enter into an agreement with Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York for legal services for the elderly, at a cost not to exceed \$25,000 for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute said agreement on behalf of Jefferson County, subject to the approval by the County as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: _____

State of New York)
County of Jefferson) ss.:

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. _____ of the Board of Legislators of said County of Jefferson with the original thereof on file in my office and duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board on the _____ day of _____, 20____ and that the same is a true and correct copy of such Resolution and the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Clerk of the Board of Legislators

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
Resolution No. _____

Authorizing an Agreement for Provision of Personal Emergency Response Systems Funding
with the Henry Keep Home

By Legislator: _____

Whereas, By Resolution No. 65 of 2024, The Board of Legislators authorized an agreement to provide Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) with funding through Henry Keep Home for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025, and

Whereas, The Henry Keep Home is willing to continue funding at the rate of \$1700 per month, so as to provide PERS to up to 100 eligible individuals monthly, representing an increase of 50 additionally served older adults per month.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County enter into an agreement with the Henry Keep Home for Personal Emergency Response Systems for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, at the funding rate of \$1700 per month, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute said agreement on behalf of Jefferson County, subject to approval by the County Attorney as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: _____

State of New York)
County of Jefferson) ss.:

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. _____ of the Board of Legislators of said County of Jefferson with the original thereof on file in my office and duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board on the _____ day of _____, 20____ and that the same is a true and correct copy of such Resolution and the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Clerk of the Board of Legislators

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
Resolution No. _____

Authorizing Agreements for Provision of Personal Care Services to Elderly of Jefferson County

By Legislator: _____

Whereas, By Resolution No. 63 of 2024, The Board of Legislators authorized agreements for personal care services to the elderly of Jefferson County, and

Whereas, The Jefferson County Office for the Aging (OFA) is eligible to receive State and Federal funds for the purpose of providing needed programs and services to elderly residents of Jefferson County, and

Whereas, The OFA and The Board of Legislators desire to contract for the provision of personal care services to the elderly for 2026 and 2027.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That pursuant to Section 95-a of the General Municipal Law, Jefferson County enter into agreements for 2026 and 2027 with the below listed parties for the provision of personal care services to elderly residents of Jefferson County for such consideration as follows:

Personal Care Services

Homemakers of Western, NY, Inc. aka Caregivers, Buffalo, NY at the blended rate of \$33.00 per hour for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, for the provision of housekeeper/chore, personal care and respite for persons 60 years of age or older,

US Care Systems, Utica, NY at a rate of \$36.00 per hour for PC1 and \$37.00 per hour for PC2 for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, for the provision of housekeeper/chore, personal care and respite services for persons 60 years of age or older,

Seniors Helping Seniors, Watertown, NY at a blended hourly rate of \$37.75 per hour for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, for the provision of housekeeping/chore, personal care and caregiver respite services for persons 60 years of age or older, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute said agreements on behalf of Jefferson County, subject to the approval of the County Attorney as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: _____

State of New York)
County of Jefferson) ss.:

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. _____ of the Board of Legislators of said County of Jefferson with the original thereof on file in my office and duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board on the _____ day of _____, 20____ and that the same is a true and correct copy of such Resolution and the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Clerk of the Board of Legislators

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
Resolution No. _____

Authorizing Agreements for Provision of Transportation Services to Elderly of Jefferson County

By Legislator: _____

Whereas, The Jefferson County Office for the Aging works for the establishment and expansion of programs and services which assist older persons in the areas of their most urgent needs, and

Whereas, The Office for the Aging is eligible to receive State and Federal funds for the purpose of providing needed programs and services to elderly residents of Jefferson County, and

Whereas, The Office for the Aging and the Board of Legislators desire to contract for the provision of certain programs and services to the elderly.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That pursuant to Section 95-a of the General Municipal Law, Jefferson County enter into agreements for various periods with the below listed parties for the provision of such programs and services to elderly residents of Jefferson County and for such consideration as follows:

Transportation Services:

The Volunteer Transportation Center of Jefferson County, for the provision of transportation services for persons 60 years of age or older; for the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, for consideration for services not to exceed \$55,000 annually,

Wilna-Champion Transportation Center, Inc., Carthage, New York for the provision of transportation services for persons 60 years of age or older; for the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, for consideration for services not to exceed \$20,000 annually,

Paynter Senior Center, Inc., Clayton, New York for the provision of transportation services for persons 60 years of age or older; for the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, for consideration for services not to exceed \$10,800 annually, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board is hereby authorized to execute said agreements on behalf of Jefferson County, subject to the approval of the County Attorney as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: _____

State of New York)
County of Jefferson) ss.:

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. _____ of the Board of Legislators of said County of Jefferson with the original thereof on file in my office and duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board on the _____ day of _____, 20____ and that the same is a true and correct copy of such Resolution and the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Clerk of the Board of Legislators

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
Resolution No. _____

Authorizing an Amended Agreement with the Home Care Association of New York State and Iroquois Healthcare Association Related to Additional Funding for the Community Medicine and Paramedicine Programs

By Legislator: _____

Whereas, By Resolution No. 254 of 2022, Resolution No. 108 of 2023, Resolution Nos. 71, 72, and 283 of 2024, and Resolution No. 139 of 2025, The Board of Legislators authorized and amended agreements with the Home Care Association of New York State and Iroquois Healthcare Association for Jefferson County to pilot a community medicine and paramedicine program with grant funds received from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, and

Whereas, The Jefferson County Public Health Service has been notified of additional funding in the amount of \$145,000 to cover expenses January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, and

Whereas, The 2026 funding was budgeted as part of the 2026 County Budget.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County hereby accepts the funding award and the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute an amended agreement with the New York State Home Care Association and the Iroquois Healthcare Association for the Community Medicine and Paramedicine Program for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, subject to approval by the County Attorney as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: _____

State of New York)
County of Jefferson) ss.:

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. _____ of the Board of Legislators of said County of Jefferson with the original thereof on file in my office and duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board on the _____ day of _____, 20____ and that the same is a true and correct copy of such Resolution and the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Clerk of the Board of Legislators

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
Resolution No. _____

Authorizing an Agreement in Connection with New York State Department of Health County
Emergency Medical Services Support Grant and Amending the 2026 County Budget in Relation
Thereto

By Legislator: _____

Whereas, The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has identified that Emergency Medical Service (EMS) systems of care are in crisis statewide due to rising costs and high demand for increasingly complex services, yet are without the resources, flexibility, or statutory authority to address these issues independently nor easily develop county-wide or publicly funded EMS programs, and

Whereas, The goal of the County Emergency Medical Services Support Grant is to strengthen current EMS systems of care throughout New York State, and

Whereas, The Jefferson County Public Health Service (JCPHS) has applied for and received a one-time funding award in the amount of \$499,997 from the NYSDOH to strengthen EMS systems of care in Jefferson County for the period of July 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026, and

Whereas, The JCPHS will utilize funding to work with ambulance agencies throughout Jefferson County to strengthen the current system by establishing an Advanced Life Support intercept and specialty response program based at Samaritan Medical Center to serve the entire county, and bariatric emergency response capacities, geographically based at Guilfoyle Emergency Medical Services, Thousand Island Emergency Rescue Squad, Carthage Area Rescue Squad, and South Jefferson Rescue Squad, which together will serve the entire county, and

Whereas, The JCPHS will additionally facilitate application of a county-wide Certificate of Need (CON) so that agencies can receive payment for the ALS intercept and bariatric emergency response calls, as well as all other mutual aid responses, which are all unbillable without the CON, and

Whereas, \$300,000 of the funding was planned for and budgeted as part of the 2026 County Budget.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County hereby accepts said funding and authorizes the Chairman of the Board of Legislators to execute such agreement on behalf of Jefferson County, subject to the approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2026 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
Resolution No. _____

Authorizing Funding in Connection with New York State Department of Health Local Health
Department Performance Incentive Initiative and Amending the 2026 County Budget in Relation
There to

By Legislator: _____

Whereas, The Jefferson County Public Health Service Preventive Services unit has been recognized by the New York State Department of Health for public health emergency preparedness related to extreme weather and climate, and

Whereas, The Jefferson County Public Health Service is eligible to receive an incentive award for this achievement, and

Whereas, The Department plans to use the funds to support costs associated with New York State Public Health Law Article 6 eligible services for disease prevention and population health activities.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County hereby accepts the incentive award funding, and the 2026 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase:

Revenue		
01405000 93401	State Aid Public Health	\$23,084

Expenditure:		
01405100 04416	Professional Fees	\$ 8,084
01405100 04510	Medical Supplies	5,000
01405100 04585	Operating Supplies	10,000

Seconded by Legislator: _____

State of New York)
County of Jefferson) ss.:

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In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Clerk of the Board of Legislators

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
Resolution No. _____

Expressing Support for the New York Hiring for Emergency Limited Placement Statewide Program and Urging Further Reforms to New York State Civil Service Law

By Legislator: _____

Whereas, In May 2024, New York State Civil Service launched an expanded program, New York Hiring for Emergency Limited Placement Statewide Program (NY HELPS) to streamline the appointment process and allow State agencies to hire diverse, qualified permanent employees quickly and without examinations, and

Whereas, As a result of the persistent hiring challenges of public employers, the Program temporarily waives the requirement for civil service exams for specific titles allowing agencies to quickly fill critical positions to address staffing shortages and facilitate the appointment of qualified permanent employees based on qualifications and interviews, and

Whereas, Jefferson County received approval to utilize the Program in late Fall of 2025 for the titles of Caseworker, Social Welfare Examiner, and Community Service Worker to address critical personnel needs within the Department of Social Services (DSS), and

Whereas, Since such approval DSS has received a total of 200 applications for the three titles and has been able to hire seven Caseworkers, sixteen Social Welfare Examiners, and seven Community Service Workers, with more hires expected in January, and

Whereas, The Program has allowed the County the flexibility to evaluate all applications and individuals based on the best qualifications and skill set for the positions, instead of being restricted to a few applicants on a civil service list, and

Whereas, These critical positions that Jefferson County has struggled to fill for years are now planned to be filled within the first quarter of 2026.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Jefferson County Board of Legislators expresses its support for the NY HELPS Program and urges New York State to further examine Civil Service Law and enact permanent and additional reforms to enable agencies to use best practices in hiring well qualified and talented employees who may otherwise have been stalled or discouraged through current process and practices, and be it further

Resolved, That a certified copy of this resolution be sent to New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman Scott Gray, and Assemblyman Will Barclay.

Seconded by Legislator: _____

State of New York)
) ss.:
County of Jefferson)

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. _____ of the Board of Legislators of said County of Jefferson with the original thereof on file in my office and duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board on the _____ day of _____, 20____ and that the same is a true and correct copy of such Resolution and the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Clerk of the Board of Legislators

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
Resolution No. _____

Appointing Member to the Jefferson County Public Health Service
Professional Advisory Committee

By Legislator: _____

Resolved, That the following individual be and is hereby appointed as a member of the Professional Advisory Committee for term to expire as indicated below:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Term to Expire</u>
New Appointment Jennifer Bleam	12/31/2029

Seconded by Legislator: _____

State of New York)
County of Jefferson) ss.:

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. _____ of the Board of Legislators of said County of Jefferson with the original thereof on file in my office and duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board on the _____ day of _____, 20____ and that the same is a true and correct copy of such Resolution and the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Clerk of the Board of Legislators
