

Health & Human Services Committee Minutes
April 28, 2026

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

Others Present: Legislators Philip Reed, Michael Montigelli, Daniel McBride, James Nabywaniec, Patrick Jareo, Robert Ferris, County Administrator Ryan Piche, Deputy Administrator Dylan Soper, County Attorney John Sabik, Conf. Asst. for Fiscal Affairs Kristy O'Shaughnessy, Community Services Mental Health Coordinator Alicia Ruperd, Public Health Director Steve Jennings, Social Services Commissioner Karen Marcum, Code Enforcement Director Jason Crump, Code Enforcement Account Clerk/ Typist Jenna Roberts, Human Resources Director Valerie Nugent, Information Technology Director Sean Vincent, IT Deputy Director Jody Dick, IT Information Security Analyst Sean Isenburgh, Insurance Director Matt Roy, Confidential Secretary Jaimie Lee, 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 as written.

Public Health Director Steve Jennings updated the Committee regarding the progress of the Lead Registry Program established in conjunction with the implementation of New York State Public Health Law (PHL) §1377. This law requires proactive inspections and certifications for pre-1980 rental units with two or more dwellings in "communities of concern," which includes the 13601 zip code (City of Watertown). There are 3,873 rental units in the 13601 zip code area that meet the program's criteria, and as of April 20, 2026, 196 property owners have registered their units following an initial outreach of 1,501 letters sent in December 2025. He said Public Health manages the administrative and quality assurance components and has partnered with Jefferson County Code Enforcement and the City of Watertown to handle the inspection components. Neighbors of Watertown facilitates the "Leading in Lead" initiative, helping landlords fund and execute the remediation of identified lead hazards.

Director Jennings said final NYS regulations went into effect on April 8, 2026, and a final review of these regulations was conducted on April 23, 2026. The program operates with a \$589,975 annual budget, and New York State has appropriated \$20 million annually for lead hazard remediation. He advised that a second round of letters was scheduled for May 1, 2026, to further explain the law and registration process to property owners. Current efforts are focused on staff training and the finalization of internal policies and procedures. In response to questions from legislators Director Jennings advised that the State's focus has been in old industrial cities; the main source of lead in the housing units has been paint; this remediation grant does not cover infrastructure (lead piping); and the grant process has not been cumbersome for Public Health to manage.

Chairman Doldo offered Privilege of the Floor however no one present wished to speak.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending an Agreement in Connection with Leading in Lead Prevention Pilot Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Boulio seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending 2025/26 Comprehensive Planning Resource Allocation Agreement with the New York State Office of Children & Family Services and Authorizing Amended Contractual Youth Program Agreements in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Freeman 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 Grant seconded by Legislator Cantwell and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Piche". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ryan Piche
Clerk of the Board