

Health & Human Services Committee Minutes

July 28, 2026

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

Others Present: Legislators Philip Reed, Michael Montigelli, Daniel McBride, James Nabywaniec, 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, Office for the Aging Director Bethany Munn, Community Services Director Tim Ruetten, Public Health Director Steve Jennings, Social Services Commissioner Karen Marcum, Veterans Service Agency Dave Pavey, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones, 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 June meeting as written.

Public Health Director Steve Jennings made a presentation to the Committee concerning the JUUL Settlement funding and initiatives. He briefly outlined the lawsuit that resulted in a seven-state settlement in April of 2023 totaling \$462 million. In June 2024 the NYS Attorney General's Office announced regional distribution of New York State's allotment of \$112.7 million distributed over an 8-year duration. Jefferson County accepted funding by Resolution No. 337 of 2024. He said the funding is administered by the Jefferson County Public Health Department in partnership with PIVOT, the Alliance for Better Communities, and the Jefferson County Youth Alliance.

Director Jennings advised that primary utilizations of the funding are:

- 1.) Public Education and Prevention Campaigns** that include provider engagement to equip physician practices with tools to screen youth for e-cigarette usage at the direct point of care, integrating immediate counseling, and youth empowerment by engaging the Youth Alliance to lead peer-to-peer resistance strategies and utilizing focused media campaigns.
- 2.) Vaping Cessation Services** to include design and implement comprehensive vaping cessation programs tailored for communities, secondary schools, and higher education spaces to assist both youth and adults trying to quit.
- 3.) Enactment and Enforcement of Vaping Laws** through community interventions such as installing modernized, updated smoke-free signage in public spaces, and policy overhauls such as reviewing the County's internal smoking regulations on County property driven by employee and public complaints regarding exposure to second-hand vape and marijuana smoke. A health impact assessment is underway with recommendations that will be shared with legislators. One recommendation will entail updating signage at all County-owned properties. Current County regulations will be updated to align with the amended NYS Clean Indoor Air Act provisions, taking into account findings from the health impact assessment, as well as consideration of other local environmental contexts, with a revised regulation to be proposed to the Board of Legislators in Fall 2026.

4.) Safe E-Cigarette/Vape Disposal employing localized collection programs.

5.) Public Health Research that includes investing in localized, data-driven research initiatives regarding young demographic groups to gauge anti-vaping program efficacy over time. Mr. Jennings answered questions from legislators related to these initiatives.

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 Grant seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending 2026 County Budget Relative to Social Services Department Personnel and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Bartlett-Bearup seconded by Legislator Freeman and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo introduced a resolution Amending 2026 County Budget Relative to Additional Revenue from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services for the New York State Child Care Block Grant (NYSCCBG) Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Freeman seconded by Legislator Bartlett-Bearup and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Doldo entertained a motion to take the resolution Establishing Rates of Reimbursement to Funeral Homes and Services for Indigent Burials off the table. Such motion was made by Legislator Freeman seconded by Legislator Cantwell and unanimously carried. Chairman Doldo entertained a motion to amend the resolution to the version sent out with the agenda, a copy of which was on legislator's desks. A motion to amend the resolution was made by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Grant and unanimously approved with no debate. The Committee unanimously agreed to sponsor the resolution, as amended with no debate.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Bartlett-Bearup seconded by Legislator Cantwell and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ryan Piche
Clerk of the Board