

**Health & Human Services Committee**  
**April 25, 2023**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Acting Committee Chair Frances Calarco, Legislators Allen Drake, John Peck, Jeremiah Maxon, Steel Potter, Corey Grant and Board Chair William Johnson

**Others Present:** Legislators Robert Cantwell, Philip Reed, Michael Montigelli, Daniel McBride, James Nabywaniec, Patrick Jareo and Robert Ferris, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Interim Office for the Aging Director Louise Haraczka, Community Services Director Tim Ruetten, Public Health Director Ginger Hall, DSS Commissioner Teresa Gaffney, Deputy DSS Commissioner Karen Marcum, Veterans Service Agency Director David Pavey, Confidential Asst. for Fiscal Affairs Ashley Durham, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Acting Chairwoman Calarco called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She entertained privilege of the floor, however no one present wished to speak.

Taylor Hansen, Associate Director of Behavioral Health - Seaway Valley Region of Citizen Advocates, and Julie Jeffers, Principal Associate of Citizen Advocates briefly outlined the services and hours of operation for the new facility on State Street. Ms. Hansen said the Center will open on May 1<sup>st</sup> for outpatient mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services, their hours of operation will be 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and they can treat patients from five years old and up. They will expand to providing services 24 hours a day a little down the road but they don't have a definite date yet, and they are not fully staffed. Ms. Hansen said the State has done an initial walk through for their providing residential and stabilization services through their 589 Program; this is if someone presents with a mental health or SUD crisis. An evaluation by a clinician and a nurse will be done and in patient residential services for 21 days for children, and 28 days for adults can be approved if needed. Services beyond those time periods are evaluated on an individual basis for further treatment. For adults there are 8 residential bedrooms, and 4 stabilization bedrooms which are shared; for children there are 4 residential bedrooms and 2 stabilization bedrooms. She said the facility is very home-like and the main goal is to facilitate reintegration back into the community, and to help people develop healthy living skills they may have lacked in development elsewhere in their life.

Ms. Hansen said as a mental health urgent care facility their goal is to have people come in the door, be evaluated, and be linked with whatever services they need in accordance with their treatment plan; and their overall goal is to reduce the flow of mental health patients into the Emergency Room. Ms. Hansen and Ms. Jefferies answered questions of legislators related to their clinic and programs. Legislator Nabywaniec thanked Ms. Hansen and Ms. Jeffers for their presentation and said we are fortunate to have them in our community as their clinics in other areas of the State have treated a significant number of people. He said their efforts along with other organizations in the community will go a long way in addressing problems.

The Committee approved the minutes of the March Committee meeting, as written.

Acting Chairwoman Calarco introduced a resolution Authorizing Amended Agreement for Provision of Legal Services to the Elderly of Jefferson County and Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Drake and seconded by Legislator Peck. There was brief discussion in which Administrator Hagemann indicated that there is a variety of legal services provided and this resolution will expand the program to fit more participants, not provide different services. The Committee unanimously agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Acting Chairwoman Calarco introduced a resolution Amending the 2023 County Budget to Allocate Additional State Aid for Community Services Mental Health Programs and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Acting Chairwoman Calarco introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement in Relation to Immunization Action Plan Funding and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Acting Chairwoman Calarco introduced a resolution Accepting Donation on Behalf of the Department of Social Services and Amending the 2023 County Budget and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Acting Chairwoman Calarco introduced a resolution Amending 2023 County Budget to Reappropriate Funding and Recognize Additional Revenue From NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for Transportation Initiative Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Potter and seconded by Legislator Drake. In response to questions Commissioner Gaffney said they have received this funding for years and always used it for the Wheels to Work program in purchasing vehicles and paying for vehicle repairs. When they didn't receive a bid for the RFP to purchase vehicles they tried something new to help people with transportation through gas cards, bus tokens, or rides through the Volunteer Transportation Center but people turned it down, so they will reallocate this funding to also pay for vehicle repairs. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Acting Chairwoman Calarco introduced a resolution Amending 2023 Comprehensive Planning Resource Allocation Agreement with the NYS 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 Peck seconded by Legislator Grant and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Acting Chairwoman Calarco introduced a resolution Amending 2023 Comprehensive

Planning Resource Allocation Agreement with the NYS Office of Children & Family Services and Authorizing Amended Contractual Youth Program Agreements in Relation to Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Potter and seconded by Legislator Drake.

In response to questions about the Augustinian Academy program application being denied Deputy Commissioner and Youth Bureau Director Marcum related that the sports funding is relatively new and the State has very specific parameters for this funding. The State did not feel Augustinian's program application was structured enough. The application was for playground equipment to get children outside to play but did not provide enough structure about the program and detail about who it would serve (number of youth, ages, etc. utilizing the equipment); due to the short time frame this year, Augustinian didn't have enough time to rewrite the proposal and spend the money by September. She said the Youth Board will give Augustinian an opportunity to submit an application for the 2023-2024 program year. She added that the then available funding was allocated based on original requests from the other three agencies that applied as they asked for more funding than they were allocated. Legislator and Youth Board Member Cantwell stated that typically there is not enough funding to go around for the requests made, Ms. Marcum has to reallocate funding at some point and even with the reallocation it does not cover the original request. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Acting Chairwoman Calarco introduced a resolution Establishing a Director of Housing/Special Initiatives and a Senior Caseworker Position within Social Services and Amending the 2023 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck and seconded by Legislator Potter. Legislator Peck said this resolution is a good next step in the process of dealing with the homelessness issue in the County. 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 Peck seconded by Legislator Potter and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert F. Hagemann, III  
Clerk of the Board

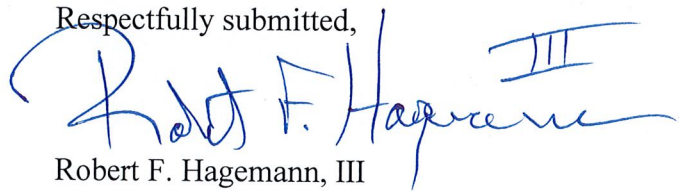
Acting Chairwoman Calarco introduced a resolution Amending 2023 Comprehensive Planning Resource Allocation Agreement with the NYS Office of Children & Family Services and Authorizing Amended Contractual Youth Program Agreements in Relation to Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Potter and seconded by Legislator Drake.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert F. Hagemann, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a distinct "III" at the end.

Robert F. Hagemann, III  
Clerk of the Board