



YATES COUNTY LEGISLATURE
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Leslie Church
Chairwoman
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HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES-MARCH 2, 2026
EDWARD BRONSON, COMMITTEE CHAIR

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Edward Bronson, Terry Button, Leigh MacKerchar, George Lawson, Dick Harper

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jesse Jayne

OTHERS PRESENT: Dan Banach, Nonie Flynn, Doug Paddock, Leslie Church, Sarah Purdy, Pat Killen (1:51 p.m.), Jessica Mullins, Emilee Miller, Matt Tantillo, Marianne Rosica-Brand, Amy Miller, Alyssa Broome-Quissimisse, Doug Gibbs, Lisa Principio

Committee Chair Bronson called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m.

Bronson & Lawson will sign the audit this month.

Minutes from the March 2nd meeting were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Matthew Tantillo

Mr. Tantillo reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- Grant Status Report
- Statistic Report
 - Significant uptick in criminal cases

OFFICE FOR THE AGING: Marianne Rosica-Brand

Ms. Rosica-Brand reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- Action items
- Program Updates
 - Legal Assistance
 - Information and Assistance
 - NY Connects
 - HIICAP (Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program)
 - Transportation
 - Full supply of drivers
 - Health Promotion
 - Personal Emergency Response System
 - Senior Nutrition
 - Still reworking position

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- Special Event Dinners
- EISEP Case Management
 - Looking for a Housekeeping Aid
 - Little bit of a wait list
- Pop Up Pantry
- The Hope Center
 - Was a dip in participation, but already increased for April

SOCIAL SERVICES: Amy Miller

Mr. Bronson questioned the Committee to see if the following resolution(s) should proceed to the Legislative Meeting. After discussion/edits, there were no official objections.

- Authorize Contract with the Following Agency
- Reappointment to the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board

Mrs. Miller reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- Adult Protective Services
 - Even if someone is very worried about an adult friend, relative, or a neighbor, and they are making choices and have the capacity to make those choices, very often there's not much DSS can do but to offer help
 - It's not like Child Protective Services, where they can swoop and “save somebody”
 - The busiest part of adult protective is the financial management
- Financial Management
 - The vast majority of Adult Protective Service clients are people who are on Social Security, who have had a relative or a neighbor exploit them, and a lot of times DSS get referrals from banks for that
 - 52 cases right now where they are managing someone's finances
 - They pay their bills directly, if they have a doctor bill or electric bill, those bills very often come straight to the DSS department, then DSS cuts the checks for those bills
 - Each client gets a personal needs allowance of however much money they've determined that they need
- HEAP
 - The Last day is April 10th
- Homeless numbers
 - 28 Temporary Assistance homeless cases and 17 Code Blue Cases
 - Last year at this time, it was 26 Temporary Assistance homeless cases and 16 Code Blue Cases
- Unemployment Rates
 - Not available until April 2nd
 - 300 people have claimed unemployment benefits since the first of the year, but they rounded up to the nearest hundred
 - Not an exact number
- 2026 Q1 Goal Status
 1. Percentage of on-time CPS 7-day safety assessments will be at least 90%, measured by monthly reports from OCFS-In progress

2. Our percentage of on-time Temporary Assistance Determinations will be at least 90% as measured by reports from OTDA-In progress
3. Develop and implement a new hire extended onboarding process-In progress

PUBLIC HEALTH: Alyssa Broome-Quissimisse

Ms. Broome-Quissimisse reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- 2026 Q1 Goal Status
 1. Recruit and onboard one vacant Full-time Public Health Nurse by July 31, 2026-In progress
 2. By December 31, 2026, reorganize the department to align with a population-based public health model and ensure 100% of the public health programming staff have received training to integrate public health program management, development, and evaluation into their programs-In progress
 3. Launch a multi-year youth vaping prevention program utilizing the JUUL Settlement funds in partnership with the Yates Prevention Coalition-In progress
- Key Highlights
 - Continue reaccreditation process, expected to conclude in September 2026
 - Developing a recruitment and retention proposal for public health nurses in collaboration with County Administration and Human Resources
 - Tick-borne illnesses are increasing locally
 - 146 reported cases of Lyme disease in 2025, 50 more cases than 2024
 - County's first identified case of babesiosis
 - ◆ Babesiosis is a more severe illness compared to Lyme disease
 - A countywide youth vaping needs assessment is underway to guide programming funded through the JUUL settlement
- Staffing & Workforce Development
- Public Health Program Updates
 - Last month reporting on the respiratory disease for the season
 - Still seeing a large spike in RSV and flu B cases
 - Majority of Yates County cases of RSV happened in March
 - Successful rabies clinic in Dundee two weekends ago
 - Vaccinated 126 animals
 - Next clinic May 6th at the Yates County Highway Department from 6 to 7 p.m.
 - Ticks are active earlier and longer due to warmer winters
 - Increase in tick-borne illnesses
 - Rates in Yates County are mirroring the States
 - Sisters Day mammogram screening was very successful
 - 12 individuals received mammograms
- Strategic Planning & Accreditation

VETERANS: Douglas Gibbs

Mr. Gibbs reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- Veterans' Service Projects
 - Final measurements and plans to build the Wall that Heals display case
 - The Veterans Memorial Park is being discussed/designed with Cornell

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- The Honor Flight Rochester is doing an all-female veteran Honor Flight May 16th - 17th
- A lot of work was done trying to verify individuals receiving Veterans Exemptions
 - Only 19 of the 120 letters mailed out returned a response
 - Could only verify that 47 out of 175 existed and had paperwork in the database, 128 left unable to verify
 - Reached out to town assessors for help with little to no luck with the exception of Jerusalem & Benton
 - Mr. Gibbs will provide the legislators with the data and names for each town they represent and requests that they help verify
- Personnel, Training & Conference Updates
- Veteran Services Update
- Statistics (Attached)
- Upcoming Veteran-Related Training, Meetings and Community Events
- Payments
- 2026 Q1 Goal Status
 1. Increase Outreach Continuing-In progress
 2. Increase Home Visits to House Bound Veterans and Veterans in Assisted Living-In progress
 3. Build Yates County Dwyer Program-Functional

COMMUNITY SERVICES: Lisa Principio

Mr. Bronson questioned the Committee to see if the following resolution(s) should proceed to the Legislative Meeting. After discussion/edits, there were no official objections.

- Resolution Recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month
- Authorize Director of Community Services to Create and Fill Full-Time Adult Transitional Case Manager (SPOA) Position
- Authorize Legislature Chair to Sign Contract with Yates County Sheriff's Office (Opioid Settlement-Prevention, Treatment, Recovery, Harm Reduction)
- Appoint Member to the Yates County Community Services Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee
- Amendment to Resolutions #443-25 (Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital)

Ms. Principio reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- Program Updates
 - Received guidance for the Enhanced Voluntary Agreements (EVA) last week
 - Already submitted policy and procedure draft
 - Held Community Services full board membership meeting
 - Held training on the Community Services Board responsibilities
 - Conducted a needs assessment; identified housing, transportation, care management, crisis services, and cross-system services
 - Currently going through an audit with the Opioid Settlement Funds
 - Resubmitted more documentation to them last week
 - They're reviewing it, and then they'll let them know if they need anything else
 - Moving forward with making the Prevention Coalition self-sustainable

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- Safe Talk Training, a 3-hour suicide alertness training
- 2026 Q1 Goal Status
 1. Increase community awareness and access to its programs by 25% -In progress
 2. Onboard the new Senior Account Clerk-In progress
 3. Support the Yates Prevention Coalition in becoming a self-sustaining community coalition in 2026-In progress

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: Jessica Mullins

Mrs. Mullins had nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emilee D. Miller

Emilee Miller

Yates County Clerk of the Legislature