



YATES COUNTY LEGISLATURE
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Leslie Church
Chairwoman
Emilee D. Miller
Clerk

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES-JANUARY 5, 2026
EDWARD BRONSON, COMMITTEE CHAIR

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Holgate, Rick Willson, Leslie Church, Dan Banach, Nonie Flynn, Doug Paddock, Sarah Purdy, Pat Killen, Jessica Mullins, Emilee Miller, Matt Tantillo, Marianne Rosica-Brand, Amy Miller, Sara Christensen, Doug Gibbs, Lisa Principio

Committee Chair Bronson called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m.

Bronson & MacKerchar will sign the audit this month.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jesse Cramer spoke about various issues people, including himself, are facing right now including homelessness.

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Matthew Tantillo

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

- Grant Status Report
- Statistic Report
- Goals
- Additional
 - Full-time assistant public defender position approved in October
 - Did not get the budget modification from ILS back until December
 - Clayton Gandino was able to hire for the position
 - ◆ Will be handling a substantial amount of their local court caseload and pitching in while Lindsey is out
 - Mr. Bronson requested an overview of the process in which cases go from the Public Defenders office to the Assigned Counsel Program for the next meeting

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
 - Cannot believe how incredibly supportive this community is with the Hope Center
 - They keep getting contributions in dollar-wise and canned food-wise

Agendas, Minutes, Audio, and more at <https://www.yatescountyny.gov/AgendaCenter/Human-Services-Committee-6>

- The Finger Lakes Wine Alliance brought in about 6 tons of food
 - Dr. Frank's Winery had a drive
 - The demand is up, but the Community's really been helping meet the need
- With the pop-up pantry, they took Mr. Lawson's lead, and they upped the count to 275 for each pop-up pantry
 - After the last pop-up pantry, there was about 2,000 pounds of food that they brought back to the Hope Center
 - ♦ They put it outside for people who don't want to come in and register
 - ♦ There are several ways for people to have access for food between the Hope Center and the pop-up pantry
- Other

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 Child and Family Resources
- Appointment to the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board (Young)
- Appointment to the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board (Turner)
- Appointment to the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board (Meade)
- Appointment to the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board (Humbert & Sykes)

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

- HEAP
 - As of December 22nd, they've received 349 HEAP applications, 240 have approved, 38 denied, and then some pending
 - They distributed \$186,000 in benefits
 - Those benefits go directly to providers
 - They re-implemented the heating equipment repair and replacement program
- Homeless
 - Housed 18 people through the regular temporary assistance
 - Housed 10 through code blue
- Childcare
 - Statewide allocation for child care assistance has gone down considerably
 - 2025-\$1,078,056 156 Children Served (88 families)
 - 2024-\$688,830 134 Children Served (89 families)
 - 2023-\$477,700 116 Children Served (69 Families)
 - 2022-\$224,860 63 Children Served (44 families)

Family Size	New York State Income Standard (SIS)	300% SIS
1	\$15,650	\$46,950
2	\$21,150	\$63,450
3	\$26,650	\$79,950
4	\$32,150	\$96,450
5	\$37,650	\$112,950
6	\$43,150	\$129,450
7	\$48,650	\$145,950

- NYS Unemployment
 - Currently 187 people in Yates County receiving unemployment
 - 183 subject to work search
- Unemployment Rates

	October 2025	October 2024	October 2023
Ontario	3.4	2.7	3.1
Seneca	3.6	3.1	3.1
Wayne	3.5	3.0	3.0
Yates	3.3	2.5	2.9
Monroe	4.1	3.4	3.7

- 2025 Q4 Goal Status
- 2026 Goals

PUBLIC HEALTH: Sarah Christensen

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

- 2025 Q4 Goal Status
 - Still in progress
- 2026 Goals
 - First goal should be July 31st, 2026
- Staffing & Workforce Development
 - Struggling with staffing due to pay and lack of work schedule flexibility
 - Base pay needs to be more than \$35 an hour
 - Explore 4 day work week
 - Hours of operation
 - HR does a good job advertising for positions
- Public Health Program Updates
 - The flu is still very prevalent in Yates County
 - Since October 1st, 130 lab-confirmed flu cases
 - ◆ 109 cases in December
 - ◆ About two and a half times the number of cases where they were at last December.
 - Hospitalizations are up

- 110 COVID cases
- 9 RSV cases
- Salmonella in raw milk from local farm
 - Alert put out by Ag and Markets, if they did purchase milk sustain from drinking it
 - No reports of illness specifically related to that milk
- Immunizations and vaccination rates aren't the best
 - The worst when it comes to measles, mumps, rubella, when comparing all the counties in New York State
 - Vaccination rate by age 2 with at least one dose of MMR is still about 55%
- Mobile mammography event, Sisters Day, at the Himrod Fire Department on January 14th

VETERANS: Douglas Gibbs

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

- 2025 Q4 Goal Status
- 2026 Goals
- Veterans' Service Projects
 - Veteran dinner on December 22nd that wasn't included
 - Brought the number of attendees for the month up to 72
- Personnel, Training & Conference Updates
- Veteran Services Update
- Statistics (Attached)
- Upcoming Veteran-Related Training, Meetings and Community Events
- Payments

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.

- Amend Resolution No. 443-25 (Mark Reynolds, PHD)
- Authorize Chair to Sign Contract with Finger Lakes Addictions Counseling and Referral Agency (FLACRA) (Drop-In)
- Authorize Chair of the Legislature to Sign Contract with the Finger Lakes Addiction Counseling and Referral Agency (Opioid Settlement-Housing Services)
- Authorize Legislature Chair to Sign Contract with Our Town Rocks (Opioid Settlement-Harm Reduction, Educational Materials, and Linkage)
- Authorize Legislature Chair to Sign Contract with the Yates County Public Health Department (Opioid Settlement-Credible Mind Website)
- Authorize Chair to Sign Contract with Catholic Charities Steuben/Livingston (Mentoring)

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

- Program Updates
 - Education Reimbursement Request Form
 - Safe Act: 2- reports 2- sent to DCJS
 - Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT): Current Cases-1 Investigations-0

- Fiscal: An offer has been made and accepted for the Senior Account Clerk Typist position
 - Anticipated start date of January 5th
- Mentoring Program
 - January is Mentoring Awareness Month
- Yates Prevention Coalition: 2025 newsletter attached
- 2025 Q4 Goal Status
- 2026 Goals

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: Jessica Mullins

Mrs. Mullins had nothing to report.

Mr. Jayne moved to enter into executive session on the basis of:

1. Public Safety, if a matter should be disclosed, attendees being members of the Committee, other legislators present, Commissioner of Social Services, the Public Safety Officer, and the County Administrator.

Seconded by Mr. Lawson.

VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emilee D. Miller

Emilee Miller
Yates County Clerk of the Legislature