

## **2/2/21 Human Services Committee Meeting**

**Time: 9:00 AM**

Due to public health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 Pandemic the Livingston County Board of Supervisors has chosen to meet in a hybrid manner in that some Supervisors will be in person and some will be remote via Zoom. Attendance is allowed with masks and social distancing.

Per State and Federal bans on large gatherings and pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 issued on March 12, 2020, including all subsequent extensions, "suspending law allowing the attendance of meetings telephonically or other similar service."

This meeting will follow Roberts Rules of Order, will be recorded and later transcribed.

Agendas are available per normal procedures on the County website

<https://www.livingstoncounty.us/AgendaCenter>

Zoom meeting link:

<https://zoom.us/j/99157460284?pwd=ZGN4bGprYXB1Q2NqdDFXSmJvNlppUT09>

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 991 5746 0284

Passcode: 536979

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,99157460284# US (New York)

+13017158592,,99157460284# US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 991 5746 0284



# LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING NOTICE

Livingston County Government Center, Geneseo, New York 14454 585.243.7030

COMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES  
 DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2021  
 TIME: 9:00 A.M

<u>Committee Members</u>
M. Walker, Chairman
S. Erdle, Vice Chairman
I. Davis
M. Falk
D. Wester
D. LeFeber
D. Mahus

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**9:00 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES – DIANE DEANE**

**Action Item(s) To Be Reported**

**1. AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO SIGN THE FOLLOWING CONTRACT(S) FOR THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES: VARIOUS LICENSED DAY CARE CENTERS & VARIOUS LICENSED/REGISTERED DAY CARE PROVIDERS**

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Livingston County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign the following contract(s) for the Livingston County Department of Social Services, and any future amendments to said contract, according to the term(s) designated, subject to review by the County Attorney and County Administrator:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Various Licensed Day Care Centers</b>	1/1/21-12/31/21	Market Rates

For: Day care services reimbursement for children of eligible clients. Amount paid based on duration of care and age of child.

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted?</i>
Federal Child Care Block Grant Allocation	0-5%	Yes X No

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Various Licensed/Registered Day Care Providers</b>	1/1/21-12/31/21	Market Rates

For: Day care services reimbursement for children of eligible clients. Amount paid based on duration of care and age of child.

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted?</i>
Federal Child Care Block Grant Allocation	0-5%	Yes X No

**Informational Item(s) Written Only**

1. Statistics (Monthly) (December)

	<u>Dec</u>	<u>% Change from Jan 1</u>
<b>Temporary Assistance Cases (TA):</b>		
Family Assistance	163	-16.84%
Safety Net	207	-12.29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>-14.35%</b>
 <b>Medicaid Cases (MA):</b>		
Community	1962	17.27%
Chronic Care	243	4.74%
Foster Care	165	4.43%



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SSI	1270	1.84%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3640</b>	<b>9.97%</b>

### Livingston County Citizens receiving some form of Medicaid service:

Cases In Transit	0	
<b>NYSOH</b>		
Livingston County DSS	4788	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4788</b>	

<b>Food Stamp Only Cases:</b>	2361	7.76%
<b>SSI Food Stamp Cases:</b>	745	-6.17%
<b>Child Care Cases:</b>	111	-8.26%

### Indigent Burials:

Approved	6
Denied	1

### Fraud:

Front End Detection (FEDS) - During Applicant Status	0
Fraud Referrals Received - Anonymous/Other	2
Fraud Referrals Received - Internal/DSS	0
Referrals sent to Sheriff & DA	0
Pending with DA/Awaiting Disposition	7

<b>Clients thru the lobby (Unduplicated #):</b>	563
<b>Total # of individuals served by reception staff:</b>	831

### Housing - Homeless Caseload:

Diversions	10
Housed	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>

<b>Total Nights</b>	<b>436</b>
Singles	374
2 Adults	0
Families	62

Total Clients in Temp. Housing at end of month	18
Clients entering Temp. Housing & remaining in the month	14

Code Blue - Below 32 Degrees	
Cases	1
Nights	6

<b>Section 8 Vouchers Leased Up:</b>	503
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### Child Support:



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Caseload Count	2,828	<b>-6.17%</b>
Dollars Collected	\$630,023	

## **Child Protective Services (CPS): Ongoing**

New Primary Investigation Assignments	57
Secondary Assignments from Other Counties	18
Petitions Filed	4
1034 Court Ordered Investigations Completed	5

## **CPS Ongoing Case Management/Preventive Services:**

CPS Ongoing Management Cases	28
Article 10 Placement/Non-DSS Custody Cases (Out of Home)	20
*Distinct Children	24
Supervision Cases Remaining in Home	28
*Distinct Children	70
Supervision Cases on Behalf of Another County-Secondary	0
*Distinct Children	0
Probation Based # of Children Referred	18
School Based Consults (Avon, Dansville, Livonia)	123
TASA (Case Management for Pregnant/Parenting Teens) Active	0

<b>Foster Care</b>	<b>66</b>
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<b>Foster Children - DSS Custody</b>	39	<b>-9.30%</b>
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<b>OCFS State Custody</b>	3
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### Levels of Care:

Foster Boarding Home	28
Approved Relative Foster Home	4
Institution	4
Group Home	1
Supervised Independent Living	0
Other	2

<b>Other Case Processing</b>	<b>27</b>
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ICPC Requests	2
Supervision - Post Discharged - Court Ordered	12
Supervision on behalf of another county	6
Aftercare Services	0
Children on Trial Discharge	6
Children Discharged to Parent or other resource	1

<b>Adoptions</b>	0
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<b>Protective Services for Adults (PSA):</b>	38	<b>-20.83%</b>
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PSA Referrals Received	15
Active Financial Mgmt. Cases	41
Active Home Mgmt. Cases	40
Personal Care Aide Cases	32



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Level I	4
Level II	25
Level I pending	3
Cases waiting for an assigned Aide	3
Guardianship Cases	3
Awaiting discharge	6
Pending	0
Assessment Contacts	66

- Employees were hired, resigned or retired in January – No changes.
- Digitization of Section 8 records and the implementation of an automated work flow process were completed in December and trained on in January. This project was funded with CARES Act money received from HUD specifically targeted to Section 8 program improvements. Six security deposits were issued with this money as well.

## 9:05 OFFICE FOR THE AGING – SUE CARLOCK

### Action Item(s) To Be Reported

#### 1. AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO SIGN THE FOLLOWING CONTRACT(S) FOR THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING: AIM Independent Living Center, Inc., Comfort Keepers

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Livingston County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign the following contract(s) for the Livingston County Office for the Aging, and any future amendments to said contracts, according to the term(s) designated, subject to review by the County Attorney and County Administrator:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>AIM Independent Living Center, Inc.</b> 271 East First Street Corning, NY 14830	4/1/21-3/31/22 with two one-year options to renew	\$19.40 per hour Rates adjusted annually based on New York State approved rates.

For: Consumer Directed In-Home Services

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted?</i>
NYS EISEP Funding, Title III E Caregiver Services	25%	Yes X No

Director's Comments: For Fiscal Intermediary Services for Consumer Directed Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) and Caregiver Services; this option allows the consumer or caregiver to interview and hire (and terminate when/if necessary) their own In-Home Services Worker, with payroll, etc. through the fiscal intermediary. Livingston County Office for the Aging still provides case management.

<b>Comfort Keepers</b> 1163 Pittsford Victor Rd. Suite 215 Pittsford, NY 14534	4/1/21-3/31/22 with two one-year options to renew	\$27.00/hour PCI Rate schedule Rates subject to change annually
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For: Non-medical in-home homemaker chore services

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted?</i>
NYS EISEP Funding, Title III E Caregiver Services	25%	Yes X No

Director's Comments: Funds non-medical in-home services to seniors 60 and over that have been assessed in need of assistance in completing activities of daily living as determined by a completed care plan. EISEP is a cost share program and clients are charged a fee based on income. There is no charge for Caregiver Services but participants are given the opportunity to make a confidential contribution.



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## Informational Item(s) Written Only

Livingston County

01/01/2020 and 12/31/2020

Report Run Date: 01/20/2021

## Service Type Summary

<b>Service Type</b>	<b>Total Units 2020</b>	<b>Total Units 2019</b>
Case Management (in-person assessments longer)	1,781 hours	1,956 hours
Health Promotion (minimal in-person classes)	817 contacts	2,178 contacts
Home Delivered Meals	71,790 meals	46,182 meals
Information & Assistance	3,915 contacts	4,275 contacts
In-Home Contact and Support (mask, food, sanitizer delivery, well check calls)	11,064 contacts	63 contacts
Legal Services	232 hours	361 hours
Nutrition Education	11,156 contacts	4,787 contacts
Personal Care	6,091 hours	5,874 hours
Transportation	1,790 one-way trips	8,229 one-way trips

## Program Updates:

- LCOFA has indicated interest in participating in a statewide pilot of a virtual senior center platform. Eight to twelve counties will be selected to participate.
- LCOFA will be participating in a pilot program through the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) for the TCARE program for caregivers. NYSOFA is working with TCARE to test their tool and gain important outcomes and metrics on the impact on caregivers within NYSOFA's network. Tailored Caregiver Assessment and Referral (TCARE) is a care management protocol designed to support family members who are providing care to adults, of any age, with chronic or acute health conditions. The comprehensive system includes software, assessment tools, decision algorithms, and a training and technical assistance program.
- LCOFA is working with Julie Barry and DOH to get information out to older adults about the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Received from a recipient of an animatronic pet: Thank you so much for this robotic dog. David loved it the minute he saw it. I haven't seen him smile so much in a very long time. He holds it all day long and takes it to bed with him at night. Please thank everyone that made this available to him. We are both very grateful!
- JOY FOR ALL Companion Pets are designed to bring comfort, companionship, and fun to elder loved ones. Our interactive cats and pup are all about an ease-of-care and convenience that pairs with technology for the best possible experience. Designed with extensive input from older adults, Joy for All launched the Companion Pets in December 2015. Within the first few months, the effects that these products were having on aging loved ones and their families was undeniable. Stories and testimonials from caregivers on the positive impact on isolation, loneliness, and all forms of cognitive decline continued to validate what the team had believed all along – that the power of play was relevant at all stages of life. These published testimonials caught the attention of academics and clinicians leading to multiple independent research projects intended to measure and quantify the impact of the Joy for All products on loneliness, isolation, Alzheimer's and all forms of dementia.



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- VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance): There will be no VITA program this year due to COVID-19.
- Seniorama: Date TBD. Will be outdoor event with distancing. Many towns will have honorees this year that have been carried over from last year; the towns that still need honorees have or will be contacted. Please call Sue Carlock if you have questions.

## 9:10 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT – RYAN SNYDER

### Action Item to Be Reported

#### 1. AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO SIGN THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS FOR THE GLOW WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD: GENESEE COUNTY, LIVINGSTON COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, ORLEANS COUNTY & WYOMING COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Livingston County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign the following contracts for the GLOW Workforce Development Board, and any future amendments to said contract, according to the terms designated, subject to review by the County Attorney and County Administrator:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Genesee County</b> 587 East Main Street Batavia, NY 14020 For: WIOA Service Provider for Genesee County	7/1/21-6/30/22	Up to \$300,000.00

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted?</i>
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)	\$0	Yes

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Livingston County Workforce Development</b> 6 Court Street Geneseo NY, 14454 For: WIOA Service Provider for Livingston County	7/1/21-6/30/22	Up to \$400,000.00

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted?</i>
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)	\$0	Yes

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Orleans County</b> 14016 Route 31 West Albion, NY 14411 For: WIOA Service Provider for Orleans County	7/1/21-6/30/22	Up to \$300,000.00

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted?</i>
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)	\$0	Yes

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Wyoming County Community Action</b> 6470 Route 20A Perry, NY 14530 For: WIOA Service Provider for Wyoming County	7/1/21-6/30/22	Up to \$300,000.00

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted?</i>
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)	\$0	Yes

### Pre-approved Informational Item(s) To Be Reported

1. 2021 TEEN RECOGNITION EVENT

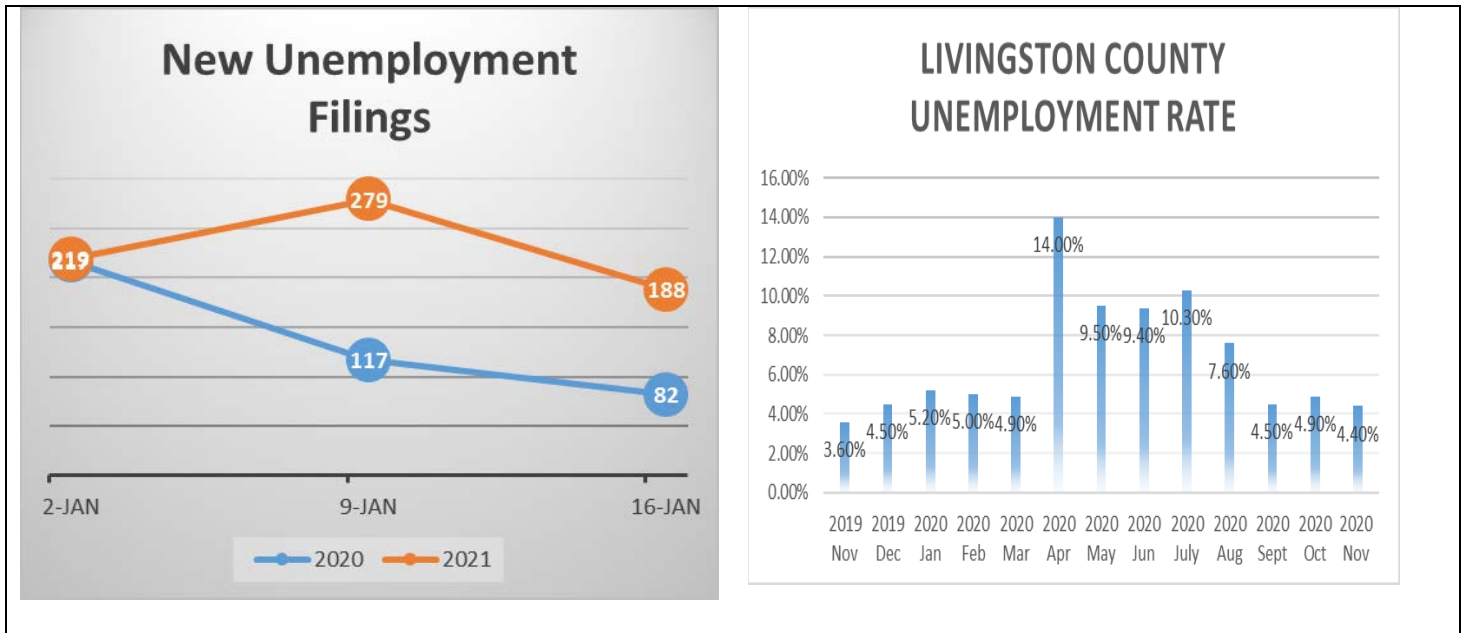
### Informational Item(s) Written Only



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## Livingston County New Unemployment Filings



New Unemployment Filings for Livingston County over the first three weeks of 2021 are up 65% over the same period in 2020. 10,677 new filings have occurred since 3/28/20. The Unemployment Rate for November 2020 is 4.4% up from 3.6% in the same period in the prior year.

### Department Activity Report

Activity	Jan 2021
Office Contacts	206
Job Openings Posted with NYSDOL	257
Zoom Workshop Attendees	12
Individual Appointments	44
Adults/Youth in Training	38
Pre-Hire Assessments	11
Youth in Paid Work Experience	4
WIOA Youth Enrolled in Services (30 by 6/30/20)	25
WIOA Adults Trained (32 by 6/30/20)	27

### Program Report

CNA Program – The next Certified Nursing Assistant Training Program is scheduled to start on 3/29 with recruitment beginning in February.

DLW Employment Recovery Grant – The GLOW Region received a \$34,000 grant for Dislocated Worker Training

Unemployment Changes - New changes will incentivize UI Recipients to return to work by basing partial benefits on the hours worked in a given week, not the number of days.

Youth Bureau – The Teen Recognition Event is scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup>.

### 9:15 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ





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## Action Item(s) To Be Reported

### 1. AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO SIGN THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS FOR THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: FOSTER MARTIN, INC., TOWN OF GROVELAND, VILLAGE OF LIVONIA & TOWN OF SPRINGWATER.

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Livingston County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign the following contracts for the Livingston County Department of Health, and any future amendments to said contract, according to the terms designated, subject to review by the County Attorney and County Administrator:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Foster Martin, Inc.</b> 2200 Genesee Street Utica, NY 13502 For: Access to WIC Strong Website	10/1/20-9/30/21	\$7,200.00

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted?</i>
100% NYS WIC	0%	<b>Yes X</b> No

Director's Comments: The Foster Martin Inc. contract entails the Livingston-Wyoming WIC agency's participation in utilization of the WIC Strong website. With this contract we are able to maintain a WIC Strong web page and receive website technical assistance. This contract allows participants to view our agency WIC Strong page and apply for WIC services online. WIC Strong will send our agency prospective participant information so we can contact these individuals and screen them for WIC eligibility. This contract also gives us access to WIC strong social media graphics, marketing tools, and a monthly newsletter with analytics.

<b>Town of Groveland</b> 4955 Aten Road Groveland, NY 14462 For: Provide Dog Control services to the Town of Groveland to enforce their local Dog Control Ordinance.	1/1/21-12/31/22	2021 - \$4,900.00 2022 - TBD - based on approved budget
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<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted?</i>
Town of Groveland	0%	<b>Yes X</b> No

Director's Comments: This is a two (2) year contract to Provide Dog Control services to the Town of Groveland to enforce their local Dog Control Ordinance. These costs will be divided equally among those municipalities that have a similar agreement with the County for these services. The 2021 share of these costs will be \$4,900. The cost for 2022 will be determined, based upon similar methodology and as established by the County budget for that year.

<b>Village of Livonia</b> 36 Commercial Street Livonia, NY 14487 For: Provide Dog Control services to the Village of Livonia to enforce their local Dog Control Ordinance	1/1/21-12/31/22	2021 - \$4,900.00 2022 - TBD - based on approved budget
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<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted?</i>
Village of Livonia	0%	<b>Yes X</b> No

Director's Comments: This is a two (2) year contract to provide Dog Control services to the Village of Livonia to enforce their local Dog Control Ordinance. These costs will be divided equally among those municipalities that have a similar agreement with the County for these services. The 2021 share of these costs will be \$4,900. The cost for 2022 will be determined, based upon similar methodology and as established by the County budget.

<b>Town of Springwater</b> 8022 South Main Street Springwater, NY 14560 For: Provide Dog Control services to the Town of Springwater to enforce their local Dog Control Ordinance	1/1/21-12/31/22	2021 - \$4,900.00 2022 - TBD - based on approved budget
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<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted?</i>
cc: BOS, Administration, Shannon Hillier, Stephen Woodruff, Jennifer Rodriguez, Diane Deane, Sue Carlock, Jason Skinner, Ryan Snyder		



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Village of Livonia	0%	Yes <b>X</b> No
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Director's Comments: This is a two (2) year contract to provide Dog Control services to the Town of Springwater to enforce their local Dog Control Ordinance. These costs will be divided equally among those municipalities that have a similar agreement with the County for these services. The 2021 share of these costs will be \$4,900. The cost for 2022 will be determined, based upon similar methodology and as established by the County budget.

## 2. APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD SUBCOMMITTEES: ANNMARIE URSO & BETTY LOU WILLIS

RESOLVED, that the following members are hereby appointed to the Livingston County Community Services Board Subcommittees for the terms designated:

<b>Livingston County Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee</b>			
Name	Address	Rep./Title	Term Expires
Annamarie Urso	SUNY Geneseo College Ella Cline Shear School of Ed. South Hall 220D Geneseo, NY 14454	SUNY Geneseo	12/31/24
<b>Livingston County Mental Health Subcommittee</b>			
Name	Address	Rep./Title	Term Expires
Betty Lou Willis	600 Country Lane, Apt B8, Geneseo, NY 14454	Community Member	12/31/24

## 3. AMENDING THE 2021 LIVINGSTON COUNTY SALARY SCHEDULE: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND REFERRING THIS MATTER TO THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that the 2020 Livingston County Salary Schedule is amended as follows:

### Department of Health:

- Create one full-time Home Health Aide position at Wage Grade 4 CSEA Contract effective 2/12/2021.
- Create one full-time Licensed Practical Nurse position at Wage Grade 9 CSEA Contract effective 2/12/2021.

### Informational Item(s) Written Only

- Be Well in Livingston* (Mt. Morris)-per consultant's summary of the community assessment priorities include year round physical activity, healthy food retail options and programs to educate regarding wellness practices.
- COVID-19: Continue communication plan to include community-wide media and outreach plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic - revised plan to include focus on vaccination plan and vaccine promotion messaging include print and radio ads targeting seniors, daily update to Public Health Director, staff daily briefing began on 1/11/2021, distributed community partner update, services sheet, vaccine fact sheet with prevention messaging to community partners/CHA Leadership Team; staff assisting with CDMS/Vaccine Clinic.
- Weekly update regarding flu data, services and initiatives.
- Submitted report regarding New York Health Foundation/NYSACHO funding application to enhance COVID-19 clinics and vaccine promotion media campaign.
- Submitted Family Planning annual reports to NYSDOH.
- Developed and submitted RHC's PAIR improvement plan in collaboration with CASA-Trinity to increase inter agency referrals, gain knowledge of SU and formalize client counseling, screening and referral process.

cc: BOS, Administration, Shannon Hillier, Stephen Woodruff, Jennifer Rodriguez, Diane Deane, Sue Carlock, Jason Skinner, Ryan Snyder



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- Developed and submitted RHC's Patient Experience Improvement PDSA testing change form to increase client recruitment and retention.
- Provided NYSDOH Expedited Partner Therapy guidelines to HCPs.
- Developed SUNY Geneseo RHC clinic media for spring semester.
- Presented STIs to Caledonia School via Zoom.
- SHAPE Quarterly Newsletter.
- Workforce Development Plan- staff to complete Livingston County mandated trainings by January 31.
- Vaccine Clinics, Monday – Friday.
- Rapid Testing Clinics, Monday – Friday.
- 1600 covid vaccines given so far.

## 9:20 CENTER FOR NURSING & REHABILITATION – STEPHEN WOODRUFF

### Action Item(s) To Be Reported

#### 1. AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO SIGN THE FOLLOWING CONTRACT FOR THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY CENTER FOR NURSING AND REHABILITATION – FUSION MEDICAL STAFFING, LLC

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Livingston County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign the following contract for the Livingston County Department of the Livingston County Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation and any future amendments to said contract, according to the term(s) designated, subject to review by the County Attorney and County Administrator:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Fusion Medical Staffing, LLC</b>	4/1/20-3/31/21	Fee Schedule
11808 Grant Street		
Omaha, NE 68164		

For: Amending Supplemental Staffing Contract – RN, LPN & CNA

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Local Share</i>	<i>Budgeted?</i>
Operating Budget	N/A	X Yes

Director's Comments: Staffing agencies have had limited personnel available and are experiencing the same recruiting difficulties as the CNR and other providers. This contract will enable the select and limited use of agency personnel to meet staffing needs.

### Pre-approved Informational Item(s) To Be Reported

#### FINANCIAL/OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

- Report on Post Audit – Financial Meetings and Activities
- Occupancy – As of January 25, 2021 occupancy was 65.16% for the month.  
Cash Flow - The CNR's Cash Flow Report as of January 26, 2021, \$14,237,098 in Reserves. Budget Variance – The November 2020 budget variance report will be distributed and discussed at the committee meeting.

### Informational Item(s) Written Only

- 1) Reports - Absenteeism, Mandation, FMLA, Payroll Performance, Work Related Injuries, Report Card
- 2) Current FT Nursing Assistant vacancies are: Night Shift 18, Evening Shift 28, Day Shift 26
- 3) Nurse Recruitment – The CNR is actively recruiting qualified applicants.
  - a) There are currently 1 Part time day shift LPN and 1 one full time day shift LPN, 9 Full Time and 3 Part Time evening shift LPN and 6 Full Time and 3 Part Time LPN night shift vacancies.



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- b) There are currently 1 Full Time day shift RN, 3 Full Time evening shift RN, & 2 Full Time night shift RN vacancies.
- c) There are currently 1 Part time day shift, & 1 Part Time evening shift PCA vacancies at this time.
- d) There are currently 2 Part time day shift & 3 Part Time evening Uncertified Nursing Assistant vacancies at this time.
- 4) Beacon Solutions Monthly Report – to be distributed.
- 5) CNR COVID-19:

Pursuant to Executive Order 202.85, issued on December 27, 2020, the Center continues to complete weekly testing of all employees, contract and medical staff, through January 26, 2021

The Center suspended visitation on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, pursuant to notification that a contractor had tested positive for COVID-19. Visitation remains suspended until the facility staff or residents for a period of at least 14 days since the most recent positive result. Testing will continue among staff, patients or residents for a period of at least 14 days since the most recent positive result.
- 6) COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic - The LCCNR has partnered with its contract pharmacy vendor, Health Direct Pharmacy Services to convene three COVID-19 vaccination clinics within the Center. Health Direct personnel will be administering the Pfizer BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine, three weeks apart per manufacturer's guidelines. The scheduled clinic dates are January 6<sup>th</sup>, January 27<sup>th</sup>, and February 17<sup>th</sup>. During the first two clinics, 100% of the Residents / Patients wishing to receive the vaccine will receive it, and in the event that there are other residents that did not receive the vaccine on the first date, will have it administered on 01/27/21 and 02/17/21. Concurrently, staff member vaccinations will be administered into two groups, between the first and second clinic, and the second and third. The resident vaccination acceptance rate (those wishing to, and in fact taking the vaccine dose #1) is approximately 92% and expected to climb higher during our second and third clinics on 01/27/21 & 02/17/21.
- 7) The LCCNR's medical practitioners are in process of evaluating the use of monoclonal antibody treatment in the Center, made available through Health Direct Pharmacy Services. The pharmacy has been authorized to dispense the two monoclonal antibody(mAB) treatments authorized via Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). The EUA was granted for bamlanivimab (BAM), and casirivimab (CAS)/imdevimab (IMD). These products were authorized to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 in patients with positive SARS-CoV-2 viral testing who are at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 or hospitalization.
- 8) On 01/20/21, the NYS-DOH survey team conducted the "NYS-DOH COVID-19" infection control survey in the CNR, resulting in a deficiency free survey.
- 9) On 01/12/21, the Center experienced water damage, secondary to a failed vacuum breaker / toilet in an unoccupied area on the Country Lane Neighborhood and in the Ground Floor Therapy Gym. A water mitigation company was on site post incident to assist with clean up, placement of fans and HEPA filters. The subsequent repairs to the affected areas will be completed in coordination with Livingston County Central Services, Buildings, Grounds and Parks.
- 10) The Adult Day Health Care Program services remain suspended until further notice. The GOL Program Coordinator continues to connect telephonically on a weekly basis with program Registrants in the community.
- 11) NYS-DOH reporting continues on a daily basis, 7 days per week, via the HERDS survey in the Health Commerce System.
- 12) The CNR reports survey data to the CDC, via the National Healthcare Safety Network, twice per week.
- 13) The CNR's PPE supplies remain above the minimal requisite 60-day supply. The CNR maintains a 90-day supply on hand.
- 14) The Center continues to communicate with Residents / Families weekly via telephone calls, electronic communication(s) and letters.
- 15) The Center continues to participate on a weekly basis in the AHRQ ECHO National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network, to continue to review and identify industry wide best practices in response to the pandemic.



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- 16) Dialysis Extension Clinic: Clinic pending C.O.N. approval, secondary to architectural revisions required by the Bureau of Architectural and Engineering.
- 17) Cooling Tower – The cooling tower replacement project started November 17, 2020. Awaiting installation of the VFD (Variable Frequency Drive), and final project punch list / close outs.
- 18) Northeast Sidewalk Modification – The sidewalk modification is complete. Pending installation of the permanent guard rail.
- 19) The LCCNR extended its contract with Reliable Health Services (RHS), the Center's Electronic Medical Record and Accounting Software for a period of one year, with an optional one-year renewal.
- 20) 2020 Worker Comp Injury Comparison: The LCCNR reduced its Worker's Compensation expenses by \$112,807 from the year prior.
- 21) The CNR was selected by the NYS-DOH to participate in the Advanced Training Initiative (A.T.I.) program to further the clinical competencies of our nursing staff. The LCCNR will partner with Leading Age NY / FLTC to facilitate training. The CNR has submitted an application to participate in this program, to potentially receive an estimated award amount \$226,898.

## **9:35 ADJOURNMENT**

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### **VETERAN'S SERVICES AGENCY – JASON SKINNER**

#### **Informational Item(s) Written Only**

##### **Training and new legislation**

The New York State Division of Veterans Affairs is offering training on the new legislation that passed under the NDAA 2020 (National Defense Authorization Act). The Omnibus (H.R. 7105) bill aptly named because the entire years bills and the kitchen sink are looped into this one sweeping act. The Veterans Compact Act passed in the previous legislative session. This training is on January 28 at 10 and is virtual.

##### **NDAA**

Most notably the VA has now added 3 more conditions to be awarded "presumptive Status" for Vietnam veterans' disability. These are hypothyroidism, bladder cancer, and Parkinsonism (Parkinson's like symptoms). This has significant implications for our Disability Compensation claims — and for Dependency & Indemnity Compensation claims as well. For example, let's say that a Veteran who served in Vietnam passed away from bladder cancer. The surviving spouse of that Veteran should now file for Dependency & Indemnity Compensation based on the Veteran passing away from a medical condition presumed to be service-connected.

##### **Veterans Compact Act**

Toward the end of last year the Veterans Compact Act passed. This Act requires the federal government to peruse a national set of Outdoor RX recommendations. This is the exact same process I am currently involved in as Co-Chair of the NY State version.

##### **The Omnibus Bill**

##### **Benefits**

1. Requires the VA to return Disability Based Questionnaires to their public-facing website, and requires the VA accept Disability Based Questionnaires as evidence in disability compensation claims even when completed by non-VA medical providers.
2. Increases the timeframe of the Vietnam War Era of military service, stating that the Vietnam Era began on November 1, 1955, instead of February 28, 1961.(for those with verified service in Vietnam only)
3. Eliminates the 12-year time limit governing applications for Veteran Readiness & Employment (VR&E) benefits for Veterans who separated from military service after January 1, 2013 (i.e., making VR&E the same as the "Forever G.I. Bill").
4. Sets new limits on when the VA's Debt Management Center may initiate debt collection proceedings against Veterans.



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5. Lowers the age to 55 at which a re-married surviving spouse of a Veteran may still receive Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC).
6. Increases the federal government's special pensions for the surviving spouses of Medal of Honor recipients.
7. Requires the Veterans Benefits Administration to establish specialized teams for processing Military Sexual Trauma claims.
8. Allows Veterans filing a claim for a physical or mental health condition resulting from sexual trauma to choose the gender of their Compensation & Pension Exam provider.
9. Allows National Guard and Reserve service under Title 32 orders to count for VA Home Loan eligibility.
10. Requires the VA to allow Veterans to update dependent information via the eBenefits website.
11. Requires the VA to study cancer, diseases, or illness experienced by those who served at the Karshi-Khanabad (K2) Air Base in Uzbekistan between October 1, 2001, and September 30, 2005, and expands VA's open burn pit registry to include burn pits located in Uzbekistan.
12. Specifies circumstances under which a Service Member, including members of the National Guard and Reserves, is considered service-connected for a disability or death from COVID-19.
13. Orders the VA's Under Secretary for Benefits to ensure every paper or electronic document relating to the receipt of non-service-connected pension includes a notice that the Department does not charge any fee in connection with the filing of an initial claim for benefits. (to prevent pension poaching)

### **Services for Women Veterans**

1. This bill included the Deborah Sampson Act, for which advocates across the country have advocated persistently for more than four years.
2. Devotes \$20 million for retrofitting health care facilities "to make it safer and easier for Women Veterans to get care," and requires the Veterans Health Administration to submit plans for approval regarding how they will designate these funds.
3. Mandates that every VA facility have at least one women's health primary care provider.
4. Creates a permanent Office of Women's Health within the Veterans Health Administration, tasked with providing oversight over all Women's Health Programs within the VA
5. Requires VA leaders to create "an anti-harassment and anti-sexual assault policy" and designate officials to take responsibility for any related complaints.
6. Requires VA to create a training module for community healthcare providers that is specific to Women Veterans.
7. Expands the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans' mandate to include examining the effect of intimate partner violence on women veterans, and creates a VA pilot program to care for survivors of intimate partner violence.
8. Ensures that Service Members and Veterans seeking access to care and counseling related to Military Sexual Trauma can seek this care at any VA healthcare facility, not limited to Vet Centers.
9. Requires VA to enter into agreements with public or private entities, to provide free legal services to Women Veterans to meet the following unmet needs: Child Support, Eviction & Foreclosure Prevention, Discharge Upgrade Appeals, Financial Guardianship, Credit Counseling, and Family Reconciliation Assistance.
10. Improves access to prosthetic items made specifically for women at VA medical facilities.

### **Services for Student Veterans**



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1. Restores GI Bill entitlement to eligible student Veterans whose school closed in the middle of a semester without the ability to transfer credits to another school.
2. Allows the VA to continue paying educational assistance benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic if the VA determines a student was adversely impacted by the pandemic.
3. Requires the VA to view a student's withdrawal from school due to covered reason during the COVID-19 pandemic as "mitigating circumstances" and not charge the student's entitlement to VA educational benefits.
4. Prevents a Veteran's VR&E eligibility from lapsing during the COVID-19 emergency period (defined as lasting until December 21, 2021).
5. Prevents a Veteran's Montgomery GI Bill eligibility from lapsing during the COVID-19 emergency period (defined as lasting until December 21, 2021).
6. Ensures that if a school closes due to COVID-19, the entitlement used by an individual at that school will not be charged against their overall entitlement amount.
7. Expands the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship to students pursuing careers in health care that require clinical training. Student Veterans' STEM eligibility will not count against their 48-month cap on total VA education benefits.
8. Beginning in two years, allows Service Member to decide whether they want to pay into the Montgomery GI Bill after their first six months of service, rather than in the first few days of service.
9. Expands the Yellow Ribbon Program to overseas schools.
10. Allows students to receive VA Work Study funds for performing outreach work in congressional offices.
11. Defines the reasons why a course of education may be disapproved for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, preventing schools from trying to shortcut the approval process.
12. Allows the VA to disapprove a course for VA education benefits if the school does not comply with their State Approving Agency's risk-based survey.
13. Requires schools converting from for-profit to not-for-profit status to undergo a risk-based survey every year for three years after conversion.

## **Enhanced Healthcare Services**

1. Waives VA requirements for receipt of per diem payments for domiciliary care at State Veterans Homes and modification of eligibility for payments.
2. Prohibits the Veterans Health Administration from collecting co-payments from Veterans who are members of a Native American tribal nation.
3. Makes permanent a pilot program to provide childcare to Veterans enrolled in the VA healthcare system and gives the Veterans Health Administration five years to implement the provision of childcare at every VA medical center.
4. Requires State Veterans Homes to report on COVID-19 cases within these facilities to the VA.
5. Requires the VA to pay for emergency transportation of newborns.
6. Requires VA medical facilities to have drop-off locations for controlled substances medications.
7. Mandates an annual audit of facility-level appointment scheduling, which the Veterans Health Administration must share with Congress.

## **Services for Homeless Veterans & Veterans At Risk Of Homelessness**

1. Expands the HUD-VASH voucher program to Veterans with Other Than Honorable characterizations of discharge.



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2. Increases the amount of grant funds awarded to organizations providing services to homeless Veterans to 115% of the State Veterans Home domiciliary rate, and allows for additional increases of grant funds in higher cost-of-living areas.
3. Allows the VA to award grants to legal services organizations assisting Veterans who are homeless and Veterans at imminent risk of homelessness.
4. Requires the VA to study existing programs that provide assistance to Women Veterans who are homeless, with a goal of identifying continued areas of need.
5. Extends contracts for VA Homeless Veteran Case Managers to prevent gaps in services for homeless veterans during COVID-19.

### **American Legion Mid-Winter conference on Zoom**

Yearly the American Legion conducts its Mid-Winter conference at the Desmond in Albany. The Veteran Service Committee is comprised of volunteers from within the American Legion with 6 voting members. 35 participants attended the meeting via the Zoom platform. Many updates were provided regarding their operating status and vision toward the future. The American Legion signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of New York Division of Veteran Services to provide their required continuation education credits. All accredited representatives must take classes yearly to maintain accreditation. Last year the State provided this quality education for free. On average the cost for a Service Officers training was paid by counties was around \$2000.00. The New York State County Service Officer Association advocated for quality training and the American Legion and State would be able to work together. Quality training is essential to staying abreast of the ever changing landscape of veterans benefits.

### **VA OIG investigation**

COVID-19 imposed new challenges and introduced new variables that made C&P Exams (compensation and Pension Exams) difficult, if not impossible, for many Veterans. The VA suspended in-person C&P Exams completely on April 3, 2020, and in most places, in-person exams still have not resumed. In this same guidance, the VA reaffirmed their commitment to the Acceptable Clinical Evidence process described in their own internal operating manual as a way to establish disability compensation ratings for Veterans in lieu of a C&P Exam.

A recent report from the VA Inspector General's Office indicates that the VA all too often did deny claims during the COVID-19 period because Veterans missed their C&P Exams.

In this report, the IG's Office reviewed a sample of 400 claims denied between March 1, 2020, and June 16, 2020, with one or more cancelled C&P Exams. The results of this investigation found.

1. From March 1 through April 5, 84% of the denied claims reviewed by the IG's Office were improperly denied due to cancelled C&P Exams.
2. From April 6 through May 13, 68% of the denied claims reviewed by the IG's Office were improperly denied due to cancelled C&P Exams.
3. From May 14 through June 16, 48% of the denied claims reviewed by the IG's Office were improperly denied due to cancelled C&P Exams.
4. Good news: The number of claims wrongly denied due to cancelled C&P Exams is decreasing. This means that the VA seems to be getting better at doing what they said they would do.
5. Bad news: Wrongful denials of claims due to cancelled C&P Exams has occurred — and occurred in significant numbers — and is likely still occurring.

What does this mean for us?

It is critical that we advocate for Veterans, to hold the VA accountable and insist that they do what they promised to do. Claims denied during the COVID-19 period because of a cancelled C&P Exam should be appealed. This is often because the VA claims to not have heard back from a veteran regarding their claim. (Often caused by snowbird status or phone spam blockers) C & P exams are usually required to establish the





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rate of disability. We have had one veteran that was told they would reschedule his exam and they just denied him instead of rescheduling him. We are appealing these denials and using the OIG report as probative evidence to substantiate our claim.

### **Governors State of the State Veteran initiatives**

1. Expanding access to the life-changing services of Veterans Treatment Courts, allowing the transfer of cases from a county with no Veterans Treatment Court into an adjoining county with a Veterans Treatment Court.
2. Directing all executive branch agencies in New York State to become certified so they can provide G.I. Bill "On-The-Job Training" funds for #Veterans in at least one position at each agency.
3. Ensuring that all executive branch agencies ask customers & clients "Have you ever served in the military?" and helping to connect those who have with Veterans-specific resources to receive the benefits & services that they have earned.