HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Monday, July 13, 2026 - 10:30 AM

Davina Thurston, Chairperson
Cathleen Reusser, Vice-Chairperson

Vice-Chairwoman Reusser called this Human Services Committee to order at 10:37 a.m. with the following Supervisors in attendance: Clayton Barber, Matthew Brassard, Chris Clark, Timothy Follos, Kenneth Hughes, Mary Lamphear, Tracie McGill, Steve McNally, Clayton Menser, James O'Bryan, Timothy Pierce, Richard Preston, Cathleen Reusser, Matthew Stanley, Michael Tyler, Joe Pete Wilson and Meg Wood. Davina Thurston was excused.

Department Heads present: Angie Allen, Linda Beers, Jim Dougan, Judy Garrison, Krissy Leerkes and Mike Mascarenas. Terri Morse was excused.

Also present: Renee Bruno

REUSSER: I would like to call the Human Services committee to order and first up is Angie Allen.

ALLEN: Good morning everyone. You have received my report any questions?

PIERCE: I just want to follow up as of June there was 24 families with 37 children on the waiting list for day care I just had a concern there's – are you finding that after day care leads to services such as intervention services?

ALLEN: You are right on the money, absolutely so Mike can probably share my frustration with this is in the previous years we were actually able to serve 174 children right so when we see a dramatic decrease to these numbers it's very alarming for families. New York State decided to change about three years ago now Mike? Three years ago, really decided to make some changes in eligibility not recognizing the financial burden and what the cost would be on the locality so they changed the eligibility without increasing the monies they sent us so, March 19 last year 2025, we were actually one of the first six counties in New York State to start a wait list which was not popular but what we needed to do and we talked about this at budget season is if I did not do the wait list and actually right now we are able to move people off the wait list, we would have been about $2 million over minimally right and so what's happened across the state is that there is a recognition that the state as it usually does talks out of both sides of its mouth right, we want to do universal pre-k, we want have day care for everyone but we don't have the dollars to support it so what we are seeing is that the very first year 2025, was a hard sell for everyone what we had to do was apply for a waiver and as people recertified for day care we just put them on a waitlist that was hard for families. There is a prioritization so there's Federal poverty levels that is a prioritization and there's a state poverty level prioritization and there's a services right. We were still able to serve them however, New York State set the rules is that we could not pick and choose who goes to first so a family of four in 2025 making $114,000 qualified for day care at the rate of a family of four that makes $60,000. So in terms of services we are seeing that impact I think what we have done has been very creative in terms of reaching out to those individuals that had other means and reached out to them whereas before they just automatically get on the rolls right so we have been able to open our wait list to the highest need families and those individuals that signed up for it because the qualify and chose not to go through with day care subsidies because they have means to meet it and they don't want to comply with some of the regulations. During that initial year so right now we are actually seeing, we are actually pulling people off the list over

the next couple months you'll see that wait list decline but we did see an increase in services a lot working with schools, a lot working with day care centers because the numbers also without the subsidies coming in for families we also have an enrollment issue for programs right so we also saw a decline in providers so yes, a definite automatic correlation between the two. New York State is very slow to recognize the need to put their money where their mouth is so did receive an increase this year of about $40,000 which would serve a half a month. So I think to fully meet the needs of Essex County we would need an increase of about $1.2 million dollars so in 2023, 2024 we averaged about $110,000 to $115,000 in subsidy payments and when we went to the wait list we had to drop that down to $50,000 we are now able to operate with a responsible budget, I know it's budget season I just want to kind of slide that in so thank you Tim for bringing this topic up, perfect timing by the way, we are up to being able to serve about $70,000 to $90,000 worth of subsidies. We've been unique in that I've had the support of the board and Mike in saying that New York State we're not going to cover your choices and make irresponsible budgeting choses right so some counties have chosen to have the county subsidize the program and have the taxpayer subsidize the program. I think we all agreed how can we be creatively financially responsible and let New York State feel some of the heat so it is an issue already New York State in terms of how they are looking at increasing allotments is not based on need it's based on claims so what I mean by that is if I want to get more money I have to overspend and what they would provide in the overspending is a fraction so last year if I had chosen to overspend by about $700,000 I would have only received $250,000 back. There's a lot of advocacy right now when it comes to taking a look at the eligibility some of the rules that changed where before a family would qualify and recert every six months now with the open eligibility they recertify for twelve months regardless of job change so the family that couldn't afford it deserved the subsidy and also they get a new job we still need to legally pay the subsidy for twelve months so there's a lot of misspent money that we would love to be able to play with because if we could drop that person then we could bring more families on. There's a lot of advocacy right now at the state level amongst Commissioners I think it's NYSAC? So I know that it is being discussed at your level as well because of the impact on the local economies but also the demographics so I'm glad that you brought that up because I think we need to have it on record every once in awhile to say, New York State you can't have it both ways. What we are doing is you're seeing some creativity when it comes to how do we use other dollars for example foster care children dollars which we overspend in anyways right but how can we offset the money so but you're correct, direct correlation.

REUSSER: Thank you for that explanation very complex subject. Any other questions for Angie?

HUGHES: Good morning Angie. I really enjoyed reading the After-Action Report of the After-prom party from Schroon Lake Central School. It just looked like a really tremendous opportunity. I'm glad that Newcomb and Schroon Lake kids had that opportunity to come together to participate. I also see that Willsboro was also awarded some funding but I didn't notice a report from them. Is there a requirement for a report just to follow up because I would just be curious to know how Willsboro's experience, that school's district how their experience was with the funding and what they did?

ALLEN: No they are required and that one I will try to find it so we can include it.

MASCARENAS: You probably didn't get it.

ALLEN: I didn't but I can find it for next time.

HUGHES: I was just curious what they did.

MASACARENAS: It is and there's a contractual relationship between Essex County Stop DWI and school districts that elect to do non-alcoholic after prom parties just so we know what everybody is talking about and as part of that contractual obligation in order to get paid you have to share some information with us how many people attended, some pictures of the event, those types of things so when making decisions next year on who we're going to fund and who we are not we want to make sure that people are attending those things and not electing to go to the other party that is likely in town.

HUGHES: I think Mr. Cutting did a really great job providing that report and I'm just curious what did the Willsboro students do and staff for celebrating their kids and their prom party.

ALLEN: Yeah, and I know Mrs. Thurston reached out too about hey, with this being such a great success for the town right, how do we get our other districts? How do we get our other schools on board too? After prom parties were really huge back in my hey days of the 90's and I want to say in the last few years there's only been one or two. Are you laughing at my hey days?

REUSSER: No, no I was just saying ours were not nonalcoholic. It was a lot of years ago.

ALLEN: We are very lucky that the Sheriff is not here right now, right? So I think there wasn't alto of interest and I really appreciate Dee Olcott the Coordinator that really wanted to highlight this because I think it is a way to spark the interest of other towns.

MASCARENAS: Yeah every school district does get those applications and the ability to apply whether they take advantage of it or not is kind of up to them.

HUGHES; They may still fund their own events as well too.

REUSSER: Thank you. Any other questions for Angie? Alright, thank you Angie.

ALLEN: I just want to do one itty bitty celebration and of course I have my entertainment meant for you. So under the hey, did you know you'll see you'll see that we've been actually for our very first year of taking on the summer youth employment program, very successful 15 applications. So last year I think ACAP had 13 and the year before that was around 9 so for our very first year we are having great success. The show is on the road so we have our worker going out and providing the orientations and the community support so we're hoping to kind of see that program grown I would love to hear from any of you or any of the businesses but what I will probably do is a like a little mini satisfaction survey at the end just to kind of hear from you guys and what worked, what has to be improved so when we take a look at it and have more time than a month and a half what can we do to kind of improve it so I just wanted to really throw that out there. It's a great opportunity. Really cool because I get to sign off on all the applications and out of the 15 applications there a four, two current, two former foster care children and about three others that are on my CPS preventive rolls so what an amazing opportunity to get everyone because it's about building work ethic and how do you set expectations when you go to work. I know my daughter entering the workforce she's like, this happens five days a week? I go, yes, it does sweetheart but I mean we also see with the younger workforce that not everyone gets opportunities or has the role model of what does work ethic look like, what does professionalism look like, how do you dress for a job, how do you take a look at missions and values and present yourself in a positive way? So what an amazing program. When I saw the four, two prior foster

care workers one that you never thought would leave the State of Massachusetts right away. I was like, I really got teary and did a celebration dance because how amazing is that? I just wanted to make sure that was shared as well.
This is it ready? In the idea of the 250th celebration, what was the most remarkable invention over America's last 250 years? The most remarkable invention? The dry erase board. Did you not get it? Re can remark, wipe it off, mark again re-mark able.

REUSSER: Thank you Angie. Terri Morse is excused but she does have a resolution.

MASCARENAS: Yes Terri is excused this morning, she wasn't feeling well. She does have a resolution authorizing the appointment of Valerie Longwood to the Essex County Community Services Board Development Disabilities Subcommittee for a term beginning July 10, 2026 to December 31, 2026.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF VALERIE LONGWOOD TO THE ESSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD DEVELOPMENT DISABILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE FOR A TERM BEGINNING JULY 10, 2026 TO DECEMBER 31, 2026. Hughes, Wood

REUSSER: Questions? All in favor, opposed – motion carries. Very good. Next up, Linda Beers.

BEERS: Good morning everybody. So what you've got in front of you is one of our campaigns. We have a lot of people and there's a really funny ad if you look at my newsletter. I've just got to tell you Lindsey Java's humor is a riot. Last page, shocking I know you all will be shocked by that but there's actually data that says New Yorkers who report heavy drinking are more likely to report sunburn. Shocking. But people need to know this anyway, this also ties into what you have in front of you one side is ChapStick the other side is sunscreen and you can actually buy that sunscreen and put it to your face and such. They've been a big hit and whatnot.
So we have my report. I will just highlight some things we are doing like our community baby shower again this year. We invite every baby that was born from August last year so we have about 232 babies I think, last I knew and anybody we know that is expecting and we're thrilled that Edgemont Barn in Moriah, Port Henry volunteered and gave us their wedding venue for this. It is going to be just stunning and a lot of parents never had a baby shower and you might say what is this this is an evidence based practice around that baby shower are all of our partners they talk about safe sleep, they talk about postpartum depression, they talk about appropriate age skills and all that, people think they are just coming for a baby shower which they are and we really celebrate every mom in Essex County but we also link them to services either if they find they need them that or they at least have an understanding where they are if they do. It's been really proven to be very valuable. We only started it last year and we had it here at the social center. We also have like three big door prizes and I can't even tell you the people that went and how excited they were . We give everybody something and you can choose there's a bundle of diapers and wipes if that's something you need, or it can be lotions and stuff that some mom that maybe no body bought her so there's a variety of things. We have a lot of partners that volunteer and bring items so kudos to this very fabulous thing and really congratulations to and thank you to Edgemont Barn.
Summer camps are alive and well. I believe we have I'm going to go with this number I'm not 100% but will be gosh darn close 24 camps in Essex County sleep over and day camps. Trust me they keep us really busy all summer long. As other departments are so, we are swamped. On our on-call schedule rings every single day you can call the 911 call center because they are calling us all weekend all night long because summer is a very big time.

Communicable disease all those things are on there. Elizabeth Lee is here, my staff actually have a really nice ad here they enjoyed your open house immensely they found it extremely valuable, the event partners and congratulations on really a wonderful event that you put on and to Essex County to really redoing that building they were really thrilled to be there.
June is also Alzheimer's month and brain awareness month. I thought this was interesting about one in nine people in the U.S. 65 and older have Alzheimer's just to give you an idea. Out of the 37,000 residents in Essex County 9,300 or 28% are over 65 so Krissy Leerkes is going to be a very busy person these are just statistics that will hold true here if not even higher because we have the health risks that support higher risks of that.
And that is my report does anybody have any questions?

BRASSARD: If people wanted to donate to the baby shower where do you- how and where do you want the stuff brought?

BEERS: We would love that. You can contact me. We are organizing it now even Elizabethtown the Thrift Store they donate a bunch of baby clothes every year and we put it out on the table free it's amazing what people really need. We would love anybody to donate anything. Hudson Headwaters comes, the banks come, we have a lot of really wonderful donors. You cannot, not make moms happy. It's a wonderful opportunity also, it's really surprising how many dads came last year it's not just for moms so moms and dads came. I have to say the guys, the more stamps you get the more things you put in for drawings and the way you get a stamp is to go talk to every table and learn something right and they were very like, get that stamp, get that stamp so I'd love to have and I'm encouraging you all to donate something. Thank you.

REUSSER: Any other questions?

PRESTON: Good morning. Under your EI agency receiving or children receiving services under home health is there a waiting list for services?

BEERS: On our CHHA or certified home health agency is that where you are talking?

PRESTON: Yes.

BEERS: Yes, usually it's physical therapy. We are doing well. We have two full time therapists we just contracted, we just closed that contract somebody used to work for us we are contracting and when we are busy we can use him and we also use PTA's so those are physical therapy assistants so my one staff can oversee one full time PTA and they're seeing staff but physical therapy is the hips, all those things when you get out of the hospital and you need to get back on your feet and do and extremely important in rural areas but that's probably one of the biggest needs so we often have a wait list but there is no other agency in any way providing that level of service here.

REUSSER: Any other questions for Ms. Beers.

MASCARENAS: Linda, you said a few minutes I think there was 232 births? That number seems really low to me and I hope I'm wrong. Maybe you can get us that information I'm not asking you to answer it today but maybe you can show us some kind of comparison over previous years? I think of eighteen towns and that number seems really low in terms of births countywide when you've got school districts like Moriah, Ticonderoga, Lake Placid that are all probably graduating between 40 and 60 alone that number is somewhat alarming if we're seeing that drop that

significantly over one generation.

BEERS: Yes, I'm happy to do that. I can do it by town. Yes, I know all those numbers I'd be happy to show you that. We'll trend it out for you.

MASCARENAS: Thank you.

BEERS: It will be exactly what you think it to be. It ebbs and flows. We have seen a little bit of a resurgent.
I have two resolutions but before I do that I just want to take a minute I know there's not press here but I'm going to work on a press release but as I've said before you are my board of health. We have seen bats in the belfry. We have bats everywhere just to give you an idea to date it's early, it's July 13th and we authorized 32 rabies post prophylactics for bat encounters. Thirty-two people have gotten rabies the rabies vaccine that's four shots to the belly because of bats so just to give you some statistics one bat tested positive in Essex County so you cannot rule it out on bat did and in 2025 we have seven day a week response, evenings, nights we authorize prophylactics but what I really wanted to tell you is it's heartbreaking to me that at least two or three times people caught the bat after they thought they were exposed, they caught the bat opened the window and let it out. We will test the bat. You will not need the shots if I can test the bat that no, it doesn't have rabies so we have a really good and the press release will talk about when it's safe to do so find a room where it is discovered and wait for the bat to land, wear gloves, cover the bat this a container, slide a piece of cardboard underneath I know people get really eeked out and whatnot. We have also tested, do I have that number, I'm not sure but lots 27 bats have already been tested and submitted for rabies testing and have been negative those people would have been at the top of this list. We really need to get better education out there and people are very heightened with rabies and concerned. Lake George. We have rabid racoons we've all had them here. We've had rabid skunks here so bats are a reason of concern because they can carry rabies out of all that we test we do find one occasionally so we can't rule it out and let's be really clear right rabies kills you there's no cure there never has been. That is the result of actually being bit with something that has rabies so we take it really serious and so anyway I'm going to do a press release in hope that we can educate more people that is in fact think you've been exposed and you see said bat capture it if you can and we will test it and you will not need to get that vaccine if you don't need to.

REUSSER: Will that press release go out to the board members in a PDF so we can put it on our town websites?

BEERS: Sure I can do that. I always sent it to Mike first and Steve McNally they both get them for the process and Judy we send them to them for approval but I often send them to you first. Clinton County they have a Facebook page and they use real bat pictures and more so we don't want to scare people although they are really nice looking.
Now I have two resolutions one is something is as Angie brought up NYSAC – New York Association of Counties this has been a cry to action from them since I've been here which has been a long time and this is called preschool transportation. Counties are required to pay for preschool transportation. We are transporting which is a good thing in our county we have more center-based programs woven into our school districts. The next step of course would be our school districts to pick up our 4 year olds and transporting them in and our 3 year olds and we're working on that so what we also have and by regulation we have to offer parents the opportunity to drive their own children as a rule that is taken up by parents just to get, you are going to drive your child usually there you are not waiting four hours you're going to come back home and later

on you're going to go and what we really find is parent's this adds mileage to your car a lot of our parent's cars are not worthy of this transportation and this extra mileage but some are. Saratoga went to this, this is a model so everybody knows what they are going to get paid there's no iffy-wiffy in it everybody will know so this model says, it's to reimburse parents if they chose to and understand what the reimbursement rate would be so if you're traveling less than ten miles to drop Johnny off you'll get $10 bucks for it. Okay but if you're doing it round trip so – you think that's a lot until you do it but most of our parents are in the 30-mile range so you drive your child 30 miles you'll get $30 if you come back home and you go back again we do $60 now you might say, boy Linda that's a lot of money. Can I tell you that my average bid would be about $300 a day easily just to give you an understanding of what that is and this comes out right around the IRS which is .75 cents or .78 cents a mile right now and this allows the parents to have some not just that but to have opportunity maybe to support them to do it. This is an extremely much more cost-effective model than going out to bid and getting the only company that bids for us Durham to do it and just so you know, I went even on parent transportation if it's not a Medicaid child we get back 40.5% so you're paying $60 roughly and we get back 40% of that reimbursement. We have always done this the problem was there was no set way to do it so parents seem to be getting different rates of pay and I wanted to be consistent so parents know up front what their expectations would be and what they would get from us so that's my resolution.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS WHO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING PRESCHOOL CENTER BASED PROGRAMS IN ESSEX COUNTY WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS. Pierce, Lamphear

REUSSER: Questions?

HUGHES: Hi thank you for bringing up I just got done reading that education law there's a lot there thank you for citing that in your resolution. I might recommend that we actually hold to what the county has held as our reimbursement rate for mileage which I think is 72.5 cents per mile. I think that is the county reimbursement rate.

MASCARENAS: We follow the IRS rate so sometimes that ebbs and flows throughout the year in terms of those changes but we don't go higher.

HUGHES: So we pass a resolution at our organizational meeting.

MASCARENAS: I believe it says the IRS mileage rate is what we'll follow I don't know if it's specific to a number.

HUGHES: We follow it no matter what it is?

MASCARENAS: Yes, sir.

HUGHES: Okay so I say we follow the IRS rate because I think it's responsible to the tax payers but also allows us to meet the need of these individuals who are doing this for their children and follow education law as well.

BEERS: I'm not opposed to that. I guess what this spells out which is different pre-school transportation when I bid it out only pays for the driver and their children so it pays for them to be there and to come back right but if a parent transports they don't, well, just to remember my

average bid is $300 a day and I can get you all that data this is an unbelievably cheaper way to go to have a parent transport their child than for me to go out and get a bus to transport.

HUGHES: I understand that.

BEERS: So with that being said I'm trying to entice. Clinton County is offering on top of the IRS rate a stipend to parents right now to encourage them because their transportation rate has gone through the roof and they are trying to hold the line but I'm with you on that. I'm happy to do the IRS rate what I will still say is I should point out that we are doing not a one-way trip but a second trip so if I'm a parent and I drove to the school and I have to come home but Johnny is not in my car but I've got to go back there and I've got to pick him up so that is probably the nuance of this so we can do an IRS rate I will say, it makes it a little difficult because moms and parents have to keep mileage and then they're saying I drove from point A to point B so much so that there is a detour in Ticonderoga if you live in Ti, the whole road was all redone the parent added five miles it got kicked back and the parent didn't get paid for two months because we had to prove that the road was redone and they had to take a longer way around because the mileage changed from a parent who drove their kid to school every day.

HUGHES: I don't disagree with you I'm thinking of the taxpayer that might be seeing this and reading this transcript in trying to say, okay we are going to pay for a difference that looks just arbitrary impetuous zero to ten $10, 10-20 $20 it just looks like it's easy for you or the department right it looks easier for government but the taxpayer is going to be like well, that's a little bit extra slush there and I'm trying to avoid that.

BEERS: I guess what I'm really trying to do is make it easy for parents. We want to encourage parents to drive their children that's what saves us money and by a long shot but I'm not opposed to this at all. I would be happy to go back –

HUGHES: I'm just bringing it up for discussion.

BEERS: And rewrite it. I'm good with that. I see it I'm just saying that we are going to still do it one way or round trip if the parent goes.

MASCARENAS: I think you need to prepare the information to the board so they can actually see what it is. You don't have the data to back up the information that's in front of you and make a decision on a resolution. I think we can do that. I think you've got to understand that transportation by us is mandated understand that. There's going to be a cost association with the mandate, that's what we have to do. Angie's issue with day care is a little different the reason why we walk away from some of that is because it's not mandated right, so that's what kind of happens to us all the time we get it into this things you like to do verses things you have to do and how do you do the things you have to do at a cost that is okay with the people that have to pay our bills? So I think we need to see what those transportation numbers are, what we're currently paying what savings produced would be in terms of having parents drive their own children I think from there we can make a better decision on the model chosen.

HUGHES: This is a $400,000 conversation.

MASCARENAS: Yes.

BEERS: Just so you know that's what is in our budget, we are going to go over that we went over

it last year.

HUGHES: That's why I bring it up.

BEERS: Totally I get it and I love the conversation.

MASCARENAS: Many people don't understand that Essex County is responsible for this for birth to 3. Why is the county involved in education?

BEERS: Preschool 3-5.

MCNALLY: Yes, I understand it's a mandate I do understand that but when does the responsibility of a parent come to play in all of this?

REUSSER: This does seem like it would incentivize parents to make sure their children participate.

MCNALLY: And who is going to make sure their kids go to school?

BEERS: We do. We do they only gets paid when the kid goes to school. We do it for Durham now.

MCNALLY: If we continue down the path, parenting society we've got to do better.

BEERS: I don't know if any child was mandated or went to school and you expected a parent to pay. You pay for your child to go to school, elementary school? I think those parents should all drive their kids to school every day, it's the same thing. These are Special Ed children if we get to them before this is year 3-5.

MCNALLY: These are just Special Ed children?

BEERS: Yes Special Ed kids not pre-K kids.

WOOD: Just to be consistent could do something like we do if we are going for a town thing even if we live like I live seven and a half miles from the town hall it's measured from the town hall to wherever I'm going you just know what the addresses are of these kids and the parents get reimbursed for the mileage from their home to wherever they are going to school and back and if they decide to go shopping through the day that's up to them but they get the mileage for both ways.

BEERS: Just so you know we have a contract with every parent that drives and you should know that every parent that drives says the money is never worth it that by the time they get gas, drive their car and add this mileage on and all they need is a flat tire and not the ability to fix it and their kid is not going to school. You should know on the flip side of that I'm struggling to get buses to even take the routes they're not bidding on them. It's our responsibility to get this small group of children to a center based preschool classroom and this would be some of our neediest of needs right we stay home other children than we push in if you only need speech we are going to your house but if you're going to a center place program that means these children that identify with higher needs levels and we are paying for them to go to pre-K.

WOOD: Do you have an idea the number of children?

BEERS: Sure right now there's 89 children I think in all preschools but those children don't all go to center-based programs. I can get you that yes.

BRASSARD: My only question is say there's four kids on a bus that they pick up now two of the parents that drive we still have to bus them out so is it really a savings?

BEERS: There is. So that's a great question I did look at that. That's called a route and we do have two of them in the county the rest are individual buses because we can't make a route because there's no kids in a location that the bus can go and get them. Remember there's not center based programs everywhere. We have one in Schroon Lake and we are pulling kids from, Schroon Lake is pulling them now from Warren County actually but Ticonderoga has one and the kids come from Moriah and Ti and all over so we get that but what if I have a child that lives in Westport that's a bad example or in Newcomb that kid lives that way, that bus isn't picking them up I have to now have a bus that goes from Newcomb and brings the kid to Schroon Lake no bus. We have lots a kid on a single bus and one child on a transportation route and on those routes and I'm happy to give you that data, on the routes I would dare say I asked Kelly this my least amount of money paid is $558 a day for the four kids to arrive and trust me, none of them are over the 30 miles so that would be $60 verses the hundred and something it's costing us. It's a great question. Trust me we've had this discussion from the beginning of time with many boards. We've tried to use our own county to do it. We've tried multiple ways but there's lots of regulations to do it so I'm up for all the discussion. I'll come back, let me table this come back with more stuff. I'm hoping to get it out on the table by September. Every parent that contracts with us gets the contract we know what the distance is from Point A to Point B we're never going to go over that distance so we have an understanding that they are not going to go shopping that's not how it works. They know if you live in Moriah you're going to Ticonderoga school.

REUSSER: Any other discussion?

BARBER: One question this is very interesting I didn't know the State is actually required and I'm all for it just curious, so you said the State does reimburse some of the money?

BEERS: We get reimbursed 40.5% the rest we eat.

BARBER: Okay and then so is there any income guidelines on this?

BEERS: If a parent made money is that what you're saying?

BARBER: Yes.

BEERS: So that has been a concern. So if anybody knows they sell bridges out of poverty they tell you there's poverty cliff right, so I gave this parent and I am going to W10 them trust me and at the end of the year they make $10,000 driving their kid back and forth to school guess what they just did? They just lost food stamps. They just lost HEAP, they lost everything because it shows their income so we're very careful but we also don't want to put people in another situation.

MASCARENAS: I think Mr. Barber is asking you is, is there an income requirement to go to?

BEERS: No it's just like public school.

BARBER: Okay.

BEERS: This is considered that and preschool is a public-school type of thing. This elite group of children that needs a little boost before they get into kindergarten right, it's only 3- and 4-year-olds prior to getting into K in Kindergarten this group, if we focus a lot of attention they'll mainstream into kindergarten right on the money and we really have a lot of data that says they do so we're good at it.

BARBER: Okay thank you.

REUSSER: Any other questions? Alright so now do we want to table it or?

BEERS: We're going to table it no matter what.

MASCARENAS: The board can approve it now and get more information for ways and means or tabling it would require her to bring it back forward next month.

BEERS: I'm happy to change it to IRS rate and still keep it the same if you feel that works? I'm happy to do that. It's very close now we're just trying to incentivize. The other thing is the IRS rates can change in the middle of the year now I'm changing the contracts of every person and I have to the County Attorney will make me change from 78, we can write IRS rate. We have done this it's been the IRS rate and we change it depending on the rate change up and down. I'm happy to do it. Saratoga did this I'm trying to make it so I can say to a parent, you fall under this, this is what we would reimburse you, this is how many miles it is, this amount is what you're getting.

MASCARENAS: Do you feel like you can have that information prior to ways and means because I don't see the harm in passing it today if you feel like you can get that information prior to the board at ways and means?

BEERS: Absolutely, got it. Alright, thank you.

HUGHES: Procedural question should there be an amendment on this resolution for that IRS rate modification?

MASCARENAS: I would leave it as be until you know that's a better form of payment.

HUGHES: Say again.

MASCARENAS: I would leave it as be for now until we have our data then we can amend that resolution at ways and means to fit the needs of the board and the program that way we are only amending it once.

BEERS: Then I say it goes to $32.17, $17.64, that's what the contract looks like now because it is by a percentage of the IRS rate times mileage anyway, I tried to simplify it. Sorry I have another resolution and this one, some of you really want me to get across the board.

REUSSER: We have to finish this one. All in favor of the resolution as written pending further

information all in favor – opposed – motion passes.

BEERS: So Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs is a grant that we have and they came out with this extra stipend it was $28,221. I came to the board a while back and I said hey, guys I have this money please call me if you want to put something together for your playground. Anyway I'm working with four towns so this is a resolution because my good friend Judy says Linda you actually didn't do a resolution so I'm doing a resolution to accept $28,221 to be redistributed to contracts with the four towns in Essex County. They are Willsboro, they are Schroon Lake, they are North Hudson and – so four of you have put in information and we went to the planning board and said who is doing the playground, they gave us the information they were very helpful. I reached out to the supervisors and begged you to take my money because it is free money so we did this grant is also being extended to next year and the year following so it looks like another two year extension so we'll be asking out again so for the towns that took it they are putting adaptive equipment into their playground usually that already exists one of the things that we see a lot which is a fabulous thing it's a swing set where the parent faces the kid and when you swing the parent is swing with the child. We paid for that apparatus that's what we bought and so this grant is going that way. I need approval for a resolution to accept the money, bring it in and contract with these four towns to disburse the money as coming in and coming out and it is actually whatever $28,221 divided by four, seven thousand and blah, blah blah and cents.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $28,211.00, CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS GRANT AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS WITH FOUR TOWNS IN ESSEX COUNTY FOR COMMUNITY ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION PROJECTS. Hughes, Wood

REUSSER: Any questions? All in favor, opposed – motion carries. Any other questions for Linda? Alright thank you Linda. Krissy Leerkes – Office for the Aging and you have eight minutes when we will have to pause for a public hearing.

LEERKES: I can assure you I do not need eight minutes everybody out there remember that. You have my report just a couple of quick updates. I mentioned last month we are going to be receiving our senior farmer market coupons we did, it's the third of the allotment we have 320 books and our aids gave out about 80% of those so I think we will be completely out. We will maintain a waiting list but I doubt we will get any additional ones.
On the back of my report you have our updated schedule for our Cornell Cooperative senior fitness classes so you're seeing a couple months ago we did increase our contract and you're seeing a lot of additional programing when you look at our trends we have well surpassed the number of individuals that we have served in the past and the class has almost if I have not mistaken tripled from year to date compared to years pass. They are doing amazing work and I know Elizabeth is here and I say their praises because they are a really great partner. If anybody has any questions I can take those and I do have a resolution.

REUSSER: Any questions for Ms. Leerkes. Alright, resolution.

LEERKES: So we have a resolution authorizing a budget amendment increasing revenues and appropriations in the amount of $1,000 insurance recovery on a claim from 2025. Quick back story there was a claim, our insurance company paid out for the repairs for a nutrition van incident. Judy worked with the insurance company and it was found that it was the other vehicles

responsibility so it was all reimbursed back to the county.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $1000.00, AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLE RECOVERY. Hughes, Lamphear

REUSSER: Any questions? All in favor, opposed – motion carries. Any other questions for Ms. Leerkes? Alright , thank you. Anything else for Human Services committee? We are adjourned.

As there was no further discussion to come before this Human Services Committee it was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Garrison, Clerk
Board of Supervisors