NOTE:

- Maximum attendance at any meeting is limited to 50 persons.
- Considering 14 Legislators, the Clerk of the Legislature and the County Administrator, Public attendance will therefore be limited to 34 persons
- If it is desired to address the committee (or Legislature) it would be appreciated that the Clerk of the Legislature be contacted to assure that there will be capacity in the room. (Phone 315-536-5150 or email chayes@yatescounty.org)
- Wear a mask when not seated.
- Wear a mask if not able to maintain 6 feet from adjacent persons (i.e – social distance)
- Attendance can also be by ZOOM; the login information is below

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:
Please click this URL to join.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87083929340?pwd=ZzRjMlFwUXExSXpESDBZNEsrU1FXdz09

Webinar ID: 870 8392 9340
Passcode: 441569

Or join by phone:
Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592

Committee members present: Leslie Church, Ed Bronson, Terry Button, Carlie Chilson, Dick Harper, Bonnie Percy

- Leslie and Ed will do the audit this month
- Approve minutes of the December meeting.
- Public Comment

SOCIAL SERVICES: Amy Miller

Resolutions:

- Authorize contract for fraud investigation services
- Authorize contracts with America Homecare, G.A.T.E. counseling Services, Keuka Housing Council, Keuka Counseling-A Healing Journey
- Authorize contract with Family Counseling of the Finger Lakes for co-located mental health services
- Authorize MOU with Local Workforce Investment Board
- Appointment to the FL WIB, Colin O’Malley through 6/30/22
- Authorize Commissioner of Social Services to Fill Vacancy (Caseworker)

- Temporary Assistance
- Evictions
- Unemployment Rates
- Goals
PUBLIC HEALTH: Deb Minor
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE
- Influenza Report
- COVID-19 Update
SPECIAL CHILDREN’S SERVICES:
- RESOLUTION: Authorize agreement with Rhonda Relyea, Speech Language Pathologist
Report of 2020 Goals

COMMUNITY SERVICES:
Actions Items:
- Resolutions appointing members to various committees
SAFE Act: 3 Reports received & investigated, 0 reported to DCJS
Fiscal:
AOT: Current cases: 0  Investigations: 0
Program updates
Goals

VETERANS: Philip Rouin
- Veterans’ Services Projects
- Personnel updates
- Veteran Services updates
- Statistical report
- Upcoming Veteran related Training, Meetings, and Community Events
- Claims settled
- Goals

OFFICE FOR THE AGING: Zachary Housworth
- Program updates

ASSIGNED COUNSEL: Dianne Lovejoy
- Static ally report

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Steve Hampsey
- Stat ically report
- Grant update

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: Nonie Flynn
- Nothing to report

EXECUTIVE SESSION  If needed
Resolutions/Appointments
Authorize contract for fraud investigation services
Authorize contracts with America Homecare, G.A.T.E. counseling services, Keuka Housing Council, Keuka Counseling-A Healing Journey
Authorize contract with Family Counseling of the Finger Lakes for co-located mental health services
Authorize MOU with Local Workforce Investment Board
Appointment to the FLWIB, Colin O’Malley through 6/30/22
Authorize Commissioner Of Social Services To Fill Vacancy (Caseworker)

Personnel
We recently had a caseworker leave during her probationary period. Please see the attached vacancy review.

Temporary Assistance
We have received guidance from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance regarding public assistance applicants/recipient. Districts must continue to refrain from assigning mandatory in-person work activities. Districts should continue to utilize work activity assignments that do not require in-person contact such as distance learning and on-line workshops that may be conducted safely from the individual’s home. Districts are strongly encouraged to engage with community partners to identify virtual services offered locally. Mandatory assignments to virtual work activities may be made when the district has determined that based on the individual’s employment assessment, the virtual activity is an appropriate assignment and the individual has access to the resources needed to engage in the virtual activity such as a computer and internet access from home, as well as computer literacy skills. Districts may count all hours of distance learning toward work participation rates and should continue to encourage individuals who are currently engaged in educational activities to participate via distance learning options where viable and available. For all educational and job skills activities, districts may permit participation in a verifiable distance learning model or home study, which may include online participation or completion of instructional learning packets or workbooks. In all distance learning models, the district is responsible for determining if program participation is verifiable through mechanisms such as online tracking of time, participating in the activity combined with intermittent reviews of work assigned to and completed by the student, or reasonable approximations of the time required to complete work packets as determined by the education provider and is approved by the district. Districts must also ensure the distance learning activity meets the definition of the work activity and is reported under the appropriate work activity in the Welfare to Work Caseload Management System (WTTWMS). The gist of this guidance is that we will need to individually reassess all open cases and determine the feasibility of online options. If clients are unable to participate, we are unable to terminate their cases.

Local public assistance cases continue to be higher than a year ago. November 2020 showed 144 cases with 42 of those cases have clients who are eligible for work requirements. November 2019 had 126 cases with 19 clients who are eligible for work requirements.

Evictions
Last week, the Governor pledged to extend eviction protections under the Tenant Safe Harbor Act, which was initially enacted in March and extended in October, but which was set to expire on December 27. Rather than issuing an Executive Order, the state Legislature reconvened for a late December special session on Monday to pass a new measure (A.11181/S.9114; Chapter 381 of 2020) containing eviction and foreclosure protections that will remain in effect until May 1, 2021. The Governor immediately signed the bill into law. Among its provisions, the “COVID-19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2020”:
- Allows residential tenants suffering a financial or health-related hardship to file a hardship declaration, under penalty of perjury, with their landlord or a court that will prevent the filing of any eviction or stay any eviction proceeding in progress at the time of filing until May 1, 2021
- Allows mortgagors who own ten or fewer residential dwellings, including their primary residence, and are suffering a financial hardship to file a hardship declaration with their mortgage lender, other foreclosing party, or the court that will prevent the filing of a foreclosure action or stay any foreclosure action in progress at the time of filing until May 1, 2021.
- Stays residential eviction and foreclosure proceedings for sixty days for implementation purposes.
- Allows landlords to evict objectionable tenants and tenants who do not submit a declaration of hardship.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unemployment Rates</th>
<th>November 2019</th>
<th>November 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yates County</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York State</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe County</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario County</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seneca County</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steuben County</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schuyler County</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne County</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are currently 472 people in Yates County receiving unemployment benefits.

The federal government has extended federal unemployment benefits available under the CARES Act for an additional 11 weeks. PUA, PEUC, & FPUC will be available through March 14, 2021.

PUA (Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) is now available through March 14, 2021, or for 57 total weeks of eligibility, whichever comes first. Additional documentation of eligibility will be required beginning in January. As we receive US DOL guidance, we will provide additional information. Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) is a federal program that was included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The program provides support for Americans who are unable to work due to the Coronavirus pandemic, but do not qualify for traditional Unemployment Insurance (UI).

PEUC (Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation) is now available through March 14, 2021, or for 24 total weeks of eligibility, whichever comes first. Claimants currently receiving benefits through the Extended Benefits program must finish all 20 weeks of EB before receiving additional weeks of PEUC. The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation Program (PEUC), was created by the Federal CARES Act, and goes into effect under state law once the state reaches a certain level of high unemployment. Under federal law, these programs are only available for individuals receiving traditional Unemployment Insurance (UI). This provides weeks of additional benefits.

FPUC (Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation) benefits will resume with $300 weekly payments for an additional 11 weeks. To receive FPUC benefits, you must be receiving UI, PEUC, EB, or PUA. FPUC benefits will not be paid from July 27 to December 27, 2020, per federal guidelines.

2020 Goals

1. Manage the upcoming federal changes to Food Stamps.
Using guidance from OTDA, we will work to ensure that a minimum number of cases are closed due to the new guidelines. Existing staff will correctly classify cases and ensure engagement in employment activities. This goal will be measured using statistical data gathered through monthly reports.

Status-These guidelines were suspended due to the pandemic.

2. Manage the Family First Federal initiative.
   Using guidance from OCFS, we will work to ensure that cases are accurately coded for appropriate federal reimbursement. We will also utilize the funding available through OCFS to prepare for programmatic changes. This goal will be measured by reports from OCFS and the accompanying audits.

Status-Achieved. Audits by the OCFS regional office have been successful and we continue to prepare for upcoming changes.

3. Ensure timeliness and meet state guidelines.
   We will continue to work to complete work according to state guidelines in ninety percent of Children and Adult Services required submissions. Existing staff will continue to participate in weekly supervision to ensure safety and timeliness. This goal will be measured by monthly reports from the Office of Children and Family Services.

Status-Partially achieved. While we were very successful with Adult Services, Children’s Services workers continue to struggle with timeliness due to being short staffed.

4. Prepare for retirements and succession plans.
   Hire and train a new fiscal administrator so that we are prepared for the upcoming retirement in August. This goal will be measured by having a new, trained Fiscal Administrator.

Status-Achieved. We have a new Fiscal Administrator.

2021 Goals

1. Effectively respond to situations arising from the pandemic.
   This includes changes in case requirements, recertifications, childcare, and homeless issues. We will work with state agencies to ensure clients are receiving the services necessary, and that staff continue to be updated on rule changes. This goal will be measured using monthly reports and continued case conferences.

2. Monitor and respond to continued loss of New York State revenue.
   Ensure that we utilize all financial resources to maximize revenue for the department. This will include reassessing our federal reimbursement opportunities and working with advisors from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to verify that we are claiming in the most impactful way. This goal will be monitored by tracking revenue.

3. Investigate services contracts to determine cost efficiency.
   The cost of services contracts has grown exponentially in recent years. We will examine the use of these contracts to determine if this is the most effective use of funds. This goal will be measured by monthly meetings with service providers and evaluation of bills.

4. Prepare for retirements and succession plans. Develop training plan to ensure current staff readiness for the retirement of Principal Social Welfare Examiner and Director of Income Maintenance in early 2021. This goal will be measured by the development and implementation of the plan.
VACANCY REVIEW FORM

Caseworker
January 2021

Does this position perform services that are mandated by the Federal or State government? ☒ YES ☐ NO

§423 & §424
Every local department of social services shall establish a "child protective service". The child protective service shall have a sufficient staff of sufficient qualifications to fulfill the purposes of this title and be organized in such a way as to maximize the continuity of responsibility, care and service of individual workers toward individual children and families. Each child protective services shall receive on a 24 hour, 7 day a week basis all reports of suspected child abuse or maltreatment.....shall make an assessment in a timely manner of each report...which involves suspected maltreatment...determine within 60 days whether the report is "indicated" or "unfounded"...take a child into protective custody to protect him from further abuse or maltreatment when appropriate in accordance with family court act...

SSL §409-a
A social services official shall provide preventive services to a child and his or her family...upon a finding by such official that the child will be placed or continued in foster care unless such services are provided and that it is reasonable to believe that by providing such services the child will be able to remain with or be returned to his or her family.....

SSL §398
Commissioners shall....perform duties as follows: Investigate the alleged neglect abuse or abandonment of a child, offer protective social services to prevent injury to the child, to safeguard his welfare, and to preserve and stabilize family life...and receive and care for any child alleged to be neglected abuse or abandoned who is temporarily placed in his care by the family court pending adjudication by such court of the alleged neglect, abuse or abandonment including the authority to establish, operate and approved facilities...and receive and care for any neglect, abuse or abandoned child placed or discharged to his care by the family court

SSL §372-b Each social services official shall provide, either directly or through purchase of service, adoption services for each child in their care who is freed for adoption. Such adoptions services shall include the evaluation of a child's placement needs and preplacement planning, recruitment of a home study for prospective adoptive parents, training of adoptive parents, placement planning, supervision and post adoption services.
If the answer to #1 is no, does this position perform services that the County has traditionally maintained? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If the answer to #2 is yes, can an entity other than Yates County government perform these services? ☐ YES ☒ NO

There are counties that outsource foster care and adoption case management.

If this position is not refilled, can other positions be reconfigured to handle the work performed by the person in this position? If so, what positions? If not, how will the work conducted by the person in this position be handled? ☒ YES ☒ NO

The position of CPS caseworker provides the critical, mandated function of child protective services investigations, and although other casework staff are trained to perform these investigations, the caseload levels for CPS and for all other child welfare services are so high that there would not be time enough to complete investigations in a timely manner by the remaining staff, risking the safety of children in the community.

If applicable, is there an existing Civil Service Eligibility List for this position? ☒ YES ☐ NO

Will the loss of this position impact overtime? If yes, why and how can this be minimized? (Please attach an analysis showing any impact on overtime.) ☐ YES ☐ NO

In order to continue to accommodate the increased workload, these caseworkers will have to work overtime to complete the mandated casework.

Not filling the Caseworker position would require the remaining caseworkers to absorb the entire caseload of the missing person. Last year the caseworkers earned an average of 114 hours each of 35-40/overtime/comp time. Adding more cases to the workload would add more hours of work to each Caseworker.

The NYS Child Welfare Workload Study Final Report recommended a caseload of 12 cases per caseworker. With current staffing, we are usually able to maintain this level.

Does federal and/or state aid offset the cost of this position? (If yes, how much) ☒ YES ☐ NO

The total wage and fringe for this position is $68,673
Reimbursement is generally 80% so the county cost of this position is $13,734

If the position were eliminated, what would be the net county savings? (Include fringe benefits and retirement)

$13,734

Is there any risk, financial or otherwise, to waiting 30 days to refill this position? ☒ YES ☐ NO

It is important to fill this position as soon as possible, even when fully staffed the current caseworkers have difficulty keeping up with caseloads and we risk the safety of children. Additionally, all current caseworkers are all at capacity in terms of the number of hours they can work and still be effective. The training program for caseworkers (Core) is difficult to get in to and is a very long program. If we hire a caseworker that needs to be trained, we need to do it soon.

If you are given approval to refill this position, when do you expect to fill it?

Date: ASAP

Please submit any other information that you think would be helpful to this review.

If we can find a trained caseworker who is interested in transferring to Yates County, I would like to be authorized to begin that worker at step 1 of the contract.

Please see the attached comparison chart.
## CHILDREN’S SERVICES UNIT STAFFING INFORMATION FOR CITED COMPARISON COUNTIES AND YATES COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Staffing</th>
<th>Caseload</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yates</td>
<td>Preventive Unit</td>
<td>1 Grade B Supervisor 4 Caseworkers</td>
<td>55 Open Cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child Protective Unit</td>
<td>1 Grade B Supervisor 4 Caseworkers (1 vacant)</td>
<td>462 Hotlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seneca</td>
<td>Preventive Unit</td>
<td>3 Grade B Supervisor 1 Sr. Caseworker 9 Caseworker</td>
<td>86 Open Cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child Protective Unit</td>
<td>2 Grade B Supervisors 8 Caseworkers</td>
<td>805 Hotlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schuyler</td>
<td>Preventive Unit</td>
<td>1 Grade B Supervisor 1 Sr. Caseworker 3 Caseworkers</td>
<td>43 Open Cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child Protective Unit</td>
<td>1 Grade A Supervisor 2 Senior Caseworkers 4 Caseworkers</td>
<td>314 Hotlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis</td>
<td>Preventive Unit</td>
<td>1 Grade B supervisors 5 Caseworkers</td>
<td>29 Open Cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child Protective Unit</td>
<td>1 Grade B Supervisor 5 Caseworkers</td>
<td>469 Hotlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>Preventive Unit</td>
<td>1 Grade B Supervisor 2 Sr. Caseworkers 5 Caseworkers</td>
<td>86 Open Cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child Protective Unit</td>
<td>1 Grade B Supervisor 1 Senior Caseworker 5 Caseworkers</td>
<td>623 Hotlines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AUTHORIZE CONTRACT FOR FRAUD INVESTIGATION SERVICES

WHEREAS, The Yates County Department of Social Services requires investigation services for public assistance fraud;

RESOLVED, that contingent upon the approval of the County Attorney, the Chairman of the Legislature and the Commissioner of Social Services be authorized to sign a contract between the Yates County Department of Social Services and the Yates County Sheriff’s Office for the provision of fraud investigation services to the Department of Social Services for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 at a cost not to exceed $57,305; and be it further;

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Yates County Treasurer, Yates County Sheriff’s Office, and the Yates County Department of Social Services.

AUTHORIZE CONTRACTS WITH THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES/PERSONS

WHEREAS, Yates County and the Yates County Department of Social Services wishes to enter into contract with the following agencies/persons; and

WHEREAS, the term of these contracts is January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that after review by the County Attorney, the Chairman of the Yates County Legislature and Commissioner of Social Services are authorized to sign contracts with the following agencies/persons:

- America Homecare for fiscal intermediary services, no cost
- G.A.T.E. Counseling Services, various rates
- Keuka Counseling-A Healing Journey, for counseling services, various rates
- Keuka Housing Council, for housing, various rates

And, be it further;

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Yates County Treasurer, and the Yates County Department of Social Services.

AUTHORIZE CONTRACT WITH THE FOLLOWING AGENCY

WHEREAS, Yates County and the Yates County Department of Social Services wishes to enter into contract with the following agencies/persons; and

WHEREAS, the term of these contracts is December 1, 2020 through November 30, 2021;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that after review by the County Attorney, the Chairman of the Yates County Legislature and Commissioner of Social Services are authorized to sign contracts with the following agencies/persons:

- Family Counseling of the Finger Lakes for co-located behavioral health services, $50,000

And, be it further;

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Yates County Treasurer, and the Yates County Department of Social Services.
AUTHORIZE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO FILL VACANCY (CASEWORKER)

WHEREAS, a Caseworker vacancy became vacant effective December 11, 2020 as the result of a resignation; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner through the vacancy review process has identified the need to refill the Caseworker position and is requesting that the position be filled; and

WHEREAS, the estimated annual cost to fill the position is $68,673 which includes fringe benefits; with the 80% reimbursement the total cost to the County will be $13,734 to refill this position;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that effective January 11, 2021 the Commissioner of Social Services is hereby authorized to fill a full-time Caseworker position; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be provided the Commissioner of Social Services, Personnel Officer, County Administrator, and County Treasurer.

AUTHORIZE COMMISSIONER TO SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

WHEREAS, under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), TANF is a required partner in the New York State (NYS) Career Center System. As part of this partnership, and as a statutory requirement under WIOA, social services districts (districts) must enter into a local Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with their respective Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) relating to the provision of services through the Career Center System and the funding of infrastructure costs for Career Center; and

WHEREAS, the timeframe for the most current memorandum of understanding is July 1, 2020 until June 30, 2023 and the Commissioner of Social Services is a required signatory;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that after review by the County Attorney, the Commissioner of Social Services is authorized to sign the memorandum of understanding for the period of July 1, 2020- June 30, 2023;

And be it further;

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Yates County Yates County Department of Social Services, the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board, and the New York State Department of Labor.

APPOINTMENT TO THE FINGER LAKES WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

WHEREAS, this Legislature, by Resolution #334-99, has authorized the creation of the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board for the Counties of Yates, Ontario, Seneca and Wayne in compliance with the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Investment Board members must be appointed by the respective Legislative Boards; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director has solicited nominations in accordance with the Law; and
WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board By-Laws state voting members shall be appointed for terms of three (3) years, and that terms shall be staggered,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Legislature does hereby appoint the following representative to the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board to replace the vacancy left by outgoing representative Maria Fisher and to fulfill the vacated term through 6/30/22.

Colin O’Malley
Chief of Staff
Rochester and Genesee Valley Area Labor Federation
30 North Union Street, Suite 204
Rochester, NY 14607

And be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Wayne, Ontario and Seneca Counties, Yates County Department of Social Services, the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board, and the to the aforementioned appointee.
Partner/Public Sector

NOMINATION TO FINGER LAKES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD/WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

1. Name of Organization: Rochester & Genesee Valley Area Labor Federation
   Address: 30 N. Union Street, Suite #204, Rochester, NY 14607
   FEIN: 16-1607320

2. Type and Purpose of Agency (circle one):
   - Labor Organization
   - Apprenticeship Program
   - Title II Adult Education & Literacy
   - Community Based Organization
   - Organization Serving Individuals with Disabilities
   - Higher Education
   - Economic Development
   - Veterans Organization
   - Youth Organization
   - Public Assistance Agency
   - Other:
   - County Chief Elected Official or Designee


NOMINEE INFORMATION:

Name: Colin O’Malley
Title: Chief of Staff
Business Address: 30 N. Union St, Suite 204, Rochester, NY 14607
Telephone: 585-263-3650 Fax: NA Cell: 716-400-6287
E-Mail Address: omalleyaffcio@gmail.com

1. Governing board member OR (circle one) Staff

2. Length of time with organization: 1.5 years

I hereby nominate the individual noted above as a member of the Finger Lakes Workforce Development Board. I certify that the nomination is being submitted with the knowledge of the nominee.

Submitted by: Dan Maloney
Title: President
Date: 12/18/2020
Phone: 585-944-7949

Potential candidates must submit a resume with this nomination. Once received, all nominations will be reviewed and those selected will be contacted. Final appointment is made by the four county legislative bodies.

PLEASE RETURN TO:

FINGER LAKES WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD, INC.
41 Lewis Street Suite 104
Geneva, New York 14456
Phone (315) 789-3131
Fax: (315) 789-0163 or e-mail kspringmeler@fingerlakesworks.com
OBJECTIVE

I have a strong commitment and passion to building broad-based, effective movements for social, racial and economic justice. With 18 years of organizing and popular movement experience, I feel a deep obligation to support the possibilities for massive social change.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

ROCHESTER & GENESSEE VALLEY AREA LABOR FEDERATION 07/2019-PRESENT
Chief of Staff
Served as lead staff person with major responsibilities including governance, budgeting, staffing, and policy.

METRO JUSTICE
Executive Director 01/2015-11/2018
Led community social justice organization through period of growth and change.
- Fundraised $418,000 from unions and partners to grow Rochester worker justice efforts.
- Led Fight for $15 organizing efforts in Rochester and eventually Buffalo.
- Coordinated member-elected board of directors through strategic planning process.

Organizing Director 03/2012-12/2014
Led the growth of Metro Justice into an organization with multiple organizing staff people.
- Incorporated Metro Justice as Rochester leader of Fight for $15 and organizing fast food workers.
- Supervised, trained, onboarded and developed team of organizers, both staff and volunteers.
- Maintained contracts with partnering organizations and ensured completion of deliverables.

Organizer 12/2010-03/2012
- Developed committees of volunteers to engage as campaign leadership.
- Developed and ran trainings to ensure success of volunteer and community leadership.
- Built relationships with community leaders, directly impacted people and elected leadership.
- Coordinated mass actions, press events, and lobby days.

SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION 01/2010-08/2010
Salt Organizer
As an employee of a Buffalo-area hotel, I was employed by SEIU Workers United to organize the hotel from the inside as a salt. In this position I gained an intimate knowledge of on-the-ground union organizing of service workers.
- Worked full time as a hotel server while developing strong relationships with coworkers and identified potential leaders
- Built an in-depth database of all hotel workers and brought together an organizing committee of workers within the hotel
UNITED STUDENTS AGAINST SWEATSHOPS
National Leadership, various positions
The positions included one hired position as the Northeast Regional Organizer and two elected positions to serve on the USAS Coordinating Committee and the Worker Rights Consortium Governing Board, where I further held the positions of Chairman and sat on the Finance Committee overseeing an annual budget in excess of $1 million.

- Developed and executed two strategic nationwide campaigns: the Sweatfree Campus and Campus Worker Solidarity campaigns
- Organized 7 bi-annual national and 3 annual regional conferences
- Planned a strategic visioning process with USAS leadership to develop a long-term unified vision, strategy, and plan
- Participated in a speaking tour, visiting 15 northeastern campuses to recruit and develop leadership of local student activists

WESTERN NEW YORK SWEATSHOP AWARENESS PROJECT (WNYSAP)
A joint project of Buffalo Jobs with Justice and the WNY Council for Occupational Safety and Health
Youth Organizer
In high school, as a WNYSAP Youth Organizer, I formed and coordinated a student group in my high school to educate themselves and the community about sweatshop and labor issues. After graduating from high school, a position was created for me to act as an organizer at numerous area high schools. For my work I was the recipient of the 2003 Future of Justice Award from Buffalo Jobs with Justice.

- Gave in-class presentations in approximately 20 area high schools about labor activism, sweatshops, and neo-liberal globalization
- Created and coordinated a bi-annual 2-day training program for high school students to build skills in media relations, meeting facilitation and campaign strategy skills
- Organized numerous creative demonstrations and media events

EDUCATION
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO, B.A. INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, 2008

LANGUAGE AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Strong written and spoken Spanish
- Experience with Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, InDesign and Premiere)
- Experience with mass engagement systems, particularly NationBuilder

REFERENCES

Denise Young
Education Specialist
NY State Public Employee Federation
Telephone: 585-703-6013

Bruce Popper
Executive Vice President
1199 SEIU UHWE
Telephone: 585-746-0478

Aaron Micheau
President
Metro Justice
Telephone: 585-797-3727

Jesse Lenney
Former Upstate Political Director
Working Families Party of New York
Telephone: 585-414-4274
YATES COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
Human Services Committee
Background Information
December 7, 2020

PUBLIC HEALTH/PREVENTION PROGRAMS:

Communicable Disease Control:
Influenza:
Influenza activity in New York State has been categorized as regional for the week of December 19th. The total number of positive reports in New York State for the season remains lower than the three most recent years. However, during this week there was a 75% increase in the number of laboratory confirmed cases of flu. The incidence of flu is currently highest in the Capital region, but all regions are starting to see an increase.

COVID-19:
At the writing of this report the department has received 553 positive test results and over 20,000 negative results. Staff are monitoring over 63 active cases and a total of 314 individuals. Currently 3 individuals are hospitalized as a result of COVID illness and we have had 9 deaths reported to us as a result of COVID infection. Increased testing opportunities were set up through Finger Lakes Community Health (FLCH), our public health staff, Medical Reserve Corps volunteers and volunteers from EMS. FLCH tested 35 individuals at the 12/17 event with 1 positive and 140 at the 12/23 event with no positives. A testing event took place on 12/29 at the Dundee Fire House with 150 tested and 6 positive. Testing will also be offered on Jan 5th and Jan 12th by registration only at Dundee Fire House. The link to register for these free testing events for asymptomatic individuals can be found at http://www.s2aynetwork.org/community-testing.html

We are now shifting some of our focus to CVOID vaccine administration through clinics and PODS. We continue to participate with the URMC HUB and its COVID Vaccine Task Force. The Regional HUBs are responsible for ensuring widespread, safe and equitable distribution of the COVID vaccine in our communities. Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization information was released by NYSDOH on December 28th (see below) for week 4.

Beginning the week of January 4, 2021 and subject to additional allocations by the federal government, Urgent Care Centers, dialysis centers, ambulatory care sites, regional hubs and/or local health departments, hospitals, and Federally Qualified Health Centers will receive vaccine. The following additional populations are prioritized for vaccination:

- All Outpatient/Ambulatory front line, high risk healthcare providers who provide direct in person patient care or other staff in a position where they have direct contact with patients, such as receptionists, of any age. This will include but is not limited to hospital and community based ambulatory care, primary care, outpatient behavioral health services, phlebotomists, physical and occupational therapists, and specialty clinics including dialysis centers.
- All front line, high risk public health workers who have direct contact with patients.
- Health care workers at testing sites.
SPECIAL CHILDREN’S SERVICES:

RESOLUTION: Authorize renewed five year agreement with Rhonda Relyea, Speech Language Pathologist for Preschool Services.

SIGN AGREEMENT WITH RHONDA RELYEA, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

WHEREAS, Yates County Public Health seeks to sign an agreement with Rhonda Relyea, Speech Language Pathologist, to provide services to children with developmental delays and disabilities in the Preschool Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon approval of the County Attorney, the Chairman of the Legislature be hereby authorized to sign an agreement with Rhonda Relyea, Speech Language Pathologist at the following all-inclusive rates: $64.00 in 2021, $65.00 in 2022, $66.00 in 2023, $67.00 in 2024, and $68.00 in 2025, for the period 1/1/2021 to 12/31/2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Public Health office, and the Treasurer.

2020 Goals

   Status- complete

2. Ensure orientation of ACT in software and county processes necessary for job functions by March 1, 2020.
   Status- complete

3. Oversee transition of fiscal functions for Community Services from contractual staff to Principal Account Clerk by December 31, 2020.
   Status- In progress. Principal Account Clerk is independent in most fiscal functions. Contract will be renewed to serve as consultant for 2021 on a very limited basis.

   Status- in progress. Will be working with the incoming DPH over two-month period to orient to responsibilities of the position. Checklists and written processes to assist the incoming DPH completed.
COMMUNITY SERVICES:

**Action Items:**
Reappointments

**SAFE Act:**
3 reports received and investigated: 0 reported to DCJS

**Fiscal:**

**AOT:**
Current cases: 0  Investigations: 0

**Program: Suicide Prevention Coalition of Yates**
Wrap up 2020 meeting held with review of the successful 2020 Out of the Darkness Walk review and initiation of planning for 2021. Review of the Covid19 impacted prevention efforts. Effort to go virtual on prevention trainings continuing, Planning for 2021 activities in conjunction with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention 2021 (AFSP) annual program. Suicide has increased across the country as well as in New York and Yates County. Coalition efforts in 2021 will look to more collaboration with providers, community institutions and the community itself. (Our Town Rocks and The Living Well are working with the access work group to create improve program and services awareness and access. Both sites continue to provide modified services aimed at the social indicators of health. Their expanded role related to Behavioral Health Care will reflect the current Covid19 requirements. One aspect overall will be to maintain trust by the community, strong partnerships and flexibility in approach given the changing environment.

**Program: Yates INSYGHT**
Yates INSYGHT. (Inclusive Network Supporting Youth and Families Toward Growth, Health, Teamwork). Our initial Point of Accountability Committee (POA) occurred with our partners and the State grant team. It was our first chance to meet the members of the New York State grant team. They shared information on the reporting, evaluation and support regarding peer development and implementation of the school based High Fidelity Care Management program at Penn Yan and Dundee CSD. We also reviewed where we were at with contracting (completed) and hiring.

The two Health Home Care Managers positions are in the hiring process. The trainer position has been advertised. Our two community access sites (Our Town Rocks and The Living Well) continue with modified services focused on the social determinants of health. Site capacity will be enhanced in order to add a focus on behavioral health services awareness and access to services for families and children. Our original plans are in need of revision due to the current
COVID requirements. Planning with each site will begin in January involving the Front door work group as well as other work groups.

One or more Member organizations and other community resource agencies are invited to provide a presentation of their services each month. A presentation was provided by Marrie Perrin, Director of the Heal Project to update on the project and begin an exploration of collaboration between Yates INSYGHT and Heal. The Outpatient Mental Health Care work group will begin meeting in January and will focus on overall coordination, identifying barriers to access, exploring access enhancements and planning for solutions implementation.

**Outpatient Mental Health Services:**

A number of occurrences moved the county into a situation where individuals in need of outpatient mental health services were made to wait for access to care. The occurrences included staff resignations, delays in recruitment for vacancies as well as Covid19 related restrictions due to positive tests and exposures. Waiting lists developed and were triaged to determine who would be seen as vacancies occurred. A special meeting was arranged for all the outpatient mental health providers to evaluate the problem and find ways to eliminate the waiting list.

The sharing of the resources available from each program revealed that the reasons for the need of waiting lists had been mostly resolved by the time we met. It also underscored the need for better coordination and cooperation between local providers to insure better access by sharing referrals and maintaining awareness of any individual program capacity. The programs agreed to share specific census and capacity information as well as contact information. The intent is to utilize the outpatient mental health care work group just formed under Yates INSYGHT. All providers agreed to participate.

**Program: Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)**

The Crisis Intervention work group continues to meet monthly to review and discuss the systems transformation effort in Yates County. The goal remains to divert behavioral health cases to the behavioral health system rather that law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Work will continue to push for diversion options for 911 calls, more crisis alternatives including crisis home support as well as the development of a Crisis Residential Option. (both of these services can be developed for children and adults). In addition, services for transition of individuals leaving the ED or inpatient care must be developed for those unable to navigate on their own. We currently do not have that capacity in Yates County. We do have the MIT team provided by the Elmira Psychiatric Center, available Monday thru Friday by referral. That program is currently underutilized due to minimal referrals.
Columbia University HEALing Communities Study (HCS):

HCS as part of the National Institutes of Health HEAL Initiative is designed to investigate how tools for preventing and treating opioid misuse and opioid use disorder (OUD) are most effective at the local level. The goal is to reduce opioid related opioid-related overdose deaths by 40% over the course of three years.

A core component of the HCS intervention is a series of community-based health prevention efforts. This will begin in mid-2021. The first campaign is focused on Naloxone, Medications for Opioid Use Disorders (MOUD) and stigma focused on the community. The second will focus on providers adoption of and use of MOUD as well as the availability of MOUD. Community engagement will be a continuing process involving the Yates Substance Abuse Coalition, community assessments and reach out to community leaders for support, guidance and input into the development of an Opioid Reduction Continuum of Care Approach ((ORCCA) for Yates County.

Monroe County Mental Health & Substance Abuse Task Force.
The Task Force completed initial work this month. My involvement ended with the final report provided to the Monroe County Executive and Mental Health Department. The work of the Task Force reinforced our own view that the crisis services available reflect an incomplete system. In our case that included crisis outreach, in-home crisis services and crisis residential services for adults, families and children.

Yates County Crisis Services Plan:
We continue to work with Ontario, Seneca and Wayne Counties on regional crisis services. Improvement in our efforts to increase diversion from law enforcement and medical emergency services to mental health services. The Yates and regional plan remain incomplete due to the lack of specific crisis programs including crisis residential and crisis in home services. On going discussions with Rochester Regional Health (RRH) include a focus on the elements missing for the region.

REAPPOINT MEMBER TO THE YATES COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

WHEREAS, Melanie Sullivan, residing at 2660 Guyanoga RD., Penn Yan, New York, 14527 has been recommended for reappointment to a second term on the Yates County mental health Subcommittee;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yates County Legislature reappoint Melanie Sullivan to the Yates County Mental Health subcommittee; and be it further

RESOLVED, that said term will end 12/31/2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to Melanie Sullivan and to the Yates County Department of Community Services.
REAPPOINT MEMBER TO THE YATES COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

WHEREAS, John Dean, residing at 102 Benham St. #1, Penn Yan, New York 14527 has been recommended for reappointment to a second term on the Yates County Mental Health Subcommittee;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yates County Legislature reappoint John Dean, to the Yates County Mental Health Subcommittee; and be it further

RESOLVED, that said term will end 12/31/2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to John Dean and to the Yates County Department of Community Services.

REAPPOINT MEMBER TO THE YATES COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

WHEREAS, Sara K. Hansen has been recommended for reappointment to serve a second term on the Yates County Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yates County Legislature reappoints Sara K. Hansen to the Yates County Community Services Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee; and be it further

RESOLVED, that said term will end 12/31/2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to Sara K. Hansen and to the Yates County Department of Community Services.

REAPPOINT MEMBER TO THE YATES COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

WHEREAS, Lauren R. Snyder, 118 Ogden St., Penn Yan, New York, 14527 has been recommended for reappointment to serve a second term on the Yates County Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yates County Legislature reappoint Lauren R. Snyder to the Yates County Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee; and be it further

RESOLVED, that said term will end 12/31/2024; and be it further
RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be provided to Lauren R. Snyder and the Yates County Department of Community Services.
1. **Goal: Reduce stigma for Mental Illness and Substance Abuse.**

   1. **Objective: provide community education and information**
      a. Articles in news- completed
      b. Presentation to social groups- completed
      c. Radio talk-completed
      d. Agency education-completed
         
         *Community education efforts were continuous during 2020 thru media and others in the community.*

   2. **Objective: provide community-based training**
      a. Safe Talk
      b. YMHFA MHFA
         
         *Talk Saves Lives, YMHFA, MHFA provided in 1st quarter, Halted with Covid19 efforts to be trained/certified in new virtual approaches underway.*

   3. **Objective: provide agency/professional training.**
      a. MHFA YMHFA
      b. ASIST
      c. TALK SAVES LIVES
         
         *Agency directed trainings were offered and planned but halted due to Covid19 restrictions. Virtual options were developed and training/certification to do those underway.*

2. **Goal: Improve access to Mental Health outpatient care.**

   1. **Objective: Monitor Soldiers and Sailors John D. Kelly Clinic. Renew census wait list, time to appointment, time of doctor/nurse practitioner evaluation and staffing.**

   2. **Objective: Monitor - patient clinic/satellites, renew census for time to appointment, time of doctor/nurse practitioner evaluation and staffing.**

   3. **Support development of integrated clinic at FLACRA**

   4. **Objective: Explore opportunities to expand where unmet need is identified.**

      *A work group was established with all the outpatient providers in Yates County to better integrate, coordinate, collaborate and communicate with each other. That work group will operate under the Yates INSYGHT Systems of Care project. Monitoring of Soldiers & Sailors MH Services was increased with requests for more frequent reports and meetings; Dundee School satellite through Wayne County Behavioral Health was negotiated and initiated services in June 2020 with permanent staff assignment on site with school opening in September. Finger Lakes Community Health received additional requested state aid to hire a full time therapist to serve Penn Yan CSD and is in place for school opening. Those school based services are monitored with provider and school dialogue. FLACRA continues to be a strong Yates County partner and has opened the mental health portion of their Comprehensive Community Behavioral Health Clinic in Yates County. This service which will grow and develop in 2021 includes services for substance use disorders and mental health disorders as well as wellness services. This service will provide integrated services and meet a*
current need and future growth in options for Yates County residents. In addition, the CCBHC will enhance our community crisis capability, provide in-home treatment and prevention services. Advocacy continued with Finger Lakes Community Health and the Department of Health on moving their plan to open a school based integrated health clinic to the Penn Yan campus.

3. Goal: Insure adequate care management and adequate housing availability for all adult mental health clients in need as well as treatment level.

1. Objective: Monitor effectiveness of SPOA process to handle referrals effectively, manage planning for case management as well as recommendations for treatment.
2. Objective: Monitor those individuals in ACT level of care including referrals, time for admissions and discharges.
3. Monitor use of HHCM+
4. Monitor availability of transitional apartment beds
5. Monitor use of C & Y Residential beds
6. Monitor use of Adult Supportive Living beds
7. Monitor respite for adults and Children

SPOA in 2020 maintained consistent leadership and an intact team which served it well given the impact of the pandemic. Efforts moved quickly to a virtual process and continues as such. Residential options were impacted due to the pandemic, and the historic housing limitations and availability. Current supportive housing remained at or near 100%. The transitional apartments continue with a high occupancy (80%). 2020 saw the opening of the Drop in Center and Psychosocial club in Penn Yan to support those in the community recovering from mental illness, unfortunately the pandemic force a move to virtual programs. In addition the programs shifted to address basic need for individuals in the community providing food, clothing and other necessities. The move to virtual/telephonic has been effective and increased contact frequency. The programs continue to prepare for a future reopening.

HHCM and HHCM+ are both active and coordinated with SPOA and providers. ACT is utilized minimally and efforts to insure those who would benefit are referred continues to be pushed with providers. The MIT team following advocacy and follow up has seen an increase in referrals as this is a resource available for those at the highest level of need.

Respite for C & Y and adults is used and remains available.

4 Goal: Maintain an effective referral assessment, treatment planning for HBCS services, case management and recommendations for treatment for all children and youth referred.

1. Objective: Insure community awareness through education and ongoing contact with schools and other referral sources.
2. Objective: Maintain SPOA membership
3. Objective: Maintain schedules and special SPOA meetings to insure rapid assessments and planning for HBCS as well as other options in an effective manner.

4. Involve family/significant care takers and provide family advocacy for family/other support.

5. Objective: Monitor use of HCBS to maximize effect within the limited slots available.

2020 was a different year with the pandemic and use of a virtual format with families and referral sources. Referrals increased as did severity for C-SPOA. Coordination with Health Home Care Managers (HHCM) has improved and was enhanced by a community services open house, as well as meetings with HHCM and referral sources. HCBS implementation continued slowly with poor saturation and low enrollment. That ended up being a statewide problem and has led to a request to CMH (Federal level). The state has decided on adopting a rehabilitation model which allows for an easier connecting of those in need with actual services. There have been 6 month delays under the current system. A System of Care approach for Yates County was promoted by the State Office of Mental Health (OMH). OMH provided initial training, the community came to the table and participated. Once the state backed off, the department moved the process forward. Progress continues to be noted as does participation with new members joining and community institutions getting involved. The Systems of Care approach with families and youth involvement is working together to improve the system of care and treatment of children and support to families. The Department participated in a SAMSHA grant application for Systems of Care Development which was awarded and implemented on September 1, 2020. The 4 year grant brings support for Systems of Care Leadership, support, enhanced family support, school services, and training resources to advance and embed a Systems of Care approach for families and children in Yates County. The Yates INSYGHT has progressed and with over 40 partners is changing services for the better.

5 Goal: Increase the availability of prevention services within Yates County focused on Mental Health, Substance Abuse, suicide, family functions.

1. Objective: Liaison with three school districts regarding prevention activities access by the Council on Alcoholism.

2. Objective: Provide schools suicide prevention training and education including:
   a. Safe Talk/QPR
   b. ASIST
   c. YMHFA
   d. Suicide Talk

3. Objective: Develop a Suicide Prevention Coalition in Yates County charged with responsibility to support education and training.

2020 started off with many prevention efforts in the community, schools and community. The pandemic required a shift in approach and active services. Prevention went virtual and telephonic. Efforts to create and have training to advance online programming is ongoing. Where possible small group efforts have continued. Individual reach out to identified families and students is occurring. The Suicide Prevention Coalition continued to provide education.
on prevention, investigated an environmental suicide risk and had discussions regarding that specific risk, The Out Of Darkness Walk was held as a joint Finger Lakes Walk at the Keuka Lake State Park was a huge success and preceded by several community tabling efforts. Face to face trainings were curtailed but exploration of other efforts are on going.

6 Goal: Increase Mental Health/Substance Abused services for the elderly in Yates County.

1. Objective: Work with Soldiers and Sailors John D. Kelly Clinic to identify the percentage of elderly served by the agency.
2. Objective: Work with Office for the Aging to identify unmet needs.
3. Convene a planning group to consider the unmet needs and how to address the issue.

There has been no progress with S & S JDK on the development of outreach to the elderly. That population remains under identified and underserved. Efforts with other providers will be encourages in 2021. Monitoring of the behavioral health needs of the elderly continue with the Office of the Aging. There outreach efforts continue as well as their on going support.

7 Goal: Ensure access to needed Developmental Disabilities services for Yates County residents.

1. Objective: Review residential service needs, access and waiting lists to ascertain if individuals are waiting for services at any level.
2. Objective: Monitor the service level/need for the new article 16 clinic.
3. Objective: Ascertain the supportive employment and employment need for the Developmentally Disabled Yates County population.
4. Review the current residential Development Disabilities system, capacity, utilization and current out-patient issues.

2020 saw the completion of a merger with Seneca/Cayuga ARC. This has included many staffing changes and coincided with funding and program changes moved by the state agency, the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities. The pandemic intensified changes at the local agency including closures of many of the day and group programs and face to face services. Planning for reopening programs and face to face services is ongoing. Telephonic and virtual services continue. Residential services provided by catholic Charities and Yates ARC continue following all the guideline and limitations required. Staffing issues have been kept to a minimum utilizing staff lost to the shutdown. Serious discussions regarding the contract for vocational, services for the mentally ill related to a lack of active clients has led to reducing funding to the agency in 2020 and 2021.

1. **Objective:** Maintain a 9:39 connection with Clifton Springs Comprehensive Emergency Program C-PEP.
2. **Objective:** Develop & Maintain designee process with Clifton Springs C-PEP. Coordinate, maintain, monitor mobile crisis services.
3. **Objective:** Participate on the C-SPOA advisory committee.
4. **Objective:** Promote the development of in-home crisis services.
5. **Objective:** Promote the development of regional crisis residential services.

_In 2020 the Office of Mental Health approved the Yates County crisis services plan for the mentally ill population. Yates joined Seneca, Ontario and Wayne Counties in the development of a joint plan. This approach was a natural as there were several essential components operating on a regional basis and shared by these counties. Those services included crisis residential for children; respite for children and adults; Clifton Springs Hospital 9:39 status and C-PEP services for adults and children (assessment, evaluation, holding beds and mobile crisis services); CIT with Law Enforcement and Lifeline. Although, there are other crisis level services many of the services are common. Yates has seen increased utilization of mobile crisis, coordination with Law Enforcement, increase coordination with the Emergency Departments at S & S Hospital and Clifton Springs Hospital. The DCS has joined Ontario, Wayne and Seneca County Directors in planning with Rochester Regional Health and Clifton Springs Hospital to improve hospital access, reduce MHA discharges, streamline the assessment process and the connections back to each county. Discussion also include a focus on the missing elements in the joint crisis program including crisis residential services and in home crisis services along with expansion of the Mobil Crisis capacity.

Both the undersheriff and the DCS participate in the C-PEP advisory group. The Undersheriff and the DCS also share leadership in the CIT implementation and ongoing work to decrease Law Enforcement involvement with the behavioral health population and crisis that do not need law enforcement involvement. In addition, the additional goal has been to reduce the number of individuals with behavioral health issues in the jail.

Finely, we continue to work regionally and locally to establish an intact 24/7 crisis services, crisis residential services and other crisis outreach to serve needs in Yates County.

9. **Goal:** ensure the Yates County mental health, substance abused and developmentally disabled population are considered and benefit from the FLPPS and NOCEN processes as well as Medicaid Managed Care.

1. **Objective:** Continue to maintain knowledge of systems development through
   a. Clinical Quality Committee (FLPPS)
   b. Involvement with regional planning and Yates County/hospital health planning.

   _2020 marked continued Involvement with local, regional and state wide planning and will continue as the opportunities present themselves. Service on the clinical coordinating committee of the FLPPS, cochair of the FLRPS consortium, residential_
planning, partnership with Public Health CHIP, Regional Leadership, Finger lakes regional group, work with the CLMHD statewide and regionally. Finely work through the Community Services Board related to annual planning and State wide advocacy for the three disability groups.

10. Goal: Manage & Oversee the HEALing Community study

1. Objective: Work Closely with FLACRA regarding study support and Hub management.

2, Objective: Liaison with Columbia research staff.

3. Objective: Supervision of project staff

4. Objective: Support, promote and coordinate with the Yates Substance Abuse Coalition and the community advisory group.

5. Oversight of the 2021 implementation of the study.

2020 noted the recruitment of a study Director and information/data coordinator. Initial work has included forming connections with the various partners here in Yates, the two active Coalitions, regional Opioid Efforts and service providers. Linkage with the Columbia University study staff and the state wide advisory board has taken place along with an orientation to the prevention campaign to be implemented in 2021.

11. Goal: Manage & Oversight of the development of a Yates Systems of Care

1. Objective: Integrate C-SPOA functions

2. Objective: Promote SOC development

3. Objective: Oversee coordination, planning, facilitation, reporting and managing the System of care process.

4. Objective: Implement, facilitate, supervision and management of the SAMSHA SOC Grant

5. Objective: Liaison with OMH project management team

2020 saw the launch of a community led Systems of Care process. That process moved forward with an active membership and a set of Goals and Objectives designed for growth and development. Work groups were established, a coordinator identified and hired, co-chairs were identified as conveners of the process. An opportunity was presented to participate in a Systems of Care Grant application process and accepted by a core group of members and the Director. That effort proved successful and the Yates Systems of Care project, now named Yates INSYGHT has an infusion of resources to move this effort forward. The effort is evolving rapidly with 6 key partners who are receiving funding and accepting responsibility to implement element of the overall effort. The DCS office provides oversight, consultation and assistance as needed in support of the INSYGHT Director. Next steps will include High Fidelity Wrap Around HHCH at
Dundee and Penn Yan CSD, Behavioral Specialist services at Dundee CSD, Family Development Services, Training for agencies /community, two community site for ease of access to services and support of families and youth to be actively involved leadership at Yates INSYGHT. DCS provides active liaison with the Office of Mental Health on the implementation of the grant and the system.

12. Goal: Oversight, support, coordination with Agencies related to Covid19 related issues:

1. Objective: Maintain dialogue with each agency /program regarding their status

2. Objective: Catalogue needs as presented for PPE etc.


4. Objective: Request operations plans under Covid19 and review periodically or as needed.

5. Budget impact awareness related to Local services funding and service revenue.

6. Clinical staffing and residential staffing monitoring.

2020 did remind me of all the training I have had regarding communicable disease and prep preparing for Small pox or other threats. I asked immediately for operation plans, and discussed with all contractors and other programs how they would protect staff and clients and maintain programs and services. I obtained PPE and offered to community partners. I followed up on the plans for each program, and reviewed how things were proceeding. Budget issues related to the reductions of state aide required direct discussions with and analysis of impact with providers. I monitored their fiscal situations and requested input from them. Conducted a Covid19 impact survey with all agencies as part of annual planning. As so supported involvement with a regional Covid19 impact survey with youth in the community. I continued to monitor staffing issues for clinical and residential programs.
I. Veterans’ Services Projects:

- Installation of remotely activated power door operators for VSA Office entrance started December 18th. Building and Grounds department received remaining parts required, and hope to begin final installation on December 30th, 2020.

- VSA goals for 2021 and status update of 2020 goals (see attached).

II. Personnel Updates:

- VSA’s Keuka College social work student intern anticipated start date is February 1st.

- VSA staff completed the following training:
  - New York State Division of Veterans’ Services – Veteran Service Officer training (December 18th)

III. Veteran Services Update:

- Contact Report: Our Monthly Contact Report for December shows 299 services were provided (see our attached spreadsheet). Veteran clients and family members continue meeting with a VSO, advance appointments recommended (required spacing is maintained).

- Transportation: VSA staff and volunteers, wearing protective masks and using County vehicles, transported 11 Veterans to medical appointments.

IV. Summary of Statistical Data: (see attached spreadsheet).

V. Upcoming Veteran-Related Training, Meetings, and Community Events:

- Finger Lakes Veterans Advocacy Council meeting
  Date: Wednesday – January 6th, 10:30 a.m.
  Location: via Microsoft (MS) Teams virtual platform / teleconference

- Keuka College Field Practicum Instructor Orientation
  Date: Wednesday – January 13th, 12:00 noon
  Location: via MS-Teams virtual platform

- Yates County Crisis Intervention Team – Working Group meeting
  Date: Friday – January 15th, 11:00 a.m.
  Location: via Zoom platform

VI. Claims Settled & Disbursements to our Veterans/Surviving Dependents:

Monthly total compensation for VA claims settled this month: $52,347.12
Total monthly compensation and disbursements year-to-date: $896,628.18
Goals for 2020:

1. Educate Veterans and the family members about TRICARE (Military Retiree healthcare) benefits on an annual basis.

   **Status** – on hold. Due to current Coronavirus pandemic, public presentations were suspended.

2. Establish Veteran dependent benefits community briefings to be held on a semi-annual basis.

   **Status** – on hold. Community briefings were scheduled for April and September, however, these public meetings were canceled due to NYS DOH COVID-19 infectious disease prevention guidelines.

3. Submit all VA claims and applications digitally to the VA centralized intake center during the coming year.

   **Status** – complete. All VA claims and application were submitted digitally to the VA’s service-connected disability compensation and pension management central intake centers.

4. Pursue Veteran Peer-to-Peer program funding via a collaborative NYS County of Veteran Service Officers Association legislative initiative.

   **Status** – in progress. NYS CVSOA legislative committee was not able to secure funding for Veteran Peer-to-Peer funding in 2020, due to other NYS mandated priorities and fiscal related constraints. If NYS announces any funding opportunities in FY21, will explore options for Yates County application/participation.

5. Establish a department volunteer policy and procedures.

   **Status** – complete. VSA established Volunteer Transportation Network (VTN) policy and procedures. Departmental social work student intern duties and responsibilities were also conventionalized in 2020.
Goals for 2021:

1. Submit all VA claims and applications via direct upload to the VA centralized management portal during the coming year.

   Submitting via direct upload will expedite the administrative process, resulting in immediate confirmation, quicker VA network review and adjudication of claims, reduced production of sensitive paper documents for Veterans, and a measurable cost savings to the VSA department over time.

2. Educate Veterans and their family members about the Columbia Protocol: Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS).

   Working with Columbia Lighthouse Project leadership and the Yates County Suicide Prevention Coalition, develop and implement a plan for educating our Yates County Veteran community on suicide awareness, intervention and support and resources.

   Here are a couple of key points about what the Columbia Protocol is and how it can help our community.

   o Using simple, plain-language, evidence-supported questions that we all can ask — no specialized clinical knowledge required — the Columbia Protocol has become a nationally recognized “gold standard” as a risk assessment tool.

   o The questions are brief but impactful — and proven to work by an unprecedented level of scientific research. (For a look at the various research studies involved, click the following: Evidence The Columbia Lighthouse Project

3. Provide a Military and Veteran cultural awareness presentation to the Yates County Legislature and other community organizations.

   Because our County has numerous active duty military personnel, Veterans, and family members, we need to be aware of the sub-culture, social-economic impact, benefits and specific needs to make sure this population taken care of.

4. Explore Outdoor RX funding for 2022.

   Yates County is rich in natural resources. The growing popularity of outdoor activities during COVID to help Veterans with anxiety has been recognized as valuable tool. Outdoor RX has been used in other states to allow doctors to write a script for programing in nature-based activities for treatment. Examples of outdoor activities could be – equine therapy, fishing tournaments, kayaking.
# Veterans Service Agency - Services Provided to Veterans and Their Families - December 2020

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Notes:
- ³ - Initial veteran contacts - first time veteran has been to office - not necessarily a new veteran
- Notes: 2 & 3 - Outreach with Veterans who are home-bound, self-isolated, or in nursing homes/assisted living centers
- Note: 4 - Veteran database system clean-up project
**Action Items:**

**Program Updates:**

1. **Wellness Programs:**

   Our Yates Wellness Prevention Coordinator has started to offer 2 Bone Builder classes and 1 Advanced Tai Chi class on Zoom. There are currently 13 participants in Bone Builders and 9 for the Advanced Tai Chi.

2. **Nutrition Counseling:**

   Currently 10 customers are actively receiving in depth Nutrition Counseling. Counseling focuses on healthy lifestyle changes related to each customer’s unique therapeutic need. Weight management, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and malnutrition risk due to advanced aging are the most common conditions affecting our customers.

3. **Food Distributions:**

   On 12/10, 204 families participated in our drive through pantry at the Produce Auction. Bulk pickups for an additional 20 Mennonite families, 10 Head Start Families, and 11 Children and Family Services Families also occurred.

   Foodlink reached out and is planning for distributions in January and February. Due to weather concerns both will be held at the Town of Starkey Highway Department. As soon as the dates are confirmed, sign-ups will be made available.

4. **Staffing Updates:**

   Connie Glover’s last day at the Hope Center was 12/31. On 1/19 Melissa Hope will start as the new full time Hope Center Coordinator. This expanded role will allow for more case management and follow up services.

   Isabella Haber’s last day was 12/24 and we are conducting interviews for the Emergency Service Outreach Coordinator position. We hope to have a new coordinator in place by 1/18. Ashley Beach and Pam Swarthout are covering emergency service and SNAP application calls in the meantime.
5. **Senior Nutrition:**

Due to a staff from our central kitchen testing positive for COVID-19 we suspended services until staff can return from quarantine. In March we provided all HDM customers with enough shelf stable emergency meals to cover a 2-week suspension of services.

All customers were called and instructed to use their emergency meals. 12 customers reported already using their emergency meals and were provided with additional food from the Hope Center. Those 12 customers are also being linked with the Hope Center and offered assistance with SNAP applications to help address their food insecurity.

Most staff are cleared to return on 1/5 and the program will resume at that time. We anticipate a new set of emergency meals being delivered to customers by mid-January.

6. **Transportation:**

November - OFA Transportation Program provided 130 one-way medical rides. These rides included medical appointments to Canandaigua, Geneva, Clifton Springs, Rochester, Hammondsport, and Penn Yan. There were 4 outpatient procedures that OFA transported patients to and from. There were 24 one-way rides provided for grocery shopping, hair appointments, banks and other non-medical related trips.

December – As of 12/30 82 one-way medical trips covering appointments in Penn Yan, Canandaigua, Clifton Springs, and Geneva were provided. We have also added another dialysis rider who we pick up at Geneva Dialysis 2 afternoons a week and bring them home to Penn Yan.

**Other:**

1. **Fiscal and Contract Update:**

NYSOFA’s 20% funding cut was restored by NYS for this fiscal year. We anticipate a 20% cut to those state funds for our year starting 4/1/21 and we have Federal CARES funding that will be used to close those gaps. Where appropriate, services were restored to those that saw a reduction.

2. **Customer Satisfaction:**

We are conducting our annual review of customer feedback at our January staff meeting. Any trends, areas of concern, or changes made based on the customer feedback will be provided to you with our February report.
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Notes:
1. Not included in totals.

Attorneys assigned cases:
- Trial Level: Criminal 11, Family 15
- Appeal: Criminal 4, Family 2
## Public Defender
### Report for Month of December, 2020

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**Notes:**
1. Not included in totals.

*Note:* I ran a separate report for "closed" cases in each month. Previously I was running a report of cases that were opened & closed in each month. Sue Jacobson 12/2/20
### Non-Competitive Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Grant Term</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Claimed</th>
<th>Balance Remaining</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dist. #1</td>
<td>June 1, 2011 - May 31, 2012</td>
<td>$7,134.00</td>
<td>$1,155.19</td>
<td>$5,978.81</td>
<td>Grant closed with funds unspent.</td>
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<td>Dist. #2</td>
<td>June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2015</td>
<td>$48,684.00</td>
<td>$19,994.63</td>
<td>$28,689.37</td>
<td>YC does not have additional expenditures.</td>
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<td>Dist. #3</td>
<td>June 1, 2013 - May 31, 2016</td>
<td>$48,684.00</td>
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<td>YC does not have expenditures applicable to this time period.</td>
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<td>Dist. #4</td>
<td>January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2016</td>
<td>$48,684.00</td>
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<td>YC does not have expenditures applicable to this time period.</td>
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<td>Dist. #5</td>
<td>January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2017</td>
<td>$97,368.00</td>
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<td>YC does not have expenditures applicable to this time period.</td>
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<td>Dist. #6</td>
<td>January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018</td>
<td>$48,684.00</td>
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<td>YC does not have expenditures applicable to this time period.</td>
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<td>Dist. #7</td>
<td>January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2020</td>
<td>$48,684.00</td>
<td>$22,875.00</td>
<td>$25,809.00</td>
<td>Claim for $12,125 received 9/4/2020. Need to verify that contract grant term was extended to December 31, 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dist. #8</td>
<td>January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2020</td>
<td>$64,912.00</td>
<td>$64,912.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>Grant Expired. Claim for $32,456 received 9/3/2020.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Dist. #9</td>
<td>January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2021</td>
<td>$48,684.00</td>
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<td>$48,684.00</td>
<td>First claim to be submitted after December 2020; will include James's salary.</td>
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<td>Dist. #10</td>
<td>January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2022</td>
<td>$48,684.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$48,684.00</td>
<td>Fully executed contract received.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statewide (H-H Year 1)</td>
<td>April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2023</td>
<td>$347,233.80</td>
<td>$82,291.18</td>
<td>$264,942.62</td>
<td>Claim for $65,559.23 received 10/6/2020.</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Claim for $16,731.95 received 12/8/2020.</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Submit claim for $33,679.29 for stipends in January.</td>
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### Competitive Grants

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<tr>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Grant Term</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<th>Balance Remaining</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Counsel at First Appearance (CAFA)</td>
<td>6/01/13 to 5/31/16 (Extended to 7/31/2019)</td>
<td>$156,200.00</td>
<td>$132,178.40</td>
<td>$24,021.60</td>
<td>Grant Expired. Claim for $3,517.55 received 11/2/2020.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upstate Quality Improvement and Caseload Reduction (Upstate QI)</td>
<td>1/01/14 to 12/31/16 (Extended to 12/31/18)</td>
<td>$122,111.00</td>
<td>$91,003.00</td>
<td>$31,108.00</td>
<td>Grant Expired.</td>
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<td>Second Upstate Quality Improvement &amp; Caseload Reduction (2nd Upstate QI)</td>
<td>7/01/17 to 6/30/21</td>
<td>$298,500.00</td>
<td>$92,402.43</td>
<td>$206,097.57</td>
<td>Claim for $12,000 received 8/5/2020. Submitted claim for $1,175.16 11/5/2020.</td>
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<td>Submitted claim for $1,550.00 11/19/2020.</td>
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### Year to Date Summary -

- Claims received: $174,845.73
- Submissions pending: $2,725.16
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<th>Grant</th>
<th>Date Submitted</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Date Received</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Dist. #8</td>
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<td>H-H Year 2</td>
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<td>Grant Expired ($0 unclaimed)</td>
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<td>Received $174,845.73</td>
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