



**Cortland County Health &
Human Services
Committee
Committee Meeting
~ Minutes ~**

60 Central Ave.
Cortland, NY 13045
www.cortlandcountyny.gov

Thursday, January 8, 2026

11:00 AM

Room 302

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 a.m. by Committee Chair Ronald J. Van Dee.

Roll Call

PRESENT:	Legislator Douglas Bentley, Legislator William McGovern, Legislator Christopher Newell, Legislator Jason Prentice, Legislator Keith VanGorder, Committee Vice Chair Sandra Price, Committee Chair Ronald J. Van Dee
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ABSENT:

EXCUSED:

Others Present:

Ashley Millard	Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Patricia Schaap	Director of Community Services
Amber Giamei	Director of the Office for the Aging
Kristen Monroe	Commissioner of Social Services
Amy Buggs	Workforce Development Director
Shannon Phillips	Employment & Training Director
Nicole Anjeski	Public Health Director
Thomas Tedesco	Veterans Services Director
Rebecca Main	Public Health Program Manager
Reed Cleland	Legislator
Katee Padbury	Health Department Programs Coordinator
Carl Bush	Clear Path
Michael Ponticiello	County Administrator
(Arrived Late 11:40 a.m.)	
Kim Cameron	Cortland County Resident

Approval of Minutes

1. **December 4, 2025 Health & Human Services Committee Minutes**

RESULT:	APPROVED
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Roll Call

Resolutions

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.

Appoint Older Americans Act Advisory Council – Office for Aging

WHEREAS, the By-Laws of the Older Americans Act Advisory Council of the Cortland County Office for Aging state membership shall be 15-25 voting members with at least fifty percent of the membership to be at least sixty years of age that represent target group seniors according to the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, and shall also include representatives of health care provider organizations, including veterans and supportive services provider organizations, be broadly representative of all aspects of the county, and include local elected official and the general public; AND

WHEREAS, Article 4, Section 4, states the term shall be for three years, or appointed to complete a term of a person who has resigned, the new person's length of term is defined as the period of the original member's term, with a maximum of two consecutive terms; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that the following appointments be appointed/reaffirmed:

Mary Kimberly – Community Member (1st Term)

Term to expire 12/31/28

Lenore Schwager – Community Member (1st Term)

Term to expire 12/31/28

Ex-Officio:

Chris Newell-Cortland County Legislator

Sheila Cohen – Former Chair Nominating Committee

RESULT:	APPROVED (7 TO 0)
MOVER:	Legislator Sandra Price
SECONDER:	Legislator William McGovern
AYES:	Douglas Bentley, William McGovern, Christopher Newell, Jason Prentice, Keith VanGorder, Ronald VanDee, Sandra Price
NAYS:	None
EXCUSED:	
ABSENT:	

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2.

Authorize Agreement for Contractual Psychologist - Mental Health Department

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Department is in need of a psychologist to provide required NYS CPL 730 evaluations; AND

WHEREAS, Dr. Karl Schmitt, a licensed Psychologist, is a contractor selected to provide this service to the Mental Health Department; AND

WHEREAS, Dr. Karl Schmitt will provide CPL 730 evaluations at the rate of \$200/hr; AND

WHEREAS, funds are budgeted for these services in the 2026 Cortland County Budget in Account A43115.54615; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review by the County Attorney or designee, be and hereby is authorized to enter into a three (3) year agreement with Dr. Karl Schmitt, Psy.D. for the Mental Health Department CPL 730 evaluation services.

RESULT:	APPROVED (7 TO 0)
MOVER:	Legislator Sandra Price
SECONDER:	Legislator Douglas Bentley
AYES:	Douglas Bentley, William McGovern, Christopher Newell, Jason Prentice, Keith VanGorder, Ronald VanDee, Sandra Price
NAYS:	None
EXCUSED:	
ABSENT:	

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3.

Accept New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) State Aid for Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) and Enhanced Voluntary Agreement (EVA) Infrastructure 2026- Mental Health Department

WHEREAS, the County of Cortland recognizes the importance of maintaining and strengthening community-based mental health services; AND

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH) has made available funding to support Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) and Enhanced Voluntary Agreement (EVA) infrastructure initiatives; AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County Mental Health Department has been identified as an appropriate recipient and administrator of said funds to support the planning, development, enhancement, and/or maintenance of AOT and EVA infrastructure; AND

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Mental Health has awarded funding in the amount of \$333,208 to Cortland County Mental Health Department for these purposes; AND

WHEREAS, acceptance of this funding will enhance the County's ability to support individuals with serious mental illness, improve service coordination, and strengthen required infrastructure related to AOT and EVA; AND

WHEREAS, no local matching funds are required, and the revenue will be in A43105-43490; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature hereby authorizes the acceptance of \$333,208 in funding from the New York State Office of Mental Health by Cortland County Department of Mental Health for the purpose of supporting AOT and EVA infrastructure; AND BE IT

FURTHER

RESOLVED, that Cortland County Mental Health Department is authorized to administer and expend said funds in accordance with NYS OMH requirements and applicable state and county laws, rules, and regulations; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

RESULT:	APPROVED (7 TO 0)
MOVER:	Legislator Douglas Bentley
SECONDER:	Legislator Christopher Newell
AYES:	Douglas Bentley, William McGovern, Christopher Newell, Jason Prentice, Keith VanGorder, Ronald VanDee, Sandra Price
NAYS:	None
EXCUSED:	
ABSENT:	

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4.

Amend Resolution No. 119-25 - Advancing Tobacco Free Communities Program (ATFC) Grant Approval Requirement

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 119-25 the Cortland County Legislature authorized agreements for the Advancing Tobacco Free Communities Program (ATFC) administered by the Cortland County Health Department; AND

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 119-25 included language stating that applications received from eligible community organizations would be reviewed “with approval from the New York State Bureau of Tobacco Control”; AND

WHEREAS, subsequent correspondence from the New York State Department of Health has clarified that such Bureau of Tobacco Control approval is not required for Cortland County to review, select, and contract with eligible recipient organizations under the ATFC grant; AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature now wishes to amend Resolution No. 119-25 to reflect this clarification; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that Resolution No. 119-25 is hereby amended to remove the requirement that proposals or agreements under the Advancing Tobacco Free Communities Program receive approval from the New York State Bureau of Tobacco Control; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that Cortland County, through the Health Department, may review proposals and select eligible community organizations in accordance with the terms of the ATFC grant and applicable County policies, without additional approval from the New York State Bureau of Tobacco Control; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that all other provisions of Resolution No. 119-25 shall remain in full force and effect.

RESULT:	APPROVED (7 TO 0)
MOVER:	Legislator Sandra Price
SECONDER:	Legislator Douglas Bentley
AYES:	Douglas Bentley, William McGovern, Christopher Newell, Jason Prentice, Keith VanGorder, Ronald VanDee, Sandra Price
NAYS:	None
EXCUSED:	
ABSENT:	

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5.

Award Bid/Authorize Agreement — Access to Independence for Advancing Tobacco Free Communities Program Mini-Grant - Health Department

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health has awarded Cortland County funding of the Advancing Tobacco Free Communities Grant (ATFC), Contract C40621GM for \$1,675,000 for the contract period of 5/1/2025-4/30/2030; AND

WHEREAS, the ATFC grant requires Cortland County to provide a minimum of \$35,000 each grant year within the 5-year grant cycle to one or more community organizations within its catchment area (Cortland, Tompkins and Chenango Counties) in support of addressing one or more work plan deliverables; AND

WHEREAS, the contract organizations should serve individuals/communities most impacted by tobacco-related morbidity and mortality; AND

WHEREAS, the County Issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the ATFC Program mini-grant; AND

WHEREAS, all proposals were solicited in accordance with County policy; AND

WHEREAS, one proposal was received and the contractor's proposal meets all of the County's requirements to receive grant funding; AND

WHEREAS, the funding for this agreement is available in account number A40455.54815; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the contract for the ATFC Program mini-grant be and hereby is awarded to Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc., 26 North Main Street, Cortland, NY 13045 in the amount of \$35,000 as allocated through the ATFC grant; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, the Legislature authorized the County Administrator, upon review and approval of the County Attorney or designee, to enter into an agreement with Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc., 26 North Main Street, Cortland, NY 13045, for the term of February 1, 2026 through April 30, 2026.

RESULT:	APPROVED (7 TO 0)
MOVER:	Legislator Douglas Bentley
SECONDER:	Legislator Christopher Newell
AYES:	Douglas Bentley, William McGovern, Christopher Newell, Jason Prentice, Keith VanGorder, Ronald VanDee, Sandra Price
NAYS:	None
EXCUSED:	
ABSENT:	

Discussion Items

Monthly Reports

1. Health Department Monthly Report

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.



**Cortland County Health &
Human Services
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Committee Meeting
~ Minutes ~**

60 Central Ave.
Cortland, NY 13045
www.cortlandcountyny.gov

Thursday, December 4, 2025

11:00 AM

Room 302

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Committee Chair Ronald J. Van Dee.

Roll Call

PRESENT:	Legislator Reed Cleland, Legislator William McGovern, Legislator Christopher Newell, Legislator Jason Prentice, Committee Vice-Chair Keith VanGorder, Committee Chair Ronald VanDee, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature Ashley Millard, County Administrator Executive Assistant Wendy Canfield, Clerk of the Legislature Savannah Hempstead, Commissioner of the Department of Social Services Kristen Monroe, Child Advocacy Center Director Kristen Beard, Director of Community Services Patricia Schaap, Workforce Development Board Director Amy Buggs, Seven Valleys Health Coalition Carol Costell Corbin, Trellis Marketing Director of Business Development Amanda Lucchino, Remote: County Attorney Executive Assistant Nicole Compton, Finance Director Andrea Herzog, Education & Training Director Shannon Phillips
ABSENT:	
EXCUSED:	Legislator Douglas Bentley

Approval of Minutes

1. November 6, 2025 - Health & Human Services Committee Minutes

RESULT:	APPROVED
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Resolutions

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.

Authorize Agreement for Legal Services - Department of Social Services

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services has had difficulty filling vacant Attorney positions and must meet deadlines involving appeals and other urgent matters; AND

WHEREAS, the Department is seeking an independent Attorney or law firm to assist with essential legal matters that are time sensitive; AND

WHEREAS, the funding needed for this Agreement will be in the budget due to position vacancies and moved from the Personal Services Account A60105.51005 to the Professional Services account A60105.54055; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, the County Administrator, upon review and approval by the County Attorney or designee, be and hereby is authorized to enter into an agreement for the time period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 with a qualified legal entity in an amount not to exceed \$50,000; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance is authorized and directed to transfer \$50,000 from Personal Services Account A60105.51005 to the Professional Services account A60105.54055.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6 TO 0)
MOVER:	Legislator Jason Prentice
SECONDER:	Legislator Christopher Newell
AYES:	Reed Cleland, William McGovern, Christopher Newell, Jason Prentice, Keith VanGorder, Ronald VanDee
NAYS:	None
EXCUSED:	Douglas Bentley
ABSENT:	

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2.

Reappoint Members Community Services Board and Mental Health Subcommittee

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the Cortland County Community Services Board (CSB), Article 3, Section 1 states that membership of the organization shall consist of fifteen (15) members appointed by the Cortland County Legislature, and Article 7, Section 1 states that the membership of the Mental Health (MH) Subcommittees shall consist of nine (9) members each, appointed by the Cortland County Legislature; AND

WHEREAS, the term of each member of the Board and Subcommittees shall be four (4) years except when completing the term created by a member's resignation or death; AND

WHEREAS, members may serve for a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms unless no recruitment is available; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the following members be and hereby are reappointed to the Cortland County Community Services Board and Mental Health Subcommittees for a second four-year term beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2029.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD (CSB):

REAPPOINT

Jackie Cooper	189 Green Lake Rd., Little York Lake, NY 13087	Coalition Representative
Janet Johnson	2251 Greenwood Rd., Cortland NY 13045	Retired Medical Doctor

MENTAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE (MH):
REAPPOINT

Alexandra Mikowski	98 Owego St, Cortland NY 13045	Peer Advocate and Agency Executive
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RESULT:	APPROVED (6 TO 0)
MOVER:	Legislator Reed Cleland
SECONDER:	Legislator Christopher Newell
AYES:	Reed Cleland, William McGovern, Christopher Newell, Jason Prentice, Keith VanGorder, Ronald VanDee
NAYS:	None
EXCUSED:	Douglas Bentley
ABSENT:	

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3.

Authorize Contract with Eves Digital - Child Advocacy Center

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Child Advocacy Center was awarded Safe Harbour Funds to maintain a system response for commercial sexual exploitation of children and child sexual abuse material including community awareness advertising; AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Child Advocacy Center desires to contract with Eves Digital, a Division of Eves Broadcasting Inc., Advertising of New York, Inc., 12 South Main Street, Homer, New York 13045 for the Radio and Social Media Advertising Services; AND

WHEREAS, the cost of the Radio Interviews, Ads, and Promos is \$3,500.00; AND

WHEREAS, the cost of the Streaming/Programmatic Displays is \$1,500.00; AND

WHEREAS, this contract shall be for the term January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 for a total cost not to exceed \$5,000; AND

WHEREAS, these expenses are budgeted in account Professional Services A40505-54060-SF; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review and approval by the County Attorney or designee, and subject to any appropriation of funding by the Legislature, are authorized

to execute agreements for the provision of said services.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6 TO 0)
MOVER:	Legislator William McGovern
SECONDER:	Legislator Jason Prentice
AYES:	William McGovern, Jason Prentice, Reed Cleland, Christopher Newell, Keith VanGorder, Ronald VanDee
NAYS:	None
EXCUSED:	Douglas Bentley
ABSENT:	

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4.

Abolish Assistant Director of Administrative Services/Create Accounting Manager- Department of Social Services

WHEREAS, the needs of the agency will be better served by abolishing one position of Assistant Director of Administrative Services and creating one position of Accounting Manager;
AND

WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services Committee recommends the abolishment and creation of these positions; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that one position of Assistant Director of Administrative Services (Grade 10, \$60,854-80,995, Management Compensation Plan, competitive class, full-time, 35 hours/week with benefits) be abolished effective July 31, 2026; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that one position of Accounting Manager (Grade 20, \$29.0528-36.7735/hr, CSEA, competitive class, full-time, 35 hours/week with benefits), be created with approval to fill on January 5, 2026.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6 TO 0)
MOVER:	Legislator Christopher Newell
SECONDER:	Legislator William McGovern
AYES:	Reed Cleland, William McGovern, Christopher Newell, Jason Prentice, Keith VanGorder, Ronald VanDee
NAYS:	None
EXCUSED:	Douglas Bentley
ABSENT:	

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5.

Authorize Agreement with Cayuga Addiction Recovery Services (CARS) for 2026 NYS OASAS State Aid - Mental Health Department

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Mental Health Department receives pass-through funding from OASAS and OMH for agencies to provide mental health and substance use services; AND

WHEREAS, the Office of Addiction Services and Support (OASAS) has made an addition to the State Aid pass through amount for 2026; AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County Mental Health Department will enter into a contract with Cayuga Addiction Recovery Services (CARS) to pass through funding from OASAS in the amount of \$283,854 in line item A43105.54815.CARS; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the contract with CARS be added to acceptance of NYS OASAS State Aid funding for 2026; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, the 2026 budget be amended as follows:
Increase:

A43105.43492 OASAS State Aid \$283,854

A43105.54815.CARS	Contracted Agencies	\$283,854
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; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review and approval by the County Attorney or designee, is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with CARS to provide the above referenced services for an amount not to exceed \$283,854 for calendar year 2026.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6 TO 0)
MOVER:	Legislator Christopher Newell
SECONDER:	Legislator Reed Cleland
AYES:	Reed Cleland, William McGovern, Christopher Newell, Jason Prentice, Keith VanGorder, Ronald VanDee
NAYS:	None
EXCUSED:	Douglas Bentley
ABSENT:	

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6.

Amend 2025 County Budget - Department of Social Services

WHEREAS, expenditures for Daycare cases, Child Care out of home placements for children, Safety Net cash assistance, and Other Compensation are continuing to increase this year and are expected to exceed the amount appropriated in our 2025 budget; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the 2025 County Budget be and hereby is amended as follows:

INCREASE:

EXPENDITURES:

A60105.56055 Daycare current \$2,080,000 INCREASE \$245,000 new = \$2,325,000

A60105.56119 Child Care current \$6,508,222 INCREASE \$523,000 new = \$7,031,222

A60105.56140 Safety Net current \$3,855,804 INCREASE \$732,000 new = \$4,617,804

A60105.51035 Other Compensation current \$200,000 INCREASE \$46,000 new = \$246,000

DECREASE:

EXPENDITURES:

A60105.51005 Personal Service current \$6,481,628 DECREASE \$450,000 new = \$6,031,628

A60105.51015 Temporary Payroll current \$47,809 DECREASE \$33,000 new = \$14,809

A60105.58060 Health Insurances current \$1,270,763 DECREASE \$100,000 new = \$1,170,763

A60105.58030 FICA current \$524,783 DECREASE \$55,000 new = \$469,783

A60105.56123 Juvenile Delinquent current \$66,000 DECREASE \$56,000 new= \$10,000

A60105.56129 State Training current \$276,000 DECREASE \$60,000 new = \$216,000

A60105.56070 Purchase of Service current \$1,246,386 DECREASE \$250,000 new = \$996,386

A60105.56119. Child Care RTA current \$738,000 DECREASE \$542,000 new = \$196,000

RESULT:	APPROVED (6 TO 0)
MOVER:	Legislator Christopher Newell
SECONDER:	Legislator Reed Cleland
AYES:	Reed Cleland, William McGovern, Christopher Newell, Jason Prentice, Keith VanGorder, Ronald VanDee
NAYS:	None
EXCUSED:	Douglas Bentley
ABSENT:	

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.

Authorize Lease Extension with 91-101 Main Street, LLC

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature adopted Resolution No. 141-25, authorizing a further lease extension at 91-101 Main Street, LLC through December 31, 2025; AND

WHEREAS, there is a need to extend the lease contract by six (6) months from December 31, 2025 to June 30, 2026 with no increase in rent; AND

WHEREAS, the parties have agreed that upon 45 days' notice, Cortland County may terminate the lease agreement on or after April 30, 2026 (resulting in a minimum of a four [4] month extension); NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon approval of the County Attorney or designee, is hereby authorized to execute an extension on the current lease for 91-101 Main Street, LLC through June 30, 2026 with no increase in rent and with a provision that the lease may be terminated on or after April 30, 2026 upon 45 days' written notice to the landlord.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6 TO 0)
MOVER:	Legislator Christopher Newell
SECONDER:	Legislator Jason Prentice
AYES:	Reed Cleland, William McGovern, Christopher Newell, Jason Prentice, Keith VanGorder, Ronald VanDee
NAYS:	None
EXCUSED:	Douglas Bentley
ABSENT:	

ON MOTION OF RONALD VANDEE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.

Authorize Agreement and Use of Opioid Settlement Funding for Grace Space Expanded Hours

WHEREAS, Resolution Nos. 238-21, 287-21, and 211-24 authorized Cortland County to accept settlement funds from legal actions against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and chain pharmacies; AND

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 171-22 established Special Reserve Account A386300.OPD for the purpose of receiving and disbursing all opioid settlement funds, and further directed that such monies be set aside to address the opioid crisis in Cortland County; AND

WHEREAS, there is currently \$107,775.53 in unallocated funding in the Special Reserve Account A386300.OPD; AND

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 171-22, all expenditures from Special Reserve Account A386300.OPD must comply with the guidelines set forth by the New York State Office of the Attorney General and be approved by the Cortland County Legislature; AND

WHEREAS, the Grace Space program provides essential support, resources, and safe engagement opportunities for individuals impacted by substance use disorder; AND

WHEREAS, the Rural Health Institute of New York (RHI) currently operates the Grace Space program and is positioned to provide the staffing and oversight necessary to support the

expansion of morning hours during the Code Blue period; AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County recognizes the need to expand morning hours at the Grace Space to better serve individuals in recovery and enhance the County's overall response to the opioid crisis; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature hereby authorizes the use of \$26,788 in opioid settlement funds from Special Reserve Account A386300.OPD to support expanded Grace Space hours from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, for the period of January 1, 2026 through April 30, 2026, as a one-time funding allocation; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the use of these funds is determined to be in accordance with the expenditure guidelines established by the New York State Office of the Attorney General as referenced in Resolution No. 171-22; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review and approval by the County Attorney or designee, is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with RHI to provide the above referenced services for an amount not to exceed \$26,788, for the period of January 1, 2026 through April 30, 2026; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the 2026 Cortland County Budget be and hereby is amended as follows:

Increase:

A13255.54815.OPD	Contracted Agencies	\$26,788
A351100	Appropriated Reserves	\$26,788

RESULT:	APPROVED (6 TO 0)
MOVER:	Legislator Christopher Newell
SECONDER:	Legislator Jason Prentice
AYES:	Reed Cleland, William McGovern, Christopher Newell, Jason Prentice, Keith VanGorder, Ronald VanDee
NAYS:	None
EXCUSED:	Douglas Bentley
ABSENT:	

Presentations

1. Trellis Marketing Presentation

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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Discussion Items

Monthly Reports

1. Health Department Monthly Report

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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2. Child Advocacy Center Third Quarter Statistical Report

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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Adjournment

CORTLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Cortland County Health Department

Administration

Nicole Anjeski, MS, MPH

Public Health Director

Lisa Perfetti, BSN, RN

Deputy Public Health Director

Douglas MacQueen, MD, MS, FIDSA

Medical Consultant

Board of Health

Bonni C. Hodges, Ph.D., President

Susan Williams, Vice-President

Marisa Clifford, D.M.D.

Matthew Noble, D.O.

Erica Skipton, M.D.

Mary Wright, R.N.

Ronald VanDee, Legislator

Cheryl Mrozowski, Secretary



Health and Human Services Committee

January 2026

NYS experiencing large increase in Flu cases

Cortland County and communities across NYS are continuing to see an increase in flu cases, as well as ongoing cases of COVID-19 and RSV. It is important for residents to protect themselves and others within the community. The Cortland County Health Department encourages everyone to do their part in limiting the spread of respiratory illnesses like the flu, COVID-19 and RSV so that we can protect ourselves and protect our most vulnerable community members.

Steps to prevent severe illness, hospitalizations and death

Get vaccinated:

- Vaccines available in the U.S. are proven safe and effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalization and death from respiratory viruses. Vaccination is the most effective tool for preventing severe respiratory illnesses. To get the flu, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines, call your primary care provider or schedule your appointment with a local pharmacy.

Get tested if you are sick:

- Symptoms of COVID-19, flu, and RSV are often very similar. Getting tested can help your healthcare provider determine the right treatment plan.

Notify your healthcare provider of test results and get treatment:

- Notify your healthcare provider as soon as possible if you test positive for COVID-19 or Flu. There are treatments available for COVID-19 and Flu that can lower your chances of getting very sick or dying from these illnesses. These treatments work best when started shortly after you begin symptoms, so notify your healthcare provider as soon as possible.

Key prevention tips to limit the spread of these respiratory illnesses

- **Avoid close contact**
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
- **Stay home when you are sick**
 - If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading your illness to others.
- **Cover your mouth and nose**
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick. Respiratory viruses like Flu, COVID and RSV viruses spread mainly by droplets made when people with respiratory illnesses cough, sneeze or talk.

- **Clean your hands**
 - Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth**
 - Germs can be spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.
- **Practice other good health habits**
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

2025 Community Health Assessment and 2026-2030 Community Health Improvement Plan

The 2025 Community Health Assessment (CHA) is complete and submitted to the NYSDOH. The report will be available for public viewing by the end of January. The next steps will include completing the 2026-2030 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP); this will be submitted by June 2026.

CHIP priorities and goals for the 2026-2030 planning cycle were decided through combination of secondary data, primary data from the 2025 CHA survey, youth behavioral health data, community member perceptions, and key stakeholder input via the 2025 Key Stakeholder Health Prioritization Survey. All of these elements were used to assess health challenges, disparities, and local capacity to address these issues in Cortland County.

Due to resource and capacity considerations, not all health issues identified in the CHA were selected for inclusion in the CHIP; instead, priorities were chosen to maximize impact, align with existing partnerships, and address the most significant inequities identified across the Social Determinants of Health.

Final Priority and Goal Selection:

Domain: Social and Community Context

Priority #1: Substance Misuse and Overdose Prevention

- Goal: Reduce substance use, misuse, overdose and/or associated harms

Priority #2: Depression and Suicide

- Goal: Increase screening and treatment for depression in order to decrease prevalence
- Goal: Prevent Suicides

Priority #3: Tobacco/E-Cigarette Use

- Goal: Eliminate the harms caused by commercial tobacco product use and exposure

Domain: Economic Stability

Priority #4: Nutrition Security

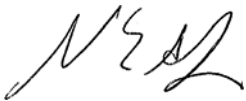
- Goal: Improve consistent and equitable access to healthy, affordable, safe, and culturally appropriate foods

Event Planning/Transportation Considerations are important and essential

Transportation is essential to health and wellness. When typically thinking about transportation access, this tends to be associated with going to work, appointments, and grocery stores, but what is often not always considered is transportation to public events. In discussions between the Health Department and the Planning Department's Connectivity Team, it is important to begin to adjust our mindset with key partners in planning and promotion of community events and outreach.

What this group would like to incorporate is an intentional step in the planning process (for these community events and outreach) to consider bus route timings when possible, aligning events (between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday) with these schedules. This will help ensure that participants can arrive and depart from the venue at reasonable times relative to the nearest bus stop. Additionally, when promoting these events and outreach, including the relevant servicing routes on all promotional materials.

Melissa Potter (Mobility Manager; mpotter@cortlandcountyny.gov) and Lillian Jensen (Mobility Coordinator; ljensen@cortlandcountyny.gov) are ready to support agencies and organizations in determining these details. Please contact them for more information.



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