



Health & Human Services Committee

Committee Meeting

60 Central Ave.
Cortland, NY 13045
<http://www.cortland-co.org>

~ Minutes ~

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

9:00 AM

Room 302

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Committee Chair Sandra Price

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Sandra Price	Cortland County, NY	Committee Chair	Present	
George Wagner	Cortland County, NY	Committee Member	Present	
Kelly L. Fairchild-Preston	Cortland County, NY	Committee Member	Excused	
Paul Heider	Cortland County, NY	Committee Member	Present	
Richard Stock	Cortland County, NY	Committee Member	Present	
Joseph Nauseef	Cortland County, NY	Committee Member	Present	
Savannah Hempstead	Cortland County, NY	Clerk of the Legislature	Present	
Rob Corpora	Cortland County, NY	County Administrator	Present	
Kimberly Bigladeri	Cortland County, NY	Deputy Clerk of the Legislature	Remote	
Kristen Beard	Cortland County, NY	Child Advocacy Center Coordinator	Present	
Kristen Monroe	Cortland County, NY	Commissioner of Social Services	Present	
Tom Tedesco	Cortland County, NY	Director of Veterans Services	Present	
Nicole Anjeski	Cortland County, NY	Public Health Director	Present	
Sharon MacDougall	Cortland County, NY	Director of Community Services	Present	
Pearl Reed-Klein	Cortland County, NY	Director, Office for Aging	Present	
Shannon Phillips	Cortland County, NY	Employment & Training Director	Present	
Amy Buggs	Cortland County, NY	Grants Administrator	Present	
Ronald J. Van Dee	Cortland County, NY	Board Member	Present	
Christopher Newell	Cortland County, NY	Board Member	Present	
Cathy Bischoff	Cortland County, NY	Board Member	Present	
Andrea Herzog	Cortland County, NY	Director of Finance	Present	

	NY			
Melanie Vilardi	Cortland County, NY	Deputy County Administrator	Present	
Victoria J. Monty	Cortland County, NY	County Attorney	Present	
Christopher Simser	Cortland County, NY	Chief Assistant County Attorney	Present	
Margaret Mellott	Cortland Standard	Reporter	Present	
Karl Schmidt	Cortland County, NY	Clinical Director	Remote	
Eddie Velazquez	Cortland Voice	Reporter	Remote	
Carlita Withers	Cortland County	Assistant Accountant	Remote	
Gail Spitzer	Cortland County, NY	Confidential Administrative Assistant	Remote	

Minutes Approval

1. Health & Human Services Committee - Committee Meeting - Oct 10, 2023 9:00 AM

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	George Wagner, Committee Member
SECONDER:	Joseph Nauseef, Committee Member
AYES:	Price, Wagner, Heider, Stock, Nauseef
EXCUSED:	Kelly L. Fairchild-Preston

Resolutions

Discussion Items

Monthly Reports

1. Statistics Third Quarter - Department of Social Services

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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2. Health and Human Services Committee Report November 2023 - Cortland County Health Department

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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Executive Session

It was MOVED by Mr. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Nauseef, and unanimously approved by voice vote of members present, to enter into an executive session for discussions regarding current litigation. MOTION CARRIED.

An executive session was held from 10:06 a.m. to 10:33 a.m., at which time on motion of Mr. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Nauseef, it was unanimously approved by voice vote to exit executive session.

Adjournment

The meeting was closed at 10:34 AM



Health & Human Services Committee

Committee Meeting

~ Minutes ~

60 Central Ave.
Cortland, NY 13045
<http://www.cortland-co.org>

2.1

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

9:00 AM

Room 302

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Committee Chair Sandra Price

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Sandra Price	Cortland County, NY	Committee Chair	Present	
George Wagner	Cortland County, NY	Committee Member	Present	
Kelly L. Fairchild-Preston	Cortland County, NY	Committee Member	Excused	
Paul Heider	Cortland County, NY	Committee Member	Present	
Richard Stock	Cortland County, NY	Committee Member	Excused	
Joseph Nauseef	Cortland County, NY	Committee Member	Present	
Kevin Fitch	Cortland County, NY	Chair of the Legislature	Present	
Rob Corpora	Cortland County, NY	County Administrator	Present	
Savannah Hempstead	Cortland County, NY	Clerk of the Legislature	Present	
Sharon MacDougall	Cortland County, NY	Director of Community Services	Present	
Patricia Schaap	Cortland County, NY	Deputy Director of Community Services	Present	
Tom Tedesco	Cortland County, NY	Director of Veterans Services	Present	
Christopher Newell	Cortland County, NY	Board Member	Present	
Shannon Phillips	Cortland County, NY	Employment & Training Director	Present	
Rebecca Main	Cortland County, NY	Public Health Program Manager	Present	
Nicole Anjeski	Cortland County, NY	Public Health Director	Present	
Kristen Monroe	Cortland County, NY	Commissioner of Social Services	Present	
Melanie Vilardi	Cortland County, NY	Deputy County Administrator	Present	
Cathy Bischoff	Cortland County, NY	Board Member	Present	
Jackie Leaf	Seven Valleys Health Coalition	Executive Director	Present	
Andrea Herzog	Cortland County, NY	Director of Finance	Remote	
Margaret Mellott	Cortland Standard	Reporter	Remote	
Pearl Reed-Klein	Cortland County, NY	Director, Area Agency on Aging	Present	
Karl Schmitt			Remote	
Jamee Sobko			Remote	
Amy Buggs	Cortland County, NY	Grants Administrator	Present	

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Oct 10, 2023 9:00 AM (Minutes Approval)

Minutes Approval

1. Health & Human Services Committee - Committee Meeting - Sep 12, 2023 9:00 AM

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Joseph Nauseef, Committee Member
SECONDER:	Paul Heider, Committee Member
AYES:	Sandra Price, George Wagner, Paul Heider, Joseph Nauseef
EXCUSED:	Kelly L. Fairchild-Preston, Richard Stock

Presentations

1. Crisis Services Presentation from Deputy Director of Community Services, Patty Schaap

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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Resolutions

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – Authorize Qualified Individual Assessment Contract - Department of Social Services

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
	Next: 10/17/2023 10:00 AM
MOVER:	Paul Heider, Committee Member
SECONDER:	Joseph Nauseef, Committee Member
AYES:	Sandra Price, George Wagner, Paul Heider, Joseph Nauseef
EXCUSED:	Kelly L. Fairchild-Preston, Richard Stock

ON MOTION OF PRICE

RESOLUTION NO.

Authorize Qualified Individual Assessment Contract - Department of Social Services

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Department of Social Services must be able to purchase Qualified Independent Assessments from State authorized individuals or agencies to comply with Families First legislation requirements for children placed in qualifying residential foster care centers, AND

WHEREAS, the payment rates for such services are negotiated as needed with qualified entities available and able to perform such assessments within required timeframes, AND

WHEREAS, the funds are expended once services are required and provided, AND

WHEREAS, payments for such services are made from the A60105.54800 Program Expense account, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review by the County Attorney or designee, be and hereby is authorized and directed to execute contractual agreements in 2024 for Qualified Independent Assessments with individuals or agencies authorized by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the said agreements shall be contingent upon the approval of the County Attorney or designee and subject to appropriation of funding by the Legislature.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – Authorize Day Care Agreements - Department of Social Services

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Oct 10, 2023 9:00 AM (Minutes Approval)

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
	Next: 10/17/2023 10:00 AM
MOVER:	Paul Heider, Committee Member
SECONDER:	Joseph Nauseef, Committee Member
AYES:	Sandra Price, George Wagner, Paul Heider, Joseph Nauseef
EXCUSED:	Kelly L. Fairchild-Preston, Richard Stock

ON MOTION OF PRICE**RESOLUTION NO.****Authorize Day Care Agreements - Department of Social Services**

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Department of Social Services must be able to purchase day care services from day care centers to provide care for children eligible for the Low-Income Day Care and Temporary Assistance Day Care programs, AND

WHEREAS, the payment rates for such services are established by New York State as Child Care Market Rates, AND

WHEREAS, funds are expended once services are authorized, required, and provided, AND

WHEREAS, payments for day care services are made from one of the following accounts; A60105.56055, A60105.56070, or A60105.56119, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be and hereby is authorized and directed to execute contractual agreements for Day Care Services to be provided in 2024 with agencies/providers pursuant to criteria established by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the said agreements shall be contingent upon the approval of the County Attorney or designee and subject to appropriation of funding by the Legislature.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – Authorize Agreements - Work Experience Program - Department of Social Services

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
	Next: 10/26/2023 6:00 PM
MOVER:	Paul Heider, Committee Member
SECONDER:	George Wagner, Committee Member
AYES:	Sandra Price, George Wagner, Paul Heider, Joseph Nauseef
EXCUSED:	Kelly L. Fairchild-Preston, Richard Stock

ON MOTION OF PRICE**RESOLUTION NO.****Authorize Agreements - Work Experience Program - Department of Social Services**

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Department of Social Services is required to provide Work Experience activities as part of an Employment Plan required by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, AND

WHEREAS, there are no funds paid for such services, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Oct 10, 2023 9:00 AM (Minutes Approval)

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review by the County Attorney or designee, be and hereby is authorized and directed to execute contractual agreements for dates from 12/31/23 through 12/31/24 for work experience site placements with the following:

Cortland County Buildings and Grounds
 Cortland County Agency on Aging
 Cortland County Clerk
 Cortland County Employment and Training
 Cortland County Grants Administration
 Cortland County Health Department
 Cortland County Highway Department
 Cortland County Legislature
 Cortland County Mental Health Clinic
 Cortland County Personnel Department

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – Authorize Foster Care and Detention Agreements - Department of Social Services

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**

Next: 10/17/2023 10:00 AM

MOVER: George Wagner, Committee Member

SECONDER: Joseph Nauseef, Committee Member

AYES: Sandra Price, George Wagner, Paul Heider, Joseph Nauseef

EXCUSED: Kelly L. Fairchild-Preston, Richard Stock

ON MOTION OF PRICE

RESOLUTION NO.

Authorize Foster Care and Detention Agreements - Department of Social Services

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Department of Social Services must be able to purchase foster care, detention and adoption services for specialized care and placement of children, AND

WHEREAS, the payment rates for such services are established by New York State as Maximum State Aid Rates, AND

WHEREAS, the funds are expended once services are required and provided, AND

WHEREAS, payments for such services are made from one of the following accounts; A60105.56109, A60105.56119, or A60105.56123, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review by the County Attorney or designee, be and hereby is authorized and directed to execute contractual agreements in 2024 for foster care, detention and adoption services with licensed agencies and/or foster care parents licensed or otherwise authorized by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services AND, BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the said agreements shall be contingent upon the approval of the County Attorney or designee and subject to appropriation of funding by the Legislature.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – Authorize 2024 Contracts - Department of Social Services

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Oct 10, 2023 9:00 AM (Minutes Approval)

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

Next: 10/17/2023 10:00 AM

MOVER: George Wagner, Committee Member

SECONDER: Paul Heider, Committee Member

AYES: Sandra Price, George Wagner, Paul Heider, Joseph Nauseef

EXCUSED: Kelly L. Fairchild-Preston, Richard Stock

ON MOTION OF PRICE

RESOLUTION NO.

Authorize 2024 Contracts - Department of Social Services

WHEREAS, Cortland County Department of Social Services must execute several contracts for various administrative and program services for the calendar year 2024, AND

WHEREAS, such contracts, costs, terms, functional areas and associated account numbers are listed in the attached chart, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review by the County Attorney or designee and subject to appropriation of funding by the Legislature, be and hereby is authorized to execute agreements for or with the following for contract terms beginning on or after 12/31/23 and ending on or before 12/31/24:

Access to Independence, Inc.
 Catholic Charities
 Cayuga Addictions Recovery Services
 Cayuga Centers
 Child Development Council
 Children's Home of Wyoming Conference
 Community Action Program (CAPCO)
 Cortland County Area Agency on Aging
 Cortland County Central Services
 Cortland County District Attorney's Office
 Cortland County Employment and Training
 Cortland County Mental Health Department
 Cortland County Probation Department
 Cortland County Sheriff's Department
 Cortland County Veteran's Services Office
 Elmcrest Children's Services
 Family Counseling Services
 Hillside Children's Center
 J.M. Murray Center
 Jennifer Genovese, ACSW, LCSW
 Josie's Journey
 LabCorp
 Language Line
 L. Woerner, Inc d/b/a Home Care of Rochester
 Lifeline Systems, Inc.
 Salvation Army
 Staffing Healthcare Systems, Inc.
 Upstate Services Group
 YWCA

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 – Authorize 2024 Agreements (Several Agencies, Departments, Etc.) - Area Agency on Aging

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Oct 10, 2023 9:00 AM (Minutes Approval)

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

Next: 10/17/2023 10:00 AM

MOVER: George Wagner, Committee Member

SECONDER: Paul Heider, Committee Member

AYES: Sandra Price, George Wagner, Paul Heider, Joseph Nauseef

EXCUSED: Kelly L. Fairchild-Preston, Richard Stock

ON MOTION OF PRICE

RESOLUTION NO.

Authorize 2024 Agreements (Several Agencies, Departments, Etc.) - Area Agency on Aging

WHEREAS, Cortland County Area Agency on Aging and other departments must execute several contracts for various administrative and program services for the 2024 calendar year, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review and approval by the County Attorney or designee as to form and subject to any appropriation of funding by the Legislature, be and hereby is authorized to execute agreements through the end 2024 for or with the following:

Classen Home Health Association
 Cortland Chenango Rural Services, Inc. (LASS)
 Cortland Transit
 Center 4 Arts
 Comfort Keepers
 Cortland Park Rehabilitation & Nursing Facility
 Cortland Repertory Theatre
 Crown Park Rehabilitation and Nursing
 Guthrie Cortland Nursing & Rehabilitation Facility
 Elizabeth Brewster House
 Family Health Network
 Homemakers of Western New York (d/b/a Caregivers Home Care)
 Integrity Home Care Services
 J.M. Murray Center
 KPH Healthcare Services/Kinney Drugs
 Language Line
 Language Services Associates
 Resource Center for Independent Living
 Rural Roots Nutrition
 Scott United Methodist Church
 SEPP Corporation
 Seven Valley Health Coalition
 Syracuse University
 The Scott Club, Inc. (LASS)
 TLC Medical Transportation Services, Inc.
 Visiting Nurse Service of New York Choice
 Town of Preble (LASS)
 Town of Willet (LASS)
 Town of Truxton (LASS)

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Oct 10, 2023 9:00 AM (Minutes Approval)

Truxton United Methodist Church
 Virgil United Methodist Church (LASS)
 Walden Place
 Walgreens Co.
 Walmart Stores, Inc.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 – Authorize Agreement with Catholic Charities Emergency Housing - Department of Social Services

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
	Next: 10/17/2023 10:00 AM
MOVER:	Paul Heider, Committee Member
SECONDER:	George Wagner, Committee Member
AYES:	Sandra Price, George Wagner, Paul Heider, Joseph Nauseef
EXCUSED:	Kelly L. Fairchild-Preston, Richard Stock

ON MOTION OF PRICE

RESOLUTION NO.

Authorize Agreement with Catholic Charities Emergency Housing - Department of Social Services

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance requires counties to provide for emergency temporary housing pursuant to 18 NYCRR Part 352, AND

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services is authorized to enter into agreements for emergency shelter pursuant to 18 NYCRR Parts 491 and 900, AND

WHEREAS, Catholic Charities of Cortland County has the professional expertise in housing and supportive services to oversee a scattered emergency shelter program, AND

WHEREAS, the \$210,000.00 in funding needed for this Agreement is already appropriated in the Family Assistance Account A60105.56109 and the Safety Net Account A60105.56140, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review and approval by the County Attorney or designee, be and hereby is authorized to sign an Agreement for the time period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 with Catholic Charities of Cortland County in an amount not to exceed \$210,000.

Discussion Items

1. Questions or Comments from Committee Members on Individual Budgets

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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Monthly Reports

1. Health and Human Services Report October 2023 - Cortland County Health Department

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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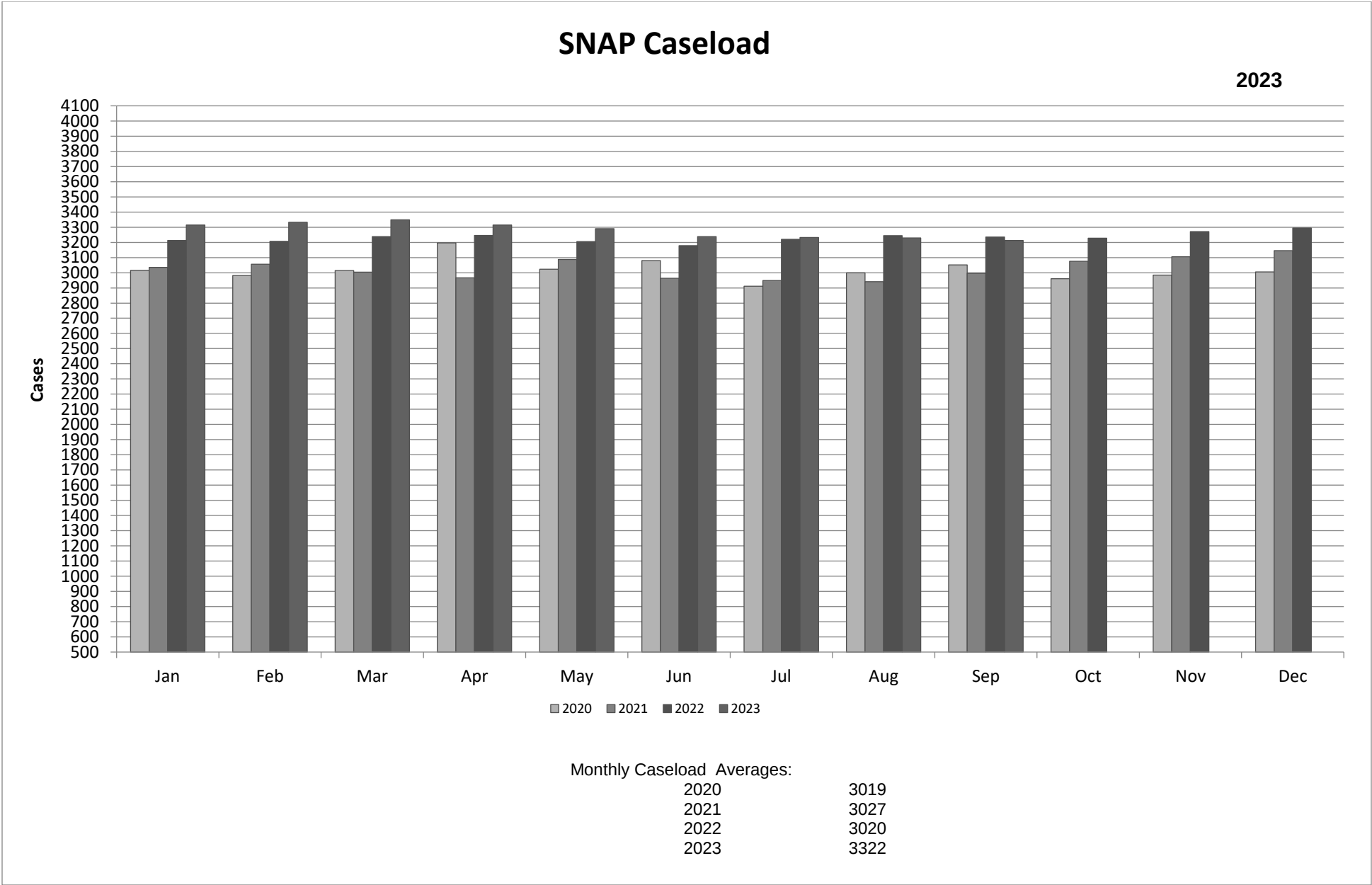
Adjournment

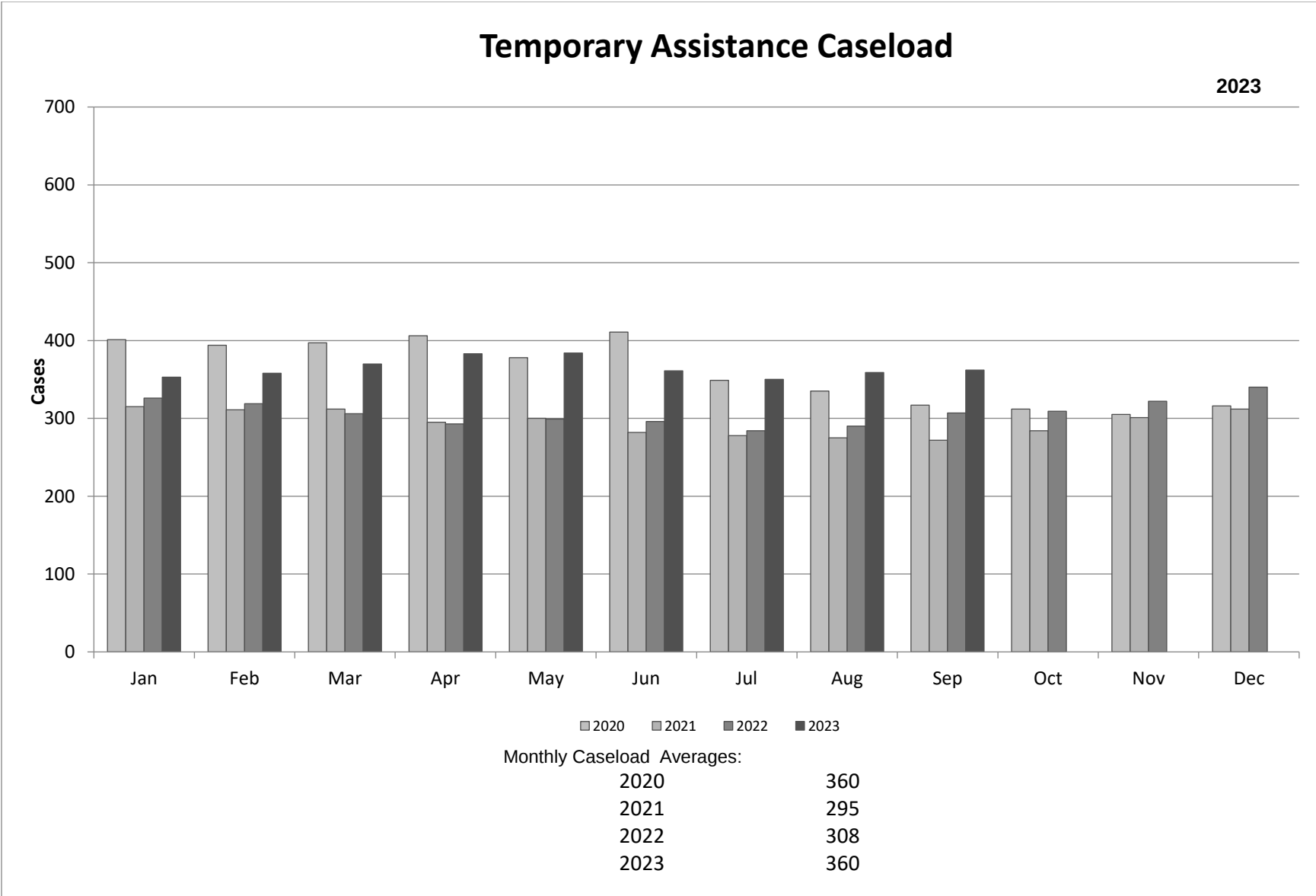
The meeting was closed at 10:01 AM

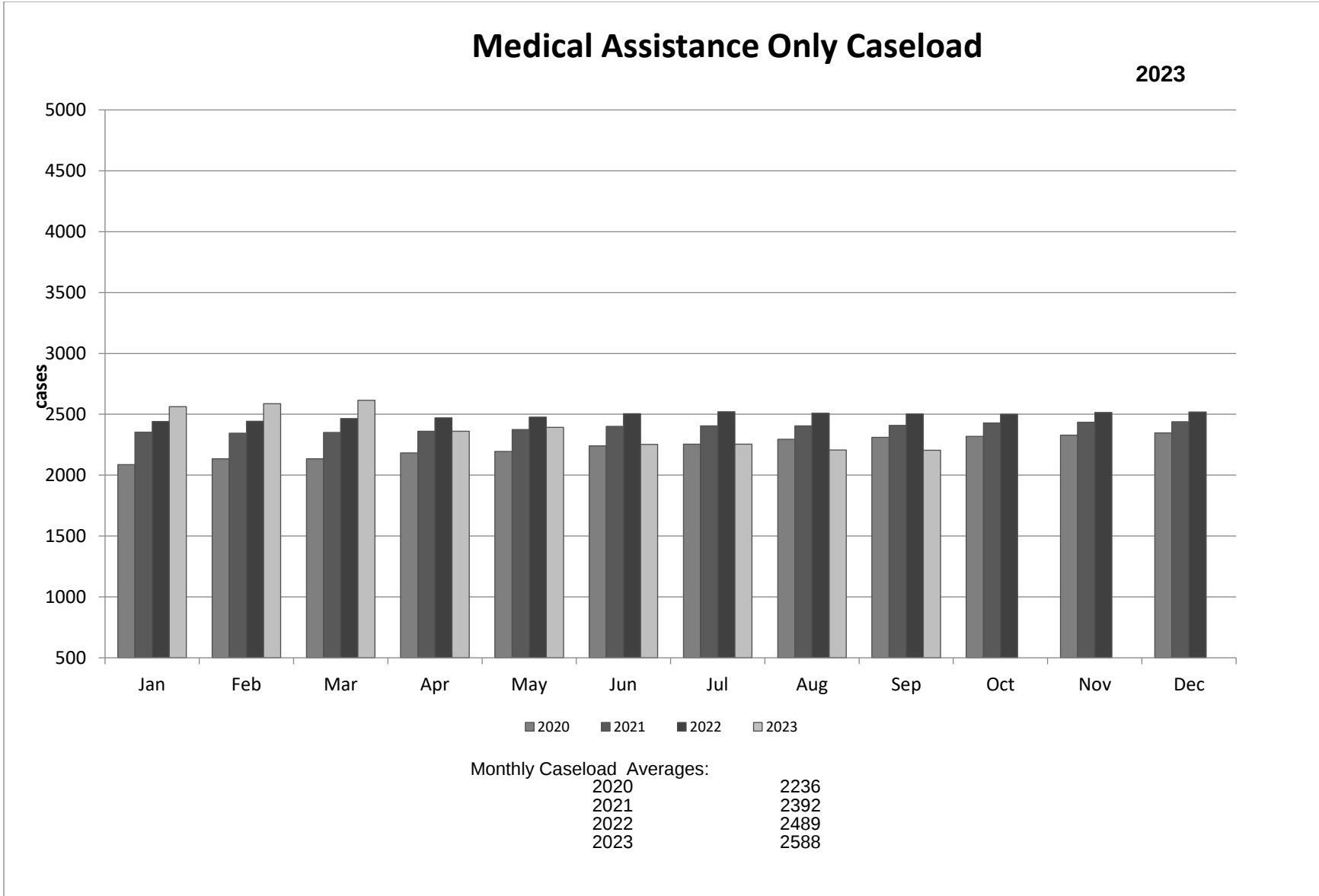
Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Oct 10, 2023 9:00 AM (Minutes Approval)

DSS Caseload Statistics

				2023								
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
TA Cases	309	322	340	353	358	370	383	384	361	350	359	362
SNAP Cases	3228	3271	3295	3315	3332	3349	3314	3291	3238	3233	3230	3213
Managed Care Individuals	10530	10573	10663	10719	10738	10831	10889	10946	11046	10791	10507	10263
MA Only Cases												
Medicaid MAGI	993	1006	1001	1007	1009	1012	736	745	618	610	559	558
Medicaid Chronic Care	1507	1509	1518	1556	1577	1603	1624	1648	1635	1645	1647	1687
MA/SSI Cases	1090	1082	1071	1069	1064	1060	1061	1066	1073	1072	1067	1068
MA Total Cases	3590	3597	3590	3632	3650	3675	3421	3459	3326	3327	3273	3313
Foster Care Total	88	98	98	94	95	100	99	104	98	97	99	95
Adult Services Cases	204	211	203	197	187	184	184	186	183	186	180	181
Long Term Care Cases	37	38	41	40	42	43	44	46	46	45	44	40
CPS Hotline Cases	98	105	87	98	79	88	98	94	61	70	99	90
Child Preventive Cases	100	90	86	91	86	90	86	80	79	76	79	71
Day Care Cases	92	99	93	108	117	124	131	146	147	149	147	138
Services Individual Total	1190	1235	1249	1264	1268	1291	1294	1313	1326	1333	1342	1280
Child Support Cases	2719	2690	2708	2707	2706	2699	2692	2673	2671	2662	2664	2651
Front End Detection Fraud Referrals (FEDS)	22	20	25	26	26	35	29	26	26	22	42	30
Fraud Under Care	5	6	1	2	6	4	3	3	2	0	1	0
Estimated Total Clients	12011	12180	12406	12637	12858	12982	12215	12613	12410	12469	12334	12303

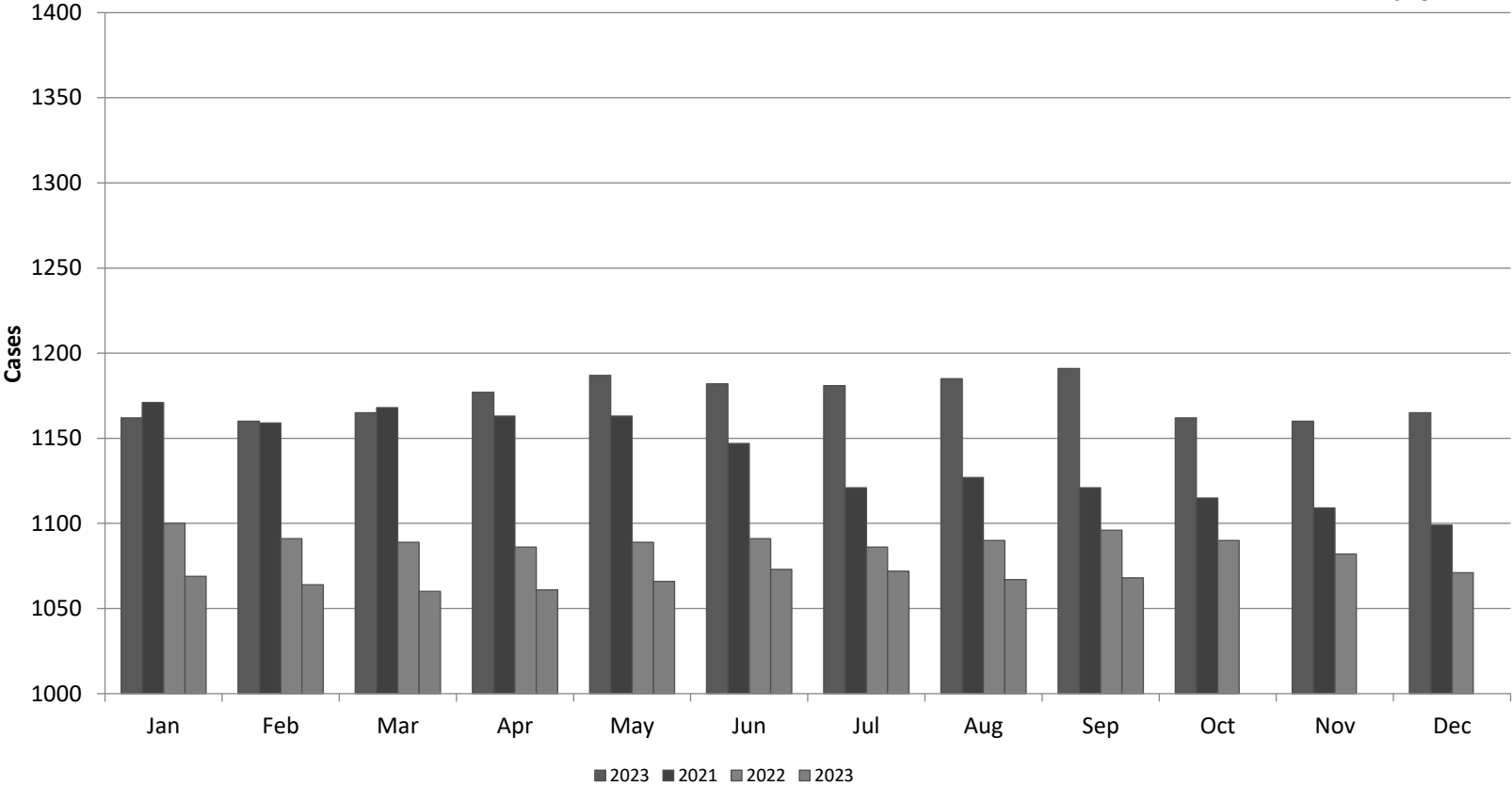






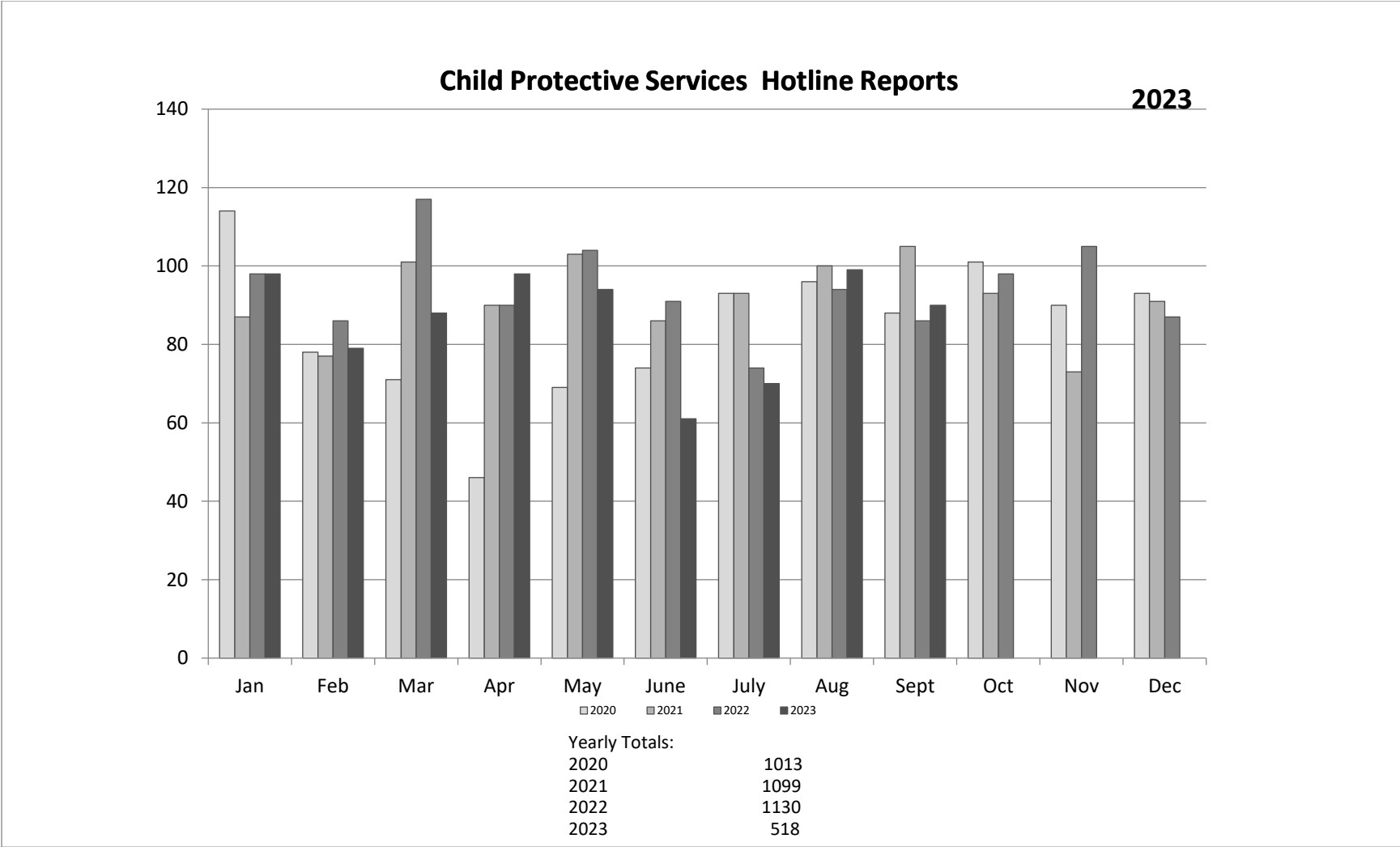
Medical Assistance - Supplemental Security Income Caseload

2023



Monthly Caseload Averages:

2020	1173
2021	1139
2022	1093
2023	1064





Cortland County Health Department

CORTLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
60 CENTRAL AVENUE
CORTLAND, NEW YORK 13045-2746
(607) 753-5036
FAX: (607) 753-5209
<http://www.cortland-co.org/432/Health-Department>

Nicole Anjeski, MS, MPH
Public Health Director
Lisa Perfetti, BSN, RN
Deputy Public Health Director
Ngozi Mezu-Patel, MD
Medical Advisor

Health and Human Services Committee Report November 2023

BOARD OF HEALTH

Bonni C. Hodges, Ph.D.
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Cheryl Mrozowski
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Cortland County's Health Department, Mental Health Department, and the Coroner's Office are reminding community members about secure gun storage practices and resources available if you, or someone you know, is experiencing a suicidal crisis or emotional distress. Suicide death from firearms is preventable

Community Members Should Know:

- Suicidal thoughts can be reduced with proper mental health support and treatment, and are not weaknesses or flaws.
- If you think that someone you know is thinking about suicide, assume you are the only one who will reach out.
- Ask them directly if they are thinking about suicide, this will not put the idea into their head or make it more likely that they will attempt suicide.
- Take all talk and their response seriously. A person who is thinking about suicide is experiencing a life threatening health crisis.
- Work with them to keep them safely away from lethal means like firearms and drugs. Stay with them and call or text 988 for the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Routine Firearm Storage:

Suicide by firearms is preventable. By keeping firearms securely stored, you can help reduce the number of suicides involving firearms. There are multiple methods to securely store guns that fit every lifestyle of gun owner. Gun storage options include:

- Cable Locks: a cable runs through the barrel of the gun to prevent it from being loaded and fired. Cable locks are available to community members for FREE email Haile Cutter at rcutter@cortland-co.org or call (607) 753-5027.
- Gun Case, Lock Boxes, Full Size Gun Safes: [Info Here](#)
- For the greatest level of safety, use a combination of storage methods above.
- More information on safe gun storage can be found: [Here](#)

For full press release: October 10, 2023-[Reminder on Secure Gun Storage, Suicide Prevention Resources Available](#)



WORKING TO BUILD A HEALTHY COMMUNITY SINCE 1929

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week-October 22-28, 2023

Each year, National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) is a call to bring together individuals, organizations, industry, and state, tribal, and local governments to increase lead poisoning prevention awareness in an effort to reduce childhood exposure to lead.

Highlighted Programs

Nursing: Lead Poisoning Prevention

Purpose

- The purpose of this program is to decrease environmental exposure to lead for children. One of the most common environmental toxins for young children in New York State, lead exposure can cause severe health and developmental effects.

Activities

- Establishing and coordinating activities to prevent lead poisoning and to minimize risk of exposure to lead.
- Promoting routine universal screening and testing for lead poisoning in children Coordinating case management for persons with elevated blood lead levels.
- Promoting lead screening of pregnant women and testing.



Environmental Health-Lead Poisoning Prevention

Purpose

- The purpose of this program is to identify sources of lead exposure, through environmental inspections, for children who have been identified as having lead poisoning and to ensure that information is available to the public regarding environmental sources of lead poisoning and safe renovation techniques.

Activities

- Risk Assessments to identify sources of lead exposure
- Provision of educational materials regarding the prevention of lead poisoning and guidelines for safe removal of lead paint during renovations.



*The Cortland County Health Department has been working on a childhood lead poisoning needs assessment. This is a review of local data, community member voices, and future recommendations. This needs assessment was a collaborative effort between the Nursing and Environmental Health Divisions. See the attached summary of Lead Poisoning in Cortland County. *The full needs assessment report will be available soon.*



Lead Poisoning
607-753-5036

OCTOBER 2023

LEAD POISONING IN CORTLAND COUNTY

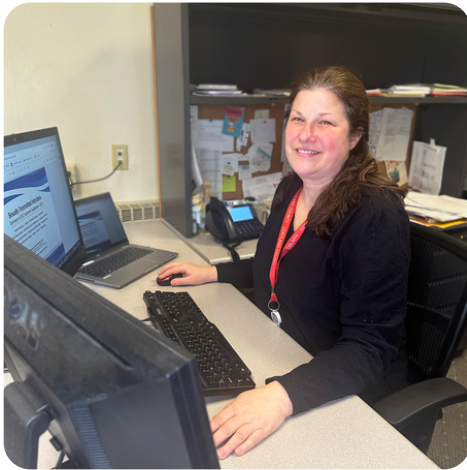
LOCAL DATA ON OUTCOMES AND RISK FACTORS,
INSIGHTS FROM A COMMUNITY PHOTOVOICE PROJECT,
AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

PREPARED BY:
CORTLAND COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Background

Since the early 90s, Cortland County Health Department has managed the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP). This program is funded through a NYSDOH grant. The goal of the program is to reduce the prevalence of Elevated Blood Lead Levels in children birth to 19 years. The program involves general education on lead poisoning, care coordination of children with elevated blood lead levels and environmental assessments of homes frequented by children with elevated blood lead levels.



Nursing Division

The Nursing Division at CCHD monitors all blood lead testing that occurs in the county. When a child with an elevated blood lead level is identified, our Public Health Nurses collaborate with healthcare providers and family members to educate and ensure testing continues until the child's level has returned to below the level of risk. A referral is also made for an environmental assessment.



Environmental Health Division

The Environmental Health Division at CCHD performs environmental assessments for homes where children identified as having a high blood lead level reside. Public Health Sanitarians assess and test the home for lead, communicate findings to home owners, and the plan of action to address the identified problem occurs.

PHOTOVOICE PROJECT

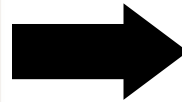
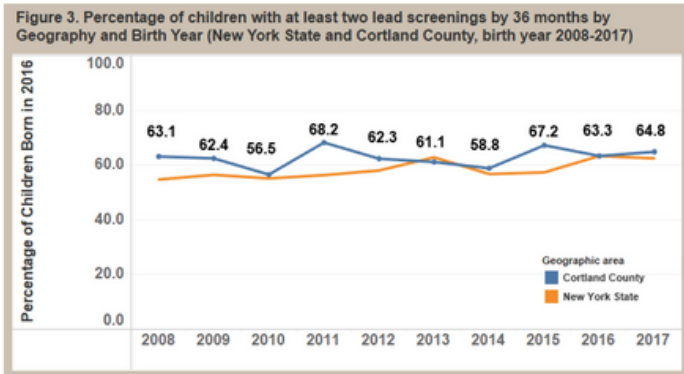
As part of the Needs Assessment on lead poisoning in the county, CCHD's SUNY Cortland intern implemented a photovoice project in order to center the voices of community members who have been personally impacted by lead poisoning. The project involved participant collection of photos in order to document how lead poisoning has impacted their life and a focus group where photos were discussed with parents of young children in the community.



Key Data Points - Outcomes

Two primary data points are used to track lead poisoning prevention in Cortland County: childhood testing and elevated blood lead levels.

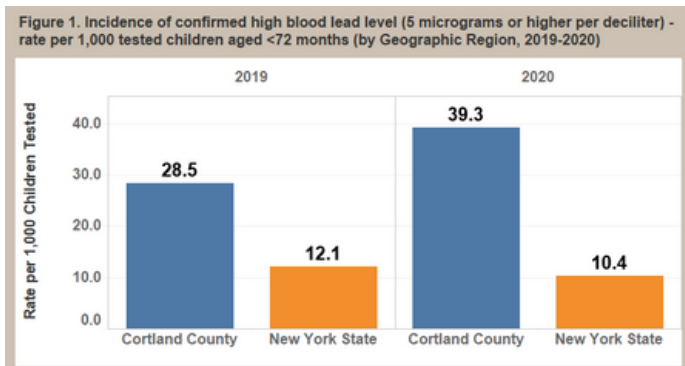
Lead Testing Data



64.8%

of Cortland County children born in 2017 had at least two lead screenings by age 3. Lead screenings identify children with high lead levels so steps can be taken to **prevent further exposure and reduce the damage lead poisoning has on a child's brain and nervous system.**

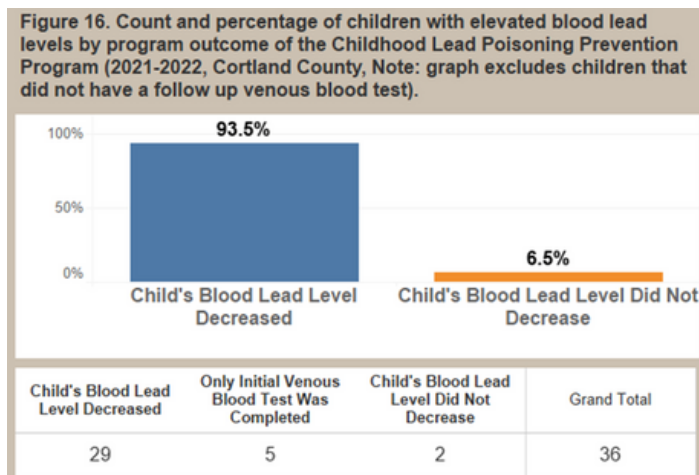
Elevated Blood Lead Level Data



39 FOR EVERY 1,000 CHILDREN TESTED

ages 6 or younger in Cortland County had a **high blood lead level** requiring case management and environmental assessment to **lower risk of damage to brain and nervous system**, slowed development, or other serious effects.

Cortland County Lead Program



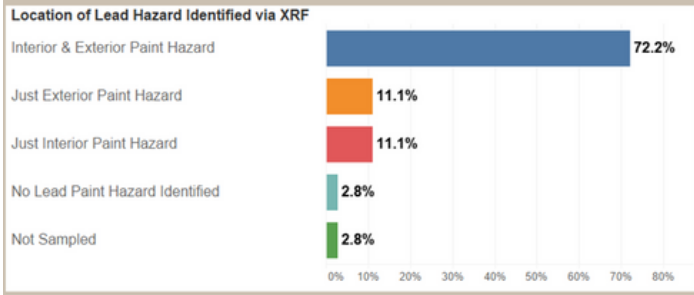
93.5%

of Cortland County children with elevated blood lead levels experienced a **decrease in blood lead level after becoming part of the Cortland County Lead Poisoning Prevention program.** The program provides nutrition and risk management educational and environmental assessment to reduce further harm from lead poisoning.

Key Data Points - Risk Factors

Local risk factor data can help us **target efforts** and resources where they are most needed and **track progress**.

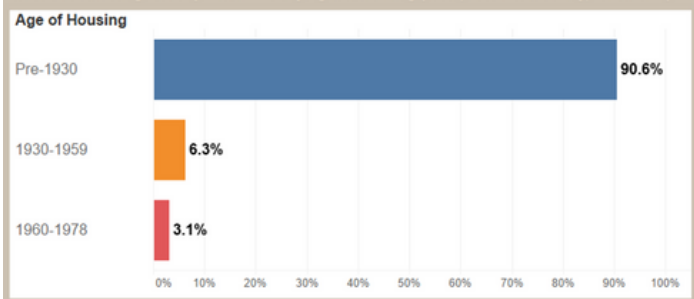
Figure 5. Percentage of children <6 years old with a venous-confirmed elevated blood lead level (5 micrograms or higher per deciliter) by locations of lead paint hazards identified via XRF sampling during environmental assessment of home (n=36, Cortland County, 2021-2022)



94.4%

of Cortland County children identified as having elevated blood lead levels in 2021–2022 **spent significant amounts of time at an home in which lead paint hazards were identified during environmental assessment.**

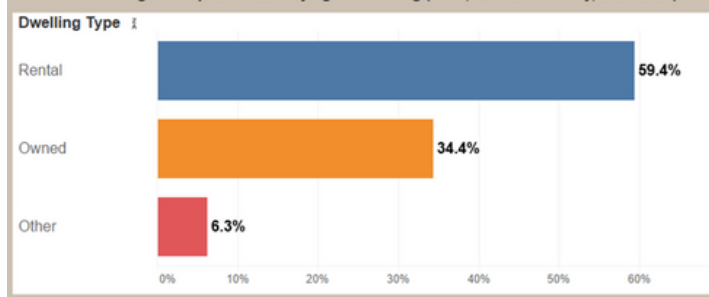
Figure 6. Percentage of children <6 years old with a venous-confirmed elevated blood lead level (5 micrograms or higher per deciliter) and who are associated with an address identified via XRF as having a lead paint hazard by age of housing (n=34, Cortland County, 2021-2022)



90.6%

of the homes in Cortland County identified as having lead paint during environmental assessment **were built before 1930.**

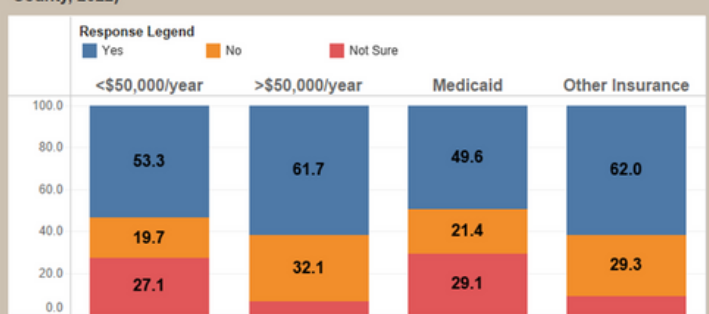
Figure 7. Percentage of children <6 years old with a venous-confirmed elevated blood lead level (5 micrograms or higher per deciliter) and who are associated with an address identified via XRF as having a lead paint hazard by age of housing (n=34, Cortland County, 2021-2022)



59.4%

of the homes in Cortland County identified as having lead paint during environmental assessment **were rental properties.**

Figure 13. Percentage of CHA Survey respondents with children under 6 years old that reported their home was built before 1970 by Household Income & Insurance (Cortland County, 2022)



29.1%

of Cortland County Community Health Assessment survey respondents who are **on Medicaid insurance** and have children under 6 years old at home **did not know their age of their home**. Compared to only 8.7% of survey respondents on another type of insurance.

Community Photovoice

5.2.a

Photos and captions were collected from Cortland County community members that have been personally impacted by lead poisoning.



“

Circa 1830 – 192 years of history. How many other children lived here and how many parents worried about lead testing?



“

I should close the blinds so the little one doesn't have the ability to touch the windowsills.

*“Maybe you went to the doctor and your kid had a high lead level, but even then – oh, you have high lead levels, oh your house has lead paint chipping – **then what?** Then what happens after that? **You need to repaint**, and like you said, **that's a lot of money**, and that wouldn't be anything near a budget for my household.*

-Community Member Focus Group Participant

Community Photovoice

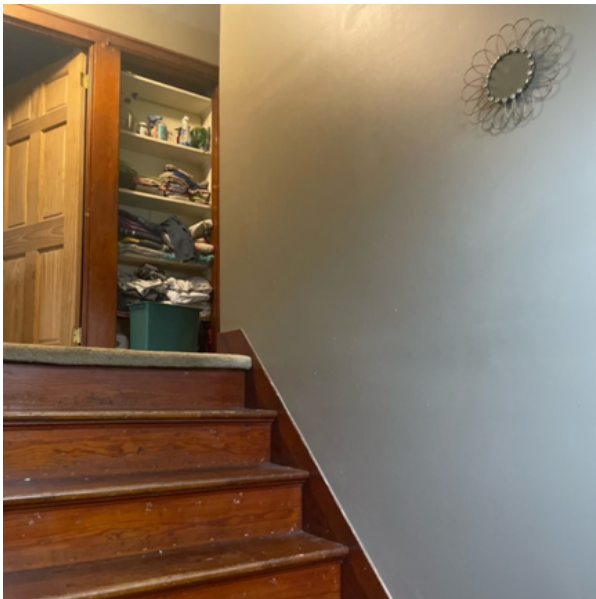
5.2.a

Photos and captions were collected from Cortland County community members that have been personally impacted by lead poisoning.



“

Porch rules are to sit and relax...
(and wonder how much alligator
paint you can see chipping)



“

The photo in the staircase was the
remodeling that spiked my son's
lead levels. Under the drywall and
paint, we didn't realize was lead
paint. Even with plastic draping,
lead dust floated up into the open
door at the top of the stairs into
my son's nursery

*"I'm more of a hands-on person. I'm like, sure, I'll give this a try. If I messed up, **what's the worst that'll happen?** I'll call someone to help me. But you don't have that knowledge of knowing – taking drywall out – **I should test for lead. I wouldn't think that a lot of people would know to do that.**"*

- Community Member Focus Group Participant

Photos and captions were collected from Cortland County community members that have been personally impacted by lead poisoning.



“

The photo of the hole in the wall was from our home dubbed “the lead house.” Every surface was covered with lead paint or lead dust from being improperly updated. After fixing the hole, it was the safest our living was while we lived there. My son’s lead level went up to 27.



“

The photo under the rug shows some of the original wallpaper that covered most of the house. When we remodeled we realized this was the closest thing protecting us from lead paint. We don’t remove the rug so we don’t have to worry if lead seeps through the wallpaper.

“The feeling of – what didn’t I do right or why is it [lead level] so high?[...] I could only imagine how scary it is to know that somebody, their child, is at [lead level] 27 [...] the higher the worse the damage might be, and how scary that is for a family.”

- Community Member Focus Group Participant

Take Action



Exposure to lead can seriously harm a child's health. Lead poisoning **can cause damage to the brain and nervous system**, causing lifelong health problems and economic impacts.

The lead poisoning prevention program in Cortland County is currently funded to address the problem after a child already has lead poisoning. Action must be taken to prevent lead poisoning in children before it occurs.

Landlords



- Landlords must **disclose lead based paint hazards** to renters of housing built before 1978.
- Be responsive to tenant concerns related to lead paint exposure and conduct necessary repairs.
- Ensure any renovations or repairs to the home are done by an EPA certified contractor.

Community Leaders



- Advocate for expansion and identification of funding sources so childhood lead poisoning can be prevented in Cortland County before it occurs.
- Provide landlords and other homeowners with the financial resources needed to make their properties lead safe.

Healthcare Providers



- Provide anticipatory guidance to parents and children as part of routine care (i.e. how lead poisoning can be a danger for every child)
- Test all children at ages 1 and 2 with a blood lead test.
- Give parents test results and explain the meaning of the result.

Caregivers



- **If you have a home built before 1978** - keep your child away from peeling paint, plaster, or any remodeling/renovation sites.
- **If you don't know how old your home is** - find out as soon as possible so you can understand the risks to your child.
- **Get your child tested for lead poisoning** at ages 1 and 2.

**Cortland County's
FREE
RABIES VACCINATION
CLINIC**

Appointment Required!

November 8th, 2023
6:00-8:00pm
Cortland County Office Building-GYM
60 Central Ave, Cortland NY 13045

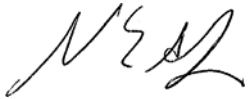
Pre-registration at
www.health.ny.gov/Go2Clinic
is **MANDATORY!**

Please contact the Environmental Health Division at 607-753-5035 with any questions.



  **CORTLAND
COUNTY HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**  Environmental
Health

Sincerely,



Nicole Anjeski, MS, MPH
Public Health Director