

TO: Jessica Moser, Chair; Tom Kalamas, Vice-Chair; Josh Leviker; Vincent Nortz; and Barry Lyndaker.

FROM: Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board

DATE: June 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Human Services Committee Agenda

Please let this correspondence serve as notification that the Human Services Committee will meet on **Tuesday, June 17th at 2:00 p.m.** in the Board of Legislators' Chambers. Following is a list of agenda items for the meeting which will be streamed live at [Lewis County - YouTube](#).

Minutes:

Approve May 20th committee minutes if no amendments.

Presentations / Discussion Items:

1. Quantify Analytics update – Evan Jennings, Owner of Quantify Consulting (10 minutes)
2. Lewis County Youth Funding Inventory – Caitlin Lawler, Director of the Lewis County Youth Bureau and Andrea Worden, Assistant to the Commissioner (10 minutes)
3. Farmers Market Coupon Announcement – Carla Hellinger, Director of OFA (5 minutes)

Draft Resolutions:

1. Appointing Colonel Christina M. Buchner, Commander of the U.S. Army Medical Department Activity of Fort Drum, N.Y. as an ex-officio, non-voting, advisory member to the Lewis County General Hospital Board of Managers.
AYE ____ NAY ____
2. Re-appointing Commissioner of the Lewis County Department of Social Services as Jennifer Jones for an additional 5-year term commencing July 8, 2025 through July 7, 2030.
AYE ____ NAY ____

Motions:

None.

Executive Session:

None.

Informational Items:

1. Monthly Department reports are attached for your review.

If any committee member has inquiries regarding agenda items, please do not hesitate to contact me.

cc:	Community Services	Sheriff
	Lewis County Health System	Social Services
	Office for the Aging	Veterans' Service Agency
	Probation	Youth Bureau
	Public Health	

RESOLUTION NO. __ - 2025

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING EX-OFFICIO MEMBER TO
LEWIS COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL
BOARD OF MANAGERS**

Introduced by Legislator Lawrence L. Dolhof, Chairman of the Board of Legislators.

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2025, the Lewis County General Hospital Board of Managers approved by motion, the appointment of Colonel Christina M. Buchner, Commander of the U.S. Army Medical Department Activity of Fort Drum, N.Y., as an ex-officio, non-voting, advisory member to the Lewis County General Hospital Board of Managers, pending the Lewis County Board of Legislator's approval; and

WHEREAS, Col. Buchner recently visited with administration and staff at the LCHS along with members of the Board of Legislator. LCHS is interested in developing and maintaining a regular relationship with the Colonel and Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization in order to provide healthcare to military and military families; and

WHEREAS, General Municipal Law Section 127 requires that members of the Board of Managers for a municipal hospital be citizens of the sponsoring municipality. This requirement does not bar the establishment or appointment of an ex-officio, non-voting, advisory member; and in fact, advisory appointment action was taken in 2008 pursuant to Resolution No. 316-2008; and

WHEREAS, having met and conversed with Col. Buchner, the Chairman of the Board recommends that this appointment be approved for the benefit of the LCHS, the many military residents of our County, and to strengthen the continuing relationship between Lewis County and Fort Drum;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby affirms the action of the LCGH Board of Managers and appoints Colonel Christina M. Buchner, Commander of the U.S. Army Medical Department Activity of Fort Drum, NY as an ex-officio, non-voting, advisory member to the Lewis County General Hospital Board of Managers, for an indefinite term.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator __, seconded by Legislator __, and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. __ - 2025

**RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING COMMISSIONER OF THE
LEWIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Introduced by Legislator Jessica Moser, Chair of the Human Services Committee and Legislator Osborne, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, the term of the Lewis County Commissioner of Social Services is five (5) years, by appointment of the Board of Legislators; and

WHEREAS, the current term of the Commissioner, Jennifer Jones, will expire on July 7, 2025; and the Board seeks to re-appoint her to another five (5) year term;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby re-appoints Jennifer Jones of Beaver Falls, New York, as Commissioner of the Lewis County Department of Social Services for an additional five (5) year term commencing on July 8, 2025 through July 7, 2030, subject to approval by the New York State Department of Social Services (Office of Children and Family Services).

Section 2. The Board of Legislators hereby confirms that the Commissioner's salary is in accordance with and shall continue under the Exempt Employee Compensation Plan and schedule.

Section 3. The within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator __, seconded by Legislator __, and adopted.

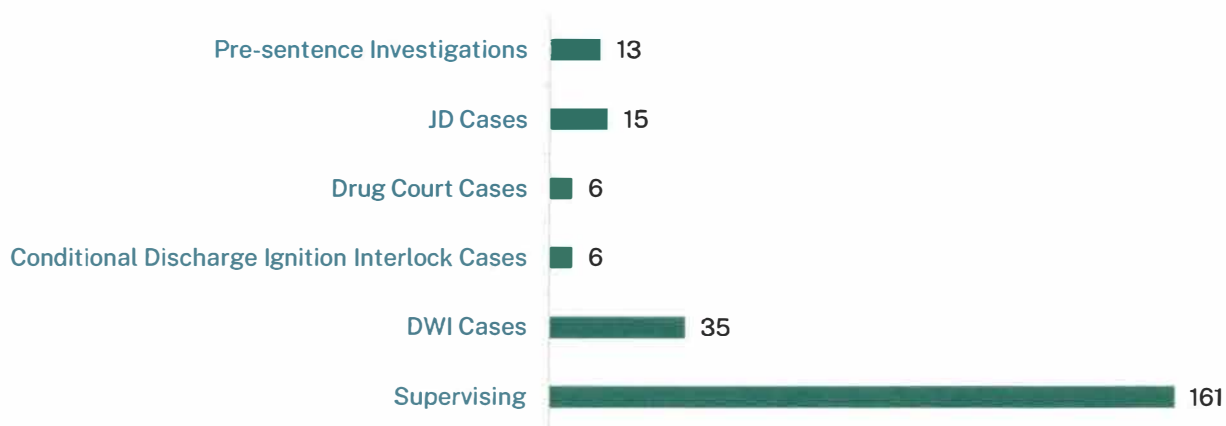
May 2025

• Probation Department supervised cases remain virtually unchanged from the previous month.

• Lewis County Probation hosted a Criminal Justice intern from BOCES for six weeks from April- May. We really enjoy our time mentoring students who have expressed interests in the probation field, and/or criminal justice in general.

• In April, the Board of Legislators appointed the probation director to be the county lead for the Threat Assessment and Management team (TAM). The local Domestic Terrorism Prevention plan was required to be submitted to the state by June 1, 2025. The Domestic Terrorism Prevention plan has been submitted. The next steps will be to establish a core team of stakeholders who will be part of the local threat assessment team. Once established, we will coordinate with our consultant, Squad 9, to have team members receive some initial training on threat assessment teams.

• This week, I attended the Threat Evaluation and Reporting Course (TERC) in Jefferson County in preparation for my involvement with the Threat Assessment and Management team. This two-day training provided by the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Unit was well attended by professionals from Lewis, Jefferson, Oswego, St. Lawrence, and Tioga counties.





LEWIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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MONTHLY REPORT May 2025

JAIL:

- Inmate Population as of May 31st: 24
- Number of Inmates Boarded Out as of May 31st: 1

DISPATCH:

- Calls Handled: 5222
- Cads Created: 1688

ROAD PATROL:

- Complaints Handled: 501
- Criminal Arrests Made: 22
- Vehicle and Traffic Stops: 119
- Vehicle and Traffic Arrest: 66
- Pistol Permits Completed: 40
- Drug Overdoses: 0

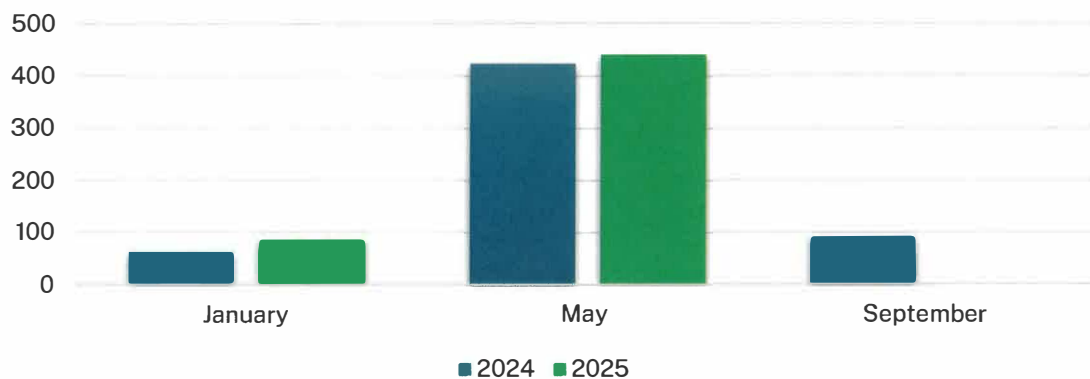
CIVIL:

- Papers Served: 64
- Evictions: 1
- Civil Executions Against Property or Income: 13
- Funds Received and Disbursed: \$12,950.11

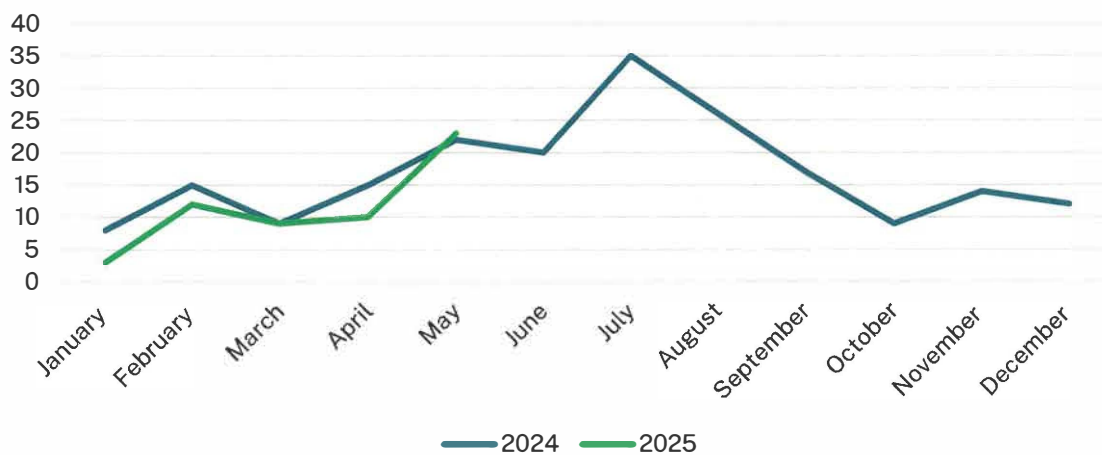
May 2025

On June 6th Public Health was notified that a skunk that was found in the town of Denmark tested positive for Rabies. This is the 3rd animal in 2025 to test positive for Rabies in Lewis County. Summertime is a busy season for rabies exposure reports. To get a head of this busy season, in collaboration with Countryside Vet Clinic, Public Health offers free rabies vaccine clinics in May throughout the county. We also do a lot of community outreach throughout the summer, to ensure all residents know how to protect their pets and themselves from rabies.

Rabies Clinic Attendance



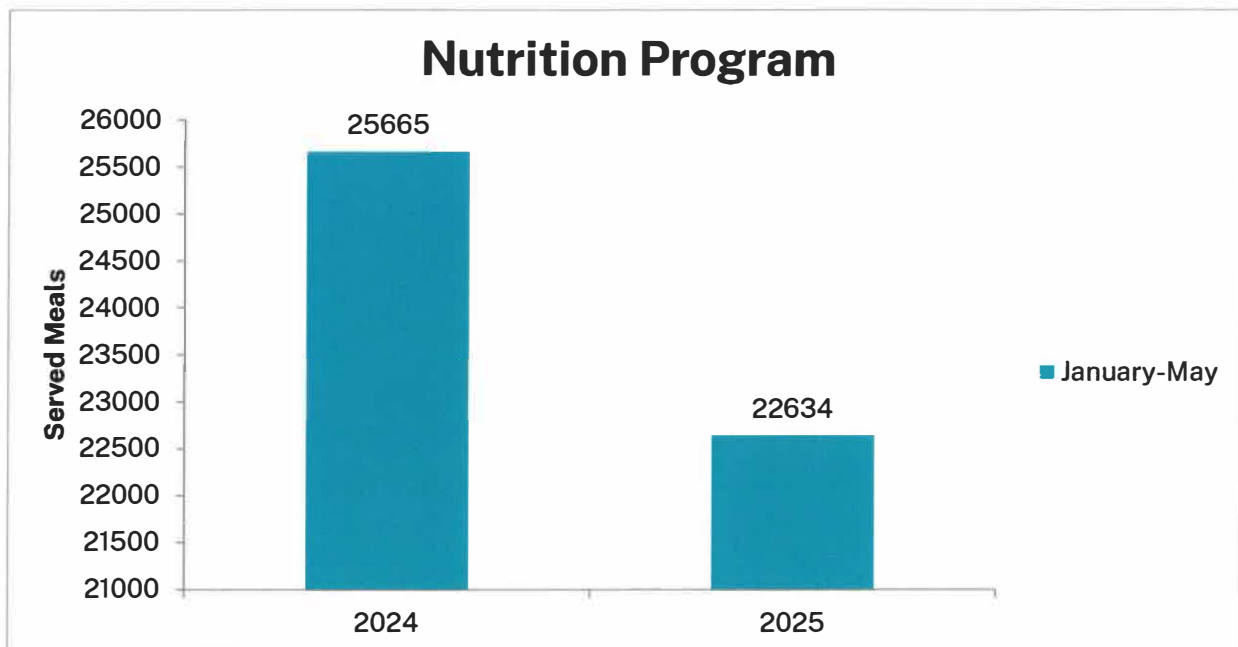
Rabies Investigations



May 2025

Highlights:

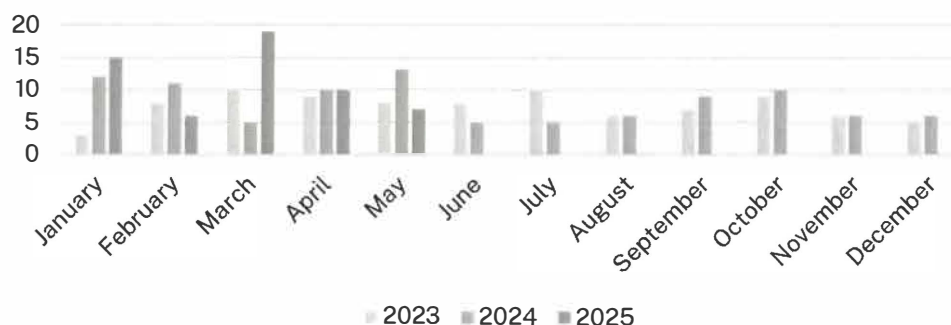
- Nutrition Program meals provided: 4462 (3506 home delivered, 637 congregate, 319 Milk Plant Tavern)
- Expanded in-home services for the elderly hours for April: 549.75 hours (housekeeping, personal care, and respite)
- Companion pets to help with social isolation/loneliness: 67
- Personal emergency response units: 50
- Home Energy Assistance Program clients served: 1
- Health Insurance Counseling clients served: 16
- NY Connects Information and Follow Up clients served: 160



May 2025

- The decision has been made to transition the existing afterhours crisis line number (315-405-0696) currently operated by THRIVE Wellness & Recovery (THRIVE), to the Children's Home of Jefferson County (CHJC) for use as the mobile crisis number as of July 1. This number will be shared with community members to promote Mobile Crisis in addition to CHJC's current Jefferson County Crisis Response number (315-782-2327).
 - This contract and our contract for project management are managed by Jefferson County. We will be sending Jefferson County our startup funds from the Office of Mental Health so they can pay the CHJC and our project manager (Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization).
 - We are also working with the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to relocate CHJC's satellite clinic from the Human Services building to 7714 Number Three Road (the space vacated by Credo/THRIVE). This will allow CHJC to have a larger physical presence and expand their services in Lewis County.
- The Substance Use Disorder/Mental Health Subcommittee reviewed the mid-year project reports for the first recipients of the Future Stories Fund grant program, which is funded by opioid settlement funds. The subcommittee is gearing up to release the next round of funding in August.
- The current cohort of Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-by World is the first of six cohorts to be funded by opioid settlement funds.

Single Point of Access/Entry (SPOA/E)* Referrals



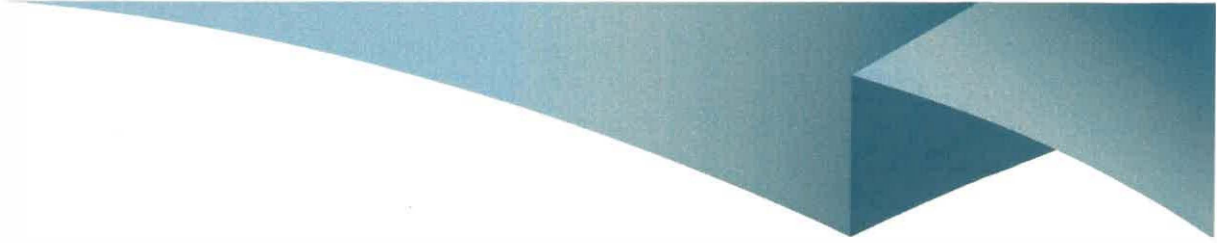
*SPOA/E is a process, led by a SPOA Coordinator, that provides for the identification of individuals most in need of services and manages service access and utilization.

May 2025

- 21 Children are on the waitlist for Child Care Assistance established in March. The NYS Budget allocated an additional \$50 million to be divided for upstate districts but minimal details have been received to date.
- Lewis County received a \$100,000 allocation for continuation of the Rent Supplement Program. Currently 13 households are receiving rent assistance through this program with 2 more expected to be approved shortly.
- Lewis County DSS is participating in a Pilot program that automates and images case authorization forms.
- DSS started "Summer Hours" on June 1st. Employees can choose to work alternate shifts such as 7:30-3:30; 8-4 or 9-5 daily OR employees can work additional hours for 9 out of 10 days in a payperiod and schedule every other Friday off. This takes a team effort to ensure all office hours are covered every day in all program areas.
- Tracie Pate has been promoted to Supervisor in the Medicaid unit and has begun training for when Temmie Kubinski retires in September. Caitlin Lawler completed the Lewis County Leadership Academy on June 6th and presented her group SOAR project on the Youth Bureau. Congratulations to both on their accomplishments.

Program Area Update	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025
Child Protective Reports Received	40	42	40
Children in Foster Care	14	14	14
Visitor Total DSS	1339	1399	562
Visitor Total One Stop	211	187	193
Child Care Subsidy Cases	59	53	47
Temporary Assistance Applications	38	42	35
Temporary Assistance Undercare	78	79	81
Homeless BedNights	340	205	141
SNAP Applications	78	68	48
SNAP Undercare	1599	1607	1573
Medicaid Applications	59	35	29
Medicaid Undercare	1782	1778	1756
Applications HEAP	264	64	21
Total Case Denials	106	64	71
Total Case Transactions	1628	1210	1719
Fraud Referrals	39	18	37
Child Support Petitions Filed	22	35	27

Note: DSS refined and changed the DSS visitor count reducing who is counted in May 2025.



Lewis County Warming Center 2024 – 2025

Executive Summary

The Lewis County Warming Center, located in the village of Lowville, New York, provided essential overnight shelter and support services to individuals experiencing homelessness during the 2024–2025 winter season. This program was funded through the Lewis County Department of Social Services and operated by the Northern Regional Center for Independent Living (NRCIL). The community showed their support and responded with a variety of donations that enhanced service delivery.

Season Overview:

- **Opening Date:** November 1, 2024
- **Location:** 5499 Jackson Street, Lowville, NY
- **Operating Hours:** 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM daily
- **Services Provided:**
 - Safe, heated space during overnight hours
 - Access to meals and beverages
 - Restroom facilities
 - Four full-time and two part-time advocates who provided
 - A supportive environment for individuals experiencing homelessness
 - Information and referrals offered to guests regarding community services and resources
- **New this year located on-site:**
 - Shower facilities – prior years we provided shower vouchers that guests were able to utilize at Double Play Community Center.
 - Laundry facilities – in the past this was accomplished with the assistance of the Department of Social Services, their staff and their facilities.
 - Having a shower, washer and dryer was advantageous to guests and the staff. In addition to the convenience, the opportunity to teach practical independent living skills proved valuable.
 - Peer Specialist services - A Peer Specialist was integrated into this year's team. This offered the benefit of having a trained professional with lived experience, who had unique strengths in building rapport, understanding challenges, and providing effective support to guests.

Community Impact and Involvement:

- The Lewis County Warming Center played a key role in offering refuge to individuals during the harsh winter months. Our goal was to contribute to the community by sheltering unhoused individuals while supporting their well-being and safety.

Community Impact and Involvement (Continued):

- The location in the village allowed access to those with limited means of transportation. Funding was used to develop the site to include a shower and laundry facilities. These additions were appreciated by guests and expanded the functionality of this Warming Center.
- Donations within the Lewis County community continued throughout the season.
 - One local agency committed to providing a meal for our guests twice a month.
 - A community choir specified the Warming Center as the recipient of donations that were gathered at their seasonal concert.
 - Many individuals contributed clothing, blankets, socks, cleaning supplies, fresh bread, fruits and vegetables. Several preferred to stay anonymous, indicating no need for recognition as they wanted to support those touched by unfortunate circumstances.
 - A local school athletic leadership group donated for a 3rd year in a row. This year they responded to our need for laundry detergent, towels, baskets and cleaning supplies.
 - Other not for profit agencies remembered us and offered surplus meals and supplies. Sharing their extra resources demonstrated the responsible stewardship of those in our amazing community.
 - Several church groups filled our cupboards, providing meals and groceries, fresh bread, fruits and vegetables. Dental hygiene supplies, soaps, shampoo, ladies warm winter attire, men's gloves and an array of warm beverages were collected and donated on separate occasions.

Synopsis:

The number of nights that guests were housed this year continues to demonstrate the need for a Warming Center.

- 2022 – 2023 Season (October 24, 2022 to March 31, 2023)
 - 11 guests who stayed a total of 19 nights
- 2023 – 2024 Season (October 01, 2023 to April 14, 2024)
 - 21 guests who stayed a total of 307 nights
- 2024 - 2025 Season (November 01 to March 31)
 - 15 guests who stayed a total of 220 nights

April 2025 - Funding from a STEHP Grant through Snow Belt Housing allowed for an additional month of Warming Center nights. Five additional guests were served, totaling 20 unduplicated guests, who stayed 75 nights.

~DSS and STEHP combined (November 01 to April 30)

- 2024 - 2025 Season
 - 20 guests who stayed a total of 295 nights

Collaboration with the Lewis County Department of Social Services and the surrounding community strengthened NRCIL's ability to provide shelter, nourishment, and warmth to individuals facing some of the toughest challenges of the winter season.

NRCIL's Warming Center Guest Service Advocates offered information and referral services to each willing guest. These staff worked to connect individuals to service and treatment providers, landlords and employers. Guests were encouraged to utilize community resources to help them improve their circumstances.

As the winter proceeded, the Warming Center Advocates learned strategies for advancing positive changes for those utilizing the Warming Center. They learned about blending patience with respectful prompting as guests worked to establish and achieve their goals. At the beginning of the season, one guest did not want assistance from available community resources. He had been unhoused for many years. He slept in places that were not intended to be a home. This included his vehicle, a shed with no water, heat or electricity or sometimes in the hayloft of a charitable farmer. Slowly he became interested in supports that were available through a local veteran's organization. The patience and persistence of the staff facilitated the use of other community supports. He was willing to accept needed medical care as well as referral to an agency that assisted with housing and benefits advisement. Although the guest did not obtain permanent housing when the Warming Center closed, he was connected with the appropriate resources in the community, with an imminent hope of safe, affordable housing.

As we prepare for the next season, we are committed to provide assistance to those experiencing housing vulnerability and those living in unstable or unsafe circumstances. We will promote access to and utilization of resources that address social needs. These resources are recognized as crucial for improving stability within the community. We look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts with the Department of Social Services and community partners. The Warming Center staff at NRCIL were honored to be part of Lewis County's commitment to protect the unhoused during New York's Code Blue season.

Future strategies:

- Increased supervision / enhanced training for Warming Center staff
 - Implement the use of Health Related Social Needs screening tools
 - Further utilize the Bridges Out of Poverty approach that focuses on understanding the dynamics of poverty and providing tools to address it.
- Continued aesthetic improvements
 - Upper and lower cabinets for the kitchen area
 - Wall Hangings