
**LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
January 20, 2026**

Present:

Legislator Thomas Kalamas, Chair
Legislator Herbert Frost III, Vice Chair
Legislator Michael Hanno
Legislator Barry Lyndaker

CALL TO ORDER

Legislator Kalamas called the meeting to order at 1:48 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Legislator Kalamas moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2025, Finance & Rules Committee meeting as submitted.
Motion seconded by Legislator Lyndaker and carried.

Federal Funding Freeze Impact

Presenter: *Jennifer Jones, Commissioner of Social Services*

Commissioner Jones focused on the recent freeze on TANF funds and its implications for Lewis County, which relies on approximately \$2.4 million for essential assistance programs, including cash assistance, childcare subsidies, and emergency support services. She highlighted the complexities of funding distribution based on family needs and mentioned the Child Care Block Grant, which is currently facing a waitlist due to funding constraints.

The conversation also addressed the challenges of federal scrutiny over TANF systems and the necessity for robust fraud detection mechanisms, detailing the verification systems in place and reporting on the 325 fraud referrals received in 2025. County Manager Timothy Hunt raised concerns about how the federal funding freeze would impact service payments, to which Commissioner Jones responded that services must continue without interruption, although local governments may need to provide interim support until federal funding issues are resolved.

2026 Human Services Committee Goals

Presenter: *Timothy Hunt, County Manager*

County Manager Hunt focused on human services goals, particularly emphasizing housing security and cost avoidance, with the aim of increasing the percentage of residents feeling housing secure from 83.1% to 88% by December 31, 2026. To reach this target, several initiatives were proposed, including legislative involvement in poverty training and workforce development in response to local business growth, alongside a suggestion for collaboration with the Human Services Group to refine strategies. The positive effects of the Bridges Out of Poverty training and the necessity of community engagement were also highlighted.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

Draft Resolution No. 1

Appointing Caitlin Lawler of Watertown, New York, to the Lewis County Community Services Board and the Substance Use Disorder Subcommittee for a four-year term effective February 4, 2026, through December 31, 2029.

Motion: Legislator Kalamas moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Hanno and carried.

Vote: AYE – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain - None

Draft Resolution No. 2

Appointing Dr. Shirley Tuttle-Malone of Glenfield, New York, to the Lewis County Community Services Board to fulfill the unexpired term of Dr. John Wat through December 31, 2028, and to the Developmental Disability Subcommittee to fulfill the unexpired term of Louise Fox through December 31, 2027.

Motion: Legislator Kalamas moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Frost and carried.

Vote: AYE – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain - None

Draft Resolution No. 3

Appointing Kirsten Lyndaker of Castorland, New York, to the Lewis County Community Services Board Developmental Disability Subcommittee for a four-year term effective February 4, 2026, through December 31, 2029.

Motion: Legislator Kalamas moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Hanno and carried.

Vote: AYE –4 NAY –0 Recuse/Abstain -None

Draft Resolution No. 4

Appointing Tina Nortz of Glenfield, New York, to the Lewis County Community Services Board Developmental Disability Subcommittee for a four-year term effective February 4, 2026, through December 31, 2029.

Motion: Legislator Kalamas moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Lyndaker and carried.

Vote: AYE –4 NAY –0 Recuse/Abstain -None

Draft Resolution No. 5

Reappointing Lyndsey Allen of Lowville, New York, to the Lewis County Community Services Board for a four-year term effective February 4, 2026, through December 31, 2029.

Motion: Legislator Kalamas moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Frost and carried.

Vote: AYE –4 NAY –0 Recuse/Abstain –None

Draft Resolution No. 6

Authorizing the use of Community Support Program (CSP) reserve funds received from the NYS Office of Mental Health in 2019 and 2020 to finance facility improvements at 7714

Number Three Road, transferring \$25,000.00 from the Community Services reserve to the Buildings and Grounds Department for related project costs.

Motion: Legislator Kalamas moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Frost and carried.

Vote: AYE – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain - None

Draft Resolution No. 7

Authorizing an agreement for Children’s Home of Jefferson County (CHJC) to use half of the 7714 Number Three Road Building for counseling and therapy services for Lewis County residents at a cost of \$2,403.00 per month, from March 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027.

Motion: Legislator Kalamas moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Lyndaker and carried.

Vote: AYE – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain - None

Draft Resolution No. 8

Appointing Sheila Callahan of Port Leyden, New York, as the District No. 10 Representative to the Lewis County Office for Aging Advisory Council for a three-year term effective February 4, 2026, through December 31, 2028.

Motion: Legislator Kalamas moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Frost and carried.

Vote: AYE – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain - None

Draft Resolution No. 9

Appointing Barbara Carroll of Copenhagen, New York, as the District No. 3 Representative to the Lewis County Office for Aging Advisory Council for a three-year term effective February 4, 2026, through December 31, 2028.

Motion: Legislator Kalamas moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Lyndaker and carried.

Vote: AYE –4 NAY –0 Recuse/Abstain -None

Draft Resolution No. 10

Authorizing amendments to Preschool Special Education Provider agreements to update pay rates for various services such as therapy, nursing, interpretation, effective March 1, 2026.

Motion: Legislator Kalamas moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Lyndaker and carried.

Vote: AYE –4 NAY –0 Recuse/Abstain -None

Draft Resolution No. 11

Authorizing a short-term access/testing agreement with a potential long-term lease for Verizon Wireless to use space on the Montague 911 Tower for cellular service expansion, at \$2,200.00 per month with five-year renewal terms and rent escalations.

Motion: Legislator Kalamas moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Frost and carried.

Vote: AYE –4 NAY –0 Recuse/Abstain -None

Draft Resolution No. 12

Authorizing an agreement with CorrecTek, Inc. to implement inmate health integration software for the jail, including installation, maintenance, and training from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, with automatic annual renewals. There is a one-time cost of \$49,700.00; \$1,375.00 per month plus additional charges for medication history and prescribing services.

Motion: Legislator Kalamas moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Lyndaker and carried.

Vote: AYE –4 NAY –0 Recuse/Abstain -None

Draft Resolution No. 13

Urging the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to immediately restore federal funding for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), and Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) programs, as these programs provide essential support for child care, welfare services, and safety net programs, and by withholding funds it destabilizes services for eligible families, increases fiscal pressure on counties, and shifts costs to local taxpayers.

Motion: Legislator Kalamas moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Hanno and carried.

Vote: AYE – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain - None

Draft Resolution No. 14

Appointing Sarah Richardson of Copenhagen Central School to the Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board effective February 4, 2026 until high school graduation.

Motion: Legislator Kalamas moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Frost and carried.

Vote: AYE – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain - None

Draft Resolution No. 15

Appointing Sophie Dealing of Copenhagen Central School to the Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board effective February 4, 2026 until high school graduation.

Motion: Legislator Kalamas moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Lyndaker and carried.

Vote: AYE – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain - None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Legislator Kalamas moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:24 p.m.

Motion seconded by Legislator Frost and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser
Clerk of the Board

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