

Human Services, Human Rights & Equity Meeting Agenda



Committee Chair: Catherine Parker

800 Michaelian Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Monday, July 24, 2023

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Please note: Meetings of the Board of Legislators and its committees are held at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York, 10601, and remotely via the WebEx video conferencing system. Legislators may participate in person or via Webex. Members of the public may attend meetings in person at any of its locations, or view it online on the Westchester County Legislature's website: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/> This website also provides links to materials for all matters to be discussed at a given meeting.

Joint w/ B&A and Health

MINUTES APPROVAL

May 15th, 2023 1:00 PM Minutes
May 30th, 2023 2:30 PM Minutes
May 31st, 2023 2:30 PM Minutes
June 21st, 2023 1:00 PM Minutes

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

[2023-185](#)

IMA-Mandated Preventive Respite Care and Services-Rockland County

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement with Rockland County in order to provide mandated preventive respite care and services to eligible children at risk of foster care placement and their families residing in Rockland County, on a space available basis, for the term commencing on March 1, 2023 and expiring on February 28, 2026.

COMMITTEE REFERRAL: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, HUMAN SERVICES, HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUITY AND HEALTH

Guests:

John Befus, Deputy Commissioner of Department of Social Services

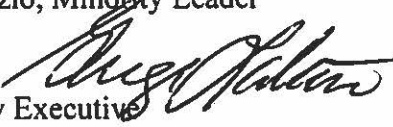
II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

April 27, 2023

TO: Hon. Catherine Borgia
Hon. Nancy Barr, Acting Chair
Hon. Christopher Johnson, Majority Leader
Hon. Margaret Cunzio, Minority Leader

FROM: George Latimer 
Westchester County Executive

RE: Message Requesting Immediate Consideration: **IMA – Rockland County
- Mandated Preventive Respite Care & Services.**

This will confirm my request that the Board of Legislators allow submission of the referenced communication to be submitted to the Board of Legislators May 1, 2023 Agenda.

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval is legislation which would authorize the County to enter into an intermunicipal agreement (“IMA”) with Rockland for the provision of mandated preventive respite care and services for eligible Rockland children and their families.

Therefore, since this communication is of the utmost importance, it is respectfully submitted that the County Board of Legislators accepts this submission for May 1, 2023 “blue sheet” calendar.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

George Latimer
County Executive

April 27, 2023

Westchester County Board of Legislators
800 Michaelian Office Building
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Honorable Members of the Board:

Pursuant to New York State Social Services Law Section 409-a, the County of Westchester ("County") is charged with providing mandated preventive respite care and services to eligible children and their families residing in Westchester County. The County provides these services to eligible youth at risk of foster care placement and their families, through a contract with The Children's Village, Inc. ("Children's Village"), for the operation of a Runaway and Youth Shelter located at 35 Hammond House Road at the County's Valhalla Campus (the "Respite Shelter"). The County incurred a fixed cost of \$412,832.00 for the year 2022 for the operation of the Respite Shelter, regardless of the utilization of the facility in order to guarantee capacity. The County of Rockland ("Rockland") closed its respite shelter on March 1, 2013 and at Rockland's request, since that time, the County has provided respite services to its eligible youth on a space-available basis. The Respite Shelter has the capacity to provide such services to Rockland since on most days full capacity has not been reached. If and when the Respite Shelter does reach full capacity, Rockland would have to find alternative placement.

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval is legislation which would authorize the County to enter into an intermunicipal agreement ("IMA") with Rockland for the provision of mandated preventive respite care and services for eligible Rockland children and their families, for the term commencing on March 1, 2023 and expiring on February 28, 2026, for consideration payable to the County at the rate of \$200.00 per diem per child. It is anticipated that the County could offset the County's costs incurred with Children's Village to operate the Respite Shelter by as much as \$34,200.00 per year over the three-year term of the IMA, for a total sum of \$102,600.00.

The Planning Department has advised that the proposed IMA does not meet the definition of an "action" under the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 6 NYCRR part 617. As such, no environmental review is required. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 12, 2023, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators.

Office of the County Executive

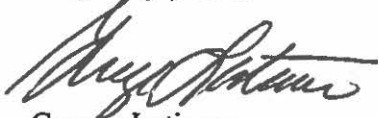
Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, New York 10601

Telephone: (914)995-2900 E-mail: (914) ceo@westchestergov.com



I believe that the proposed IMA with Rockland is in the best interests of the County since it will decrease the costs incurred with the Respite Shelter for Westchester County tax payers. I therefore, recommend that your Honorable Board approve the annexed legislation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Latimer", written in a cursive style.

George Latimer
County Executive

GL/KMM/CMC
Att.

**TO THE COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER**

Upon a communication from the County Executive, your Committee has been advised that, pursuant to New York State Social Services Law Section 409-a, the County of Westchester (“County”) is charged with providing mandated preventive respite care and services to eligible children and their families residing in Westchester County. The County provides these services to eligible youth at risk of foster care placement and their families, through a contract with The Children’s Village, Inc. (“Children’s Village”) for the operation of a Runaway and Youth Shelter located at 35 Hammond House Road at the County’s Valhalla Campus (the “Respite Shelter”). The County incurs a fixed cost of \$412,832.00 for the year 2022 for the operation of the Respite Shelter regardless of the utilization of the facility in order to guarantee capacity. The County of Rockland (“Rockland”) closed its respite shelter on March 1, 2013 and at Rockland’s request, since that time, the County has provided respite services to its eligible youth on a space-available basis. The Respite Shelter has the capacity to provide such services to Rockland since on most days full capacity has not been reached. If and when the Respite Shelter does reach full capacity, Rockland would have to find alternative placement.

The County Executive has forwarded legislation which would authorize the County to enter into an intermunicipal agreement (“IMA”) with Rockland for the provision of mandated preventive respite care and services for eligible Rockland children and their families, for the term commencing on March 1, 2023 and expiring on February 28, 2026, for consideration payable to the County at the rate of \$200.00 per diem per child. It is anticipated that the County could offset the County’s costs incurred with Children’s Village to operate the Respite Shelter by as much as \$34,200.00 per year over the three-year term of the IMA, for a total sum of \$102,600.00.

The Planning Department has advised that the proposed Agreement does not meet the definition of an “action” under the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 6 NYCRR part 617. As such, no environmental review is required. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 12, 2023, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of

Legislators. Therefore, no further environmental review is required. Your Committee concurs with this conclusion.

Your Committee has been advised that a majority of the voting strength of the Board of Legislators is required to adopt the annexed Act.

After review and careful consideration, your Committee recommends favorable action upon the proposed legislation.

Dated: _____, 2023
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON
C/CMC 04.20.2023

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: Rockland County County DSS, IMA NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

SECTION A - FUND

GENERAL FUND AIRPORT FUND SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

SECTION B - EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Expense \$ 28,130

Total Current Year Revenue \$ 34,200

Source of Funds (check one): Current Appropriations Transfer of Existing Appropriations
 Additional Appropriations Other (explain)

Identify Accounts: Expense 101-22-8900-5960

Revenue 101-22-8900-9718

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual Amount \$28,130

Describe: \$164.50 per care day for 171 care days are anticipated to be needed.

Potential Related Operating Budget Revenues: Annual Amount \$34,200

Describe: Rockland County DSS will reimburse Westchester the cost of their placements in the program as they no longer have their own facility. They will reimburse Westchester approximately \$102,600 over the life of this agreement. \$200.00 per care day for 250 care days.

Anticipated Savings to County and/or Impact on Department Operations:

Current Year: _____

Next Four Years: Westchester will receive approximately \$102,600 over the life of this 3-year agreement. Westchester will net an additional \$18,210 over 3 years (\$6,070 x 3) for assisting Rockland DSS with these placements.

Prepared by: Thomas M. Rooney Jr.

Title: Reimbursement Manager

Department: Social Services


Date: April 14, 2023

Reviewed By: W0

[Signature]
Budget Director

Date: 4/26/23

TO: George Latimer, County Executive
Kenneth Jenkins, Deputy County Executive
John Nonna, County Attorney

FROM: David Kvinge, AICP, RLA, CFM 
Assistant Commissioner

DATE: January 12, 2023

SUBJECT: **ACTIVITIES NOT SUBJECT TO STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
REVIEW**

As required by the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617 (“SEQR”), the Board of Legislators (“BOL”) is the body that must assess the environmental significance of all actions that the BOL has discretion to approve, fund or directly undertake. The Planning Department has historically conducted the necessary environmental review for the BOL to undertake its responsibility under SEQR. Additionally, contracts going before the Board of Acquisition and Contracts (“BAC”) must be reviewed for conformance with SEQR.

Pursuant to Section 617.2(b) of SEQR, “Actions” are defined as:

- (1) projects or physical activities, such as construction or other activities that may affect the environment by changing the use, appearance or condition of any natural resource or structure, that:
 - (i) are directly undertaken by an agency; or
 - (ii) involve funding by an agency; or
 - (iii) require one or more new or modified approvals from an agency or agencies;
- (2) agency planning and policy making activities that may affect the environment and commit the agency to a definite course of future decisions;
- (3) adoption of agency rules, regulations and procedures, including local laws, codes, ordinances, executive orders and resolutions that may affect the environment; and
- (4) any combinations of the above.

As part of the Planning Department’s ongoing review of its processes, we are streamlining the process for SEQR review and related document preparation for the BOL and BAC. The most effective method to achieve a more timely SEQR review is to create a list of categories of activities that do not meet the definition of an “action” as defined in SEQR. This list (attached) references activities that are routine and which do not change the use, appearance or condition of any natural resource or structure, nor do they involve policies or regulations that may affect the environment. The creation of this list in no way eliminates the BOL’s or BAC’s

responsibilities under SEQR. Rather, it establishes a workflow for items that are routine and do not, under the law, require environmental review.

Accordingly, the Planning Department advises that no environmental review is required and no SEQR documentation is necessary for submission with BOL legislation or with resolutions or contracts requiring BAC approval regarding activities on the attached list.

County departments and agencies may reference this memorandum in the legislation in order to document compliance with SEQR for actions listed herein. As such, this memorandum should be kept on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators. Legislation should include a statement similar to the following: “The proposed project does not meet the definition of an action under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 12, 2022, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators.”

This memorandum will be distributed to all Commissioners as part of County operations.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Att.

cc: Malika Vanderberg, Clerk and Chief Administrative Officer to the Board of Legislators
Joan McDonald, Director of Operations
Andrew Ferris, Chief of Staff
Steve Bass, Director of Intergovernmental Relations
Paula Friedman, Assistant to the County Executive
Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, Chief Deputy County Attorney
Tami Altschiller, Assistant Chief Deputy County Attorney
Norma Drummond, Commissioner of Planning

**ACTIVITIES THAT DO NOT MEET THE DEFINITION OF AN “ACTION”
PURSUANT TO SEQR AND ARE, CONSEQUENTLY, NOT SUBJECT TO SEQR**

1. BUDGETS AND AMENDMENTS

- Municipal budgets and amendments to them – The budgeting process merely sets aside funds without a commitment to their expenditure. Operating expenditures are typically for government-related activities that would also not meet the definition of an action. Even the establishment of the Capital Budget is not subject to SEQR because many of the capital projects are usually not definitive enough with respect to potential impacts to be reviewable at the time the budget is adopted. However, any subsequent authorization, such as bonding, to undertake a particular capital project is an action that requires SEQR compliance before it may be approved.
- The transfer of funds within the County operating and capital budgets for the purpose of balancing accounts – It is understood that these actions are purely budgetary, where accounts with excess funds are moved to accounts with existing or anticipated deficits. It is further understood that the activities covered by these accounts have either already occurred or been reviewed in accordance with SEQR, are Type II actions or actions that are not subject to SEQR, or are actions that will require future approval prior to being undertaken, at which time further SEQR review may be appropriate.
- Rescissions or reduction of bond acts to cancel unspent funds.

2. SERVICES

- Consultant services – Contracts or agreements that provide for administrative services, training, reports for Boards and Commissions, but not including studies or design of physical improvements, which has been listed under SEQR as Type II.
- Social Services – Actions or agreements that provide services to persons in need, such as employment assistance, family/domestic intervention and respite care.
- Youth services – Actions or agreements that provide for youth services, such as a Resource Allocation Plan, Invest-in-Kids Program, after-school programs, camp programs and head-start programs.
- Senior programs & services – Actions or agreements that provide for services to seniors, such as provision of information/education, home care, nutrition & transportation assistance, caregiver support, and acceptance of federal and state grants providing for such services (e.g., OAA Title III grants and NYSOFA grants, including CSE, CSI, CRC, EISEP, NYSTP, WIN & NSIP).
- Public Safety services – programs that promote public safety, such as STOP-DWI, Police Night Out, and intermunicipal agreements (IMAs) for shared training, equipment and response to emergencies, including E-911.
- Fire services – Fire district IMAs for shared training, equipment and response to emergencies.
- Legal services – Contracts for outside counsel, litigation or associated monetary settlements.

- Medical Services – Contracts with medical providers for medical examinations, testing, vaccinations or medical treatment of County employees or the public.
- Mental Health Services – Contracts with agencies to provide treatment, services or education related to mental health.

3. PERSONNEL MATTERS

- Actions related to employment or employees.
- Contracts for temporary staff assistance.
- Legislation pertaining to establishment and membership of boards and commissions.

4. FINANCES

- Tax Anticipation Notes.
- Bond acts to finance tax certiorari payments.
- Banking contracts/agreements for money management services.
- Mortgage tax receipts disbursements (County Clerk).
- Refinancing of affordable housing mortgages.
- Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements.

5. LAWS

- New laws or amendments of existing laws that regulate the sale or use of products for the protection of public health.
- New laws or amendments of existing laws that regulate businesses for the protection of consumers.
- Pertaining to consumer protection, not including professional licensing, which have been classified as Type II.
- Pertaining to animal welfare, excluding regulations involving habitat management.
- Pertaining to public safety.
- Pertaining to taxation, such as establishment of new taxes or tax exemptions.
- Pertaining to establishment or modification of fees.
- Pertaining to notices, publications and record keeping.
- Pertaining to hiring or contracting procedures.
- Pertaining to the functioning of County government, such as term limits, board appointments, etc. that do not impact the environment.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

- Amendments to existing agreements for changes in name or consultants.
- Education/training programs, contracts for clinical instruction.
- Prisoner Transport IMAs.
- Tourism Promotion Agency designation.
- Software licenses.

- IMAs for temporary housing in existing facilities (homeless, inmate, troubled youths, domestic violence victims).
- Naming or renaming of streets, buildings, parks or other public facilities.

WCDP
JAN 2023

ACT NO. 2023- _____

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement with Rockland County in order to provide mandated preventive respite care and services to eligible children at risk of foster care placement and their families residing in Rockland County, on a space-available basis, for the term commencing on March 1, 2023 and expiring on February 28, 2026.

BE IT ENACTED, by the Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester, as follows:

Section 1. The County of Westchester (the “County”) be and hereby is authorized to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement (“IMA”) with the County of Rockland (“Rockland”) for the term commencing on March 1, 2023 and expiring on February 28, 2026, to provide mandated preventive respite care and services to eligible children at risk of foster care placement and their families residing in Rockland County, on a space-available basis, at the County’s Runaway and Youth Shelter located at 35 Hammond House Road at the County’s Valhalla Campus (the “Respite Shelter”).

§2. Rockland shall pay the County at the rate of \$200.00 per diem per child placed at the Respite Shelter for the term of the IMA.

§3. The County Executive or his authorized designee be and hereby is authorized and empowered to execute instruments and take all action necessary and appropriate to accomplish the purposes hereof.

§4. This Act shall take effect immediately.