

St. Lawrence County
BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
48 Court Street, Court House
Canton, New York 13617-1169
(315) 379-2276
FAX (315) 379-2463

RUTH A. DOYLE
County Administrator

WILLIAM J. SHERIDAN
Chair, Board of Legislators

SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA
MR. JOSEPH LIGHTFOOT, CHAIR
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022
*****BOARD ROOM AND VIA YOUTUBE*****
*****5:30 P.M. *****

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 21**
- 3. PUBLIC HEALTH – JOLENE MUNGER**
 - A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with St. Lawrence Health for Morgue and Laboratory Services (Res)
 - B. Authorizing the Chair to Sign Contracts with Funeral Homes for Transportation Services for the Coroner’s Program (Res)
 - C. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Contract with Dr. Samuel Livingstone for pathology services for the Coroner’s Program (Res)
 - D. Modifying the 2021 Public Health Department Budget for the Public Health Coroner’s Program (Res)
 - E. Authorizing the Chair to Sign Contracts with Quadrant Viral Testing LLC and Syracuse University for Wastewater Surveillance and Data Analysis (Res)
- 4. OFFICE FOR THE AGING – ANDREA MONTGOMERY**
 - A. Proclaiming May as Older Americans Month in St. Lawrence County with the 2022 Theme Being “Age My Way” (Res)
- 5. SOCIAL SERVICES – JOSEPH SEEBER**
 - A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Social Services and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Office for the Aging (Res)
 - B. Social Services Statistics (Info) – Heather Rand, Director of Children’s Services
- 6. YOUTH BUREAU – ALEXA BACKUS**
 - A. Accepting the King-Size Heartwarming Young Hero Grant from the Allstate Foundation and Youth Service America (YSA) and Modifying the 2022 Budget for the Youth Bureau (Res)
 - B. Second Annual St. Lawrence County Trash Dash (Info)

7. COMMUNITY SERVICES – JAY ULRICH

- A. Authorizing the Chair to Sign a Cooperative Agreement with the North Country Initiative (NCI) for Promise Practices Funds and Modifying the 2022 Budget for Community Services (Res)
- B. Authorizing Chair to Sign a Contract with Coordinated Care Services, Inc. for the Preparation of the 2021 Consolidated Fiscal Report (Res)
- C. Mental Health and Addiction Clinic Updates (Info)

8. LEGISLATOR HAGGARD AND LEGISLATOR TERMINELLI

- A. Urging Governor Hochul and New York State Legislature to implement a plan to gradually eliminate the County Fiscal Responsibility for Preschool Special Education and Summer School Special Education Programs (Res)
- B. In Support of Raising the Childcare Subsidy Rate and Increasing the Total Allotment to Social Services to Improve Equitable Access to Childcare Across New York State (Res)
- C. Urging the Governor and New York State Legislature to Restore Critical State Funding Support for Child Welfare Services, Safety Net Programs, and to Fully Fund the Recent Foster Care Rate Settlement with State Resources (Res)

9. VACANCY REVIEW COMMITTEE – RUTH DOYLE

- A. Community Services
 - 1. Fill a Chemical Dependency Counselor, Position No. 510400009
 - 2. Fill a Senior Chemical Dependency Case Aide, Position No. 510200001
 - 3. Abolish a Chemical Dependency Case Aide, and create and fill a Peer Advocate, Position No. 505900002
- C. Social Services
 - 1. Fill a Senior Social Welfare Examiner in TA/SNAP, Position No. 814100001
 - 2. Fill a Support Investigator in Child Support, Position No. 813000002
 - 3. Fill a Social Welfare Examiner in Medicaid, Position No. 814000014
 - 4. Fill a Coordinator of Social Services in Information Technology, Position No. 812000001

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Board of Health (Acres)
- B. CDP Board of Directors (Sheridan)
- C. Community Services Board (Haggard)
- D. Office for the Aging Advisory Board (Denesha)
- E. Youth Advisory Board (Terminelli)
- F. Family Court Committee (Terminelli)

11. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Litigation
- B. Personnel
- C. Negotiations
- D. Appointments:

13. ADJOURNMENT – If there is no further business.

May 2, 2022

Services Committee: 4-18-2022

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH
ST. LAWRENCE HEALTH FOR MORGUE AND LABORATORY SERVICES**

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, the Public Health Department has the responsibility of the Coroner Program, and

WHEREAS, two of the current contracted Pathologists travel to hospitals within St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, when a Pathologist is available in St. Lawrence County, there is a need to have a location for morgue and laboratory services, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence Health has agreed to receive cases in the absence of the current Pathologist and/or provide for services when a forensic autopsy is required (PC011854 45100 and PC011854 407MF),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with St. Lawrence Health for morgue and laboratory services, upon approval of the County Attorney.

May 2, 2022

Services Committee: 4-18-2022

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN CONTRACTS WITH
FUNERAL HOMES FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
FOR THE CORONER'S PROGRAM**

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, the Public Health Department has the responsibility of the Coroner's Program and Funeral Directors provide a critical function for the Coroners in St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, area funeral homes provide transportation of bodies to the morgue, funeral home, or crematorium, and

WHEREAS, transportation contracts are needed to ensure sufficient coverage for transportation within and outside the County (PC011854 46500),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign contracts with funeral homes for transportation services for the Coroner's Program, upon approval of the County Attorney.

May 2, 2022

Services Committee: 4-18-2022

RESOLUTION NO. _____

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH DR. SAMUEL LIVINGSTONE FOR PATHOLOGY SERVICES FOR THE CORONER'S PROGRAM

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, the Public Health Department has the responsibility of the Coroner's Program, and pathology services are necessary to the operation of the Program, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Samuel Livingstone is a Medical Examiner for Jefferson County and performs pathology services for St. Lawrence County when available, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Livingstone has provided autopsies for St. Lawrence County for many years and the County appreciates his dedicated service, and

WHEREAS, the terms of this contract will be from May 3, 2022 through December 21, 2024 to coincide with the agreement with Samaritan Medical Center (PC011854 43016),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with Dr. Samuel Livingstone for the Coroner Program, upon approval of the County Attorney.

May 2, 2022

Services Committee: 4-18-2022

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**MODIFYING THE 2021 PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET
FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH CORONER'S PROGRAM**

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, the Public Health Department is responsible for expenses associated with the Public Health Coroner's Program, and

WHEREAS, there have been higher than anticipated expenses due to cases being transported out of County for services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Treasurer to modify the 2021 Budget for the Public Health Department for the Coroner's Program as follows:

DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

B1019904 49700	B SPEC Contingency Account	\$60,000
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

PC011854 43016	P COR Autopsies	\$60,000
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May 2, 2022

Services Committee: 4-18-2022

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN CONTRACTS WITH
QUADRANT VIRAL TESTING LLC AND SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY FOR
WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE AND DATA ANALYSIS**

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, Quadrant Viral Testing, LLC and Syracuse University partner together to provide wastewater surveillance and data analysis, and

WHEREAS, wastewater surveillance can be used to predict an increase in COVID-19 cases, and is a useful detection system for our community, and

WHEREAS, each sample will cost \$225 (PPZ40104 43007 CVD, PPZ40501 43007 SCH), and

WHEREAS, contract terms will be effective April 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023, with the option to extend for additional term/s as agreed to in writing by both parties and contingent on the grant funding,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with Quadrant Viral Testing, LLC and Syracuse University for wastewater surveillance and data analysis, upon approval of the County Attorney.

May 2, 2022

Services Committee: 4-18-2022

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**PROCLAIMING MAY AS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH
IN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY WITH THE 2022 THEME BEING “AGE MY WAY”**

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County includes a thriving community of older Americans who contribute their strength, wisdom, and experience to our community, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County is committed to helping all older adults age in place; living longer, healthier lives in the communities of their choice for as long as possible, and

WHEREAS, since 1965, the Older Americans Act has provided services that help older adults remain healthy and independent by complementing existing medical and health care systems, helping prevent hospital readmissions, and supporting some of the most basic functions of life, such as bathing or preparing meals, and

WHEREAS, the 2022 theme of Older Americans Month is “Age My Way”, and focuses on opportunities for us all to explore the many ways older adults can remain in and be involved with their communities, and

WHEREAS, we recognize communities that encourage contributions of older adults are stronger and recognize the value of community engagement and service in helping older adults remain healthy and active while giving back to others, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County can work to build an even better community for our older residents by planning programs that encourage independence; ensuring activities are responsive to individual needs and preferences; and increasing access to services that support aging in place,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators proclaims May as Older Americans Month in St. Lawrence County with the 2022 theme being “Age My Way,” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board encourages all citizens to recognize the contributions of our older adults, help to create an inclusive society, and join efforts to support older Americans’ choices about how they age in their communities.

May 2, 2022

Services Committee: 4-18-2022

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE SAINT REGIS
MOHAWK TRIBE OFFICE FOR THE AGING**

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, information about available long term services and supports and assistance in accessing these services is essential to enabling older adults and individuals of all ages with disabilities to return to or remain in their homes and communities, and

WHEREAS, the role of caregivers and their need for objective information and assistance about long-term services is important in the support of their loved ones, as well as services and support they themselves may need, and

WHEREAS, increasing knowledge and coordination of local long-term services and supports across service and payer systems is a collaborative effort of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Office for the Aging and the St. Lawrence County Department of Social Services through the New York Connects Program, and

WHEREAS, an agreement between the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Office for the Aging and the Department of Social Services would be helpful to implement and maintain a New York Connects Program in Akwesasne, meet long term services and supports needs, and stimulate greater access to non-institutionally based long-term care services and supports, and

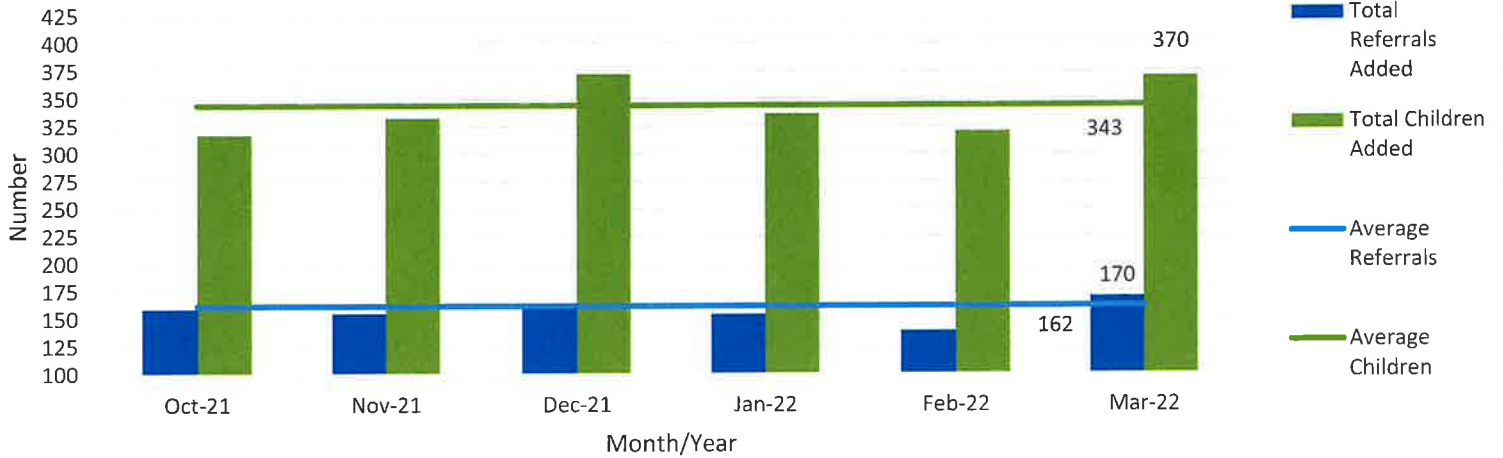
WHEREAS, this agreement would take effect on the date signed by all of the parties or the date any other required approvals have been obtained, whichever is later and shall expire sixty (60) months from the date of execution unless renewed by mutual agreement of the parties,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Social Services and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Office for the Aging, upon approval of the County Attorney.

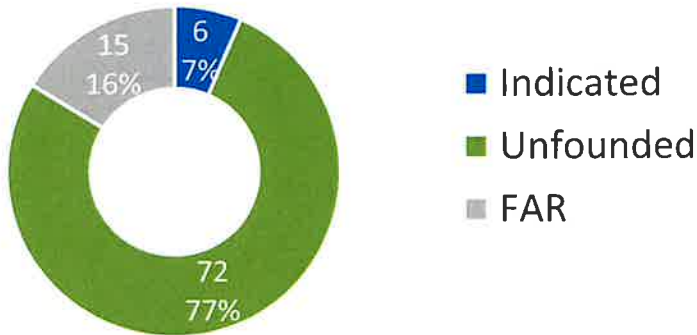
Social Services Monthly Update – March 2022

Child Protective Services

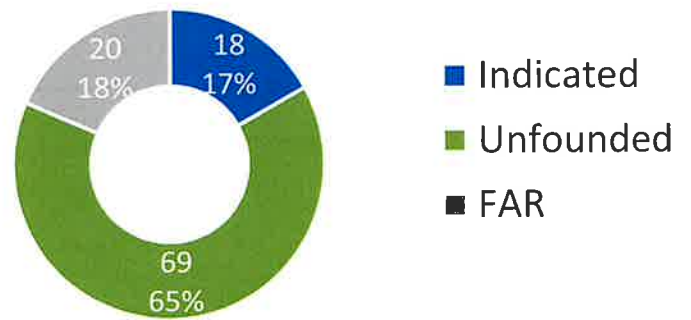
Referrals & Children Added



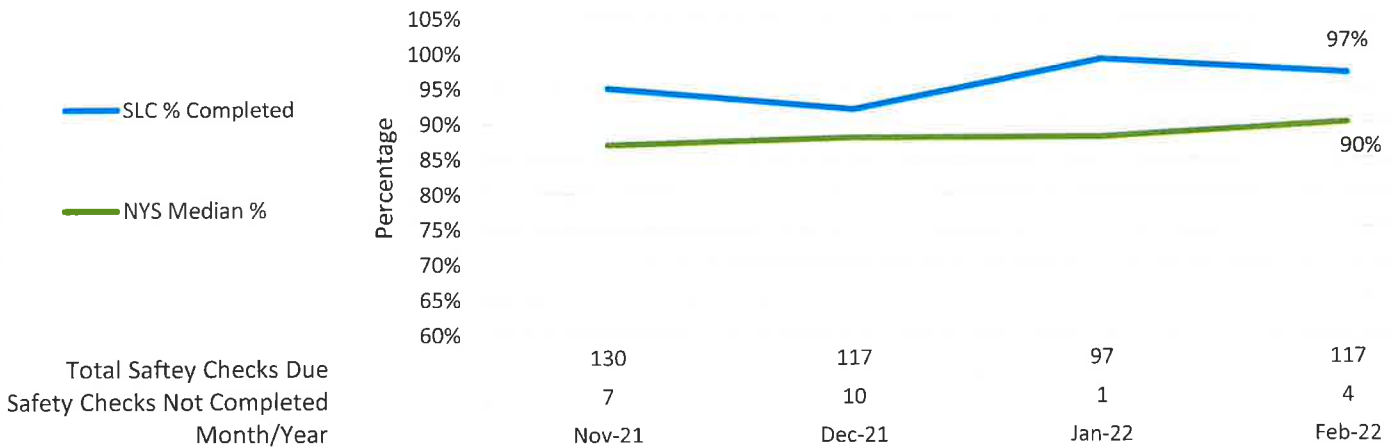
Indicated, Unfounded, & Family Assessment Response



Average Indicated, Unfounded, & Family Assessment Response

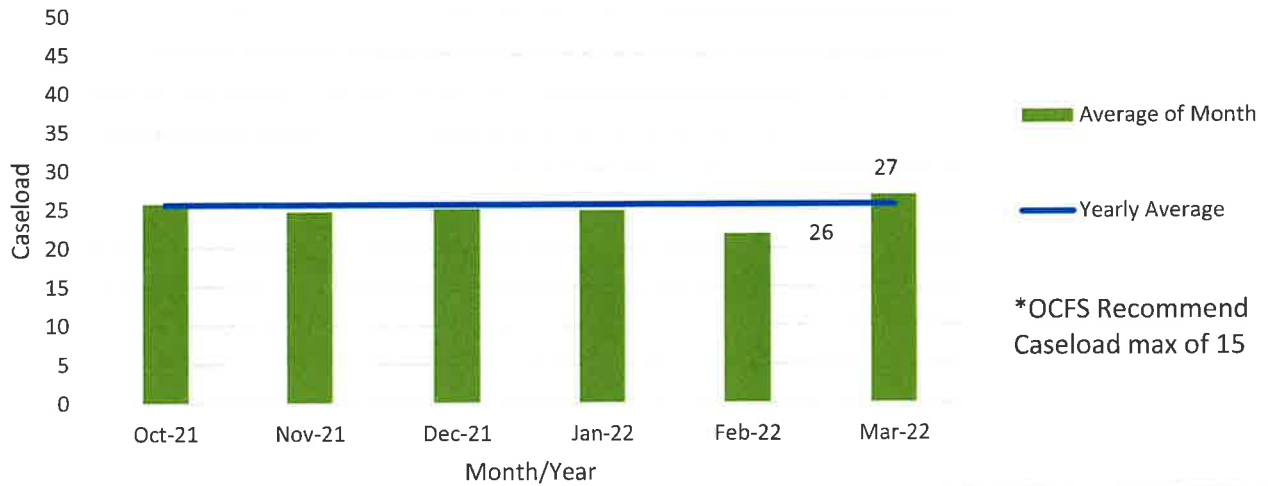


Safety Checks Completed on Time

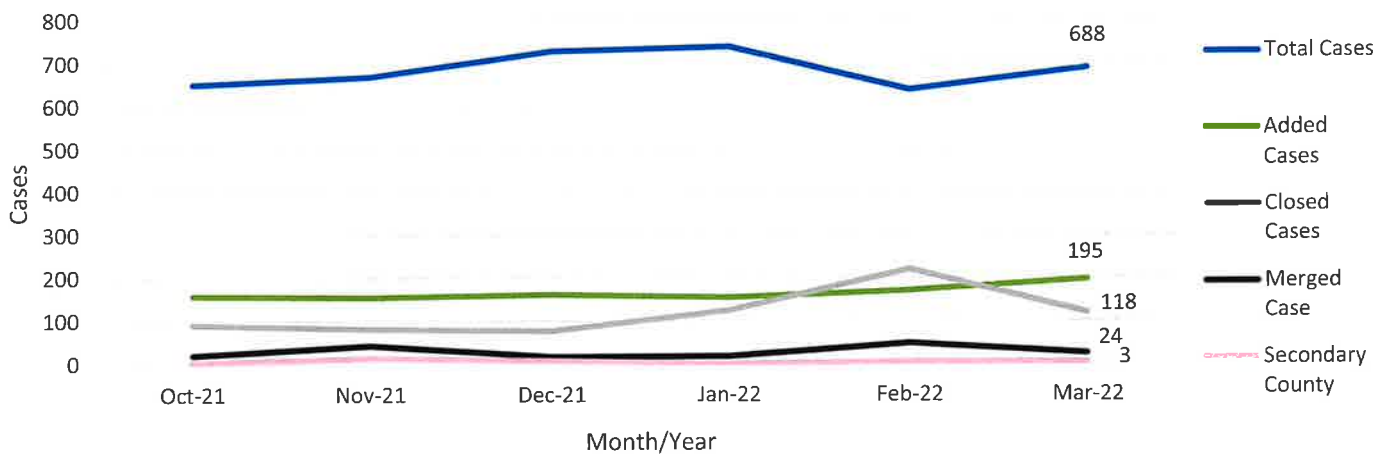


*Data Lagged By One Month Due to Reporting Timeline

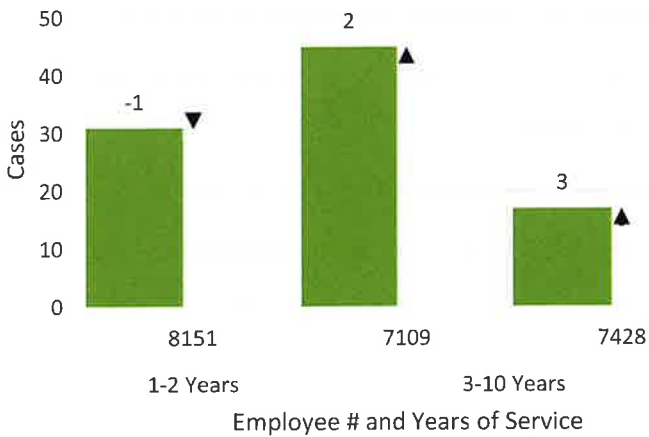
Average CPS Caseload



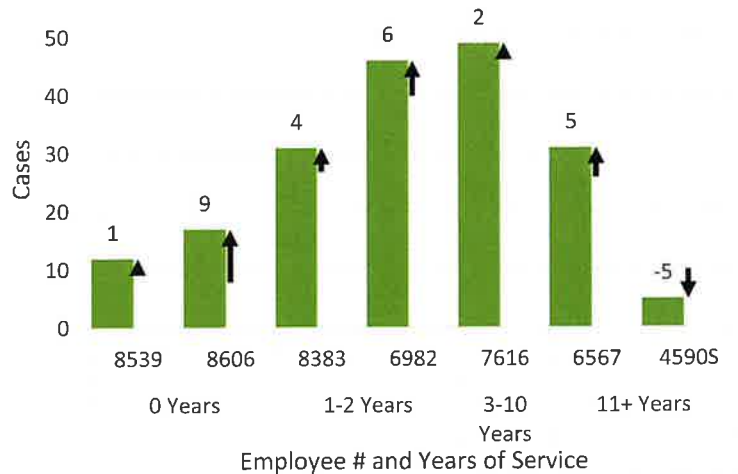
Total Caseload



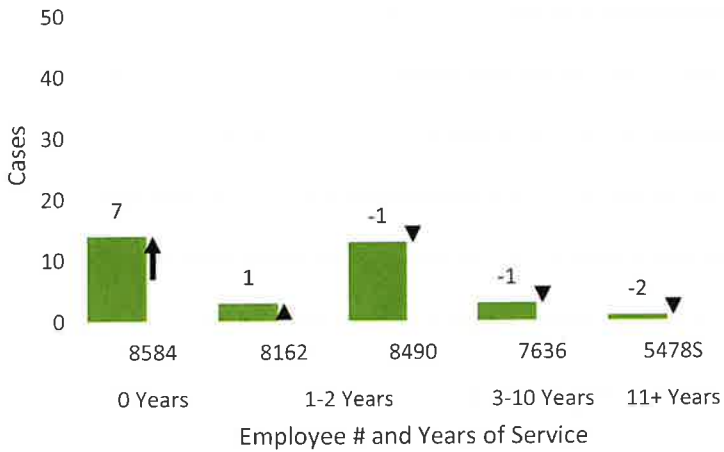
Cases Per Month by Supervisor #: 3856



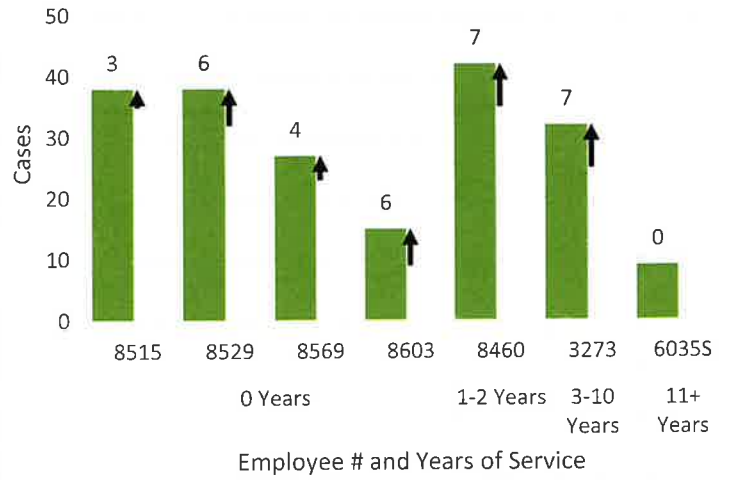
Cases Per Month by Supervisor #: 4590



Cases Per Month by Supervisor #: 5478



Cases Per Month by Supervisor #: 6035



Cases Per Month by Supervisor #: 7255



Trainee Period

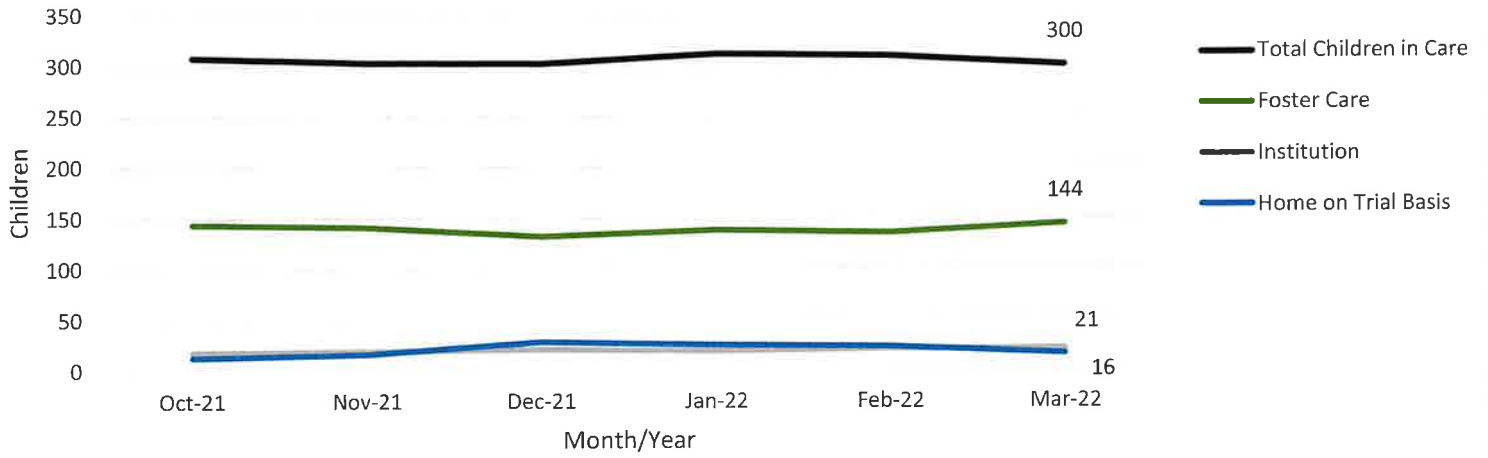


Cases Closed

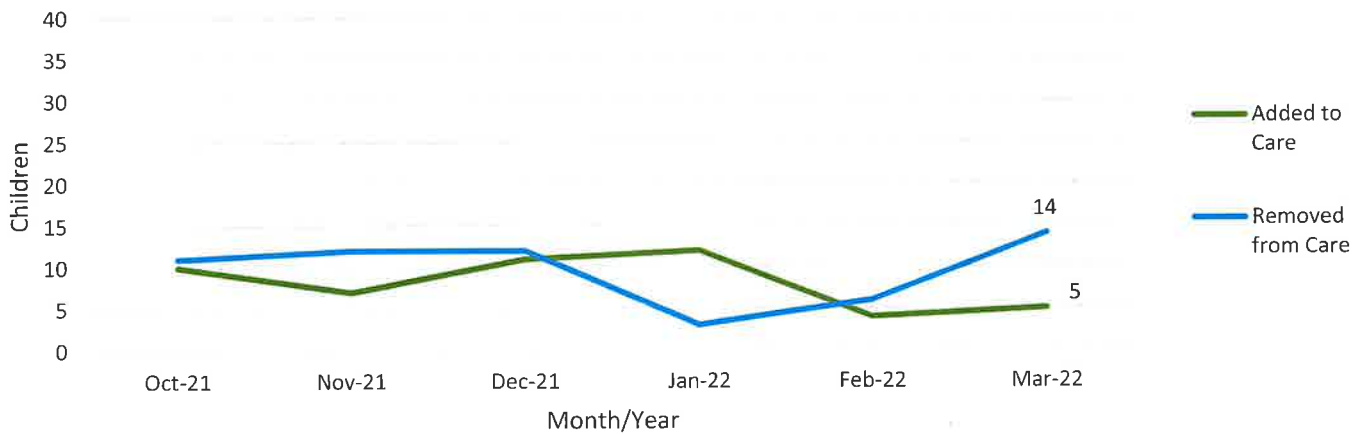


Preventive Services

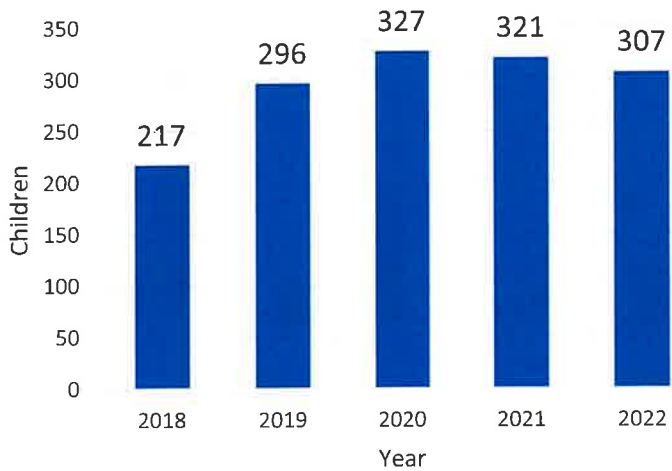
Children In Care



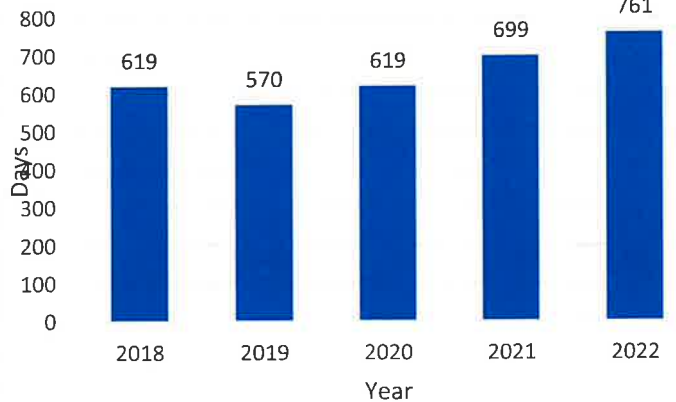
Net Change to Children in Care



Average Number of Children in Care

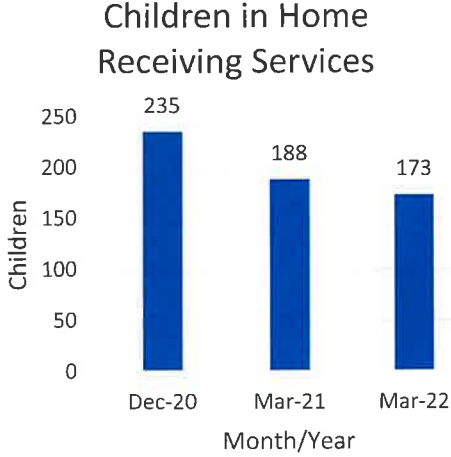


Average Days Children Have Been in Care

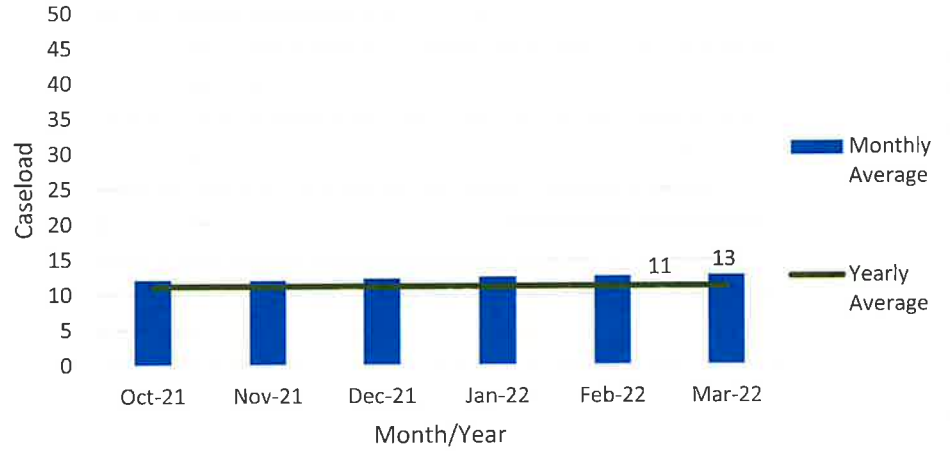


Children without Adoptive Resource Average: 2188

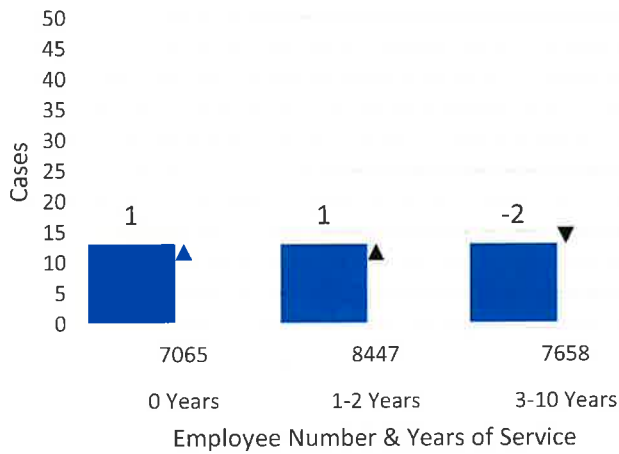
Average Number of Children in Home Receiving Services



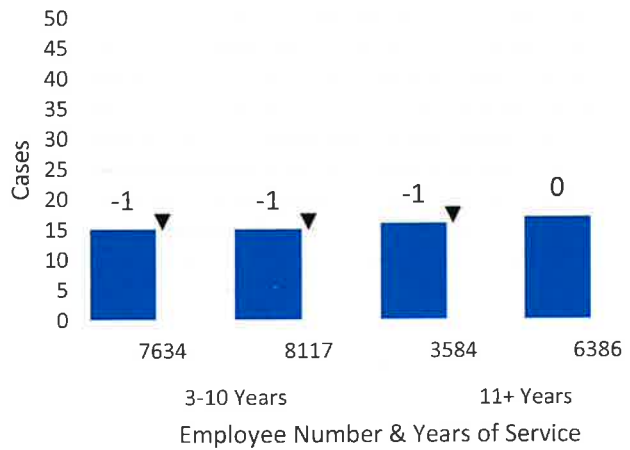
Average Preventive Caseload



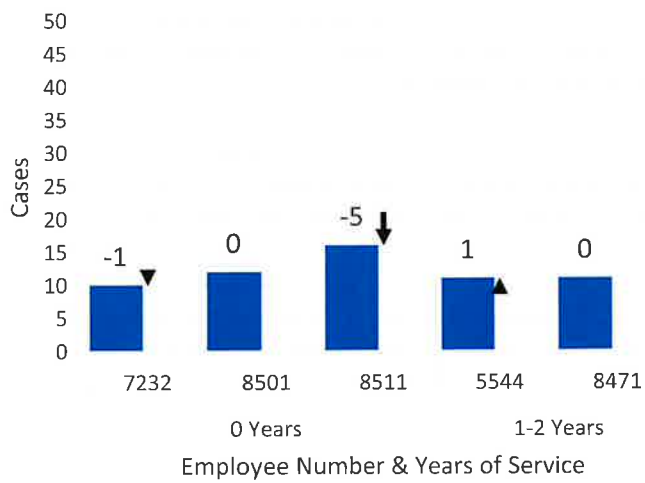
Cases Per Month by Supervisor: 6053



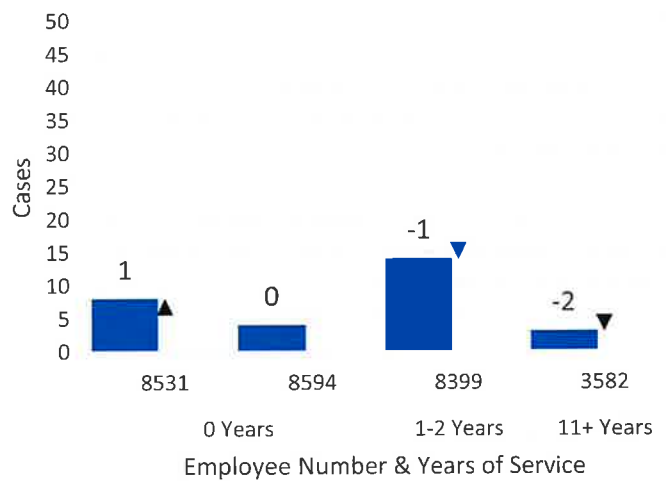
Cases Per Month by Supervisor: 660



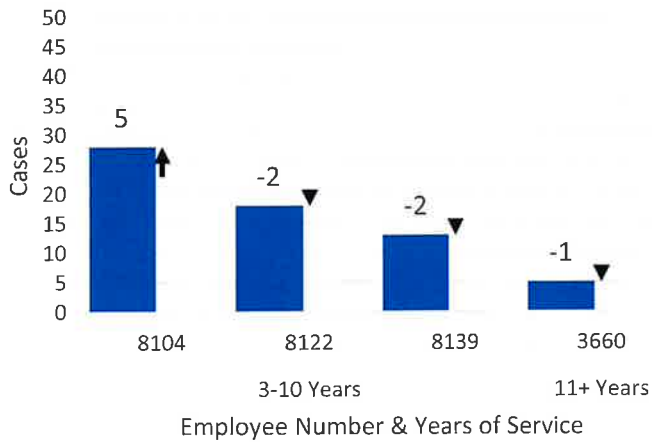
Cases Per Month by Supervisor: 2942



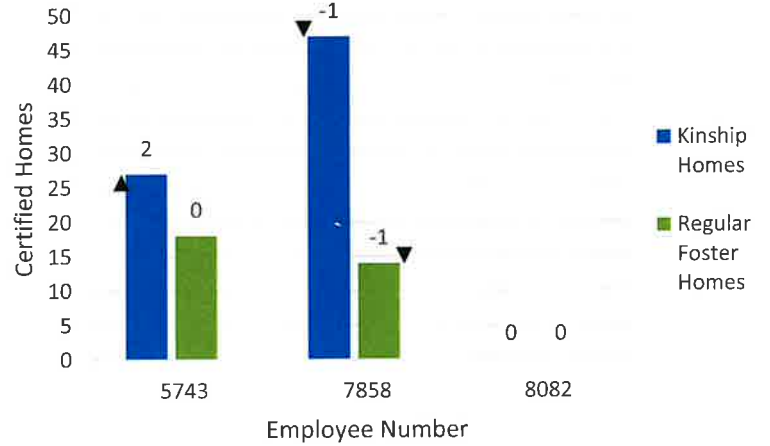
Cases Per Month by Supervisor: 5748



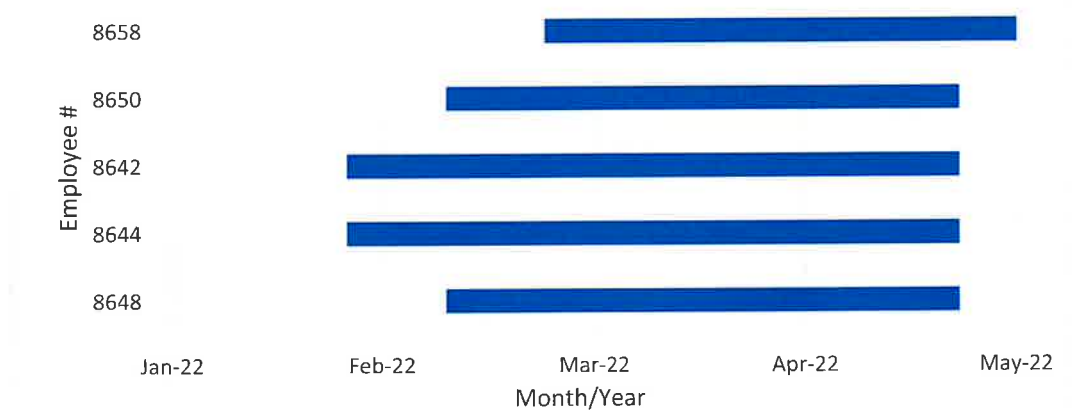
Cases Per Month by Supervisor: 3660



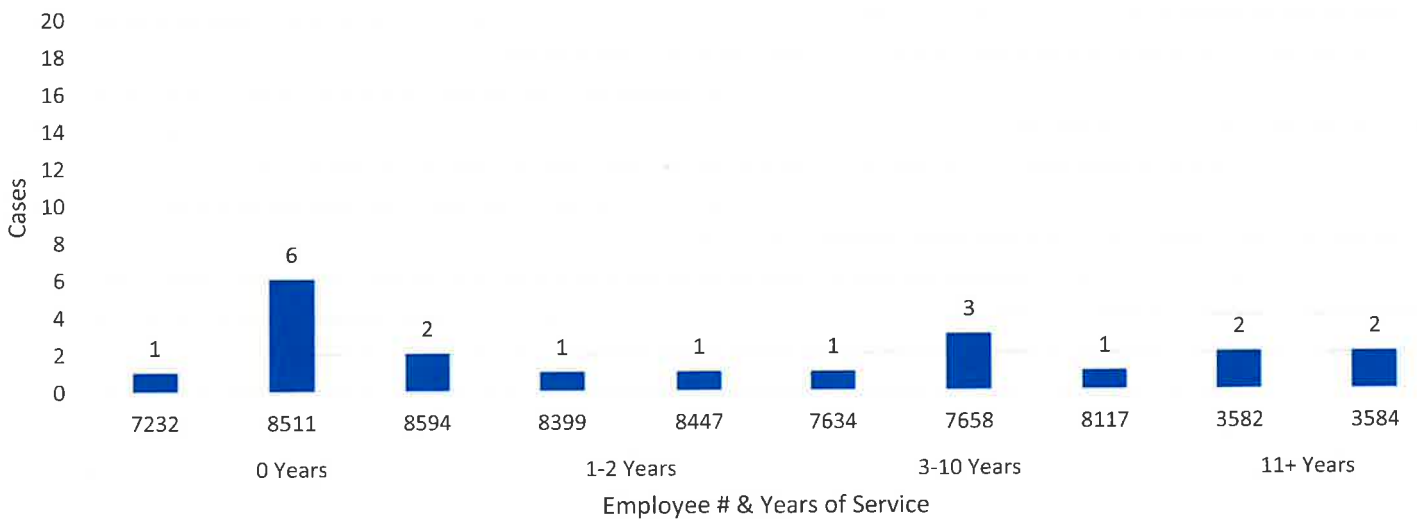
Home Finder Unit - Supervisor: 1998



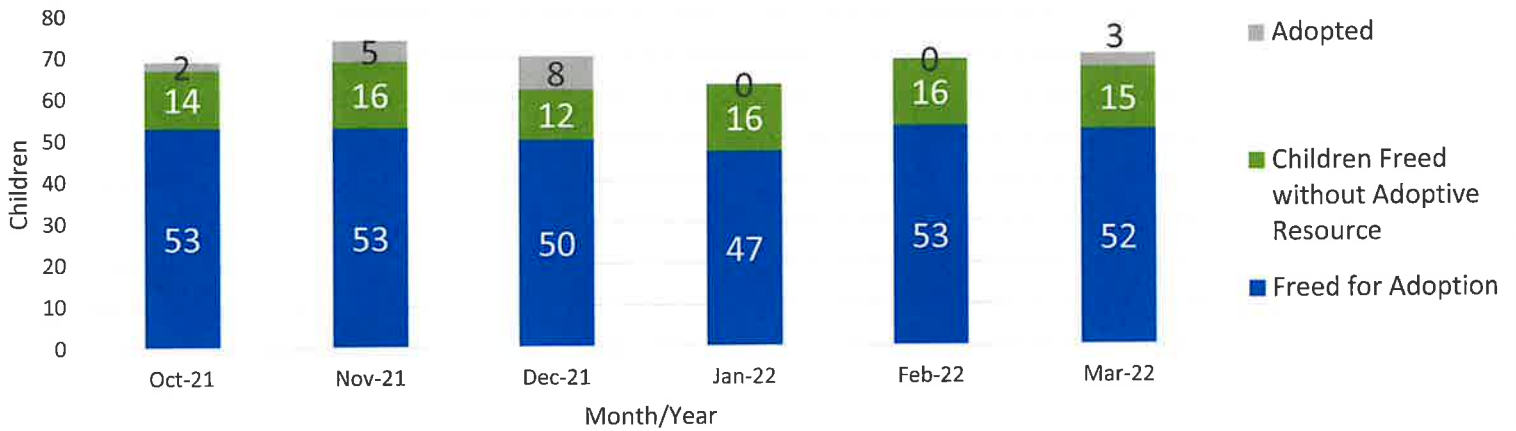
Trainee Period



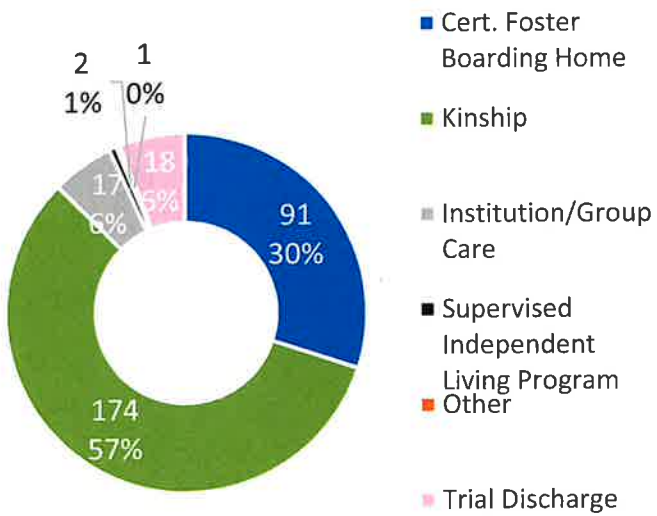
Cases Closed



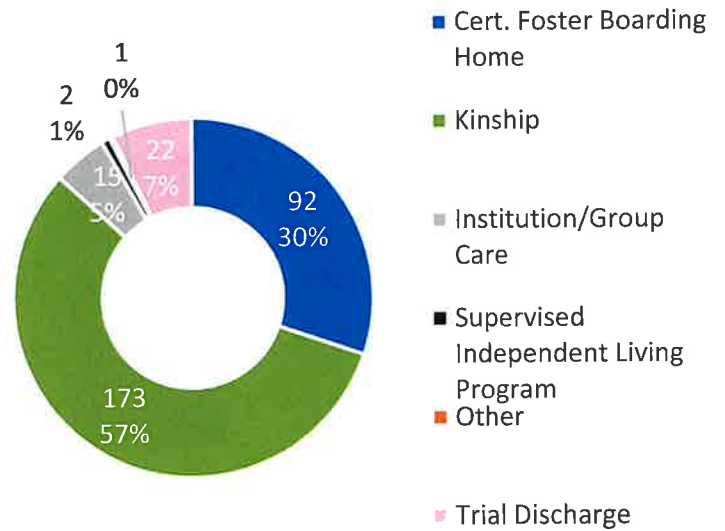
Adoption Activity



Foster Care Placements

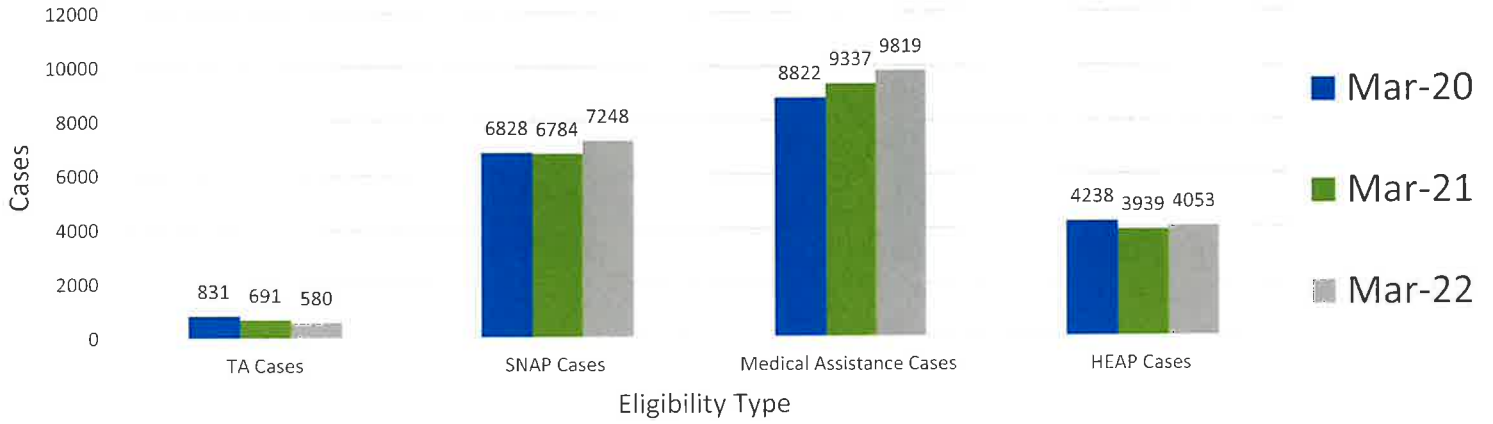


Average Foster Care Placements

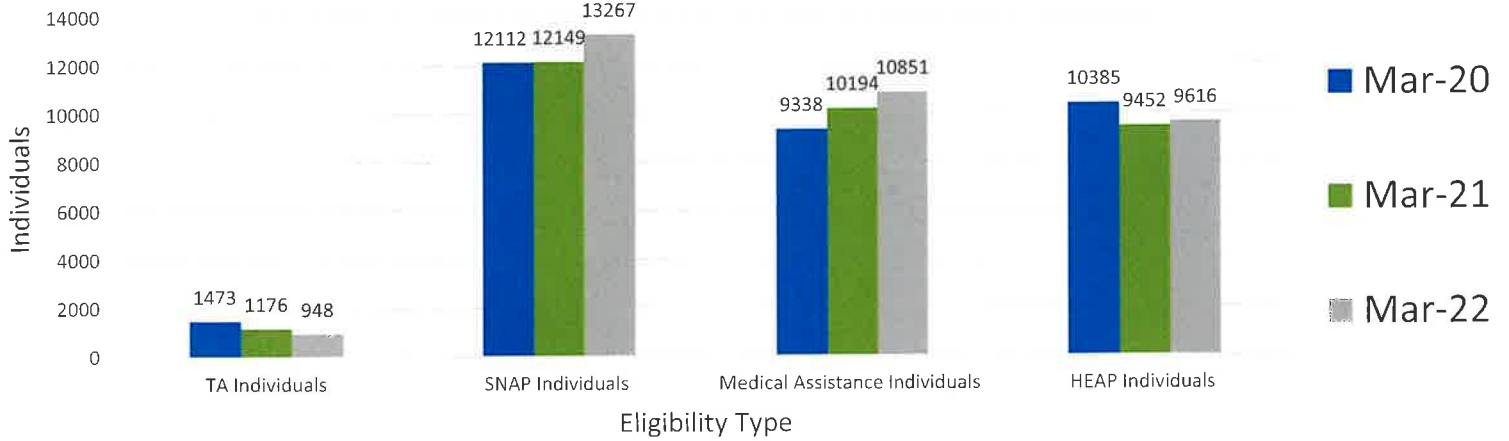


Eligibility Programs

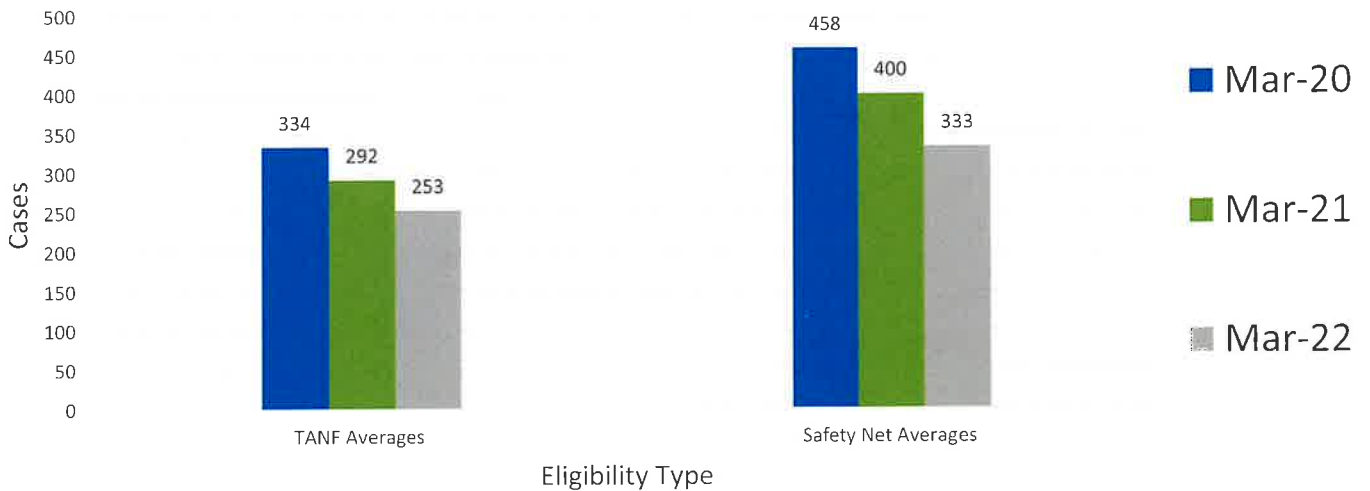
Cases



Individuals



TANF & Safety Net Averages



May 2, 2022

Services Committee: 4-18-2022

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**ACCEPTING THE KING-SIZE HEARTWARMING YOUNG HERO GRANT FROM
THE ALLSTATE FOUNDATION AND YOUTH SERVICE AMERICA (YSA) AND
MODIFYING THE 2022 BUDGET FOR THE YOUTH BUREAU**

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, Youth Service America (YSA), along with the Allstate Foundation, has awarded the Heartwarming Young Hero Grant in the amount of \$500 to the St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau, and

WHEREAS, the mission of Youth Service America (YSA) is to support initiatives that foster meaningful connections, teach empathy, and promote inclusion, and

WHEREAS, the Youth Committee is sponsoring its 2nd Annual 2022 Trash Dash on April 30th and May 1st, during Global Youth Service Day, and

WHEREAS, County youth and residents will protect the environment by picking up roadside trash and will build connections by coming together with a purpose, and

WHEREAS, this award will increase the budget of the Youth Bureau by \$500,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes accepting the King-Size Heartwarming Young Hero Grant from the Allstate Foundation and Youth Service America (YSA), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is authorized to modify the 2022 Budget for the Youth Bureau, as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

Y2073104 42000	Y SYCC Office Supplies & Expenses	\$500
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INCREASE REVENUE:

Y2027055 55000	Y LR Gifts & Donations	\$500
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ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

TRASH DASH



#SLCTRASHDASH



April 30th & May 1st 2022



**PLOG &
JOG**

#SLCTRASHDASH



**SAVE THE DATE &
REGISTER BY FRIDAY, APRIL 15TH**

Gouverneur, 4/30 9:00 am (Click or Scan)

Potsdam, 4/30 9:00 am

Canton, 5/01 2:00 pm

Ogdensburg, 5/01 2:00 pm

Massena, 5/01 2:00 pm



Safety training &
equipment
provided.



May 2, 2022

Services Committee: 4-18-2022

RESOLUTION NO. _____

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH COUNTRY INITIATIVE (NCI) FOR PROMISE PRACTICES FUNDS AND MODIFYING THE 2022 BUDGET FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, North Country Initiative (NCI) is a partnership of hospitals, independent physicians, and community providers working together to reform the healthcare system in the Tug Hill Seaway Region, and

WHEREAS, Community Services Addictions and Mental Health Clinics are qualified NCI Partners who are members of the clinically integrated network within Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties, and

WHEREAS, On October 7th, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul signed into law Legislation S.1795/A.868 requiring that all inmates are to be assessed, diagnosed, provided individual and group counseling, peer services, transitional services and Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD), and

WHEREAS, Community Services Addictions and Mental Health Clinics have proposed a plan to train St. Lawrence County Correctional Facility staff to prepare them for the implementation of this mandate, and

WHEREAS, Community Services has received one-time grant funding from NCI Promise Practices Funds in the amount of \$15,651 and these funds will be used to pay for overtime of the staff members at St. Lawrence County Correctional Facility to participate in *Creating a Trauma Informed Response Culture Training* provided by New York State Office of Mental Health,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a Cooperative Agreement with the North Country Initiative (NCI) for Promise Practices Funds, upon approval of the County Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is authorized to modify the 2022 Budget for Community Services, as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

A1Z42301 11000	A Direct Service Workers	\$6,265
A1Z42301 12000	A Supervisory/Administrative	1,320
A1Z42301 18000	A Overtime	3,105
A1Z42308 81000	A Retirement	1,347
A1Z42308 83000	A Social Security	760
A1Z42308 84000	A Workmens Compensation	269
A1Z42308 84500	Group Life Insurance	14

May 2, 2022

A1Z42308 86000	Hospital & Medical Insurance	2,456
A1Z42308 86500	A Dental Insurance	85
A1Z42308 89000	A Vision Insurance	<u>30</u>
		\$15,651

INCREASE REVENUE:

A1Z44885 57000	NCI Award	\$15,651
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any remaining funds will be rolled over to future budgets until the grant is fully expended.

May 2, 2022

Services Committee: 4-18-2022

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**AUTHORIZING CHAIR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH
COORDINATED CARE SERVICES, INC. FOR THE PREPARATION
OF THE 2021 CONSOLIDATED FISCAL REPORT**

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Services Committee

WHEREAS, Community Services has recognized the need for assistance in preparing the 2021 Consolidated Fiscal Report (CFR), and

WHEREAS, Coordinated Care Services, Inc. (CCSI) provides support in behavioral health and human services, specifically in financial reporting, claiming, and budgeting for many counties and providers, and

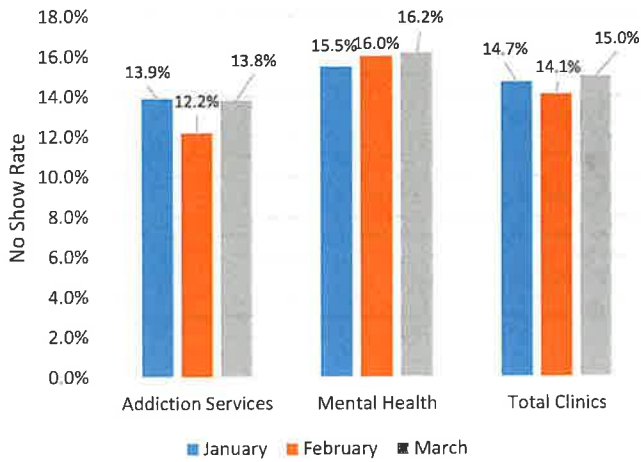
WHEREAS, CCSI would prepare the 2021 CFR and provide specialized Local Government Unit (LGU) fiscal support for Community Services, and

WHEREAS, the rate is \$105 per hour, not to exceed \$10,000 (A5043104 43007),

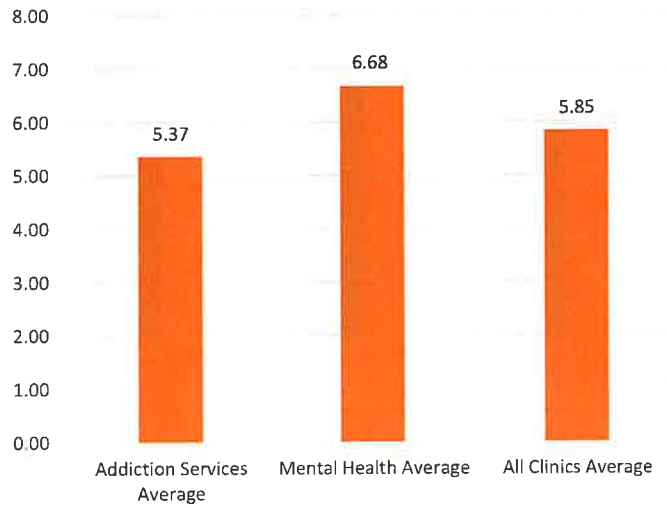
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators authorizes the Chair to sign a contract for with Coordinated Care Services, Inc. for the preparation of the 2021 Consolidated Fiscal Report, upon approval of the County Attorney.

Community Services Update March 2022

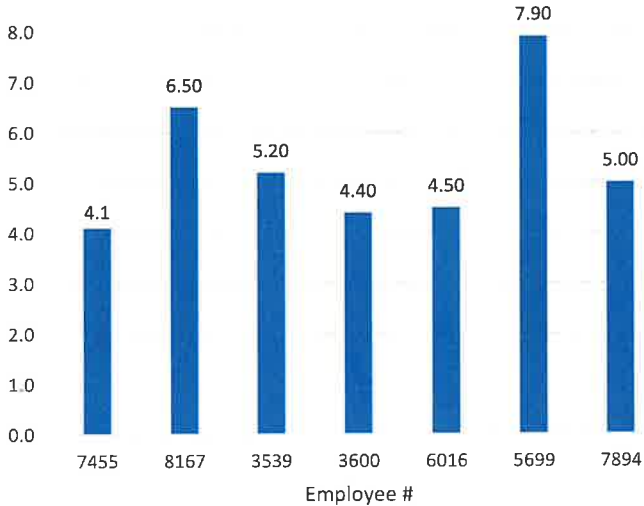
No Show Rates By Month (23.3% Before Call Reminders)



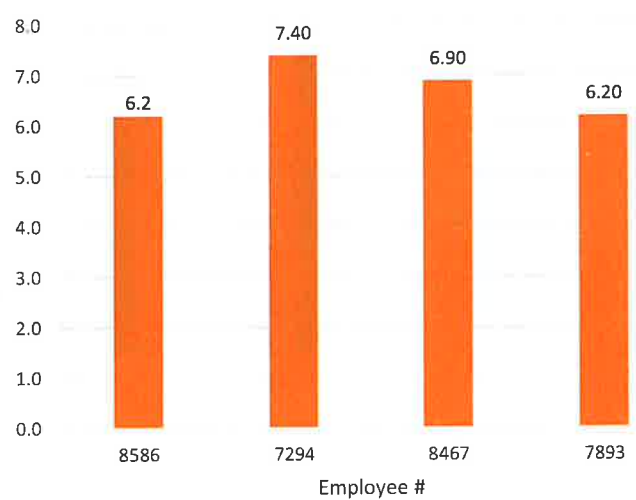
Clinic Counselor Visits Average



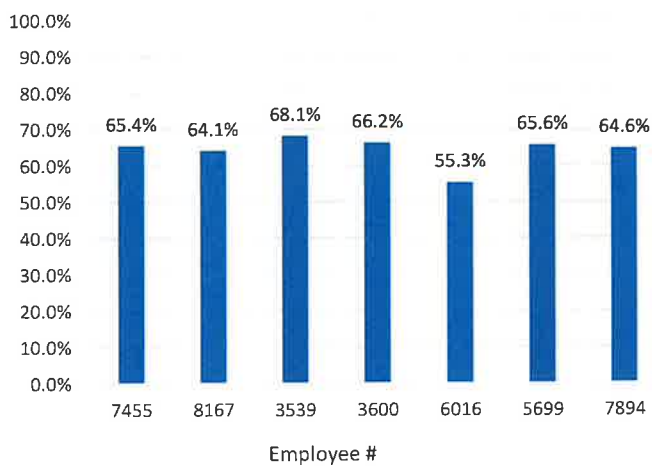
Addition Services Visits Per Seven Hours



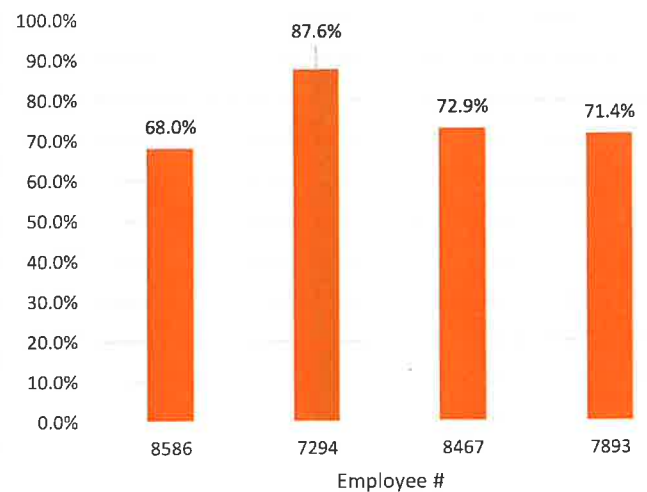
Mental Health Visits Per Seven Hours



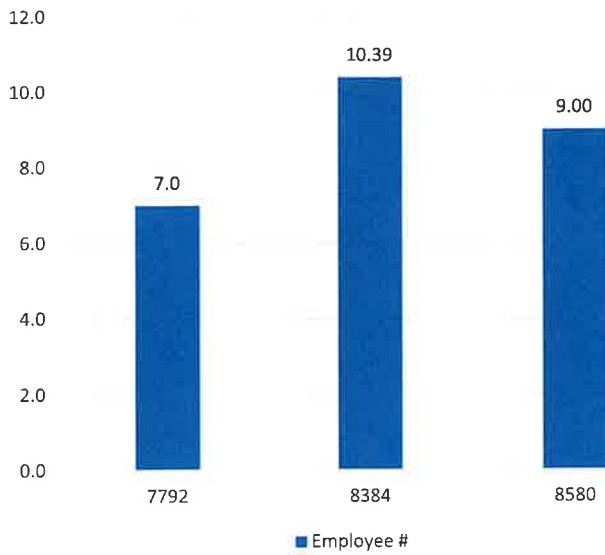
Addition Services Weighted Face to Face %



Mental Health Weighted Face to Face %

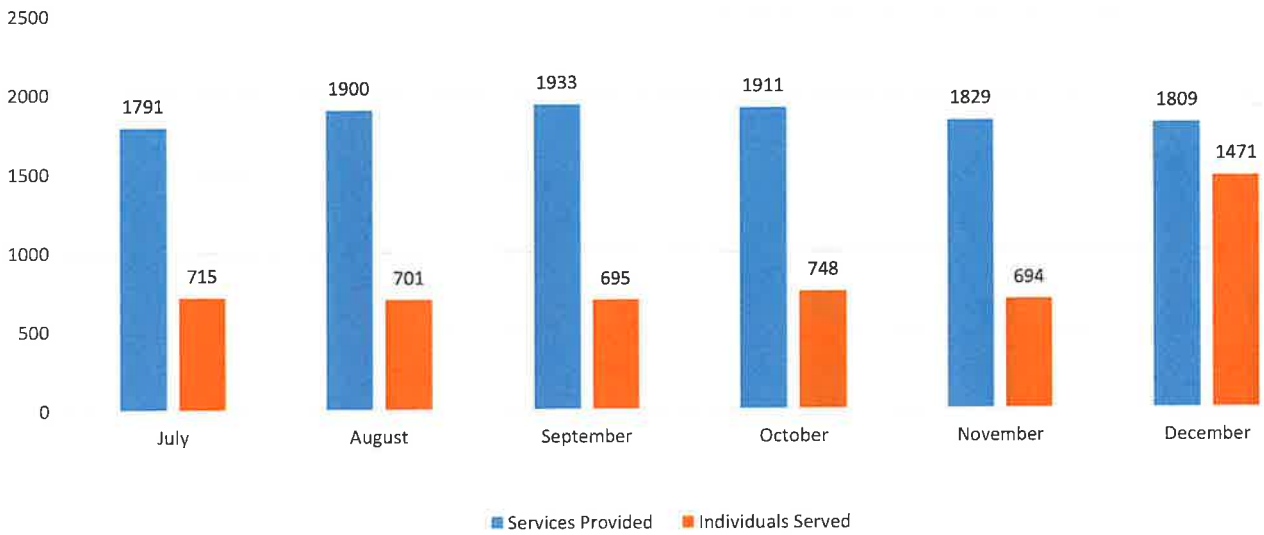


Prescriber Visits Per Seven Hours

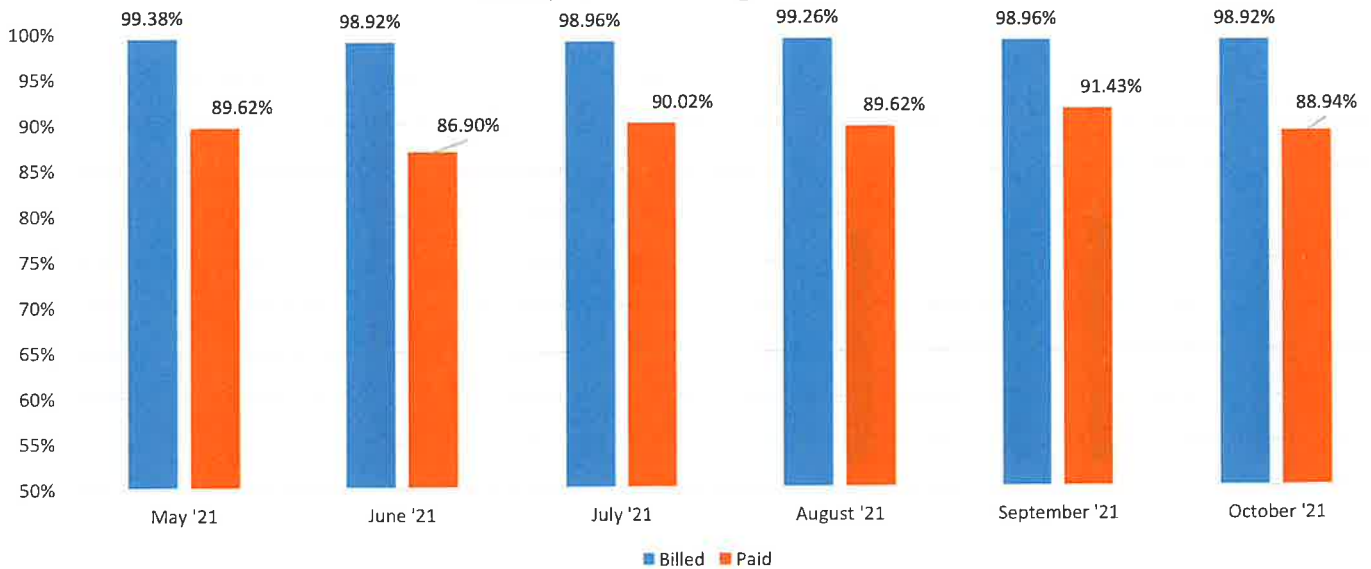


Waiting Lists	Number
Canton CD	10
Gouverneur CD	3
Massena CD	2
Ogdensburg CD	3
Addiction Services Total	18
Mental Health Total	51

Services Provided - All Clinics



Billed/Paid Percentages - All Clinics



May 2, 2022

Services Committee: 4-18-2022

RESOLUTION NO. _____

URGING GOVERNOR HOCHUL AND THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO GRADUALLY ELIMINATE THE COUNTY FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SUMMER SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Services Committee
Co-Sponsored by Ms. Haggard, District 10 and Ms. Terminelli, District 14

WHEREAS, Chapter 23 of the Laws of 1989 established the Preschool Program for Children with Handicapping Conditions as 4410 of the Education Law, and

WHEREAS, the original law included a provision to limit the county fiscal responsibility to twenty-five percent (25%) by the 1993-94 school year, and

WHEREAS, a gubernatorial statewide task force on reforming preschool special education determined that counties should be removed completely from financing the preschool special education program of New York State, and

WHEREAS, the State has enacted legislation to provide universal prekindergarten for all age eligible children in New York State to be financed one-hundred percent (100%) with State resources, and

WHEREAS, the State also requires counties to support ten percent (10%) of summer school special education 4408 program costs for all children, and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul has proposed a fifteen percent (15%) provider rate increase, amounting to more than \$240 million in additional funding, and

WHEREAS, that NYSAC estimates the financial cost borne by counties for this rate increase is approximately \$50 million annually, and

WHEREAS, the fact that other states do not require county government to pay for these special education expenses and the failure of New York State to fully fund its promised share of preschool special education program costs contributes directly to New York having the highest in the nation property tax burden,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators urges Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to implement a plan to gradually eliminate the county fiscal responsibility for preschool special education and summer school special education programs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED in the first phase, the State must cap the annual county share growth for state fiscal year 2023 at no more than two percent (2%) to mirror the allowable growth in the property tax cap or the average of the last three (3) years of an individual cost to the county, whichever is less, and

May 2, 2022

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the second phase should include capping county fiscal liability at a zero percent (0%) increase for preschool special education and then implementing a multi-year plan to incrementally reduce the county fiscal liability for this program to no more than twenty-five percent (25%) as intended at the inception of the program to help reduce pressure on property taxes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the third phase should gradually reduce the county fiscal responsibility to zero (0) for both preschool and summer school special education costs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Katherine Hochul, Senator Joseph Griffo, Senator Patricia Ritchie, Senator Dan Stec, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman Billy Jones, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, Assemblyman Mark Walczyk, and NYSAC.

May 2, 2022

Services Committee: 4-18-2022

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**IN SUPPORT OF RAISING THE CHILDCARE SUBSIDY RATE AND INCREASING
THE TOTAL ALLOTMENT TO SOCIAL SERVICES TO IMPROVE EQUITABLE
ACCESS TO CHILDCARE ACROSS NEW YORK STATE**

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Services Committee
Co-Sponsored by Ms. Haggard, District 10 and Ms. Terminelli, District 14

WHEREAS, for years, access to high-quality childcare has been limited to those who can afford it or are fortunate enough to receive a subsidy and be able to locate quality care, limiting the ability of parents of young children to enter and succeed in the workforce and for employers to find and retain skilled workers, and

WHEREAS, the average cost of childcare for an infant in New York State is \$15,394 per year, which is more expensive than in all but five (5) states in the country, and

WHEREAS, childcare in New York State costs more than college, and infant care is more expensive than the average rent, and

WHEREAS, the lack of affordable and accessible childcare during the pandemic has driven women, in particular, out of the workforce in large numbers and led many to weigh whether staying out of the workforce is more cost-efficient, and

WHEREAS, the Child Care Availability Task Force, which was co-chaired by then-Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, recognized that childcare is not just an issue for women but a societal and economic issue that touches every family, in every community, regardless of neighborhood or economic status, and

WHEREAS, according to a statewide poll conducted in the fall of 2020, the majority of New York State business leaders say the lack of accessibility and availability of high-quality childcare for infants and toddlers negatively impacts their businesses and their ability to hire and retain employees, and

WHEREAS, New York employers specifically cite employee absenteeism and calling-out due to a lack of access to and availability of childcare for infants and toddlers, as well as reduced employee productivity and turnover due to child care issues, as contributing to loss in revenue, and

WHEREAS, on average, working parents in America miss five (5) to nine (9) days of work per year because of childcare problems, costing U.S. businesses \$3 billion a year in lost productivity, and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul, in one of her first addresses to the business community as Governor, identified childcare as one of her top three priorities to support the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and

May 2, 2022

WHEREAS, Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS) Commissioner Sheila Poole, in a September 2021 interview, called childcare “the superhighway to economic recovery,” and

WHEREAS, the significant difference between the childcare subsidy rate set by OCFS and the actual cost of providing care has contributed to extremely low wages for childcare workers, ninety-eight percent (98%) of whom are women and sixty-percent (60%) of whom are minorities, and

WHEREAS, low wages have led to a shortage of childcare workers, which has meant that childcare providers cannot keep up with demand and have fewer childcare slots to offer, and

WHEREAS, sixty-four percent (64%) of New Yorkers live in communities that qualify as child care deserts, meaning the community lacks sufficient child care for the vast majority of families that need it, and

WHEREAS, the size of the gap between subsidy rates and the true cost of quality varies by region but exists across the state for infants and toddlers, and

WHEREAS, the final report of the Child Care Availability Task Force called on New York State to adopt subsidy rates that are aligned with the true cost of quality care, including recognizing the higher cost of care necessary for infants and toddlers, and

WHEREAS, high-quality childcare promotes healthy child development, which has long-term benefits for children and families, the economy, and society as a whole, as it is proven to reduce rates of incarceration, homelessness, and poverty in later life, and

WHEREAS, children who have quality early learning experiences are less likely to drop out of high school, need public assistance, or become a teen parent and are more likely to go to college and have good health as an adult, and

WHEREAS, quality early care and learning also helps reduce the disparities that are often associated with race, ethnicity, language, citizenship status, and socio-economic level, and

WHEREAS, investing in quality childcare is a critical public investment into a better functioning, more equitable, democratic economy and society,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators is in support of raising the childcare subsidy rate and increasing the total allotment to social services to improve equitable access to childcare across New York State, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board supports increasing the total allotment given to social service districts around the state so they can pay the increased subsidy rate without having to decrease the number of children and families receiving the subsidy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Katherine Hochul, Senator Joseph Griffo, Senator Patricia Ritchie, Senator Dan Stec, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman Billy Jones, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, Assemblyman Mark Walczyk, OCFS Commissioner Sheila Poole, and NYSAC.

May 2, 2022

Services Committee: 4-18-2022

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**URGING THE GOVERNOR AND NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO RESTORE
CRITICAL STATE FUNDING SUPPORT FOR CHILD WELFARE SERVICES,
SAFETY NET PROGRAMS AND TO FULLY FUND THE RECENT FOSTER CARE
RATE SETTLEMENT WITH STATE RESOURCES**

By Mr. Lightfoot, Chair, Services Committee
Co-Sponsored by Ms. Haggard, District 10 and Ms. Terminelli, District 14

WHEREAS, over the last fifteen years New York State has devolved away from their historic and constitutional responsibilities of providing social services and support for low-income families and individuals, as demonstrated through significant reductions in state financial support for these programs, thereby shifting state costs and responsibilities to counties and New York City, and

WHEREAS, these state funding shifts have increased county and New York City social services costs by hundreds of millions of dollars annually because the State requires that all services still be provided in full, sometimes including new and more comprehensive service levels, but with less State resources, and

WHEREAS, these cuts include a reduction of State fiscal match from sixty-five percent (65%) to sixty-two percent (62%) percent for child welfare services, and lowering state fiscal matching funds for Safety Net Programs from fifty percent (50%) to twenty-nine percent (29%) along with maximizing federal funding to offset some of this loss, but the federal funds no longer offset losses for most counties today, and

WHEREAS, state funding support for the Foster Care Block Grant was cut by \$62 million in state fiscal year 2018, a fourteen percent (14%) reduction, and

WHEREAS, the Governor's state fiscal year 2023 budget proposal would eliminate the 45-day waiting period for cash assistance under the Safety Net Program which will increase county and New York City costs by \$40 million annually, and

WHEREAS, the SFY 2023 budget proposal includes provisions to settle long standing state litigation related to inadequate foster care rates paid to foster parents, and

WHEREAS, in another recent state negotiated settlement to end litigation the Hurrell-Harring agreement provided one hundred percent (100%) state funding support for all new costs of the settlement, and

WHEREAS, counties and New York City were not part of the foster care payment adequacy lawsuit or the settlement and it was the New York State Office for Children and Family Services that agreed to its terms, including significant increases in expenditures, without providing a corresponding increase in state funds to support the settlement and the Foster Care Block Grant,

May 2, 2022

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of legislators urges the Governor and New York State Legislature to restore critical State funding support for child welfare services, Safety Net Programs and to fully fund the recent foster care rate settlement with State resources, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators urges the Governor and the Legislature to restore the State open ended child welfare matching rate to sixty-five percent (65%), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators urges the Governor and Legislature to restore State matching support for Safety Net Programs to fifty percent (50%) without further reducing any other public assistance reimbursement before considering benefit expansions as proposed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Katherine Hochul, Senator Joseph Griffo, Senator Patricia Ritchie, Senator Dan Stec, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman Billy Jones, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, Assemblyman Mark Walczyk, and NYSAC.

St. Lawrence County Vacancy Authorization Form

Community Services



Type: Fill

Chemical Dependency Counselor

Subunit (If Applicable): Chemical Dependency Clinic

Date Submitted: 3/18/2022

Reason Vacated: Promotion

Position Number: 510400009

Date Vacated: 3/21/2022

Position # Abolished: N/A

Position Will Be: Full-time

Last Fill Date: 10/08/2019

Hours Per Week: 35

Appointee Will Be: Permanent

Budget

Fill Request Timeline: Immediately

Temporary Position? No

Salary of Person Leaving: \$50,241

Revenue Generating: Yes 100 %

Benefits: Yes \$24,975

Reimbursed by State or Federal Funds: No 0 %

Base Salary: \$48,403

Budget Mod Attached, If Required?

Grade: 24

Net County Cost: \$0

Detailed Justification

What is the impact on your department if this position is not filled? Please provide, in detail, the need to fill the position. Please include the service provided, if it is mandated, number of people (clients) affected, and what you will do if the position is not filled.

The filling of direct service positions within both the Chemical Dependency and Mental Health Clinics is paramount to the viability of this department and to the care of its current and future clients. The Addictions Clinics has one CASAC counselor position open that we requesting to fill at this time. If the position is not filled we would not be able to meet the demand of the current rate of referrals. There is currently 28 on the wait list. Access to care is paramount given the current Opioid crisis and the OTP expansion project. Not filling this position would also negatively impact the Addiction Services State Aid Funding. In 2021 the average revenue generated by a CASAC counselor covered approximately 100.3% of salary and fringe.

Department Head: *J. S. White*

Approved?
Yes No

County Administrator:

Resolution #:

St. Lawrence County Vacancy Authorization Form

Community Services



Type: Fill

Senior Chemical Dependency Case Aide

Subunit (If Applicable): Addiction Services

Date Submitted: April 1, 2022

Reason Vacated: Promotion

Position Number: 510200001

Date Vacated: 4/5/2022

Position # Abolished: N/A

Position Will Be: Fulltime

Last Fill Date: 05/31/2016

Hours Per Week: 35

Appointee Will Be: Permanent

Budget

Fill Request Timeline: Immediately

Temporary Position? No

Salary of Person Leaving: \$50,241

Revenue Generating: No 0 %

Benefits: Yes \$24,191

Reimbursed by State or Federal Funds: No 0 %

Base Salary: \$44,870

Budget Mod Attached, If Required?

Grade: 22

Net County Cost: \$74,432

Detailed Justification

What is the impact on your department if this position is not filled? Please provide, in detail, the need to fill the position. Please include the service provided, if it is mandated, number of people (clients) affected, and what you will do if the position is not filled.

The Collocation Project is a valuable program to screen individuals at risk for substance use related problems. The program provides earlier identification and treatment of those who have substance use disorders. Our goal, as a result of these interventions, is that individuals will be able to successfully perform their roles within their family, occupations and community. This program provides Substance Use Disorder screenings, referrals, toxicology testing, and plans of safe care for new mothers with substance related issues.

The Senior Chemical Dependency Case Aide supervises two Chemical Dependency Case Aides. This position insures that toxicology testing is done in a timely and efficient manner by assisting the Case Aides with daily scheduling. This person ensures and that all needed documentation is completed accurately and thoroughly. This person completes the service delivery tracking to DSS & Community Services each and every month. This position works collaboratively between DSS and Community Services to ensure that all participants have access to any and all needed addiction services.

Department Head:

Approved?

Yes No

County Administrator:

Resolution #:

St. Lawrence County Vacancy Authorization Form

Community Services



Type: Abolish & Create

Peer Advocate

Subunit (If Applicable): Addiction Services

Date Submitted: March 22, 2022

Reason Vacated: Reassignment

Position Number: 505900002

Date Vacated: N/A

Position # Abolished: 501300003

Position Will Be: Fulltime

Last Fill Date: July 3rd, 2019

Hours Per Week: 35

Appointee Will Be: Provisional

Budget

Fill Request Timeline: Immediately

Temporary Position? No

Salary of Person Leaving: \$43,292

Revenue Generating: Yes 50 %

Benefits: Yes \$20,845

Reimbursed by State or Federal Funds: No 0 %

Base Salary: \$41,695

Budget Mod Attached, If Required?

Grade: 20

Net County Cost: \$32,069

Detailed Justification

What is the impact on your department if this position is not filled? Please provide, in detail, the need to fill the position. Please include the service provided, if it is mandated, number of people (clients) affected, and what you will do if the position is not filled.

The filling of direct service and revenue generating positions within the Addiction Clinics is paramount to the viability of this department and to the care of its current and future clients. On August 26th, 2019 the Office of Addictions & Supports mandated that all Article 32 Outpatient Clinics offer services by a Certified Recovery Peer Advocate. At that time a civil service title had not been created and in effort to comply in a timely manner with the mandate we hired an individual under the title of Chemical Dependency Case Aide and provided this individual with the training to become a Certified Peer Recovery Advocate.

The needs of this Department can best be met by abolishing position number 501300003, Chemical Dependency Case Aide, and creating and filling a Peer Advocate position, which can be filled with a NYS OASAS Certified Recovery Peer Advocate with the position number 505900002. This change is in effort to have the job description to better meet the OASAS Scope of Practices for a Certified Peer Recovery Advocate.

Please note out first peer staff person was hired in July 2019 and we sent her to SVPC to get trained. She obtained CRPA-P on Sept. 1st and that same day these services became billable.

Department Head:

Approved?

Yes No

County Administrator:

Resolution #:

St. Lawrence County Vacancy Authorization Form

Social Services



Type: Fill

Senior Social Welfare Examiner

Subunit (If Applicable): TA/SNAP

Date Submitted: 3/29/2022

Reason Vacated: Retirement

Position Number: 814100001

Date Vacated: 4/14/2022

Position # Abolished:

Position Will Be: Fulltime

Last Fill Date: 2/8/2010

Hours Per Week: 35

Appointee Will Be: Permanent

Budget

Fill Request Timeline: Immediately

Temporary Position? No

Salary of Person Leaving: \$56,436

Revenue Generating: No 0 %

Benefits: Yes \$31,649

Reimbursed by State or Federal Funds: Yes 68 %

Base Salary: \$46,575

Budget Mod Attached, If Required?

Grade: 23

Net County Cost: \$28,628

Detailed Justification

What is the impact on your department if this position is not filled? Please provide, in detail, the need to fill the position. Please include the service provided, if it is mandated, number of people (clients) affected, and what you will do if the position is not filled.

If this position were not filled, State mandated deadlines for processing applications and recertifications would be missed, and clients would not receive all the benefits to which they are entitled in a timely manner. Additional errors also would occur resulting in payments for inaccurate amounts that would require significant staff time to correct. This Senior Social Welfare Examiner is responsible for reviewing applications, recertifications, and case changes for Temporary Assistance (TA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cases for completeness, accuracy, and consistency. October 2021, this supervisor reviewed approximately 250 TA transactions and 2,500 SNAP transactions, serving approximately 3,200 individuals with Temporary Assistance or SNAP benefits. This supervisor is responsible for interpreting federal, State and local policies; answering questions from staff, clients, and other units regarding TA and SNAP programs and related rules and regulations.

Department Head: *[Signature]*

Approved?
Yes No

County Administrator:

Resolution #:

St. Lawrence County Vacancy Authorization Form

Social Services



Type: Fill

Support Investigator

Subunit (If Applicable): Child Support

Date Submitted: 3/29/2022

Reason Vacated: Resignation

Position Number: 813000002

Date Vacated: 4/8/2022

Position # Abolished:

Position Will Be: Fulltime

Last Fill Date: 10/31/2011

Hours Per Week: 35

Appointee Will Be: Permanent

Budget

Fill Request Timeline: Immediately

Temporary Position? No

Salary of Person Leaving: \$54,249

Revenue Generating: No 0 %

Benefits: Yes \$30,423

Reimbursed by State or Federal Funds: Yes 82 %

Base Salary: \$44,870

Budget Mod Attached, If Required?

Grade: 22

Net County Cost: \$15,241

Detailed Justification

What is the impact on your department if this position is not filled? Please provide, in detail, the need to fill the position. Please include the service provided, if it is mandated, number of people (clients) affected, and what you will do if the position is not filled.

This position is needed to interview clients who wish to have paternity established and/or seek a financial and medical child support order, and to assist clients with violation petitions, modification petitions, and affidavits. This position is also responsible for preparing interstate petitions and documents concerning paternity, support, enforcement and modification of child support obligations; responding to incoming mail and electronic referrals from the New York State Child Support Helpline; reviewing various reports received concerning administrative actions, such as license suspension, cost of living adjustments, property executions, and tax referrals; and interacting with co-workers, other units within the Department, Family Court, attorneys, and intrastate and interstate agencies. This program benefits approximately 5,000 families which annually receive a total exceeding \$12,000,000 of child support. If the position were not filled, the ability to serve these families and reduce the need for the County to provide other benefits to support children would be compromised and place the County at increased risk of losing State funding to support child support collection.

Department Head: *Heather A.*

Approved?

Yes No

County Administrator:

Resolution #:

St. Lawrence County Vacancy Authorization Form

Social Services



Type: Fill

Social Welfare Examiner

Subunit (If Applicable): Medicaid

Date Submitted: 3/29/2022

Reason Vacated: Retirement

Position Number: 814000014

Date Vacated: 1/27/2022

Position # Abolished:

Position Will Be: Fulltime

Last Fill Date: 6/7/2005

Hours Per Week: 35

Appointee Will Be: Permanent

Budget

Fill Request Timeline: Immediately

Temporary Position? No

Salary of Person Leaving: \$52,179

Revenue Generating: No 0 %

Benefits: Yes \$29,262

Reimbursed by State or Federal Funds: Yes 100 %

Base Salary: \$43,292

Budget Mod Attached, If Required?

Grade: 21

Net County Cost: \$0

Detailed Justification

What is the impact on your department if this position is not filled? Please provide, in detail, the need to fill the position. Please include the service provided, if it is mandated, number of people (clients) affected, and what you will do if the position is not filled.

This Community Medicaid Social Welfare Examiner position is needed to comply with deadlines set by regulations and to determine eligibility for various mandated Medicaid programs in connection with initial applications and recertifications, and when there are household changes. In January 2020, the caseload for this type of Examiner was 480 cases, currently the caseload size is approximately 740 cases. In addition to the increased caseload size, the cases retained by the Department at this time are the most complex Medicaid cases. The Community Medicaid Social Welfare Examiners are struggling to handle the large, complex caseloads. Not filling this position would have a negative impact on program integrity and the timeliness of eligibility determinations, and would increase the risk of financial penalties for non-compliance.

Department Head:

Handwritten signature of the Department Head.

Approved?

Yes No

County Administrator:

Resolution #:

St. Lawrence County Vacancy Authorization Form

Social Services



Type: Fill

Coordinator of Social Services Information Systems

Subunit (If Applicable): Systems

Date Submitted: 3/1/2022

Reason Vacated: Retirement

Position Number: 812000001

Date Vacated: 3/25/2022

Position # Abolished:

Position Will Be: Fulltime

Last Fill Date: 1/4/2016

Hours Per Week: 35

Appointee Will Be: Permanent

Budget

Fill Request Timeline: Immediately

Temporary Position? No

Salary of Person Leaving: \$72,165

Revenue Generating: No 0 %

Benefits: Yes \$40,470

Reimbursed by State or Federal Funds: Yes 81 %

Base Salary: \$61,192

Budget Mod Attached, If Required?

Grade: 30

Net County Cost: \$21,401

Detailed Justification

What is the impact on your department if this position is not filled? Please provide, in detail, the need to fill the position. Please include the service provided, if it is mandated, number of people (clients) affected, and what you will do if the position is not filled.

The Coordinator of Social Services Information Systems coordinates and administers the Systems unit. The person in this position oversees local and State networks, works directly with the State on a number of mandated applications and new projects, and oversees the Department's imaging system which images more than two million documents a year and is very important to overall operations. The Coordinator works with outside vendors, State staff, Central IT staff, and the St. Lawrence County NYSARC staff who perform duties on site for the imaging system. Without this position there would be no leadership and a lack of coordination and communication with the different divisions at the State. The Systems Unit supports approximately 240 users of State and County applications, and the hardware and software that the Department's employees use to carry out their work serving thousands of County residents.

Department Head: 

Approved?

Yes No

County Administrator:

Resolution #: