FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
OF THE
DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Thursday, August 6, 2026, 5:50 p.m.

Committee Chair Arnoff called the committee to order at 6:45 p.m.

PRESENT: 9 ARNOFF, ATKINS, HOUSE, KAUL, METZGER, MUNN, POLASEK, SHAH, VALDÉS SMITH

ABSENT: 2 DRAGO, MCHOUL

PRESENT/LATE: 1 WINSBY

QUORUM PRESENT

Presentations and Reports

The LAPP training for elected officials has been finalized and a list of dates will be published for September and October in the near future.

Privilege of the Floor with respect to printed agenda items

Gully Stanford of Salt Point thanked Chair Arnoff and the sponsors of Resolution 134 for bringing the Resolution forward.

Heather Chatwell Dennis, Assistant Superintendent of the Beacon City School District, spoke in favor of Resolution 134.

Eileen Friedman of Beacon, a lifelong educator, spoke in favor of Resolution 134.

Amy Riley, a speech language pathologist, spoke in favor of Resolution 134.

Jessica Flanagan, an occupational therapist, spoke in favor of Resolution 134.

Emily Davison of Red Hook, an educator with Rhinebeck School District, spoke in favor of Resolution 134.

Margaret Bucklin, the Dutchess BOCES Director of Special Education, spoke in favor of Resolution 134.

Resolutions considered out of numerical order will be placed in numerical order for fluidity

2026132 Authorizing amendment of funding under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: None.

The Family and Human Services Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution, with Legislators Drago and McHoul absent.

2026133 Confirming reappointment to the Commission on Human Rights

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: None.

The Family and Human Services Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution, with Legislators Drago and McHoul absent.

At this time, Committee Chair Arnoff asked Committee Vice Chair Kaul to Chair the rest of the Committee Meeting, as she is the author of the next Resolution.

2026134 Increasing compensation for New York State Education Law §4410 Preschool Special Education (PSE) providers in Dutchess County

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: Committee Chair Arnoff spoke in favor of the Resolution, citing her own family experience as inspiration and recognizing the need for further reimbursement in Dutchess County.

Legislature Chair Valdes Smith thanked Legislator Arnoff for authoring the Resolution and all the speakers for coming to speak. She said as a mom and as a teacher, she knows that the Resolution changes lives and further saves money in the long run. She further said that teachers and providers don't want to have to leave their communities, they want to stay and make them as strong as possible.

Legislator Brendli said that as a former secondary school special education teacher, he supports the Resolution and recognizes the need for early intervention services.

Majority Leader Atkins spoke in favor of the Resolution, saying too many families are waiting for services for their children which they are legally entitled to receive, due to a lack of providers and educators. As an educator, he said he understands the value of early intervention and said the Resolution is about investing in the professionals who do this critical work to give every child the opportunity to receive services which help them reach their potential.

Legislator Shah thanked Legislator Arnoff for her work and said she was proud to support the Resolution.

Legislator Alexander thanked Legislator Arnoff for her work.

Committee Vice Chair Kaul spoke as a parent of the importance of early intervention and spoke in favor of the Resolution.

The Family and Human Services Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution, with Legislators Drago and McHoul absent.

There being no further business, Committee Vice Chair Kaul adjourned the Committee meeting at 7:14 p.m.