

FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Thursday, July 9, 2026, 5:50 p.m.

Committee Chair Arnoff called the committee to order at 6:01 p.m.

PRESENT: 12            ARNOFF, ATKINS, DRAGO, HOUSE, KAUL, MCHOUL, METZGER,  
MUNN, POLASEK, SHAH, VALDÉS SMITH, WINSBY

ABSENT: 0

PRESENT/LATE: 0

QUORUM PRESENT

Committee Chair Arnoff spoke about the impacts of the July 4 severe storms and expressed gratitude to all of the responders, linemen and elected officials for their work to help the communities affected by the storm.

**Presentations and Reports**

None.

**Privilege of the Floor with respect to printed agenda items**

None.

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

**2026103** Amendment to the Dutchess County Veterans Affairs Committee

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

Discussion: Legislature Chair Valdes Smith expressed her gratitude to the Veterans Affairs Committee. She further stated that the Resolution is being brought forward because of the need for veterans to receive adequate support, and she detailed the amendments to the committee, highlighting the designation of Legislator-members from both the Majority and Minority caucuses.

Legislator McHoul thanked Chair Valdes Smith for the effort involved in updating the committee to improve efficiency and asked whether making the committee an odd number would improve

voting. Legislature Chair Valdes Smith replied that in consultation with the Committee, she was told it would not be necessary.

Legislator Alexander thanked Chair Valdes Smith and spoke in favor of the Resolution.

Legislature Chair Valdes Smith spoke asserting the Legislature's bipartisan support for the Veterans Affairs Committee.

The Family and Human Services Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution

**2026114** Amendment to the Dutchess County Citizens Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence

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

Discussion: Legislature Chair Valdes Smith spoke about the need to update this committee, which has not been updated by Resolution since 1993.

Committee Chair Arnoff spoke in favor of the Resolution as the Legislature's appointee to the Committee.

The Family and Human Services Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution.

There being no further business, Committee Vice Chair Kaul adjourned the Committee meeting at 6:09 p.m.