

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 29, 2022

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Clary, Fedler - zoom, Shaw, Skellie - zoom, Ferguson - zoom, Wilson - zoom

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Campbell

SUPERVISORS: Hall - zoom, Henke, Nolan - zoom, O'Brien

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Al Nolette, County Treasurer

Melissa Fitch, County Administrator

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1) Call to Order

2) Accept Minutes – May 25, 2022

3) Department Reports/Requests:

A. Social Services

1. Child Care Provider Expansion – Lynn Sickles, Southern Adirondack Child Care Network

2. Trends in Temporary Housing Assistance -

B. Wash Co EOC/LEAP

1. Community Needs Assessment

C. Public Health

1. Fellowship Program Update

2. Transportation Bid

3. Miscellaneous

D. Youth Bureau

1. Pre-Pins Program Update

2. Youth Bureau Activities Update

E. Veterans

1. Farmers Market Coupons

2. Free Camping for Veterans and Servicemembers

4) Other Business

5) Adjournment

Chairwoman Clary called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. in the Board of Supervisors Room B214 and via zoom.

A motion to accept the minutes of the May 25, 2022 meeting was moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mrs. Fedler and Mr. Ferguson, and adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/REQUESTS:

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES: Tammy DeLorme, Commissioner, addressed the following items:

- Child Care Provider Expansion – The Commissioner stated there is a dramatic need for child care in Washington County. The ARPA workgroup identified child care as an area of significance in Washington County's spending plan for the American Rescue Plan funds. The project objective in part stated encourage new business development in the area of child care allowing individuals to enter or re-enter the workforce by providing outreach and training for regulated home day care. The Commissioner, County Administrator and Lynn Sickles, Executive Director of the Southern Adirondack Child Care Network, have developed a plan to try to bring this project objective to reality. Ms. Sickles addressed the child care provider need in the area. They have been dedicated to childcare for thirty years. Quality child care benefits the children, parents and businesses. The pandemic highlighted this need but was dwindling before the pandemic. Child Care Needs Assessment Report, attached. The major barriers to finding and accessing child care are

there are no openings and finding long waiting lists. There is an inadequate supply of providers and the cost, many families are priced out of the system. Most of the child care in the area are regulated in-home child care called family child care not child care centers. NYS Law states: anyone caring for two or more non-relative children for three or more hours per day must be licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. There are six child care centers in Washington County and all but one is Head Start and eighteen family child care homes, 17 group family and three school age. Funding would be used to build a robust child care system and assist with start-up costs to possibly ten to twelve new regulated in-home child care businesses resulting in 60 to 120 new slots in the county. The Commissioner stated \$50,000 to start with from ARPA funds out of the \$288,000 that was set aside also for recruitment and retention of foster care providers. Southern Adirondack Child Care Network is ready and willing to get started and a contract is needed. They are also working with SUNY Adirondack on a child care start-up business program. Mr. Shaw asked if this was one-time funding and the Commissioner stated, they want to see how this works and it all depends how quickly people come and seek that funding and become operational. They have discussed with this \$50,000 about sixteen new family child care programs that would cover high quality child care for ninety-six to one hundred ninety-two children. They are still in the process of developing the contract. Does not require a budget amendment. A motion to approve a contract with Southern Adirondack Child Care Network, to build a robust child care system helping establish new in-home child care businesses and assist with start-up costs, authorize signature, and request a waiver from the Procurement policy was moved by Mr. Shaw, and seconded by Mrs. Fedler and Mr. Ferguson. Discussion. Mr. Wilson stated he understands this to be a one-time contract and not looking at sustainment of this but looking at measuring a result for a one-year worth of effort and then evaluate. The Commissioner agreed but stated it could be longer than the year because the ARPA funding has until 12/31/24 to be spent. They want these providers to be willing to accept subsidy children. The motion to approve a contract with Southern Adirondack Child Care Network, to build a robust child care system helping establish new in-home child care businesses and assist with start-up costs, authorize signature, and request a waiver from the Procurement policy was moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mrs. Fedler and Mr. Ferguson, and adopted. (*Board Resolution*)

- Laura Oswald – Office of Community Renewal – Non-profits are eligible to apply. She has spoken with the LCLGRPB about possibly sponsoring an application for a program that would facilitate the development of new child care facilities across five counties. They have had some pre-application conversations with the Office of Community Renewal and they approved the application and asked for a direct submission. Going to request \$500,000 which would include funding to have someone to help administer the program. The funding has to be spent within a year of signing the contract and it is to facilitate the development of new facilities not build. Should know by late summer if funding approved.
- Trends in Temporary Housing Assistance – Discussed attached charts. The New York State Rental Assistance Program chart shows the degree to which residents of each town utilized the program. The Temporary Housing for Homeless Cost Comparison provides a look back on their spending for people that come to DSS that are homeless and looking for

shelter. The 2022 4 Month Temporary Housing Trend shows that singles needing housing is on the rise and the 2022 4 Month Temporary Housing Trend for unique characteristics of people that are coming to them for temporary housing and people being released from the prison system are the biggest trending factor. Looking into potential of contracting directly with the Shelter of Saratoga for a defined amount of bed space. They are also working with the Open Door Mission in Glens Falls. The Commissioner feels the individuals housed would get a much better level of service provided and stay a shorter period of time. Planning to look seriously into contracting with Shelter of Saratoga due to the statistics. The State has released a draft of a new plan that they are going to require DSS to complete, nineteen pages, about available services in the area and a huge component on veterans.

- Received promotion items to spread the word on foster care recruitment.
- New catch phrase, raising the lower age of juvenile delinquency. The Office of Children and Family Services is going to be requiring DSS to develop a differential response for children under the age of twelve who will no longer fall under the definition of juvenile delinquent effective December 29<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioner has not seen any information directly yet from the State.
- HEAP ARPA funding – The County Administrator stated with the items that the DSS Commissioner plans to purchase with the HEAP ARPA funding are being impacted by the supply and demand disruptions and might not be able to receive goods or services by the September 30, 2022 deadline. Asked if there was any interest in these cases of paying for the items or services prior to receiving using the P-card. A motion to send request to pre-pay items and services to comply with HEAP ARPA funding deadline to the Finance Committee for consideration was moved by Mr. Ferguson, and seconded by Mrs. Fedler and Mr. Wilson. Discussion. The Treasurer stated this is contingent on the fact that we can do this and he is researching the legality of doing that. The motion to send request to pre-pay items and services to comply with HEAP ARPA funding deadline to the Finance Committee for consideration was moved by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mrs. Fedler and Mr. Wilson and adopted. (*Forwarded to Finance Committee*)

WASHINGTON COUNTY EOC/LEAP – Shelley Smith, Executive Director, addressed the following item:

- Community Needs Assessment Review – LEAP is a Community Action and Head Start agency and required to routinely to perform a community needs assessment. This helps with their strategic planning to determine what the needs are and are they meeting those needs. They have just launched the survey and will close no later than July 15<sup>th</sup>; client and family survey, Staff, Board, volunteer and policy council survey and partner survey – required by Department of State that they have reached out to various agencies/organizations. The goal is 500 survey responses. Have until the end of August to complete and have the report completed. Contact her if you would like a survey. Will come back to committee to share results.

PUBLIC HEALTH – Tina McDougall, Director, addressed the following items with the committees:

- Fellowship Program Update – Getting program up and running and two fellows, a graduate fellow and one fellow, are starting July 7<sup>th</sup> working full time at Public Health. The grant runs through the end of July 2023 and it maybe extended.
- Transportation Bid for Preschool – Durrin Transportation, the current provider, was the only bidder and Public Health is pleased with their services. The price did increase \$46,000 for a net increase of \$18,000 annually due to 59,5% reimbursement from the State Education Department for transportation reimbursement. The five-year contract starts September 1, 2022 through August 2027. Per the contract will look at the CPI increase each year and it is limited to 2%. A motion to approve Durrin Transportation bid award, sign contract and forward to the full Board for approval was moved by Mr. Shaw, and seconded by Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Fedler and Mr. Ferguson. Discussion. The rate did increase probably due to increased fuel cost and they have given them an increase separate to their rates for COVID related expenses. Cost for the transportation for 2021-2022 year about \$430,000 and based on new rate would equate to \$480,000. A motion to approve Durrin Transportation bid award, sign contract and forward to the full Board for approval was moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Fedler and Mr. Ferguson and adopted. (*Board Resolution*)
- Miscellaneous –
  - Adirondack Health Institute (AHI) has a rural communities opioid response team that has grant funding and they are reaching out to businesses in Washington County, also serve six other counties, to put Narcan boxes in businesses in the event of an overdose that would be able to be administered. They have right now a verbal agreement with Cumberland Farms. Warren Washington Office of Mental Health also has a verbal agreement for their residential facilities. Wanted to make the committee/Supervisors aware of this and Public Health has not been directly involved but involved in a supportive role. AHI plans to start the program September 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Pediatric COVID clinic for ages six months to five years on July 14<sup>th</sup> 4:30PM to 7PM at Burgoyne site. Moderna – two dose series.
  - Still doing PCR testing
  - The new Director of Patient Services started, Alyssa Arlen.

YOUTH BUREAU – Mike Gray, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Pre-Pins Program Update – Discussed some of the outcomes from the pre-PINS program that started in April 2021. This is a program that they collaborated with DSS on because they knew there was a gap where there were kids that if they could possibly provide them with some services, they could keep them from going further in the system. The program is funded by the Office of Children Services under STSJP (Supervision Treatment Services Juvenile Program), 62% State funded and 38% local that equates to about \$22,000. The attached handout provides statistics on the seventy-one referrals. They limited it to three school districts: Cambridge, Hudson Falls and Granville. Thirty-six completed the sixty-day program, positive connections and showed lower risk. Some of those youths are participating in the summer youth program. The five unsuccessful participants attended the sixty-day program but showed no change in risk. The average age of participants was

about thirteen years old and the youngest referral was eight years old and oldest seventeen. Nine participants were ten years old or younger. Currently in the process of gathering customer satisfaction surveys from referrals and asking the youth that went through the program for their input as well. Overall, very satisfied with the collaboration they received. The original goal of the pre-PINS program was to stop the progression and address the foster care youth from going to a higher level of care. There is a cost benefit to this program. Regarding the State mandate on raising the lower age of delinquency and DSS have to provide alternative pathways to deal with that population and so they have the elements already built into this pre-PINS program. Anticipate dealing with a small number of youth so his goal provided he can find a way to fund it and it is fundable under STSJP plan that they are in the process of writing so in the budget cycle he may add a position for this program, partially funded under STSJP estimating a budgetary cost of around \$24,000. Revenue has also increase in his Alive at 25 class. The DSS Commissioner added the goal mentioned to keep them out of the criminal justice system and also added the foster care system. Possibly add more schools: Fort Edward, Whitehall, and Greenwich.

- Youth Bureau Activities Update – Have been over to Lake Lauderdale with the Fort Edward recreation program and they are planning to use a couple of times this year, have the ability to do first aid CPR training, youth employment is in full swing with ten youth, and going to have a lifeguard class, free training at the Fort Ann beach in early July. Requesting permission to use some money out of their trust account to expand their game offerings taking \$900 out of \$8,000 trust account. A motion to approve expenditure of \$900 out of the trust account for recreation program supplies was moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Fedler and Mr. Ferguson and adopted.

VETERANS – Ken Winchell, Director, addressed the following items:

- Farmers Market Coupons – NYS Fresh Connects program, the farmers market coupons, he has coupons to distribute for veterans, immediate family or surviving spouse on a first come first serve basis. He can issue up to \$20, ten \$2.00 coupons. They are issued on a one-time annual benefit per household. The deadline for use of the coupons is November 30<sup>th</sup>. Requires completion of a couple of forms and any veteran should contact his office. The coupons can be used for any SNAP eligible food item at farmers markets and he has a schedule of the farmers markets.
- Free Camping for Veterans and Servicemembers – Warren and Washington Counties and the Peer-to-Peer program are offering free camping for veterans at the Adirondack Safari, Schroon River Road, Warrensburg. Completely free through program for up to six nights. For more information or questions, contact the Warren County Veterans Office, 761-6342.

OTHER BUSINESS:

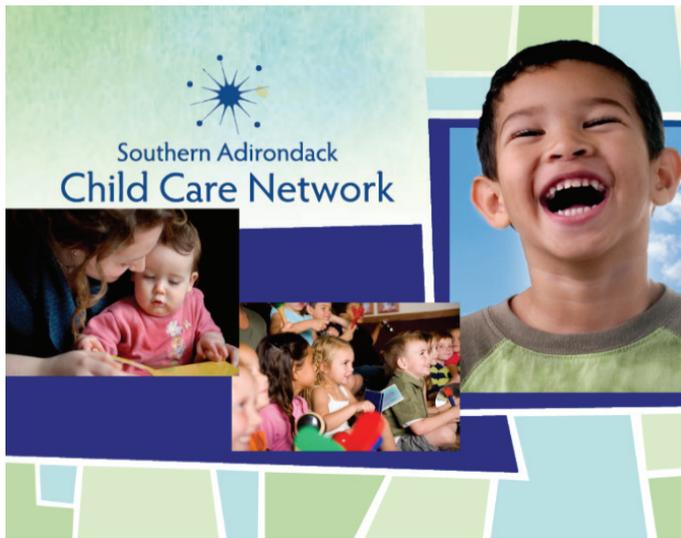
CDBG Grant – Brian Gilchrist, Chairman of the Board for HomeFront, brought up the potential for applying for a CDBG grant to assist HomeFront to look at the properties owned in Washington County, eight units in Argyle, eight units in Fort Ann and Kingsbury. HomeFront originally applied for funding through the State in the amount of \$700,000 but then COVID and no funds were released. The funding was to rehab those buildings, senior housing that needs substantial work over \$1.5M to complete the project. Looking at trying to close that funding gap and assess housing conditions anew. A source of funding is technical assistance funding

through the CDBG process but the applicant has to be a municipality. Homefront would like to work with the Economic Development Director to apply for \$50,000 technical assistance funding through the CDBG process to look at the properties and assess their condition and then to help HomeFront determine how they are going to transition and manage those properties. Currently HomeFront is going through some transition and they are contracting with Veterans in Community Housing in Saratoga to manage those properties. If this grant application moves forward Veterans in Community Housing in Saratoga would be working with HomeFront and the Economic Development Director in administering that grant. The Economic Development Director stated the Office of Community Renewal did contact her because of the current staffing difficulties at HomeFront. She stated the County can apply for up to \$50,000 for this technical assistance funding and there is a 5% match, \$2,500. The idea would be to put out an RFP and hire a consultant to evaluate the overall landscape of entities that might be capable of partnering with or take over from HomeFront and update the status and condition of the existing buildings. Costs continue to increase and from the original award could be up to \$2M now to rehab the buildings. She stated the County could apply for the funding, administer the grant and HomeFront would manage the engagement of the contractor. HomeFront would want to participate in the evaluation of the agency overall and the options going forward and also in the evaluation of the properties and improvements needed. Important to have a pathway going forward if HomeFront remains or not because they are the only Senior Housing resource in County. The Office for the Aging Director stated there are other options for senior housing. The economic value is huge and there is a need for low-income housing. Mr. Wilson stated it might be worth the investment for the County to work on this to keep the lights on so as to keep the daylight on the program for a little bit longer and come up with a better solution for the future. A motion to support the County submitting a CDBG grant application for \$50,000 in technical assistance funding was moved by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Mrs. Fedler and Mr. Ferguson. Discussion. The Economic Development Director stated this grant would evaluate the alternatives for HomeFront going forward. She does not see the County owning these properties as an option. This does not have to go to the Finance Committee at this time because they are just requesting to apply for a grant with no further action required until the grant is awarded. The \$2,500 match would be addressed at that time. The Treasurer asked if would be possible for HomeFront to contribute the \$2,500 match. A motion to support the County submitting a CDBG grant application for \$50,000 in technical assistance funding was moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mrs. Fedler and Mr. Ferguson and adopted.

Chairwoman Clary mentioned that the Office for the Aging picnic is coming up and complimented the department on the great job with the newsletter, and impressed with the content.

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 PM.

*Debra Prehoda, Clerk*  
*Washington County Board of Supervisors*



# Child Care Needs Assessment Report WASHINGTON COUNTY 2022

**The COVID Pandemic is having a major impact on child care across America; Washington County is no exception. The last few years has witnessed an alarming drop in the supply of child care. Many providers have decided to close their doors permanently, others on a temporary basis. Programs and center classrooms have closed periodically due to COVID exposures and quarantining, as well as from staff shortages.**

Parents scramble to find care, often when there is simply none to be found. The roller coaster ride of the past many months (since March 2020) has taken its toll on parents and providers who struggle to meet the many challenges of these times. Federal and State funded grants have helped to mitigate some of the stressors experienced by working families and child care providers. Essential workers have had opportunities to receive funds to help pay their child care fees. Child Care providers who have been open during the Pandemic have been able to apply for funding to help stabilize and grow their programs.

Focused efforts to address the child care shortage crisis in our area must be a top priority now and for the next several years. Rebuilding the supply of child care is needed for all age groups, but especially for infants and school age children. NYS Office of Children and Family Services has recently initiated a “Child Care Desert Grant” opportunity to help new child care programs open in our area.

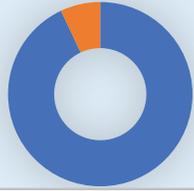
SACCN is partnering with several organizations in Warren and Washington Counties to implement child care recruitment plans and is also in the process of hiring a staff person to focus on these supply building efforts. And while these steps are critically important to regaining the balance of child care supply and demand in the immediate future, much work is still needed on a Community, State and Federal level to address-- and to change underlying issues in our child care system. Although space here does not allow for more on this topic, contact the Child Care Network for further information and resources (contact information on back of this report).

During the COVID 19 Pandemic, the supply of child care in Washington County has declined to crisis levels. The following chart indicates the high number of licensed/registered program closings in a two- year period.

Type of Child Care	2019	2021	Change Status
Centers	4	2	2 centers have closed (50 %)
Family/Group child care	47	33	A loss of 14 active sites (30 %)
School Aged Child Care	3	2	A loss of 2 active sites/1 new site (34 %)

*The numbers in the above chart do not include the 5 Head Start Sites.*

**There are enough child care slots for only 7% of the children who live in Washington County**



### A Few Other Facts About Washington County

Population	61,302 ('20 census)
% of single parent householders	41.5% ('19 census)
% of children in living below the poverty level	19% ('21 KWIC)
Towns with no child care providers	Whitehall, Fort Ann, Hartford, Hampton
Towns with only 1 or 2 providers	Argyle, Salem, Cambridge

### Decline of Child Care Supply by Available Slots

	2019 (pre-COVID)	2021	# of Slots Loss	% of Decline
B-2 years	218	112	106	49%
2-4 years	596	307	289	48%
5-12 years	289	198	91	31%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1103</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>48%</b>

### Child Care Challenges During the COVID Pandemic

#### PARENTS

Survey results of parents' experiences finding child care during the past year, leave no doubt that there is a large supply shortage in our area. When asked about challenges in their search experience, most parents surveyed (75%), reported that there were "no openings".

Of those surveyed:

- 24% **overall** were able to find child
- 27% of parents seeking **school aged care** were able to find licensed/registered child care
- For those seeking **infant care**, the success rate was far lower at only 13%

Many parents expressed stress and frustration at needing to work, but not being able to do so without child care. The many changes necessitated by COVID as well as the unpredictability caused by program closures (permanent and temporary) reveal the paramount need for a stable, quality child care supply so that parents can continue to work, and the economy can grow.

#### CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

COVID 19 has had an immense impact on the lives of child care providers in our communities. As essential workers, themselves, providers play a major role in making it possible for other essential workers to do their jobs, especially during the early days of the pandemic. Reduced enrollments, temporary closures, financial losses, staff shortages, mask wearing and maintaining health/safety supplies and procedures are among the many challenges reported by providers.

Providers were asked to rank various challenges since the pandemic began. The following ranked as most challenging:

- Mask wearing with young children ranked #1 (81%)
- Financial loss ranked # 2 (58%)
- Closures due to COVID exposures/quarantining ranked # 3 (52%)

44% had enrollment decreases due to parents being out of work or working from home. 50% of providers surveyed, experienced temporary closures.

*Note: Warren and Washington County providers' results were combined for this child care provider survey*

**Please direct questions and/or comments to Liz Mahon-Laidlaw at 518.798.7972, Ext. 210 or by emailing her at [laidlawe@saccn.org](mailto:laidlawe@saccn.org).**

The following data sources were used to compile this report: U.S. Census, Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse (KWIC) 2021 NYS OCFS Child Care Facility Database (CCFS), Empire State Child Care Match database (ESCCM), Parent Survey (child care referral follow ups surveys)(March-Sep 2021), Provider Survey (December 2021)

# Washington County Department of Social Services

## New York State Rental Assistance Program

### ERAP Applications for Washington County Residents

### ERAP Payments Total Through June 22, 2022

	ZIP Code	Rent Arrears Count	Rent Prospective Count	Utility Arrears Count		
Buskirk	12028	1	0	0		
White Creek	12057	5	4	3		
Schaghticoke	12154	2	2	1		
Argyle	12809	9	6	2		
Cambridge	12816	31	24	11		
Clemons	12819	1	1	1		
Comstock	12821	3	1	0		
Cossayuna	12823	1	0	0		
Fort Ann	12827	14	14	6		
Fort Edward	12828	52	48	21		
Granville	12832	48	41	19		
Greenwich	12834	30	25	9		
Hampton	12837	4	4	0		
Hartford	12838	1	0	0		
Hudson Falls	12839	172	144	67		
Middle Granville	12849	1	1	1		
Salem	12865	14	11	6		
Whitehall	12887	62	51	10		
<b>Total</b>		<b>451</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>157</b>		

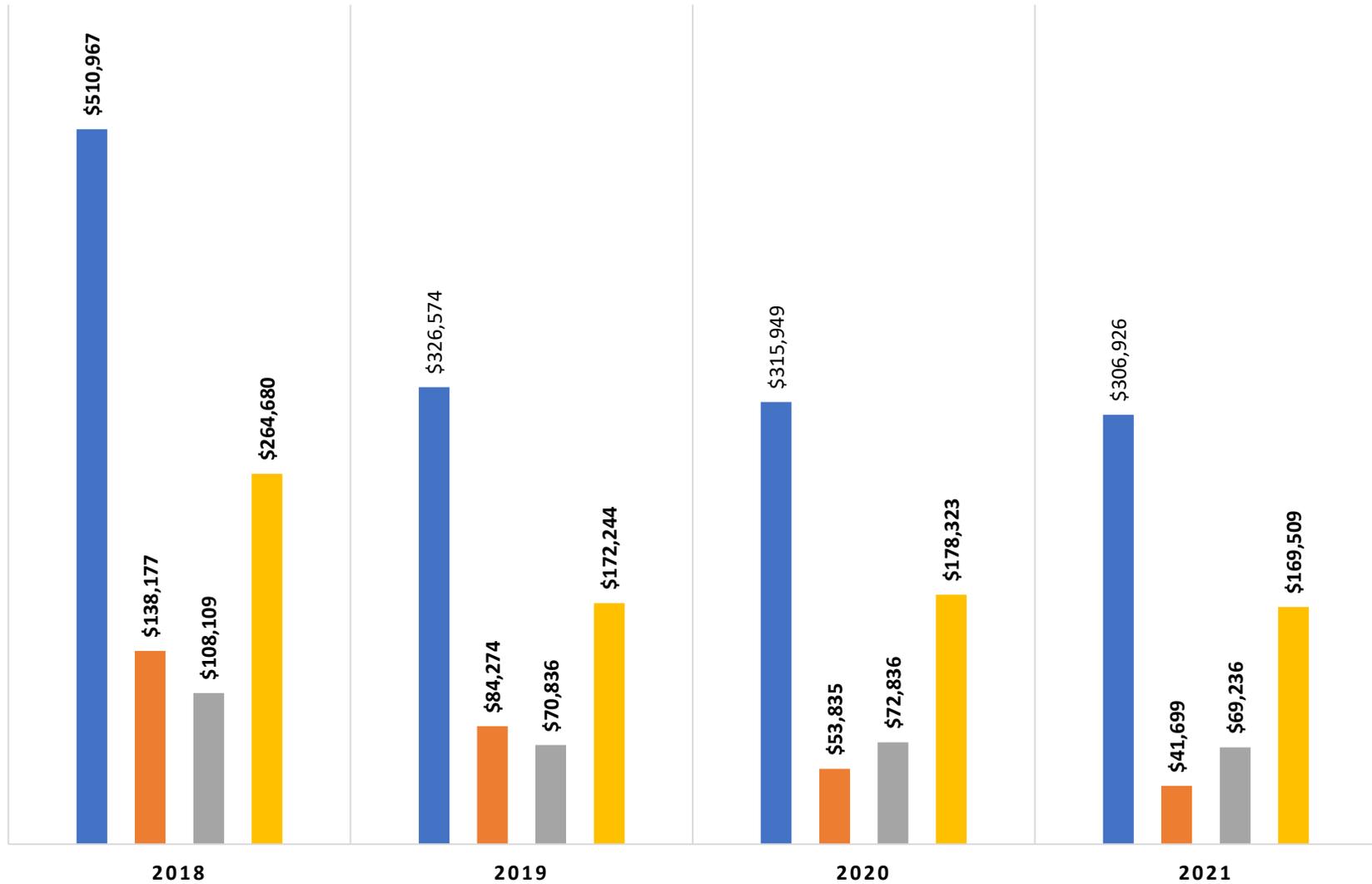
  

	<b>Rent Arrears</b>
Payments	229
Amount	\$1,164,666
Average	
Amount	\$5,086
<b>Prospective Rent</b>	
Payments	169
Amount	\$360,648
Average	
Amount	\$2,134
<b>Total</b>	
Applications	
Paid	228
Amount	\$1,525,314
Average	
Amount	\$6,690

# Washington County Department of Social Services

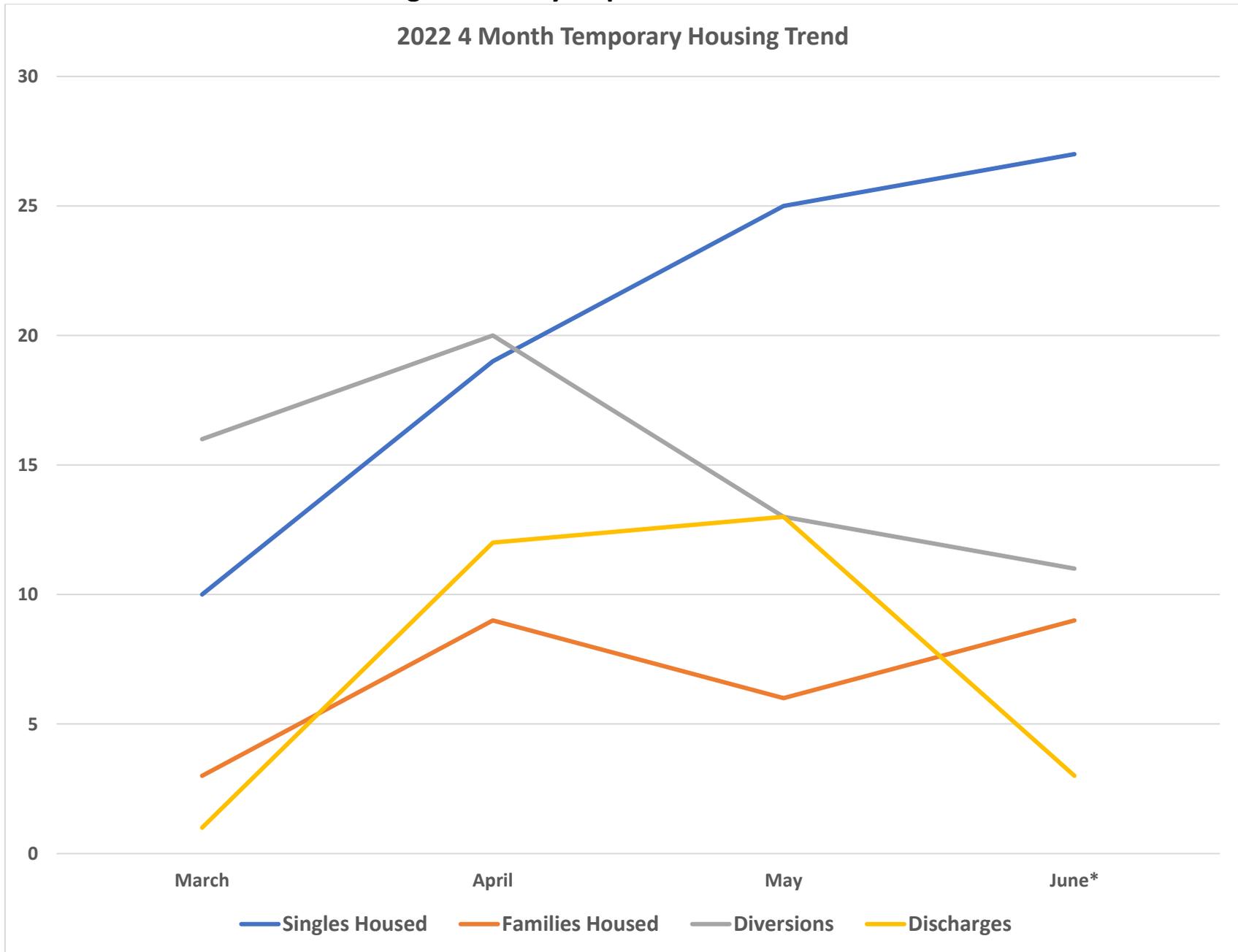
## TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR HOMELESS COST COMPARISON

■ Grand total ■ Family Assistance/FED ■ Safety Net/State ■ Safety Net/Local



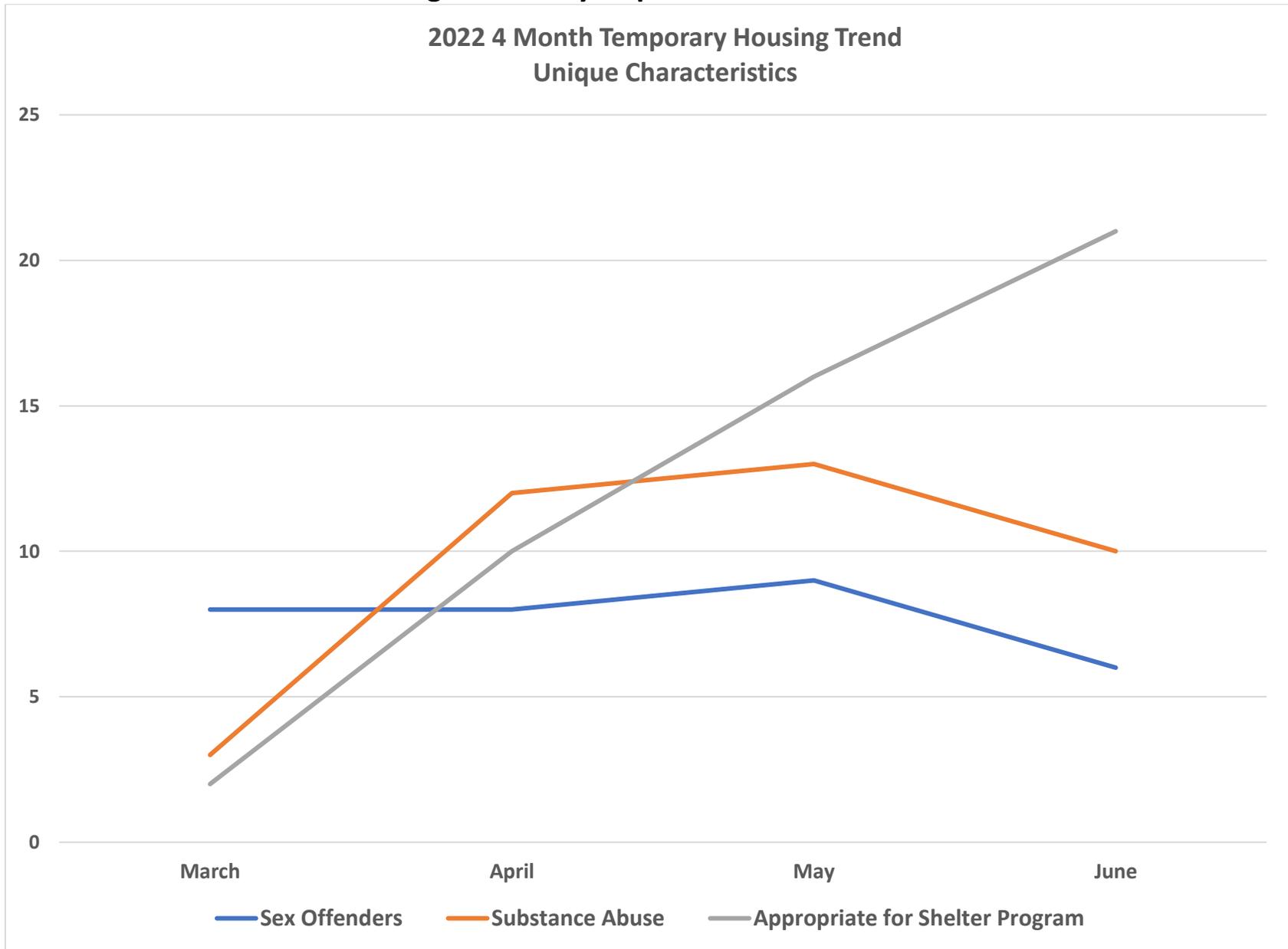
# Washington County Department of Social Services

## 2022 4 Month Temporary Housing Trend



# Washington County Department of Social Services

## 2022 4 Month Temporary Housing Trend Unique Characteristics



## **Washington County Pre-PINS Program**

**Goal:** The Pre-PINS program is designed to be preventative and to address risk factors to avoid opening a PINS case.

Funding – NYS OCFS – 62%

County Share            38%

### **Pre-PINS Data (4/1/21- Present)**

**Referrals -71**

#### **Referral Source**

20 Cambridge School

18 Hudson Falls

16 Washington Co. DSS

14 Granville School

2 Parental

1 Washington County Sheriff's Dept.

**Intakes -55**

**Family refusals – 16**

**Successful -36**

**Unsuccessful -5**

**Closed Cases -8**

**Open Cases -6**

**Average Age -13.1 Years old**

**Youngest – 8 years old**

**Oldest – 17 years old**

9 youth were 10 years old and younger.

**Male-53%**

**Female-47%**