



# DU PAGE COUNTY

## Human Services

### Final Summary

421 N. COUNTY FARM ROAD  
WHEATON, IL 60187  
www.dupagecounty.gov

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**Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

**9:30 AM**

**Room 3500A**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

9:30 AM meeting was called to order by Chair Greg Schwarze at 9:30 AM.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Other Board members present: Member Yeena Yoo

Staff in attendance: Joan Olson (Chief Communications Officer), Renee Zerante and Katherine Fahy ( State's Attorney Office), Valerie Calvente (Procurement), Natasha Belli, Julie Hamlin, and Gina Strafford-Ahmed (Community Services Administrators), Mary Keating (Director of Community Services), and Janelle Chadwick (Administrator of the DuPage Care Center).

<b>PRESENT</b>	Cronin Cahill, DeSart, Galassi, Garcia, LaPlante, and Schwarze
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**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were offered.

**4. CHAIR REMARKS - CHAIR SCHWARZE**

Chair Schwarze welcomed the committee to 2026. He stated we will have our work cut out for us this year with everything going on, certainly at the federal level. He confirmed with Mary Keating that no federal budgets have been approved. Member DeSart stated the current federal budget goes through January 30, 2026.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5.A. [26-0198](#)

Human Services Committee - Regular Meeting - Tuesday, December 2, 2025

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED
<b>MOVER:</b>	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Paula Garcia

**6. COMMUNITY SERVICES - MARY KEATING****6.A. [FI-R-0010-26](#)**

Authorizing execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Pace Suburban Bus and DuPage County Community Services for the Senior Transportation Grant Program for PY26 in the amount of \$172,450. (Community Services)

Member DeSart asked what last year's budget was, how much was used in 2025, and how is this promoted? Mary Keating did not have the budget numbers handy, but she replied that she would get the information to Member DeSart. Ms. Keating explained the breakdown on how the PACE programs operate.

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
<b>MOVER:</b>	Paula Garcia
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Kari Galassi

**6.B. [FI-R-0011-26](#)**

Authorizing execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Pace Suburban Bus and DuPage County Community Services for the Paratransit Grant Program for PY26 in the amount of \$690,000. (Community Services)

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
<b>MOVER:</b>	Paula Garcia
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Dawn DeSart

**6.C. [FI-R-0014-26](#)**

Acceptance and appropriation of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) HHS Grant PY26 Inter-Governmental Agreement No. 26-224028, Company 5000 - Accounting Unit 1420, in the amount of \$3,657,594. (Community Services)

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
<b>MOVER:</b>	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Lynn LaPlante

6.D. [FI-R-0017-26](#)

Acceptance and appropriation of the Income Eligible Retrofits Program Grant P26, Company 5000 - Accounting Unit 1555, for the Weatherization Assistance Program from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, in the amount of \$350,000. (Community Services)

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
<b>MOVER:</b>	Lynn LaPlante
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Cynthia Cronin Cahill

6.E. [HS-R-0001-26](#)

Recommendation for Approval of a of HOME Investment Partnerships Act (HOME) Funds Agreement with DuPage Pads, Project Number HM25-02b – Tenant Based Rental Assistance – in the amount of \$139,000. (Community Development)

Mary Keating stated this project is funded through HUD through our HOME funds. On November 28, 2025, HUD issued a guidance that there was a new interpretation of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliations Act indicating anyone receiving any sort of benefit from federal funds needed to be vetted for immigration status. They further dictated that individuals' information had to be entered into the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) database. The only organizations that can actually access SAVE are government organizations but not at the county level. At the time HUD said they would be issuing further guidance as to how this should be operational at the county level, which has not been received.

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED AT COMMITTEE
<b>MOVER:</b>	Paula Garcia
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Dawn DeSart

6.F. [HS-R-0002-26](#)

Recommendation for Approval of a of HOME Investment Partnerships Act (HOME) Funds Agreement with Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet, Project Number HM25-02a – Tenant Based Rental Assistance – in the Amount of \$204,000. (Community Development)

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED AT COMMITTEE
<b>MOVER:</b>	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Lynn LaPlante

6.G. [HS-P-0001-26](#)

Awarding resolution issued to Family Shelter Service, to provide advocacy services to victims of domestic violence, for Community Services, for the period of December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2026, for a contract total amount not to exceed \$85,000. (Community Services)

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
<b>MOVER:</b>	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Lynn LaPlante

6.H. [HS-CO-0001-26](#)

Approval of an amendment to Purchase Order 7791-0001 SERV, issued to Healthy Air Heating & Air, Inc., to increase the Purchase Order by \$180,000, due to DCEO providing more funding for the Weatherization Program. (Community Services)

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
<b>MOVER:</b>	Paula Garcia
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Lynn LaPlante

6.I. [HS-CO-0002-26](#)

Approval of an amendment to Purchase Order 7792-0001 SERV, issued to My Green House HVAC, LLC, to increase the Purchase Order by \$180,000, due to DCEO providing more funding for the Weatherization Program. (Community Services)

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
<b>MOVER:</b>	Paula Garcia
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Lynn LaPlante

7. **DUPAGE CARE CENTER - JANELLE CHADWICK**7.A. [HS-P-0002-26](#)

Recommendation for the approval of a contract purchase order to CDW Government, to provide computer hardware, peripherals, software and licensing as needed, for the DuPage Care Center, for the period of January 14, 2026 through January 13, 2027, for a contract total amount not to exceed \$55,000. Contract pursuant to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (City of Mesa #2024056-1).

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
<b>MOVER:</b>	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Lynn LaPlante

7.B. [HS-P-0003-26](#)

Recommendation for the approval of a contact purchase order to Medline Industries, Inc., to furnish and deliver chaise mobile recliners, for the DuPage Care Center, for the period of January 14, 2026 through January 13, 2027, for a contract total not to exceed \$36,579.85. Contract pursuant to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (OMNIA Contract #2021003157).

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dawn DeSart
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Cynthia Cronin Cahill

## 8. TRAVEL

8.A. [26-0199](#)

Community Services Director to attend the NACo Board of Directors meeting in Maui County, Hawaii, from May 4, 2026 through May 8, 2026. Expenses to include registration, transportation, lodging, and per diems, for a total not to exceed \$3554.

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED
<b>MOVER:</b>	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Paula Garcia
<b>AYES:</b>	Cronin Cahill, DeSart, Galassi, Garcia, LaPlante, and Schwarze

8.B. [26-0200](#)

Community Services Administrator to attend the Inform USA Annual Conference and Board Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, from May 16, 2026 through May 22, 2026. Expenses to include registration, transportation, lodging, and per diems, for approximate total of \$2820. Grant funded.

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED
<b>MOVER:</b>	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Lynn LaPlante
<b>AYES:</b>	Cronin Cahill, DeSart, Galassi, Garcia, LaPlante, and Schwarze

## 9. RESIDENCY WAIVERS - JANELLE CHADWICK

No residency waivers were offered.

**10. DUPAGE CARE CENTER UPDATE - JANELLE CHADWICK**

Janelle Chadwick, Administrator for the DuPage Care Center, stated the Care Center participated in the Post Acute Care Provider Network with Northwestern/CDH Hospital. That was a huge application process. It is important to participate as this really drives the referrals and only certain agencies are selected to be part of the Post Acute Network. As part of the renewal or review the Provider Network has asked people to resubmit again this year. Ms. Chadwick's team put together a PowerPoint to share with the committee. The PowerPoint contains a great story and description of the Care Center and is a great tool for people to understand the Care Center capabilities and their models of care.

The Care Center had an outbreak of the rhinovirus and the Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV). They are out of the outbreak for the rhinovirus and have a few more days to close out with the health department for the HMPV. The HMPV is like a cold but much riskier for people greater than 65 or those with comorbidity.

The Care Center East building project will go before the Health Facilities Services Review Board on January 13. It is a Springfield review but being held in Bolingbrook. The review board has accepted all the paperwork submitted by the Care Center.

Member DeSart noted that Ms. Chadwick did not mention RSV, the flu, and covid, stating a person in another facility stated it is rampant in their building. Ms. Chadwick replied that the staff at the Care Center masks all the time through the flu season, thus reducing the amount of exposure to illnesses.

Chair Schwarze asked what is currently under construction. Ms. Chadwick replied that currently 2South, 2Center, and 2North are still under construction. They are waiting for the results of a recent flow test and for the clinical survey. Staff are not sure if the state will waive the architectural survey which they have been doing. The projected occupancy is four weeks.

**11. COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATE - MARY KEATING**

Mary Keating, Director of Community Services, referred to the federal funding cuts to the Continuum of Care (CoC), stating there were a couple of court hearings in Rhode Island in December. HUD was ordered to renew the existing grants and drop their plans. HUD announced they would be issuing a new notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) today. They are not sure why a new funding notice is being issued and why HUD is not just being renewed. The federal judge focused on the process, noting HUD has the right to change priorities for funding but she was extremely critical of the process they used, and the lack of notice and opportunity for the agencies to respond to the notice.

Community Services has some great outreach numbers for 2025. Brett Kuras, the outreach staff person, will present the numbers at the next Human Services meeting. Member Galassi said she appreciates the updates Brett sends to the County Board members.

**12. OLD BUSINESS**

Chair Schwarze stated he is grateful to the committee for supporting the business trip to Hawaii. He added the committee is so grateful to the staff for their expertise, which saves the County money.

**13. NEW BUSINESS**

Member DeSart stated she has already had two small nonprofits reach out to her since the start of the year regarding the small nonprofit grant and asked if we will be offering this in 2026. Chair Schwarze replied that there was a committee consensus to move the next two years of the funds to another fund so the small nonprofit grant will not be offered this year.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM.