



DU PAGE COUNTY

Human Services

Final Summary

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

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

9:30 AM

Room 3500A

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 Saba Haider and Member Yeena Yoo

Staff in attendance: Nick Kottmeyer (Chief Administrative Officer), Joan Olson (Chief Communication Officer), Renee Zerante (State's Attorney Office), Keith Jorstad and Karina Holman (Finance), Donna Weidman (Procurement), Gina Strafford-Ahmed (Community Services), Mary Keating (Director of Community Services), and Janelle Chadwick, remote (Administrator of the DuPage Care Center).

PRESENT	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 talked regarding the food insecurity issue. He thanked the committee for their willingness to consider requests from local food pantries who are seeing the extra activity due to the federal government shutdown. Full SNAP benefits were delayed for 67,000 DuPage County recipients. On Thursday, November 13, 2025, the Illinois Department of Human Services announced that people would receive their full month of November SNAP benefits by November 20, 2025. The urgency to meet what we thought would be escalating needs at the food pantries appear to have abated at this time. The bill passed in Congress provides SNAP benefits through September 2026 but also includes SNAP benefit cuts, impacting 360,000 Illinoisans and thousands of DuPage County residents. The funding bill that was passed for the upcoming year imposes work requirements for 23,000 un housed individuals, veterans, or youth that have aged out of foster care in Illinois. Most people who receive SNAP benefits are currently required to work until reaching age 54 to qualify except for parents with dependents. Now the work requirements will be raised to age 64, and work requirements will be imposed on parents with children younger than 14 years old.

In conversation with County Board Chair Conroy, Human Services Vice Chair Garcia, and Mary Keating, we are proposing to go back to the drawing board to confer with the pantries and social service agencies to devise a more proactive plan to address a slower growing emerging need within the community. We must be mindful of the increased costs of medical insurance now that the Affordable Care Act subsidies have expired. Chair Conroy created her sustainability initiative

in next year's budget that we will be voting on next week to respond to the needs of the community related to the federal budget cuts. We will be working on a longer-range plan based on input from our stakeholders on how to address these issues. I will bring you more information as we develop it.

The headline today is that we will hold off on funds to the food pantries for now. We will move forward with the funds requested for DuPage Pads because we know we must house residents this winter. The resolution will be on next week's Finance and CB agendas.

Chair Schwarze opened the topic for questions.

Member Cronin asked about the status of the committee consensus at the previous meeting to move \$2M for food insecurity. Ms. Cronin mentioned a potential resolution for \$1M. Chair Schwarze replied that a memo was sent regarding the \$1M which is now on hold but there is a consensus to move the \$2.1M (a different allocation of funds) into a food line item. This will be done via a budget transfer and is still in the works.

Member DeSart noted that she is in support of leaving the \$2.1M for the small nonprofits, as originally budgeted. She feels a small \$5,000 donation could sustain a program for a whole year and that the County Board is already earmarking \$2M for food insecurity. She was also in favor of splitting the \$2.1 M into 18 portions and allowing the board members to determine how the funds are utilized.

Chair Schwarze replied that the Assistant State's Attorney recommends that this subject be brought up in the future under old or new business as the immediate need and conversation is on hold. He added that we should get through the budget process and talk to the pantries to determine their immediate needs. There will also be some future SNAP reductions the County will have to address.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.A. [25-2798](#)

Human Services Committee - Regular Meeting - November 4, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
SECONDER:	Kari Galassi

6. LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD

6.A. Length of Service Award - Janet Cather - 15 Years - Community Services

7. DUPAGE CARE CENTER - JANELLE CHADWICK**7.A. [HS-P-0055-25](#)**

Recommendation for the approval of a contract purchase order to LeadingAge Illinois, for annual dues, for the DuPage Care Center, for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, for a contract total amount not to exceed \$36,000. Other Professional Services not suitable for competitive bid per 55 ILCS 5/5-1022(c). Vendor selected pursuant to DuPage County Procurement Ordinance 2-353(1)(b).

RESULT:	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
MOVER:	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
SECONDER:	Kari Galassi

7.B. [HS-P-0056-25](#)

Recommendation for the approval of a contract purchase order to Symbria Rehab, Inc., for Community Wellness Partner for the Wellness Center staffing and management for the Outpatient Center at the DuPage Care Center, for the period of December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2026, for a contract total not to exceed \$66,500; per RFP #25-100-DCC.

RESULT:	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
MOVER:	Lynn LaPlante
SECONDER:	Kari Galassi

7.C. [HS-P-0057-25](#)

Recommendation for the approval of a contract purchase order to Professional Medical & Surgical Supply, to provide examination gloves, for the DuPage Care Center, for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, for a total contract not to exceed \$90,000; per bid #23-102-DCC, second of three one-year optional renewals.

RESULT:	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
MOVER:	Paula Garcia
SECONDER:	Kari Galassi

7.D. [HS-P-0058-25](#)

Recommendation for the approval of a contract purchase order to Symbria Rehab, Inc., for Physical, Occupational, Speech and Respiratory Therapy Consulting Services, for the DuPage Care Center, for the period of December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2026, for a contract total not to exceed \$700,000; per RFP #25-092-DCC.

RESULT:	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
MOVER:	Dawn DeSart
SECONDER:	Kari Galassi

8. RESIDENCY WAIVERS - JANELLE CHADWICK

No residency waivers were offered.

9. DUPAGE CARE CENTER UPDATE - JANELLE CHADWICK

Janelle Chadwick, Administrator of the DuPage Care Center, stated they sent the 90% completion report to the state last week for units 2 North, 2 Center, and 2 South. Now that the federal government shutdown has ended, they hope that the inspection for occupancy will happen soon, and residents can take occupancy within the next month. They will move the 1 North residents up to 2 North and then begin the 1 North construction.

There are no current covid cases at the Care Center.

10. COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATE - MARY KEATING

Mary Keating, Director of Community Services, stated the Glen Ellyn Full Circle project she mentioned at the last meeting that was in peril with the federal government shutdown had the funds released prior to the shutdown ending. Glen Ellyn can now move forward with their contract for demolition.

Ms. Keating talked regarding the anticipated changes to the Continuum of Care (CoC) program. HUD provides funds to communities under the CoC which provides services for homeless service providers. The County receives about \$8M annually. Some of the grant funds are used in our department for HMIS and planning work. Most of the funds go to DuPage Pads, Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, and Catholic Charities. In the past our emphasis has been on permanent supportive housing, individuals chronically homeless with disabling conditions. This entails about 60% of our funds going to support permanent supportive housing. The programs are also operating under a housing first model which means individuals have a very low barrier to entry. Research and evidence show how people need to be stably housed before they can work on their mental health or substance abuse issues.

The funding was built on a two-tier premise. In the past you could put 90% of your funding into tier 1, which was protected. Tier 2 was competitive. Communities strategized on which programs they wanted to protect and what programs could be vulnerable to cuts.

The new Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) came out yesterday with drastic changes. Tier one now will only protect 30% of projects. The other 70% of funds will be awarded competitively. The real issue is that only 30% of the awarded funding can now go towards permanent supportive housing which means there will be programs that are currently housing people that will lose that funding. These people all have disabilities and many of them are seniors. The new administration is pushing transitional housing models, getting individuals quickly employed and onto economic self-sufficiency. We will be meeting with providers, seeing if there are individuals who have the potential to move into transitional housing. Otherwise, we must address the impact of the lost funding.

Additionally, housing first models are no longer allowed. Individuals must participate in services as of day one. That is a barrier and goes against all the evidence about what is the most effective way to get people successfully housed.

Ms. Keating does not know if our annual demand will be the same or how the metrics will be on the scoring for DuPage County since there has been a large emphasis on permanent supportive housing in DuPage County. There are about 600 people in permanent supportive housing in the County and this new ruling will probably affect about half of them.

Ms. Keating answered questions from the committee.

11. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

12. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.