



DU PAGE COUNTY

Human Services

Final Summary

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

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

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. A physical quorum was physically present, and Chair Schwarze entertained a motion for those members not physically present due to illness, disability, employment purposes or for the business of the Board or family or other emergency or unexpected childcare obligations to participate via video or teleconference. Member Garcia so moved, Member Galassi seconded, motion carried, all ayes.

PRESENT	DeSart, Galassi, Garcia, LaPlante, and Schwarze
REMOTE	Cronin Cahill

2. ROLL CALL

Staff in Attendance: Nick Kottmeyer (Chief Administrative Officer); Renee Zerante (State's Attorney's Office); Gina Strafford-Ahmed (Community Services); Natasha Belli (Community Services); Keith Jorstad (Finance); Sara Rogers (Finance).

PRESENT	DeSart, Galassi, Garcia, LaPlante, and Schwarze
REMOTE	Cronin Cahill

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were offered.

4. CHAIR REMARKS - CHAIR SCHWARZE

Chair Schwarze thanked the Members who attended the Food Summit in April, hosted by the Northern Illinois Food Bank. He noted that he, Member Garcia and Community Services Director Mary Keating are meeting with potential food bank donors at the DuPage Foundation in early June with the intention of discussing how the DuPage County Transformation Challenge Grant may potentially assist collaboration with food bank partners. Member Galassi asked if the information presented at the summit might be made available to County Board members to share with the pantries in their districts. Chair Schwarze replied that a summary of the presentation is forthcoming from the Northern Illinois Food Bank and will be shared with the Board. Member Garcia noted that there were two major topics of discussion among most of the attendees - the possibility of opening a second hub to facilitate food transport in other areas of the County, and software improvements to allow a better flow of information among the food pantries. Member DeSart mentioned the upcoming groundbreaking for Loaves and Fishes' new Hub 2.0 expansion in Aurora.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**5.A. [26-1386](#)**

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RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Paula Garcia
SECONDER:	Kari Galassi

6. COMMUNITY SERVICES - MARY KEATING**6.A. [26-1387](#)**

HS-P-0035A-25 - Amendment to County Contract 7852-0001 SERV issued to Nortek Environmental, Inc., for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), to increase the contract in the amount of \$75,000, for a new contract amount not to exceed \$164,999. (Community Services)

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

7. BUDGET TRANSFERS**7.A. [26-1388](#)**

Transfer of funds from account no. 5000-1440-50040 (part-time help) to account no. 5000-1440 50010 (overtime), in the amount of \$2,921, to cover unexpected expenses in the overtime personnel expense account for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which was not included in the original budget. (Community Services)

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Paula Garcia
SECONDER:	Kari Galassi

7.B. [26-1389](#)

Transfer of funds from account no. 1200-2025-54110 (equipment and machinery) to account no. 1200-2025-52000 (furniture/machinery/equipment small value) in the amount of \$9,500 for small value supplies for dining services. (DuPage Care Center)

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Paula Garcia
SECONDER:	Kari Galassi

8. INFORMATIONAL**8.A. [26-1390](#)**

GPN 012-26 Weatherization DOE Grant PY27 Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, U.S. Department of Energy, in the amount of \$673,394. (Community Services)

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE

MOVER: Paula Garcia

SECONDER: Kari Galassi

8.B. [26-1391](#)

GPN 013-26 Weatherization HHS Grant PY27 Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in the amount of \$974,465. (Community Services)

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE

MOVER: Paula Garcia

SECONDER: Dawn DeSart

8.C. [26-1392](#)

GPN 014-26 Weatherization State Grant PY27 Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, in the amount of \$609,599. (Community Services)

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE

MOVER: Paula Garcia

SECONDER: Kari Galassi

8.D. [26-1393](#)

GPN 015-26 LIHEAP HHS Grant PY27 Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in the amount of \$3,657,594. (Community Services)

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE

MOVER: Paula Garcia

SECONDER: Kari Galassi

8.E. [26-1394](#)

GPN 016-26 LIHEAP State Supplemental Grant PY27 Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, in the amount of \$4,699,341. (Community Services)

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

9. RESIDENCY WAIVERS - JANELLE CHADWICK

One out-of-county residency waiver request was presented to the committee for approval. Janelle Chadwick stated that the Care Center currently has twelve male beds and sixteen female beds available. Six beds have been offered to DuPage County residents, so no DuPage County residents will be displaced with the acceptance of this candidate.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Dawn DeSart
SECONDER:	Kari Galassi

10. DUPAGE CARE CENTER UPDATE - JANELLE CHADWICK

Janelle Chadwick stated that there are currently no cases or units at the Care Center in isolation and no masking. Construction logistics are a challenge right now, with only one center elevator to access the rehab, recreation and dining areas, but construction is progressing well. This week the Care Center is celebrating Nursing Week, and Ms. Chadwick noted that last quarter the Care Center hired eight nurses. Ms. Chadwick also mentioned the annual Care Center Golf Outing and Dinner, coming up on Friday, June 26.

11. COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATE - MARY KEATING

No remarks were offered.

12. OLD BUSINESS

Member LaPlante noted that since the DuPage County Small Non-profit Grant Program is now closed, she asked where constituents that are small organizations can find resources. Nick Kottmeyer suggested that they start by going to the County Board office and seeking direction in obtaining referrals to resources that could help them. Likewise, if a Board member has an individual constituent with a need for immediate assistance for such things as rent, car repair, utility shut-off, etc., besides referring the constituent to the 211 helpline, he recommended that Board members reach out directly to Mary Keating in Community Services, with the objective of getting the appropriate referrals in Community Services to the constituent as quickly as possible.

13. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

14. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.