FAMILY & HUMAN SERVICES

RESOLUTION NO. 2025206

RE: APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Legislators GARITO, MC HOUL, and TRAVELPIECE offer the following and move its adoption:

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2024135, the Dutchess County Legislature adopted Local Law #1 of 2024; and

WHEREAS, Article 41 of the Mental Hygiene Law, Section 9.03 of the Dutchess County Charter, and Section 9.01 of the Dutchess County Administrative Code provide for the Creation of a Community Services Advisory Board whose members are appointed by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Section 41.11(d) of the Mental Hygiene Law provides that each member shall be appointed for a four-year term, that vacancies shall be filled for unexpired terms and that no member may serve more than two consecutive terms; and

WHEREAS, vacancies exist on said Board; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Dutchess County Legislature does hereby appoint the following to the Dutchess County Community Services Advisory Board:

APPOINTMENT:	TERM ENDING:
Cheryl Harmon-Gessel Millbrook, NY 12545 (Filling unexpired term of Alyssa Carrion's vacancy)	12/31/2026

APPROVED
Sue Serino
SUSAN J. SERINO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Date 11-13-2025

STATE OF NEW YORK
ss:
COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Dutchess, have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 10th day of November 2025, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Legislature this 10th day of November 2025.

DUTCHESS COUNTY SEAL

Leigh Wager
LEIGH WAGER, CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

44 Hoofprint Rd Millbrook, NY 12545• (347) 681-9602 (cell)•cherrie212@hotmail.com

CHERYL M. HARMON-GESSEL

Summary

Licensed Social Worker with a passion for providing person- centered therapy within an organization that will fulfill my commitment to serving clients from various cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. State service professional with experience in various state operated settings functioning in capacities that include therapeutic service, supervision, and quality assurance positions.

Professional Experience

Social Work

- Providing solution-focused therapy, CBT, and behavioral therapy to clients from various age groups
- Advanced knowledge of OMH and OPWDD procedures, PILS, Therapynotes, computerized notes and billing, MHARS, and FPMS
- Facilitate psycho-educational groups, provide in-home and center- based counseling services.
- Complete intake assessments, mental health screenings, psychosocial, HRA's, intervention/ crisis screenings, treatment plan, DDP2, referral packets, and comprehensive progress notes in accordance with agency standards
- Provide psychotherapy to clients in an inpatient psychiatric setting; facilitate family meetings and discharge meetings; crisis intervention; and participate in discharge planning meetings and treatment team meetings
- Collaborate with other members of the treatment team regarding client's treatment and discharge planning as well as complete referrals for continuation of care post discharge
- Provide supervision, training, and support to program support staff
- Facilitate or participate in planning and vacancy meetings with other stakeholders to advocate for placements of OPWDD recipients in need of transitional planning

Vocational Rehabilitation

- Oversight and supervision of the Transitional Employment Program in addition to providing supervision for support staff and Employment Program participants
- Complete vocational assessments/ action plans; provide vocational counseling to the clients interested in employment/vocational training/ educational services
- Developed pre-vocational curriculum and facilitated vocational groups (Inpatient and Outpatient).
- Identify and establish partnerships with community agencies/ corporations for transitional / competitive employment placements.
- Assist client with resume/ cover letter writing, soft-skills training, employment search, interview skills, referrals, and other vocational services

Case Management

- Knowledge of Connections
- Conduct psychosocial and home assessments to client with dependency cases, involved in the Juvenile justice system, and individuals in recovery (mentally ill and substance abusers).

- Formulate Individualized Service Plans and other pertinent documentation in accordance to agency standards
- Facilitate supervised visitation; conducted field visits; and collaborated with other professional regarding client's progress, identified goals, and service needs
- Provided counseling to clients as well as providing referrals for community services

Quality Improvement

- Conduct desks reviews/ chart audits for voluntary agencies providing Family Care Services ensure continued compliance with state policies and standards
- Review Certification/ Authorizations Packets for Family Care Providers and Substitute Providers for submission to DQI
- Conduct compliance/ certification site visits to State Operated Family Care homes to ensure compliance with state policies and standards
- Develop and maintain multiple tracking systems to ensure timely submission of documentation and follow-up.
- Facilitate trainings and provide technical support for Family Care staff in State Operated and voluntary Family Care agencies.
- Collaborate with other professionals to ensure that required documentation is received for review and processing in accordance with agency standards.

Employment History

2024- Present	Licensed Social Worker 2	Taconic DDSOO Poughkeepsie, NY
2022- 2024	Licensed Social Worker 2	Hudson Valley DDSOO Thiells, NY
2022- 2023	Fee for Service Clinician	Integrity Social Work Services Staten Island, NY
2022- 2022	Licensed Social Worker 2	Central New York Psychiatric Center/ Fishkill CF Satellite Beacon, NY
2021-2022	Licensed Social Worker 2	Central New York Psychiatric Center/ Downstate CBO Fishkill, NY
2019- 2021	Fee for Service Clinician	Integrity Senior Services Staten Island, NY
2017- 2021	Licensed Social Worker 2/ Asst. Program Coordinator	Creedmoor Psychiatric Center/ Outpatient Clinic Queens Village, NY
2016- 2017	Licensed Social Worker 2 /Admissions	Creedmoor Psychiatric Center, Queens Village, NY

2014- 2016	Rehabilitation Counselor 2	Manhattan Psychiatric Center Outpatient Clinic, New York, NY
2012-2014	Rehabilitation Counselor 2/ Social Work (Interim)	Manhattan Psychiatric Center, New York, NY
2006-2012	Youth Counselor	Ella McQueen Reception Center, Brooklyn, NY

Education

2011	Master in Social Work	New York University, New York, NY
2002	Bachelor in Social Work	University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
2000	Associate in Counseling and Human Services	Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, FL

Licensures

Licensed Social Worker for the State of New York

License #: 084936 Expiration: 01/31/26

NPI #: 1144620436

Family and Human Services Sub Committee Attendance

District	*Name*	*Present*	*Absent*	*Present /Late*
District 9 – City of Poughkeepsie	Atkins*			
District 8 – City/Town of Poughkeepsie	Brendli			
District 25 – Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook	Houston*			
District 17 – Town/Village of Fishkill	McHoul	✓		
District 3 – LaGrange	Polasek*			
District 2 – LaGrange/Pleasant Valley/Town of Poughkeepsie	Travelpiece	✓		
District 7 – Hyde Park/Pleasant Valley	Truitt*			
District 16 – Fishkill/Beacon	Valdés Smith*			
* = Ex Officio	Total:			

Date: October 27, 2025

Family and Human Services Sub Committee Roll Call

District	*Name*	*Yes*	*No*
District 2 – LaGrange/Pleasant Valley/Town of Poughkeepsie	Travelpiece	✓	
District 3 – LaGrange	Polasek*		
District 7 – Hyde Park/Town of Poughkeepsie	Truitt*		
District 8 – City/Town of Poughkeepsie	Brendli		
District 9 – City of Poughkeepsie	Atkins*		
District 16 – Fishkill/Beacon	Valdés Smith*		
District 17 – Town/Village of Fishkill	McHoul	✓	
District 25 – Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook	Houston*		
* = Ex Officio	Total:		

Recommendations: Cheryl Human-Gessel

Date: October 27, 2025

Family and Human Services Committee Roll Call

District	*Name*	*Yes*	*No*
District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley	Truitt*	✓	
District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook	Houston*		
District 3 - LaGrange	Polasek*		
District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon	Valdés Smith*		
District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie	Atkins*		
District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie	Travelpiece	Absent	
District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie	D'Aquanni		
District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie	Brendli		
District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck	Kearney		
District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill	McHoul (VC)		
District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook	Drago		
District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale	Garito (C)	Absent	

Present: 10
Absent: 2
Vacant: 0

Resolution: V
Motion: ____

Total : 10 Yes 0 No
Abstentions: 0

2025206 APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

Roll Call Sheets

District	Last Name	YES	NO
District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley	Truitt	✓	
District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook	Houston		
District 3 - LaGrange	Polasek		
District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon	Valdés Smith		
District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie	Atkins		
District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Gorman		
District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie	Travelpiece		
District 4 - Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie	Lawler		
District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie	D'Aquanni		
District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Kaul		
District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie	Brendli		
District 10 - City of Poughkeepsie	Johnson	Absent	
District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck	Kearney		
District 12 - East Fishkill	Metzger		
District 13 - East Fishkill and Wappinger	Paoloni		
District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie	Versaci		
District 15 - Wappinger	Faust		
District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill	McHoul		
District 18 - City of Beacon and Fishkill	Page		
District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook	Drago		
District 20 - Red Hook, Tivoli, and Rhinebeck	Munn		
District 21 - East Fishkill	Caswell		
District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale	Garito		
District 23 - Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill	Rolison		
District 24 - Dover and Pawling	House		

Present: 24 **Resolution:** ✓ **Total :** 24 0

Absent: 1 **Motion:** ____ **Yes** **No**

Vacant: 0 **Abstentions:** 0

2025206 APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD.

NOVEMBER 10, 2025