



Onondaga County Legislature

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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES – AUGUST 21, 2024 **CODY M. KELLY, CHAIR**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. McCarron, Mr. Meaker, Ms. Harvey, Mr. Bush

ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Burtis, Mr. Romeo; also see attached list

Chair Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

1. **HEALTH:** Rebecca Shultz, Director of Community Health

a. **Amending the 2024 Onondaga County Budget to Accept JUUL Settlement Funds (\$1,452,272)**

PURPOSE:

To accept \$1,452,272 in funds from the settlement of a multi-state agreement with e-cigarette company Juul Labs (JUUL) for its role in the explosion of youth vaping throughout New York and Onondaga County.

BACKGROUND:

Numerous class action lawsuits were filed against vape manufacturers for intentionally marketing their products to teens and for minimizing the harmful effects of vaping. The NYS Attorney General co-led efforts to reach a multi-state agreement that will benefit youth across all of New York State.

As publicized in June, more than \$4.7 million will be awarded to Central New York counties, the City of Syracuse, and to BOCES in support of schools. Onondaga County was awarded over \$1.4 million.

The money must be directed to evidence-based practices to address under-aged vaping and e-cigarette addiction. The Onondaga County Health Department currently operates Tobacco-Free CNY and the Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA) program, as well as enforces the NYS Clean Indoor Air Act in Onondaga.

Program activities funded by the settlement must fall into these categories:

- *Public education campaigns to prevent e-cigarette use among young people.*
- *Community, school, and university-based anti-vaping programs.*
- *Vaping cessation services in communities, schools, and colleges.*
- *Enforcement of vaping laws and regulations.*
- *Public health research into e-cigarette use among young people and the effectiveness of anti-vaping programs.*

The Health Department will be focusing on public education campaigns, supporting anti-vaping programs, and enforcement activities through efforts of both the Divisions of Community Health and Environmental Health.

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- Does “enforcement” mean providing undercover operations of purchases?
 - Yes, currently working on age and flavored restrictions

A motion was made by Mr. McCarron, seconded by Mr. Meaker to approve this item.

- Will the money will be spent over a period of several years?
 - 2 disbursements in 2024; remaining will be annual

- Health Department get back to the Legislature on the exact time frame of disbursements
- Will the money be advocated by a committee or how will that work?
 - BOCES and SCSD were also allocated to receive part of the funds
 - Health Department will touch base with leadership of other agencies to make sure efforts are not duplicated
 - Working internally with tobacco use partners to see what needs have been identified

A vote was taken on the item. ***Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

2. VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY: Anne-Marie Mancilla, Director

a. INFORMATIONAL: 2024 Budget & Program Update

The mission of OC-Veterans Service Agency is to assist veterans, military personnel, and their families apply for local, state or federal benefits they may be eligible for. To provide information, assistance and advocacy for claimants in actions or claims against the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or state and local veterans-related entitlements to include burial assistance.

We assist veterans and their eligible dependents apply for VA Compensation, Pension and Survivors Benefits. We also assist with burial applications for the OC-Veterans Memorial Cemetery. VA Pension and Survivors Pension are income-based benefits that are often applied for in conjunction with Medicaid as it is a requirement of NYS-Medicaid, if the applicant is eligible. We help claimants navigate this process, often with deadlines that, if not met, could impact their Medicaid eligibility.

The PACT Act (Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins) was signed into law in August 2022 and has just hit its two-year anniversary. Nationally, The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) completed more than 1.7 million claims in 2022. Since the passing of PACT Act, VBA has approved 1,016,086 PACT Act related claims and is currently reviewing another 1,273,51 related claims. This significant increase has a direct impact on our daily operations, (see PACT Act Fact Sheet and information pamphlet).

There are a limited number of accredited Veteran Service Officers in our area. To legally assist a client with a VA claim, you need to be accredited by the VA. The VSA has absorbed the workload of several veteran organizations that have closed or stopped processing claims in the area. This has created space for illegally operating representatives to poach veterans and claimants. Veterans and claimants should never pay for VA claims assistance. There is an immediate need for VSO's.

Passing of The PACT Act expanded eligibility for veterans exposed to harmful toxins while in service, has generated an increase in inquiries to the VSA. In 2022 there were 2205 Interactions regarding VA claims. In 2023 there were 6805 Interactions and 4134 Interactions to date. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) continues to see an increase in PACT Act related claims.

In 2023, the VSA saw 640 clients in person, averaged 2300 phone calls, and assisted with 246 burial applications. We completed 103 fully adjudicated claims totaling \$165,000, resulting in VA Healthcare eligibility. This is an average monthly tax-free payment of \$1582 per claimant. The combined retroactive amount for these claims was roughly \$540k.

To date, in 2024 we have seen 567 clients in person, averaged 1500 phone calls, and assisted with 151 burial applications. Of the 370 submitted claims 35 have been fully adjudicated totaling \$50,000 with an average monthly tax-free payment of \$1430 per claimant. The combined retroactive amount for these claims is roughly \$196,000.

The VSA continues to meet the increasing needs of our veteran community by expanding access to accredited Veteran Service Officers, (i.e., walk-in clinics), maintaining multiple accreditations and increasing staff. We currently have seven full-time positions: one Director, one Assistant Director, one Senior-Veteran Service Officer, two full-time Veteran Service Officers, one Veteran Service Aide, and one Information Aide. The Director and Assistant Director are both accredited Veteran Service Officers who process claims. All Service Officers will maintain at least two accreditations to best serve our veterans. We have reviewed our contracts with Clear Path for Veterans (CPV) and Syracuse University Veterans Law Clinic. Both agencies are a large presence in our community and support our outreach efforts.

The VSA has assisted with on-going renovations at the Onondaga County War Memorial. Operation Shadowbox continues to grow, highlighting veteran friendly businesses and organizations in the community. The 54 shadowboxes are displayed throughout the War Memorial and provide a historic legacy to the importance of veterans in our community.

The VSA led the planning, coordination and execution with several veteran and military related events to include The Memorial Day Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The VSA also participates in special events at Clear Path for Veterans and other Veteran Organizations. The VSA played a large role in The Watch Fire 2024. We are assisting with coordination of the Veteran Expo and Parade on November 9, 2024, at The Fairgrounds and the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11, 2024 at The Onondaga County War Memorial.

Staff of the VSA are involved with several veteran and advocacy groups on the local, state and national level. To highlight a few, staff attend the Onondaga County Executive Veterans Advisory Board (OCEVAB), The War Memorial and Cemetery Sub-Committee meetings and the Onondaga County Veterans Council (OCVC). The Director sits on Senator Gillibrand's Service Academy Selection Board and the Assistant Director is a member of the federal advocacy group, Military Family Advocacy Network (MFAN).

Below is a recap of the major events the Veterans Service Agency participated in for 2024, (see pictures).

<i>January 2024</i>	<i>Wreaths Across America Wreath Removal, Yellow Ribbon NYANG (National Guard) Event</i>
<i>February 2024</i>	<i>Most Holy Rosary School Valentines for Vets, United Steel Workers (Vets of Steel) Outreach, CPV-Walk in Clinic, Assistant Director was awarded the Central NY Recreation and Parks Society's Distinguished Citizen award, nominated by our partners in OC-Parks Department.</i>
<i>March 2024</i>	<i>Veteran's Women's Group Meeting hosted by CPV, Humana Lunch and Learn, FAVOR Card Re-Launch Event, Vet Center Outreach (Survivor Benefits)</i>
<i>April 2024</i>	<i>Clear Path for Veterans Summit Meeting, FAVOR Card Re-Launch Celebration, VA Medical Center VHA Caregivers Support Program Summit, United Steel Workers Suicide Prevention Talk (Vets of Steel), Masonic Lodge Veterans Outreach Event, Honor Flight Bottle Drive, Van Keuren Square On-Site Claims Assistance, Honor Everywhere (Honor Flight Event), SAPR Walk (Vet Center), Honor Flight</i>
<i>May 2024</i>	<i>Cemetery Clean-Up, IVMF (SU)/VA Resource Event-Director was panelist for state and local VA Services, , 174th Military Appreciation Day, Purple Heart Ceremony-City of Syracuse, ITC Students Organized Vietnam Memorial Ceremony (VSA Assisted with research), Watch Fire (Director was fire starter), "Flags-In" at OC-Cemetery, VSA/OC-VMC Memorial Day Ceremony, Town of Salina Veteran Outreach Event, NYS-DVS Memorial Day Event (Sec. McDonough), Assembly member Hunter's Female Veteran Recognition Event (Albany)</i>
<i>June 2024</i>	<i>Local 43 IBEW Quarterly Meeting, Red, White and Blue BBQ CPV</i>
<i>July 2024</i>	<i>Honor Flight Tour, Van Keuren Square On-Site Claims Assistance, Congressman Williams' Resource Fair, The Vet Center Summer Picnic, Supporting the Blast Overpressure Safety Act (H.R. 8025)</i>
<i>August 2024</i>	<i>Hometown Heroes Event-Kirk Park, Sen. Mannion Resource Fair, CPV Back to School Event</i>

In 2025, the VSA will continue to encourage support of the following legislation, (see summaries).

Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act (H.R. 984/s.106)-authorize federal funding to expand and strengthen County Veteran Service Officers. (CVSO's).

Purple Star School Program-State Legislation (S05960/A00547)-recognizing military connected children in our schools and providing resources.

Blast Overpressure Safety Act (H.R.80125)-amend title 10 United States Code to clarify roles within Department of Defense (DOD) relating to brain health initiatives, specifically TBI's. Currently it is difficult to obtain service connection from Veteran Benefits Administration (VBA) for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) typically due to the lack in-service of evidence. The residuals of TBI are often deferred to other conditions, such as mental health or diagnosed headache/migraine condition.

The Blast Overpressure Safety Act will hold DOD accountable for proper documentation and provide the opportunity to explore brain health, viewing the brain as the physical organ it is and the correlation that these physical injuries have on neurocognitive behavior as well as mental health.

Moving forward, the VSA will continue collaboration with Clear Path for Veterans, The Vet Center, Syracuse VA Medical Center, local National Guard Units and other veteran organizations to ensure veterans and military members are receiving up to date information and assistance in obtaining their benefits.



VA PACT ACT

SECOND YEAR IN REVIEW

AUGUST 09, 2024

YEAR TWO—ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



In this VA PACT Act Performance Dashboard, we are demonstrating our commitment to transparency by sharing with all stakeholders—internal to VA and externally—key performance metrics and data we are using to assess our success in implementing the PACT Act. This Issue of the dashboard includes the core metrics assessing VA's implementation of PACT Act since enactment. Our next regularly scheduled dashboard with the full complement of metrics will be published on Friday, August 16, 2024.

If you, a Veteran, family member, or survivor would like more information about the PACT Act and your VA benefits, please start here:



VA.GOV
ask.VA.gov



CALL
1-800-MyVA411
24/7/365



WALK-IN
VA.gov/find/locations



VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION
VA.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim



NEW HEALTH CARE & BENEFITS MAP
[Download Map Here](#)

[Help spread the word—download PACT Act Outreach Materials!](#)



The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefits expansion in VA history. In this section, we are measuring the overall impact of the PACT Act in terms of its expansion of health care and benefits.

VA IS EXPANDING CARE AND BENEFITS FOR VETERANS AND SURVIVORS

Expanding Benefits



74.9%
Total PACT Act Related Claims Approved
(08/10/2022–08/03/2024)



1,016,086
Total Veterans/Survivors with Approved PACT Act Related Claims
(08/10/2022–08/03/2024)



1,273,051
Total Veterans/Survivors with Completed PACT Act Related Claims
(08/10/2022–08/03/2024)

1,005,341
Total Veterans with Approved PACT Act Related Claims

10,777
Total Survivors with Approved PACT Act Related Claims

1,251,720
Total Veterans with Completed PACT Act Related Claims

21,416
Total Survivors with Completed PACT Act Related Claims

Expanding Care



333,767
New Enrollees from the PACT Act Planning Population
(10/01/2022–08/04/2024)



91.9%
VA Health Care 90-Day Trust Score
(05/06/2024–08/04/2024)



Total New VHA Enrollees:

AUGUST 2020-AUGUST 2022 (PRE-PACT ACT)

553,490

AUGUST 2022-AUGUST 2024 (POST PACT ACT)

739,421 +185,931

200,000 400,000 600,000 800,000 1,000,000

Benefits Experience



1,853,448
Cumulative Total PACT Act Related Claims Submitted
(08/10/2022–08/03/2024)



1,540,949
Cumulative Total PACT Act Related Claims Completed
(08/10/2022–08/03/2024)



39.3%
Percentage of PACT Act Related Claims Submitted

1,825,412
Total Veteran PACT Act Related Claims Submitted
28,036
Total Survivor PACT Act Related Claims Submitted

1,518,749
Total Veteran PACT Act Related Claims Completed
22,200
Total Survivor PACT Act Related Claims Completed

\$6,828,081,880.67
Total PACT Act Benefits Paid
(08/10/2022–08/03/2024)

Care Experience



5,690,117
Total Toxic Exposure Screenings
(09/06/2022–08/04/2024)



2,563,611 (45.1%)
Toxic Exposure Screenings where Veterans Endorsed **at least 1** Potential Exposure
(09/06/2022–08/04/2024)



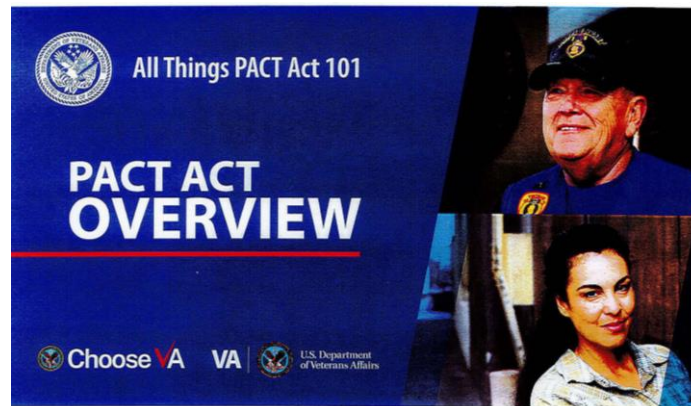
4,078,028
Current Enrollees in the PACT Act Planning Population
(as of 08/04/2024)

524,914 (9.2%)
Toxic Exposure Screenings where Veterans Endorsed **more than 1** Potential Exposure

2,038,697 (35.8%)
Toxic Exposure Screenings where Veterans Endorsed **exactly 1** Potential Exposure



REMINDER: The PACT Act is here to stay, and Veterans and survivors can apply anytime for the benefits they've earned. While there's no deadline to apply, there is urgency: the sooner you apply, the sooner you could start to receive benefits. So don't wait, apply today. Visit VA.gov/PACT to apply!



What is the PACT Act?

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022

is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The PACT Act:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.
- Expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.



PACT Act Key Components



The Act **expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures** and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.



VA **will improve the decision-making process** for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.



Every enrolled Veteran **will receive an initial toxic exposure screening** and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



VA health care staff and claims processors will receive **toxic exposure-related education and training**.



The Act **requires research studies** on the mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War; Post-9/11 Veteran health trends; and Veteran cancer rates.



The Act will help VA **build a stronger, more skilled workforce** to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.



The Act **authorizes 31 new facilities** across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.



DID YOU SERVE HERE?

If you served on the ground, in the airspace above, in territorial waters, or a ship that called there, you may be eligible for VA benefits and health care for over 300 conditions.

LEARN MORE about toxic exposure screening, toxic-exposure related benefits, and VA health care by visiting [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) or calling 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411).

YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO:

- AIR POLLUTANTS:**
Burn pits, oil well fires, sulfur fire, sand, dust, and particulates
- CHEMICALS:**
Agent Orange or other herbicides, pesticides, and depleted uranium
- OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS:**
Asbestos, lead, fuels, and industrial solvents

- RADIATION:**
Nuclear weapons testing and ionizing radiation
- WARFARE AGENTS:**
Chemical warfare agents, nerve agents, and mustard gas

Service members may have been subjected to any of these exposures in any of these areas.



Gulf War Era and Post-9/11 Eligibility

If a Veteran served in any of these locations and time periods, they are eligible for the new Gulf War-related presumptions. This includes the airspace above any of these locations.

On or After August 2, 1990:

- Bahrain
- Iraq
- Kuwait
- Oman
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Somalia
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE)

On or After September 11, 2001:

- Afghanistan
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Syria
- Uzbekistan
- Yemen





New Radiation Presumptive Locations



If you were called to respond to one of the listed cleanup and response missions below, you may be eligible for radiation exposure presumptives under the PACT Act.

Response Effort	Dates
Cleanup of Enewetak Atoll	January 1, 1977-December 31, 1980
Cleanup of the Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons off the coast of Palomares, Spain	January 17, 1966-March 31, 1967
Response to the fire onboard an Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons near Thule Air Force Base in Greenland	January 21, 1968-September 25, 1968



Conditions Presumed to be Service-Connected

As of August 10, 2022, a long list of new conditions are presumed to be service-connected due to various in-service toxic exposures. VA encourages all eligible Veterans and survivors to file a claim—or submit their intent to file a claim—for PACT Act-related benefits **NOW** at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT). Most Veterans who do so by August 9, 2023, will have their benefits, if granted, backdated to Aug. 10, 2022 (the day President Biden signed the bill into law).

- Asthma (diagnosed after service)
- Brain cancer
- Chronic bronchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Chronic rhinitis
- Chronic sinusitis
- Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
- Emphysema
- Gastrointestinal cancer of any type
- Glioblastoma
- Granulomatous disease
- Head cancer of any type
- High blood pressure (hypertension)
- Interstitial lung disease (ILD)
- Kidney cancer
- Lymphoma of any type
- Melanoma
- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)
- Neck cancer
- Pancreatic cancer
- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Reproductive cancer of any type, including cervical, ovarian, uterine, vaginal and vulvar
- Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type
- Sarcoidosis



Health Care Enrollment Eligibility

WHO: All Veterans enrolled in VA health care

WHAT: A quick (5-10 minute) series of questions to identify and document any potential exposures to toxins during military service

WHEN: At least one every 5 years

WHERE: VA medical centers and clinics

WHY: Supports Veteran long-term health plans and informed, whole-health care

HOW: Veterans can ask about the screening at their next VA appointment





Health Care Enrollment Eligibility

Veterans who served in the following locations and time periods can enroll in VA health care **NOW**:



- **Republic of Vietnam** (between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975)
- **Thailand at any US or Royal Thai base** (between January 9, 1962 and June 30, 1976)
- **Laos** (between December 1, 1965 and September 30, 1969)
- **Certain Provinces in Cambodia** (between April 16, 1969 and April 30, 1969)
- **Guam or American Samoa or their territorial waters** (between January 9, 1962 and July 31, 1980)
- **Johnston Atoll, or a ship that called there** (between January 1, 1972 and September 30, 1977)



Vietnam-era Veterans are now able to apply for two new Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

- **Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)**
- **Hypertension (high blood pressure)**

Special Enrollment Period: October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023

for Post-9/11 combat Veterans who separated or discharged **between September 11, 2001 and October 1, 2013**. Enrollment is free, there are no annual costs, and care may be free as well!



Filing Claims to Receive Benefits

Veterans can file a claim for the new presumptive conditions:

- **New Claim**—Veteran has never filed for the presumptive condition
- **Supplemental Claim**—the presumptive condition was previously denied but is now considered to be presumptive

• If VA denied one of the new presumptive conditions in the past but the Veteran may now be eligible for benefits, VA will try to contact them. There is no need to wait to file a Supplemental Claim.

• VA is prioritizing the claims of Veterans with cancer to make sure they get timely access to the care and benefits they need.

• **Pending Claims:** If a Veteran's condition was added to the list of presumptive conditions* after the claim was filed, VA will consider it on a presumptive basis.



*Presumptive conditions do not require proof that the military service caused the condition. Veterans only need to meet the service requirements and have a current diagnosis of the presumptive condition. Veterans should submit any supporting documentation to assist with their claim.



Other Affected Veterans and Survivors

What about additional benefits and care for other Veterans and their survivors?



Under the PACT Act, survivors may be eligible for VA benefits, including **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation** and **Burial** benefits.

- [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation](#)
- [Burial Benefits](#)



Get the care and benefits you **EARNED** and **DESERVE!**

Apply at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) today.





Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA) of 2022

- You may have seen advertisements from lawyers, law firms, or others seeking to represent Veterans and others in litigation related to the PACT Act or the CLJA. **These lawyers, firms, and private parties are not connected with VA benefits or services.**
- Seeking relief under the CLJA will not influence VA's decisions and will not affect the amount of the benefits or health care VA can provide.
- Relief awarded by the court in a lawsuit brought under the CLJA must be offset by the amount of any disability award, payment, or benefit VA provided to you or your legal representative due to exposure to water at Camp Lejeune.
- Learn more at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp or call 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411).
- For questions on the status of cases filed in federal court under the CLJA, contact the Department of Justice at camplejeune.pactact@usdoj.gov or call 202-353-4426.



Avoiding PACT Act Scams

There's been an increase in [PACT Act-related phishing \(email\)](#), vishing (phone), and [social media scams](#) targeting Veterans to access their PACT Act benefits or submit claims on their behalf. To report suspected scams, please contact the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) Hotline at VA.gov/oig/hotline/.



Do:

- Securely submit your application directly to VA online at benefits.va.gov/benefits/applying.asp or in person at any VA Regional Office. VA will assist in gathering supportive evidence at no cost to you.
- Be cautious of companies that (1) claim to be contacting you on behalf of VA, (2) advertise VA benefits can only be obtained with their help, or (3) attempt to pressure you into signing a contract.
- If you're interested in working with a Veterans Service Organization, agent, or attorney, use the VA Office of General Counsel (OGC) accreditation tool at VA.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp to confirm their credentials.

Don't:

- Don't sign a contract agreeing to pay an unauthorized company a percentage of your benefit payment in exchange for assistance with your VA claim.
- Don't sign forms that are not VA generated or a blank form for someone else to complete later.
- Don't be fooled by companies that advertise special relationships with medical professionals and say they can guarantee your benefits award.
- Don't provide personal information (such as your social security number) to anyone offering claims assistance.



When or How Should I File a Claim?



APPLY NOW!

What if I have previously been denied?

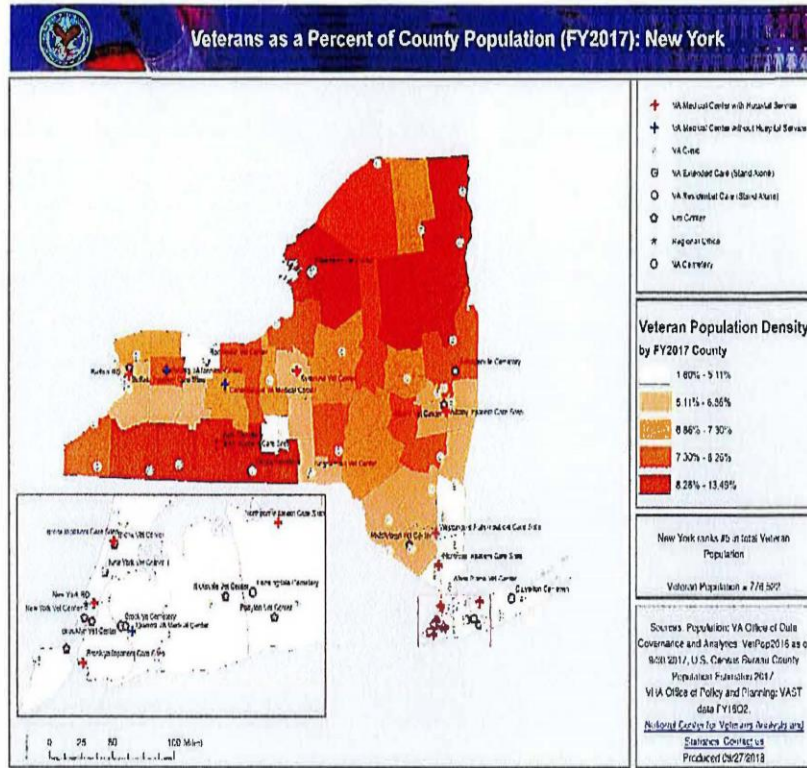
Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.

For more info, visit VA.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MyVA411





New York



VA Facilities (as of 9/30/2017)	New York	National
Number of Inpatient Care Sites	10	154
Number of Outpatient Care Sites	55	1,029
Number of Vet Centers	16	300
Number of VBA Regional Offices	2	56
Number of National and State Cemeteries	6	246

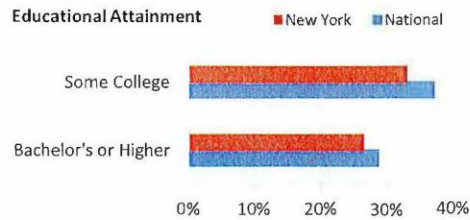
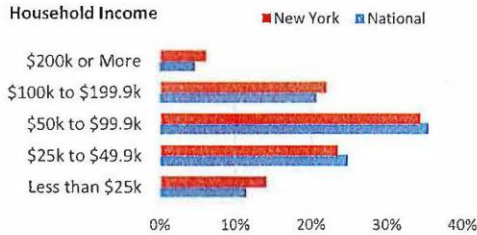
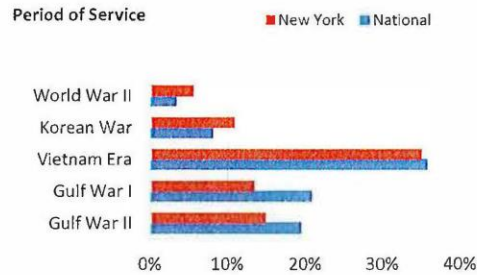
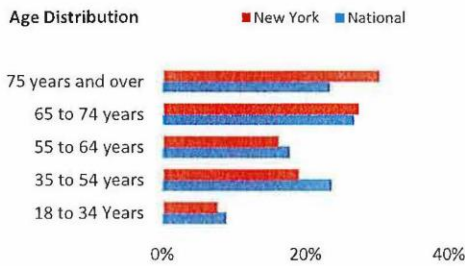
VA Expenditures FY 2017 (in thousands)	New York	National
Compensation & Pension	\$ 2,535,865	\$ 84,138,460
Construction	\$ 63,280	\$ 1,467,395
Education & Voc Rehab/Employment	\$ 550,377	\$ 13,182,263
General Operating Expenses	\$ 101,870	\$ 9,222,998
Insurance & Indemnities	\$ 87,287	\$ 1,700,374
Medical Care	\$ 3,020,730	\$ 69,709,570

National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, Contact: www.va.gov/vetdata
 Sources: VA Veteran Population Projection Model, VA Geographic Distribution of Expenditures,
 VA Annual Benefits Report, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey



New York

Veteran Population (as of 9/30/2017)	New York	National
Number of Veterans	776,522	19,998,799
Percent of Adult Population that are Veterans	5.38%	6.60%
Number of Women Veterans	58,855	1,882,848
Percent of Women Veterans	7.58%	9.41%
Number of Military Retirees	40,037	2,156,647
Percent of Veterans that are Military Retirees	5.16%	10.78%
Number of Veterans Age 65 and Over	422,254	9,410,179
Percent of Veterans Age 65 and Over	54.38%	47.05%



VA Healthcare and Benefits (as of 9/30/2017)	New York	National
Number of Veterans Receiving Disability Compensation	128,866	4,552,819
Number of Veterans Receiving Pension	10,990	276,570
Number of Dependency & Indemnity Comp Beneficiaries	12,220	411,390
Number of Education Beneficiaries	31,085	987,577
Number of Enrollees in VA Healthcare System	378,631	9,116,200
Number of Unique Patients Treated	223,468	6,035,183

National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, Contact: www.va.gov/vetdata
 Sources: VA Veteran Population Projection Model, VA Geographic Distribution of Expenditures,
 VA Annual Benefits Report, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey



New York

Population Change		New York	National
Veteran Population 2015		838K	20.8M
Veteran Population 2045		317K	12M
Annual Percentage Change		-3.19%	-1.82%

New York	9/30/2015	9/30/2020	9/30/2025	9/30/2030	9/30/2035	9/30/2040	9/30/2045
Age							
Less than 40	105,382	94,354	80,331	72,096	70,149	70,303	70,461
40-64	292,017	241,248	195,480	161,171	138,902	127,234	116,579
65+	440,729	356,246	299,844	251,731	204,624	160,507	129,473

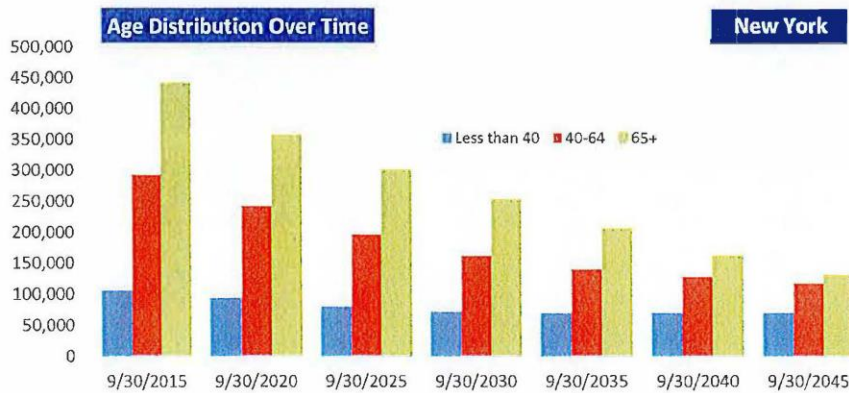
New York	9/30/2015	9/30/2020	9/30/2025	9/30/2030	9/30/2035	9/30/2040	9/30/2045
Gender							
Male	779,675	632,852	517,447	427,567	357,248	302,963	263,050
Female	58,453	58,996	58,209	57,431	56,427	55,081	53,464

New York	9/30/2015	9/30/2020	9/30/2025	9/30/2030	9/30/2035	9/30/2040	9/30/2045
Period of Service							
WWII	51,468	15,387	2,935	347	23	1	0
Korea	91,212	48,767	19,371	5,168	892	99	6
Vietnam	269,352	221,965	172,583	122,210	74,967	37,576	14,482
Gulf War	218,823	234,807	237,739	224,961	207,618	187,862	165,150

Note: The total for Period of Service does not equal the total Veteran Population because peace time veterans were excluded

New York	9/30/2015	9/30/2020	9/30/2025	9/30/2030	9/30/2035	9/30/2040	9/30/2045
Race							
White, Not Hispanic	658,852	527,902	425,258	344,096	278,207	225,190	184,228
Minority	179,277	163,946	150,398	140,902	135,468	132,854	132,285

Note: Minorities are all races/ethnicities except non-Hispanic White Veterans



National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, Contact: www.va.gov/vetdata
 Sources: VA Veteran Population Projection Model, VA Geographic Distribution of Expenditures,
 VA Annual Benefits Report, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

(H.R. 984, A00547, H.R. 8025 on file with the Clerk)

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- How can the Legislature best serve Veterans Services in the work being done?
 - Asking questions, understanding the mission, and supporting the growth
 - Where is advertising done?
 - Instagram, Facebook, flyers in VA center; do not do commercials
 - Having an Outreach team is on “dream board” for the future
 - Outreach is the next logical step for expansion in order to serve those who will not ask for help
 - Are there metrics available to match eligible people with benefits?
 - VA has VetPop that tracks population
 - Onondaga County is trying, but are missing quite a few groups
 - Overlooked groups are continuously on the front burner
 - Is Veterans Services aware of the SHAPE-UP for Veterans program?
 - Aware of the program and requirements to refer someone to Community Development
 - Why are TV and radio advertisements not used?
 - Commercials can become confusing in determining what is a legitimate benefit and what is not
 - The Legislature has come a long way in support of Veterans Services under the leadership of Ms. Mancilla
 - It is disappointing that more towns are not providing outreach for veteran constituents
 - Have met with Town Supervisors many times on a general Outreach Coordinator Program
 - Will revisit in 2025
3. **ADULT & LONG TERM CARE:** JoAnne Spoto Decker, Commissioner, Maria Mahar, Deputy Commissioner
- b. INFORMATIONAL: 2024 Budget & Program Update**



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ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES

**Health & Human Services
Committee Presentation**

JoAnne Spoto Decker, Commissioner
Maria Mahar, Deputy Commissioner

August 21, 2024

www.ongov.net/adult

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ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



What we do

The Department of Adult and Long Term Care Services connects individuals to directly provided services, outside organizations, service providers, and community groups to receive assistance for a variety of needs including:

- Health Insurance & Benefits
- Food, Meals, & Nutrition
- Homecare & Caregiver Assistance
- Safety, Wellness, & Socialization Programs
- Housing Care & Counseling
- Long-Term Care Needs
- Transportation
- Adult Protective Services

- Office for Aging
- NY Connects
- Adult Protective Services
- Long Term Care Resource Center

- Funding is received from:
 - Onondaga County Legislature
 - NYS Department of Health
 - NYS Department for Aging
 - NYS Child and Family Services
 - Grants

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ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



Onondaga County

Living in Onondaga:

476,516 people

Aged 65 and over: 119,359

25% of Onondaga's County's
Population

*Data from US Census 2022 ACS 1-year
Estimates subject tables

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ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



**Onondaga County
Department of
Adult and Long Term
Care Services**

Office for Aging

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ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



EISEP Expanded In-Home Services
for the Elderly Program

In-Home Care clients served

January – July 2024: 81

**CDPAP (Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program)
clients**

January – July 2024: 60

PERS

Currently Serving: 77

17,723 Hours of Care in 6 Months!



Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- What are the qualifications of the CDPAP and Cleanout program?
 - There is specific training for CDPAP that includes a Case Manager to help develop a service plan
 - Cleanout is a separate service that can cost up to \$5,000
- Generally speaking, is Onondaga County getting older?
- What does that trend look like over time?
 - Yes, people are aging in place
 - 46% of the population is over 60
- Has the County been able to keep pace with additional resources that are needed with an aging population?
 - The County is good in this regard
 - Fortunate to have the NYS Department for Aging
 - Able to write grants if extra money is needed for transportation or other things




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Food, Meals, & Nutrition Assistance

NUTRITION PROGRAM

ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



- 
13%
 - Congregate Meals Served, up 13%
Jan – June 2024: 1949 clients, 44,315 meals served
- 
8%
 - Home Delivered Meals, up 8%
Jan – June 2024: 892 clients, 185,018 meals served
- 
7%
 - Farmers' Market Coupons
 - Dollar Value increase from \$70,000 to \$75,000, up 7%
 - Coupons Issued from 2,800 to 3,000, up 7%



- Case Managers are connected to services in order to help people stay in their homes longer
- A whole year of meals on wheels equals 1 day in a nursing home; saves taxpayer money

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- How do people get a Farmer's Market coupon?
 - Income based program
 - People need transportation to get to the Market
 - Distribute coupons to senior housing first; then Farmers Market every Thursday and Saturday in the A shed
 - Nutrition/lunch program for seniors on Thursday's in the D shed
 - Coupons valued at \$25 each
 - Can purchase any fruit or vegetable

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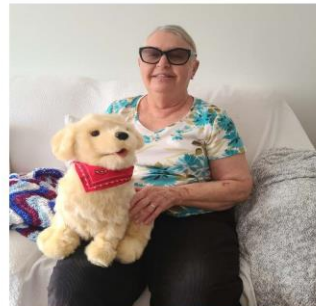
Caregiver Support & Education

CAREGIVER SERVICES

ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



- Caregiver Assistance through:
- 8 Spring Semester Classes & Courses (305 attendees)
 - 7 Caregiver Events
 - 5 Discussion & Support Groups/month
 - Ongoing Caregiver Support Program
 - Animatronic Pet Program (76 pets delivered in 2024)



- Animatronic pets are provided by NYS for people with cognitive issues

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ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



DSS-ES Collaboration- Energy Programs

HEAP(Home Energy Assistance Program)/Cooling Component

Contacts

Total 2023-2024 Season: Over 3,000

telephone calls

2024 HEAP Cooling Component: Over 450

telephone calls



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ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



Community Services Programs

Transportation Services

Partners:

- Suburban Transportation (Highland Patient Transport and OUTBound)
- CENTRO (OSCAR)
- Laker Limo
- Senior Adult Transportation (Bridgeport/Minoa/Kirkville)
- Syracuse Community Connections
- Jordan Elbridge Transportation (JET)
- Westcott Community Center
- Huntington Family Services
- B'Ville Express (Canton Woods Center)
- The Salvation Army
- Area North Transportation Service (Catholic Charities)
- Dunbar Association
- Syracuse Northeast Community Center
- Onondaga Nation



- NYS Department of Transportation provides ~ \$350,000 for transportation services
- The program covers every mile within the county with door through door transportation
 - County provided 921 door through door rides in the past 7 months

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ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



Community Services Programs

TymeSavers Shopping Services

Units of Shopping Services

January – June 2023: 773

January – June 2024: 706



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ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



Onondaga County Department of Adult and Long Term Care Services

NY Connects

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ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



NY CONNECTS

Contacts

28% ↑
Jan-June 2023: 3,701
Jan-June 2024: 3,883

Looking for Housing Information

12% ↑
Jan-Jul 2023: 471
Jan-Jul 2024: 527

Looking for Home-Based Services

53% ↑
Jan-Jul 2023: 709
Jan-Jul 2024: 1,085



- NY Connects provides information for people of any age seeking long-term care services
- Established in 2006 by NYS Office for Aging and Department of Health

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ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



NY CONNECTS

Personalized Packets Distributed

117% ↑
Jan-Jul 2023: 329
Jan-Jul 2024: 716

Connected to Agencies/Providers

26% ↑
Jan-Jul 2023: 1,653
Jan-Jul 2024: 2,091

Surveys

72% ↑
Jan-Jul 2023: 74
Jan-Jul 2024: 127



Please respond by circling the responds that best applies to your contact with the NY Connects Team.

Date: July 6 2024

RECEIVED JUL 15 2024

1. The NY Connects Staff person was courteous.

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure/Don't Remember Disagree Strongly Disagree

2. Overall, the information I received from the NY Connects Team was helpful.

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure/Don't Remember Disagree Strongly Disagree

3. I would contact NY Connects again.

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure/Don't Remember Disagree Strongly Disagree

4. I would recommend NY Connects to others.

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure/Don't Remember Disagree Strongly Disagree

5. I used the information I received to access the services that were needed.

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure/Don't Remember Disagree Strongly Disagree

6. I contacted NY Connects for myself or for someone else?

Myself Relative Friend Client Other (please specify)

Comment section

Please include any comments or additional information not addressed above. Your suggestions on how NY Connects can provide better information and assistance will be utilized to assist individuals and families in our community. Thank you.

Very helpful, courteous, INFORMATIVE, JUST WHAT I NEEDED being 76 yrs old, NO CAR, NO FAMILY, NO BODY CARES! THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST, helpfulness NOW I CAN GO PLACES, BECAUSE OF YOU! THANK YOU VERY MUCH Robert



Onondaga County Department of Adult and Long Term Care Services

Adult Protective Services



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ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



APS ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES



The total Referrals

- Jan-Jul 2023: 1,017
- Jan-Jul 2024: 1,206



The total Moved to Assessment

- Jan-Jul 2023: 482
- Jan-Jul 2024: 526

July 2024: 185 Referrals – A record number over the past decade!

Referrals breakdown:

Percentage Increase Jan-July 2023 – Jan-July 2024



- Mental Health: 16%
- Financial Exploitation: 33%
- Untreated Medical Conditions: 42%



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ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



APS GUARDIANSHIPS



The total Guardianship cases

- Jan-Jul 2023: 85
- Jan-Jul 2024: 112

Guardianships up from 2023



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ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



APS IN THE COMMUNITY

Provided August 2023 – July 2024:

- 380 days of Emergency Housing
- 185 Hoarding Cleanouts
- Visiting home-aids
- Other services such as food, clothing, transportation and furniture



- Budget is on track for 2024

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ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



**Onondaga County
Department of
Adult and Long Term
Care Services**

Adult and Long Term Resource Center

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ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



Long Term Care Resource Center

LONG TERM CARE

The total # of PRI & Screens completed

- 2023 Total: 144
- Jan-Jul 2024: 93



We are on track to exceed 2023 total by 11% by the end of 2024.

No Cost to County Residents



- Long Term Care Resource Center is staffed by community health nurses
- Provides care management for people of any age who participate in Medicaid
- Provides PRI (Patient Review Instrument) at no cost

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Outreach & Special Events 2023-2024

ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES

- 123 events, reaching with over 5,000 community members about ALTCS programs and services (August 2023-July 2024)
- Senior Honorees of the Year 2024
- 4 Senior Farmers' Market Luncheons, 446 attendees



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2024 Initiatives Accomplished!

GoGo Grandparent Transportation

A transportation partnership with NYSOFA & Uber/Lyft that makes it possible for seniors to book on-demand or scheduled rides, 24/7, with just a phone call. There are no apps or smart phone required to use this service.

May 2024 – August 2024

Rides booked: 70
Users Registered: 60

Blooming Health

Blooming Health allows us to send information, alerts and announcements to the community we serve via voice calls, texts messages, or email for free. There are more than 26 language options and no internet or smartphone is required.



ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



- NYS Office for Aging provides funding for GoGo Grandparent; no cost to Onondaga County
- Provides seniors 60 and older with 2 free round trip rides; 1 round trip ride is equal to 100 miles

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- Are there any limitations on the type of trip?
 - Only if a special vehicle is needed, such as a wheelchair or pet
 - No restrictions on where they can go; hair dresser, visit a friend, casino, local bar, shopping, etc.

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ADULT & LONG TERM CARE SERVICES



**Onondaga County
Department of
Adult and Long Term
Care Services**

**Thank you for your continued support
for ALTCS programs, services and staff.**

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- It would be great to see the renovation and upkeep program for senior centers back with the 2025 budget
- The work done by Adult and Long Term Care provides a holistic approach to healthy aging
- The ability to be able to leave your home is linked to greater vitality and life expectancy
- Economically, this will be the best thing for taxpayers and for individuals to remain community dwelling adults

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Barber

TAMMY BARBER, Deputy Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**
DATE: **AUGUST 21, 2024**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
<i>Daniel Romeo</i>	<i>County Leg</i>
<i>Maria MAHAR</i>	<i>ALTC</i>
<i>J. C. Spotswood</i>	<i>ALTCS</i>
<i>L. Farwell</i>	<i>Fin Ops</i>
<i>Suzanne Wilcox</i>	<i>ALTCS</i>
<i>Annie Mandillo</i>	<i>USA (Veterans Services)</i>
<i>Sharon Alleyne</i>	<i>USA (Veterans Services)</i>
<i>Rebecca Shultz</i>	<i>OCHD</i>
<i>Kristi Smiley</i>	<i>Finance</i>
<i>Anne Loughlin</i>	<i>Comptroller</i>
<i>LARRY VANWICK</i>	<i>COMPTROLLER</i>
<i>Darcie Lesniak</i>	<i>Leg</i>
<i>Ethan LaMontagne</i>	<i>Leg</i>
<i>Jim Beebe</i>	<i>Leg</i>
<i>Jac Fratreschi</i>	<i>Legal Counsel</i>