HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

REPORT AND RESOLUTION INCORPORATING HEALTH ACROSS ALL POLICIES INTO COUNTY AGENCY ACTIVITIES

Sponsored by: Committee on Human Resources
               Committee on Ways and Means

WHEREAS, it is well documented that social factors, including the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, play, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life, have a tremendous impact on the health and well-being of all people; and

WHEREAS, policies related to the environment, agriculture, housing, transportation, energy, parks and recreation, and economic development all significantly influence the public's physical, economic, and social environments; in which principles of smart growth and sustainable development directly support improved health outcomes and age-friendly communities; and

WHEREAS, the Health Across All Policies initiative systematically considers the health implications of decisions made by all government entities regarding public policies; avoids harmful health impacts made by all government entities regarding public policies; avoids harmful health impacts in order to improve population health and health equity; and incorporates health considerations into policies, programs, and initiatives led by non-health agencies; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the County of Herkimer that all County government entities advise and assist the Chairman of the Herkimer County Legislature in developing policies designed to help meet the needs of residents of the County of Herkimer and to encourage the health, safety, and well-being of those residents; and

WHEREAS, through the efforts of County government entities and others, Herkimer County will be designated as an Age-Friendly County by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). This designation is based on the Eight Domains of Livability outlined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as follows: 1) Outdoor Spaces and Buildings; 2) Transportation; 3) Housing; 4) Social Participation; 5) Respect and Social Inclusion; 6) Civic Participation and Employment; 7) Communication and Information; and 8) Community and Health Services; and

WHEREAS, Herkimer County’s designation as an Age-Friendly county will bring increased attention to the Health Across All Policies initiative and the County’s consideration of the impact of County policies and procedures on environmental, economic, and social factors to influence the health and well-being of all residents, especially older adults; and
WHEREAS, the Prevention Agenda, New York State’s health improvement plan for improving health outcomes and reducing health disparities in and amongst racial, ethnic, disability, and low socioeconomic groups, as well as the populations who experience such disparities, has provided a blueprint that enables the County to make substantial progress across numerous measures of public health and prevention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Herkimer County Legislature do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. As used herein, “Affected County Entities” means (i) all agencies and departments over which the Chairman has executive authority, and (ii) all public benefit corporations, public authorities, boards, and commissions for which the Chairman appoints the Chair, the Chief Executive or the majority of the Board Members.

2. All Affected County Entities shall incorporate the New York State Prevention Agenda priorities and the WHO Eight Domains of Livability, where practicable and feasible, into County plans, plans submitted to New York State government, as well as agency guidance, policies, procedures, and procurements, with guidance from the Herkimer County Age Friendly Advisory Board in order to further the goals of the Health Across All Policies.

3. All Affected County Entities shall consider how best to incorporate the New York State Prevention Agenda’s priorities and the WHO Eight Domains of Livability when preparing contract solicitations, grants, submitting plans to a federal or state agency or entity, or developing county plans under the applicable statutory and administrative criteria, where practicable and feasible. For appropriate best value procurements where price is not the determining factor, an Affected County Entity shall consider structuring the procurement to allow the award of additional technical points for proposals that address the State’s Prevention Agenda priorities and the WHO Eight Domains of Livability based upon set evaluative criteria.

4. To achieve the foregoing:
   A. On or after October 7, 2020, Affected County Entities shall, where practicable and feasible, include in solicitations for best value procurements and grants where price is not determining factor, a provision requiring contractors to describe how their proposals can improve community health and wellness in their execution of the contract, agreement and/or procurement, such as, promoting age-friendly job creation and economic stability, transportation mobility, and the ability to leverage investments that can have complementary benefits in more than one area;
   B. Each Affected County Entity shall achieve this goal by incorporating, where practicable and feasible, the following considerations into the development of policies, guidance, regulations, and proposed legislation:
      i. Opportunities for improved alignment and coordination of the New York State Prevention Agenda and age-friendly-related programs and policies across all County entities and among public and private partners;
ii. The impact on the ability of individuals to continue living in their communities in a manner consistent with their abilities and values;
iii. The opportunities for civic engagement and how to expand them;
iv. Strengthening infrastructure for home and community-based services;
v. Approaches that build toward a future in which everyone in Herkimer County can enjoy wellness, longevity, and quality of life in strong, healthy communities;
vi. Each community’s special strengths in technology, innovation, research, health care, and business, and how those strengths may be leveraged to support healthy aging and the work of family caregivers;
vii. The inclusion of healthy and age-friendly communities in programs that support community design, planning, zoning and development;
viii. Promotion of caregiver support;
ix. The provision of cost-effective, high quality services to Herkimer County residents, especially older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers; and
x. Increased consumer accessibility to health and supportive services.

C. Within 30 days after the date of this Order, each Affected County Entity shall designate a Herkimer County Age Friendly Advisory Board Coordinator, who shall:
i. Be a liaison with the Herkimer County Age Friendly Advisory Board; and
ii. Be responsible for that Affected County Entity’s compliance with this Order.

D. All other government entities within Herkimer County are encouraged to undertake similar consideration in their contracting, agreements, and procurements.

and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Herkimer County Treasurer, Auditor, Budget Officer, and Director of the Office for the Aging.


STATE OF NEW YORK  )
COUNTY OF Herkimer County ) SS.
LEGISLATURE CHAMBERS  )

I, BRITTNEY R. VISCOMI, Clerk of the Legislature of Herkimer County, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. 247 with the original duly adopted by the Herkimer County Legislature at a regular session held on the 7th day of October, 2020, and that the same is a true copy of said original and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the official seal of said Legislature on this 8th day of October, 2020.

L.S.  ________________________________, Clerk