

# Record Group 21: Social Services

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## SOCIAL SERVICES, OUTLINE HISTORY (RG21)

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### **General Organization:**

- |      |                                                                              |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1915 | Child Welfare Division created                                               |
| 1917 | Commissioner's Office created<br>(Commissioner of Charities and Corrections) |
| 1917 | Penitentiary opened                                                          |
| 1921 | First full time county-wide ambulance service established                    |
| 1939 | Commissioner's Office made appointive<br>(Commissioner of Public Welfare)    |
| 1947 | Unified county-wide program of Public Welfare adopted                        |

### **County Home, or Almshouse**

- |      |                     |
|------|---------------------|
| 1828 | Opened in Eastview  |
| 1936 | Moved to Grasslands |

## SOCIAL SERVICES, HISTORY (RG21)

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The history of Social Services on the county level dates to 1824 when New York State passed a law mandating each county to establish an institution for the care of the poor. Westchester complied with the erection of stone buildings on a farm at East View. Such institutions were known as almshouses or poorhouses in which children lived together with the sick, the insane, the mentally deficient and the aged poor. After 1875 children were excluded from almshouses and gradually the insane were housed in separate facilities. The Superintendent of the Poor supervised the operations.

With the appointment of V. Everit Macy as Superintendent of the Poor in 1914 the department began to change. A Child Welfare Division was created in 1915 and administration of old age relief was added. A new Commissioner's Office was set up to head the reorganized Department of Charities and Corrections. A County Penitentiary opened in 1917 for short term prisoners. A county general hospital, known as Grasslands Hospital was established in 1920 to treat the sick poor and by removing them from the County Home help improve and humanize the care of residents there. In 1925 the department head became known as Commissioner of Public Welfare. During the 1930s the old East View County Home buildings were replaced by new facilities with space for over 1200 residents including over 300 for the feeble or chronically ill. In 1931 a separate Division of Old Age Relief was created.

In 1947 a unified county-wide program for administration of relief was adopted by the towns and cities under the Public Welfare Department. During the 1950s studies examining the needs of the aging and chronically ill recommended certain changes such as increased home care programs, preventive and supportive health care programs, improved nursing homes and expansion of the county home infirmary. Child Social Services were centralized under the Public Welfare Department with emphasis on Foster Homes programs, supervised Family Day Care, prevention of Cruelty to Children and adoption services. A Medical Assistance program for the aged and distribution of Food Stamps were added during the 1960s.

Additional services include consulting work to increase citizen interest through participation in volunteer programs. The child adoption service was expanded and placed under the Family and Child Welfare Division. A pilot Home Care program for the aged was set up with participation of Grasslands.

Although today's Social Service Department manages over twenty programs and services, its basic services still consist of administering Financial Aid Assistance programs, providing medical services for needy eligible individuals and making personal care services available to all on an emergency basis as well as shelter and housing for the homeless.

## SUPERINTENDENT OF THE POOR (RG21)

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**Established:** 1826 Superintendents of County Poor House

April 25, 1832, appointed by an act of the Legislature passed at joint meeting of Supervisors and Judges of the Court of Common Pleas

**Amended:** May 6, 1845, authorizing County Board of Supervisors to appoint

**Amended:** May 12, 1846, providing for election by the people

**Abolished:** 1916

**Succeeded by:** Commissioner of Charities and Corrections

From 1846 to 1886 there were to have been three Superintendents of the Poor, one elected every year, each with a term of three years. After 1886 there was only one Superintendent of the Poor. Some terms are estimates based on known years when terms commenced; date ranges are inclusive (i.e. 1860-1862 is a three year term).

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1826            William Jay  
                  Abijah Hammond  
                  William Barker  
                  Jeremiah Anderson  
                  John Haff  
                  Hachaliah Bayly

1826-1850    [see Board of Supervisors Proceedings]

1851-1853    John D. Hains

1854-1855    John D. Hains  
                  Henry W. Hart  
                  Abraham Yerks

1856            John D. Hains  
                  Henry W. Hart  
                  Abraham Yerks  
                  Nehemiah S. Adams

1857-1858    John D. Hains  
                  Henry W. Hart  
                  Nehemiah S. Adams  
                  Daniel K. Sherwood

**SUPERINTENDENT OF THE POOR (RG21)**

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1859        John D. Hains  
              Henry W. Hart  
              Daniel K. Sherwood  
              William Lockwood

1860-1861   Daniel K. Sherwood  
              William Lockwood  
              Henry W. Purdy

1862        Daniel K. Sherwood  
              Henry W. Purdy  
              Abraham R. Strang

1863        Henry W. Purdy  
              Abraham R. Strang

1864-1865   Henry W. Purdy  
              Abraham R. Strang  
              John H. Garrison

1866        William Lockwood  
              Abraham R. Strang  
              John H. Garrison  
              Edward K. Mott

1867-1868   William Lockwood  
              Abraham R. Strang  
              Edward K. Mott  
              George Cooper

1869-1871   Abraham R. Strang  
              Edward K. Mott  
              George Cooper

1872-1873   Abraham R. Strang  
              George Cooper  
              John Kuester

1874        George Cooper  
              John Kuester  
              Adam Palm, Jr.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF THE POOR (RG21)**

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1875-1877    George Cooper  
              Adam Palm, Jr.  
              William Mabie

1878         George Cooper  
              Adam Palm, Jr.  
              William J. Ackerly

1879         Adam Palm, Jr.  
              William J. Ackerly  
              Norman K. Shears

1880         William J. Ackerly  
              Norman K. Shears  
              George Fisher

1881         William J. Ackerly  
              James E. Hoyt  
              Norman K. Shears  
              George Fisher

1882         William J. Ackerly  
              James E. Hoyt  
              George Fisher  
              Joseph W. Tompkins

1883         William J. Ackerly  
              James E. Hoyt  
              Joseph W. Tompkins  
              Aaron F. Read

1884         James E. Hoyt  
              Joseph W. Tompkins  
              Aaron F. Read

1885         James E. Hoyt  
              Aaron F. Read

1886         James E. Hoyt

1887-1889    Joseph W. Tompkins

1890-1892    Henry Esser

**SUPERINTENDENT OF THE POOR (RG21)**

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1893-1895	Miles Adams	died in office
1895-1901	Henry Esser	died April 1901
1901	Charles M. Lane	filled vacancy until 1902
1902-1907	Edward B. Long	
1908	A. Smith Hopkins	died April 23, 1908
1908-1914	William C. Lawrence	
1914-1916	V. Everit Macy	

**CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS COMMISSIONER (RG21)**

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**Established:** 1917

**Succeeded:** Superintendent of the Poor

**Abolished:** 1924

**Succeeded by:** Commissioner of Public Welfare

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1917-1924	V. Everit Macy	resigned Jun. 1924
1924	George J. Werner	appointed Jun. 1924; elected Commissioner of Public Welfare Nov. 1924



**PUBLIC WELFARE COMMISSIONER (RG21)**

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**Established:** 1924

**Succeeded:** Charities and Corrections Commissioner

**Abolished:** 1973

**Succeeded by:** Social Services Commissioner

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1924-1932	George J. Werner	elected Nov. 1924 while serving as Charities and Corrections Commissioner
1933-1949	Ruth Taylor	
1950-1960	Stanton M. Strawson	
1961-1973	Louis P. Kurtis	

**SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSIONER (RG21)**

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**Established:** 1973

**Succeeded:** Public Welfare Commissioner

Appointed for a 5-year term by County Executive with approval of New York State Social Service Commission.

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1973-1974	Leonard Berman	appointed Apr. 16, 1973; resigned Aug. 26, 1974
1974-1975	J. Robert Dolan	Acting Commissioner
1975-1985	Charles W. Bates	appointed Feb. 26, 1975
1986-1990	John J. Allen	
1991-1997	Mary E. Glass	Acting Commissioner, 1991
1998	Steven J. Friedman	Acting Commissioner
1998-2010	Kevin P. Mahon	appointed May 5, 1998
2011-	Kevin McGuire	

**CHILD WELFARE BOARD (RG21)**

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**Established:** [information not located; earliest information available 1916]

**Abolished:** [information not located]

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1916-1918	V. Everit Macy	Ex-officio
	Porter R. Lee	Chair
	Ludwig B. Bernstein	
	Lucie Vance	
	Alice Gates Bugbee	
	Edward F. Hill	
	William Ryan	

## SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (RG21)

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**Established:** [Information not located]

**Abolished:** [information not located; but last reference to found in 1997 League of Women Voters' directory]

Total number of board members appointed by Commissioner of Social Services has changed over the years (26, 30, 34, 24, etc.) as has their backgrounds (agency representatives, citizens, recipients of services). Board members also include local advisory board representatives, social services clients, and Commissioner of Health and Commissioner of Mental Health and representative of County Executive's office (chief of staff, assistant chief of staff, etc.)

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1982	David Bogdanoff Judith Colwell Martha Breenawalt Eileen O'Connor Leonard Rohmer Heidi Stearne Albert Stipo Joseph Wyke Elliott Drisko Fernando Fuentes Matthew Iarocci Saul Parker Cheryl Davenport Elsie L. Harry 12 appointed vacancies Paulette Fields (local advisory board rep) Mary Hartigan (local advisory board rep) Virginia Knaplund (local advisory board rep) Elaine Lindsey (local advisory board rep) Zelma Smith (local advisory board rep) Eula Sweeney (local advisory board rep) Jorge Tobon (local advisory board rep) Mary Torpey (local advisory board rep)
1983	[information not located]
1984	David Bogdanoff Judith Colwell Marcia Wallace Elliott Drisko

SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (RG21)

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Elsie L. Harry  
Lee Johnson  
Eileen O'Connor  
Saul Parker  
Heidi Stearne  
Joseph Wyke  
Sally Ziegler  
9 appointed vacancies  
Dorothy Diamond (local advisory board rep)  
Mimi Geller (local advisory board rep)  
Jean Grant (local advisory board rep)  
Eileen Kaufman (local advisory board rep)  
Marylynne Pierce (local advisory board rep)  
Zelma Smith (local advisory board rep)  
Eula Sweeney (local advisory board rep)  
Pearl Woods (local advisory board rep)

1985  
Dr. Leslie Borck  
Jean Grant  
Ralph Gregory  
Allan F. Henderson  
Rev. Rayner W. Hesse, Jr.  
Lee S. Johnson  
Thomas Jordan  
Geraldine Kearns  
Regina Kelly  
Marta Kurzweil  
Esther D. Mallach  
Eileen O'Connor  
Saul Parker  
Ernest Prince  
Heidi Stearne  
Bill Straubinger  
Elizabeth Uccellani  
Alma Van Bramer  
Marcia Wallace  
Sally Ziegler  
Clarence Bowman  
Elsie Harry  
Alfaretta Jackson  
Sheila Manggrum  
Elizabeth (Gail) Richardson  
Linda Rodriquez  
John Venuti

SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (RG21)

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Dr. Anita Curran, Commissioner of Health  
Dr. Eugene Aronowitz, Commissioner of Mental Health  
Philippe Gille, Assistant Chief of Staff

1986      Donna Dunne  
            Jean Grant  
            Ralph Gregory  
            Allan F. Henderson  
            Rev. Rayner W. Hesse, Jr.  
            Lee S. Johnson  
            Thomas J. Jordan  
            Lisa Katz  
            Geraldine Kearns  
            Regina Kelly  
            Marta Kurzweil  
            Esther D. Mallach  
            Wayne Morris  
            Carol Norton  
            Carol O'Brien  
            Saul Parker  
            Heidi Stearne  
            Bill Straubinger  
            Dorothy Tillman  
            Alma Van Bramer  
            Marcia Wallace  
            Sally Ziegler  
            Harold Delofsky  
            Elsie Harry  
            Alfaretta Jackson  
            Sheila Manggrum  
            Vickie Matthews  
            Caryl Perkins  
            E. Elizabeth Richardson  
            Ingrid Sengbusch  
            Dr. Anita Curran, Commissioner of Health  
            Dr. Eugene Aronowitz, Commissioner of Mental Health  
            Philippe Gille, Assistant Chief of Staff

1987      Dr. Leslie Borck  
            Donna Dunne  
            Jean Grant  
            Ralph Gregory  
            Robert L. Lenseth  
            Karl Bertrand

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (RG21)**

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Lee S. Johnson  
Thomas Jordan  
Geraldine Kearns  
Regina Kelly  
Marta Kurzweil  
Esther D. Mallach  
Wayne Morris  
Carol O'Brien  
Saul Parker  
Heidi Stearne  
Bill Straubinger  
Alma Van Bramer  
Marcia Wallace  
Sally Ziegler  
Elsie Harry  
Alfaretta Jackson  
Vickie Matthews  
G. Elizabeth Richardson  
Ingrid Sengbusch  
Dr Anita Curran, Commissioner of Health  
Dr. Eugene Aronowitz, Commissioner of Mental Health  
Philippe Gille, Assistant Chief of Staff

1988-1989 Karl Bertrand  
Jean Grant  
Ralph Gregory  
Cynthia Holloway  
Leslie Borck Jameson  
Lee S. Johnson  
Carol Jones  
Geraldine Kearns  
Regina Kelly  
Robert L. Lenseth  
Esther D. Mallach  
Carol O'Brien  
Saul Parker  
Mary Ellen Singsen  
Bill Straubinger  
Alma Van Bramer  
Marcia Wallace  
Sally Ziegler  
Barbara Dempsey  
Elsie Harry  
Alfaretta Jackson

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (RG21)**

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Vickie Matthews  
Lourdes Negron  
G. Elizabeth Richardson  
Ingrid Sengbusch  
Mary Ann Watkins  
Richard Welsh  
Dr. Anita Curran, Commissioner of Health  
Dr. Eugene Aronowitz, Commissioner of Mental Health  
Philippe Gille, Assistant Chief of Staff

1990 Mimi Geller  
Jean Grant  
Ralph Gregory  
Cynthia Holloway  
Leslie Borck Jameson  
Lee S. Johnson  
Carol Jones  
Geraldine Kearns  
Regina Kelly  
Robert L. Lenseth  
Esther D. Mallach  
Carol O'Brien  
Saul Parker  
Edythe Schwartz  
Mary Ellen Singesen  
Marcia Wallace  
Marie Williams  
Sally Ziegler  
Alfaretta Jackson  
Vickie Matthews  
G. Elizabeth Richardson  
Ingrid Sengbusch  
Mary Ann Watkins  
Richard Welsh  
Steven Friedman, Commissioner of Community Mental Health  
Dr. Victor O. Sousa, Acting Commissioner of Health  
Philippe Gille, Assistant to County Executive

1991 Leslie Borck Jameson  
Mimi Geller  
Jean Grant  
Ralph Gregory  
Cynthia Holloway  
Lee S. Johnson



**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (RG21)**

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Carol Jones  
Geraldine Kearns  
Robert L. Lenseth  
Esther D. Mallach  
Carol O'Brien  
Saul Parker  
Mary Ellen Singsen  
Marcia Wallace  
Marie Williams  
Sally Ziegler  
Paula Allen  
Shirley Collins  
Rosetta Mingo  
Evelyn Pierce  
Debora Ruggiero  
Laura Seeright  
Diane Twomey  
Mary Varian  
Steven Friedman, Commissioner of Community Mental Health  
Dr. Mark Rapoport, Commissioner of Health  
Deep Mukerji, Office of County Executive

1992      Leslie Borck Jameson  
            Mimi Geller  
            Jean Grant  
            Ralph Gregory  
            Cynthia Holloway  
            Lee S. Johnson  
            Carole Jones  
            Verdell Jones  
            Geraldine Kearns  
            Robert L. Lenseth  
            Esther D. Mallach  
            Saul Parker  
            Mary Ellen Singsen  
            Marcia Wallace  
            Marie Williams  
            Sally Ziegler  
            Steven Friedman, Commissioner of Community Mental Health  
            Dr. Mark Rapoport, Commissioner of Health  
            Deep Mukerji, Office of County Executive

1993      Leslie Borck Jameson  
            Mimi Geller

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (RG21)**

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Jean Grant  
Ralph Gregory  
Carolyn S. Hedlund  
Cynthia Holloway  
Lee S. Johnson  
Carole Jones  
Verdell Jones  
Geraldine Kearns  
Robert L. Lenseth  
Saul Parker  
Mary Ellen Singsen  
Marcia Wallace  
Marie Williams  
Sally Ziegler  
Steven Friedman, Commissioner of Community Mental Health  
Dr. Mark Rapoport, Commissioner of Health  
Deep Mukerji, Office of County Executive

1994-1997 Mary Glass, Chair

**SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS BOARD (RG21)**

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**Established:** Information not located; first reference to found in 2000 League of Women Voters' directory.

Ad hoc citizen advisory board.

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2001- [only phone number provided]

## WESTCHESTER PUTNAM ONE STOP DIRECTOR (RG21)

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**Established:** unknown; may have evolved from CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) program from the 1970s, which was originally administered by the offices of Personnel and County Executive. Some of the individuals listed below were identified in directories as Director of Employment and Training.

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1982	Shirley J. Pippins
1983	[information not located]
1984	vacant
1985-1988	Lloyd D. Jones [Director of Employment and Training and Private Industry Council]
1989-1993	Renee Guy
1994	appointment pending
1995-1999	Clyde Jones
2000-	Donovan Beckford

**WESTCHESTER PUTNAM WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (RG21)**

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**Established:** [information not located]

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2014      David Singer  
             Meghan Taylor  
             RosaBarksdale  
             Dr. Marsha Gordon  
             Eileen Mildenberger  
             Wiley Harrison  
             Thom Kleiner  
             Kevin McGuire  
             Michael Piazza  
             Mark Ridgeway  
             Robert O. Sanders  
             Jon Schandler  
             Elaine Sozzi  
             Len Vallender  
             Sorraya Sampson  
             Marissa Brett  
             Richard Greenwald  
             Allison Madison  
             Alan Berkson  
             James Barnardo  
             Richard Friedman  
             Potoula Gjidija  
             James Schutzer  
             Daniel Magnus  
             Michael Gillan, PhD  
             Edward Cooke  
             John Savage  
             Claudia Murphy  
             Thomas Capurso  
             Joseph DiCarlo

**WORK IN WESTCHESTER TASK FORCE (RG21)**

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**Established/ Abolished:** Information not located; first and only reference to found in 1989 League of Women Voters' directory.

Ad hoc citizen advisory board.

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1989            Margaret Soter, Chair