

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Meeting Chambers

Committee Members Present

Mary Cavanagh, Chairwoman, City of Oneida

Kyle Reger, Town of Cazenovia

Alex Stepanski, Town of Stockbridge

Brandee DuBois, Vice-Chairwoman, City of Oneida

Michelle Kinville, City of Oneida

Others Present

Jessica Prieto, Commissioner, Social Services

Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services

Kathryn Hopkins, Mental Health Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator

Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health

Erica Bird, Deputy Director, Public Health

Ron Raymer, Director, Veterans Agency

Tina Wayland-Smith, County Attorney

Mark Scimone, County Administrator

Samantha Field, Public Information Officer

Emily Burns, Clerk to the Board

James Cunningham, Chairman

John Pinard, Town of Lenox

Thomas Daviau, Town of Sullivan

Melissa During, Town of Lincoln

William Nicholson, Director, Community Action Program

Kristine Burleigh, Office Assistant I, Mental Health

Michele Browell, Confidential Secretary, DSS

Call Meeting to Order

Chairwoman Cavanagh called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m., indicating that there was a quorum for the Health and Human Services Committee.

Approve Minutes

The Health and Human Services Committee reviewed the meeting minutes for August 27, 2024.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kinville to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice-Chairwomen DuBois and carried unanimously.

Mental Health

Director Teisha Cook introduced Kristine Burleigh; she will be the new Confidential Secretary when Beth Piersall retires at the end of the year. Kristine will become the permanent secretary for the committee.

Director Cook gave an update on the Staff Social Worker for the Canastota Central School District. Parents are calling to have her work with their kids, and it is going well.

Kathryn Hopkins said they are working with Wanderers Rest to create “Whisker Wednesdays” which was inspired by the Veterans Agency’s “Fur Fridays”. There will be a primary room in the public waiting area that has a door and windows that the public can see the animals and can visit with them. They are also working on a referral process to identify an individual and a pet that would be a service animal for them.

Public Health

Director Eric Faisst presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement and Modifying the 2024 Adopted County Budget for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant

A motion was made by Supervisor Reger to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Kinville and carried unanimously.

Director Faisst reported that John Endres, DVM who has been the president of the Board of Health attended his last meeting this month. He has been on the Board since 1999. A plaque will be presented at the October Board of Supervisors meeting and there will be a dedication of the Public Health conference room in his name.

An update on the Healthy Homes workshop that was held on September 11th was given. One of the main goals was to provide a broader understanding of healthy housing and housing related services, and how to employ a user-centered design in developing housing strategies. There was a representative from the National Center of Healthy Homes from Washington and also an expert on user-centered design from the University of Southern California. Director Faisst indicated that next steps will be to create a housing coalition to address the needs of housing in Madison County.

Social Services

Commissioner Jesica Prieto provided the Commissioners Report and Burial Summary for August 2024. For Child & Family Services there have been 1099 CPS reports, 29 kids in foster care with 9 of the kids in institutions. There have been 39 neglect petitions and there are currently 10 kids in OCFS custody.

Commissioner Prieto presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Community Action Program, Inc. (Transportation)

A motion was made by Supervisor Kinville to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Stepanski and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Community Action Program, Inc (Housing).

A motion was made by Supervisor Kinville to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Stepanski and carried unanimously.

For Discussion: Authorizing the Modification of the 2024 Adopted Budget

This is for the Childcare Block Grant and will be going before the Finance Ways and Means Committee.

Commissioner Prievo attended the Stand Against Child Abuse Conference in Syracuse last week. She met with workers and supervisors from Onondaga County's CAC. They shared many ideas that she hopes to bring back to partner and strengthen the relationship with our CAC which is part of the Sheriff's Office. DSS does have two caseworkers that work out of the CAC.

Veterans Agency

Director Ron Raymer presented department updates. Total client contacts for the month of August totaled 514 which includes walk ins, emails, and phone calls. They had a ribbon cutting ceremony last week and Director Raymer thanked those that attended. There were also two outreach events for the month of September. A dedication of a conference room in memory of Mark Mossman was held. It was because of Mark and his companion, Karma that "Karma Kompanions" was created.

Preferred Agenda

It was the consensus of the Committee to allow any eligible resolutions from today's meeting to be added to the Preferred Agenda. All resolutions were voted on and approved by the Committee.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Supervisor Kinville to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Reger and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Browell for Chairwoman, Mary Cavanagh