

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Meeting Chambers

Committee Members Present

Mary Cavanagh, Chairwoman, City of Oneida
Brandee Henderson, Vice-Chairwoman, City of Oneida
Kyle Reger, Town of Cazenovia
Alex Stepanski, Town of Stockbridge
Michelle Kinville, City of Oneida

Others Present

Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health
James Cunningham, Chairman
Jennifer Keville, Confidential Secretary, Board of Supervisors
Jessica Prievo, Commissioner, Department of Social Services
Kathryn Hopkins, Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator, Mental Health
Kristine Burleigh, Confidential Secretary, Mental Health
Mark Scimone, County Administrator
Paul Walrod, Vice Chairman
Ronald Raymer, Director, Veterans Service Agency
Samantha Field, Public Information Officer
Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services
Tina Louis, Director, Youth Bureau
Tina Wayland-Smith, County Attorney
Thomas Daviau, Town of Sullivan
William Nicholson, Director, Community Action Program
Michael Mulinary

Call Meeting to Order

Chairwoman Cavanagh called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., indicating that there was a quorum for the Health and Human Services Committee.

Approval of Minutes

The Health and Human Services Committee reviewed the meeting minutes for April 22, 2025. A motion was made by Supervisor Reger to approve the minutes, seconded by and carried unanimously Supervisor Kinville.

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Mental Health

Director Cook has one resolution for discussion going before the Finance, Ways and Means Committee.

Discussion: Authorizing the Modification of the 2025 Adopted County Budget

This resolution is for an increase to Liberty Resources 2025 adopted county budget due to the awarded program funding for Transitional Safety Unit Housing. This will be reflected in the July 1, 2025 contract.

Director Cook presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Modifying an Agreement with Community Action Partnership for Madison County

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

Director Cook extended an invitation to all committee members to stop by the office and meet Big Ben our therapy cat. Big Ben is acclimating to the office environment with great success and has already made a positive impression with clients and staff.

Social Services

Commissioner Prievo reported attending The Annual Northeast Child Abuse Conference in Rochester. There were 13 different states represented at the conference. The conference focused on best practices in the investigation of child abuse with a strong focus on child sexual abuse cases. Additionally, she noted her attendance at the Annual Commissioners Policy Forum in Lake George. Present was OTDA, OCFS, OMH, NY State Civil Service, and OPWDD, A big topic was budget challenges across NYS.

Commissioner Prievo, in conjunction with Director Faisst and Director Louis, reported that the Youth Bureau will transition from the Department of Social Services to fall under the umbrella of the Public Health Department, effective January 1, 2026. This change is viewed positively by all involved. The physical office location of the Youth Bureau staff will change to Public Health. The intent is to continue program partnerships that were created to benefit the youth of Madison County.

Veteran's Agency

Director Raymer reported a great turn out at the 5th Annual Veteran's Awareness Hike, with approximately 20 participants.

Director Raymer also reported receiving approval to hire a part-time Peer Support Specialist and interviews are scheduled to begin next week.

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Veteran's Agency cont.

Additionally it was noted that the remaining scheduled Veteran's Breakfast events will now be held at Theodore's Restaurant, located on Route 5 in Canastota. Those dates are as followed: June 14, August 9, October 11 and December 13.

Youth Bureau

Director Louis presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Appointing Member to the Madison County Youth Bureau Youth Board

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

Director Louis reported the TAP Survey question review process is in full swing in collaboration with Erica Bird from Public Health. We are currently reaching out to resources to improve and update questions. Director Louis expressed appreciation for the excellent partnership on this project.

Director Louis also reported working with BOCES and Superintendents to reinvigorate the long-standing Madison County School Superintendents meeting. The focus will be on an area of interest to Superintendents for which county departments can offer support and resources to address the need of school districts. The next meeting is May 29th.

Director Louis attended a budget briefing for state youth funding. Although there is an increase in Youth Development Program funds and other funds were maintained, it is still too early to tell how the budget may be impacted by federal funding decisions.

Director Louis thanked everyone who was able to attend the New Visions Government, Law and Public Administration end-of-year presentations. She also stated that the fall class will include 10 students.

Public Health

Director Faisst presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Public Health Department Approved Charges and Fee Schedule

A motion was made by Supervisor Reger to approve the resolution, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Henderson and carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Agencies and Therapists for the Preschool Program

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

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Public Health cont.

Director Faisst reported the Healthy Housing Coalition strategic planning meeting was held on May 14th at Delphi Falls, with 20 attendees, and strong unanimous participation. During the meeting, the group agreed to form a Housing Coalition Team focused on developing and implementing targeted strategies. These strategies will include but are not limited to enhancing community engagement, and advocating for improved transportation. The first meeting of the new housing Coalition Team is scheduled for June 11th, and will be facilitated by Director Faisst. Invitations will be extended through an expanded distribution list, including landlords, contractors, Codes Officer, and other key stakeholders.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Supervisor Kinville to enter into executive session to discuss the performance of a particular contractor, Supervisor Reger seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried. A motion was made by Supervisor Reger to exit executive session, Supervisor Reger seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

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 Reger to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Kinville and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Kristine Burleigh for Chairwoman, Mary Cavanagh