

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 24, 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

Brett Hembach, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services
Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health
Emily Burns, Clerk, Board of Supervisors
James Cunningham, Chairman
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
Melissa Felton, Second Assistant County Attorney
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
Thomas Daviau, Town of Sullivan
William Nicholson, Director, Community Action Program

Call Meeting to Order

Chairwoman Cavanagh called the meeting to order at 10:15 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 May 27, 2025. A motion was made by Supervisor Reger to approve the minutes, seconded by and carried unanimously by Vice-Chairwoman Henderson.

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Mental Health

Director Cook presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with the City of Oneida

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Terminate an Agreement with Consumer Services of Madison County, Inc.

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

Authorizing the Chairman Enter into an Agreement with Employees for Office of Mental Health Community Mental Health Loan Repayment Program

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Morrisville-Eaton Central School District for a Satellite Mental Health Clinic

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

Director Cook reported meeting with the Superintendent of DeRuyter Central School District to discuss establishing a satellite position within the district.

Social Services

Commissioner Prieto, along with Deputy Commissioner Hembach, reported on the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) through the Department of Social Services (DSS). Commissioner Prieto stated that New York State has broadened the eligibility requirements for daycare in three significant ways: the income threshold has been raised to 85% of the state median income, the parent share requirement has been reduced to 1% (down from as high as 36% in the past), and providers can now submit up to 80 absences per child, per year. As a result, many more families now qualify for assistance. For example, a family of four currently earning \$113,567.65 is eligible for daycare assistance.

Currently, DSS is serving 218 cases and supporting 354 children through 75 providers. Without immediate additional funding, all recertifications will need to be halted by July 1, which will impact 66 cases, 104 children, and 31 providers. This is a direct result of the state expanding eligibility without increasing funding. Deputy Commissioner Hembach reported that 17 cases,

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involving 27 children, are scheduled to end in July. If DSS continues to reopen cases, projections show a shortfall of nearly \$175,000 between now and the end of September. Cases remain active for one year; once they close, they cannot be reopened.

A press release will be issued at a later date.

Veteran's Agency

Director Raymer reported that operations continue to go well at the agency, with outreach numbers remaining strong. The most recent Veterans Breakfast, held at Theodore's Restaurant, was well received and had a successful turnout, including many new faces.

Director Raymer also shared that the agency recently promoted Karma's Kompanions at the Daughters of the American Revolution event, in partnership with Wanderers' Rest. The collaboration was reported as very successful.

Additionally, Director Raymer announced that a part-time Peer Support Specialist has been hired. The new role is off to a positive start, and they will attend the July committee meeting.

Looking ahead, a Family BBQ for all Veterans and their families is scheduled for July 12 from 12:00–4:00 PM at Delphi Falls. The event will include entertainment and a variety of activities for children.

Youth Bureau

Director Louis reported that OCFS LCMs are starting to come in for the youth funding allocations. Youth Team Sports showed a small increase while Youth Sports Education Opportunity Funding increased substantially, from \$20,000 to \$38,652. Youth Development Program funds have not been released yet but should be coming soon and will be an increase.

Director Louis will consult with the Youth Bureau's Advisory Board in August as to how to move forward; whether to do a competitive RFP for 2026 funds, or to review current contracts and determine if they will be operating programs in 2026 and if another contract can be put in place for those programs.

When asked about information on the NY BRICKS funding (Building Recreational Infrastructure for Communities, Kids and Seniors), Director Louis reported that she would review the RFP. Questions were raised by Supervisor Walrod just prior to this meeting as to his interest applying for his community. Director Louis will reach out to Supervisor Walrod.

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Director Faisst reported the Attorney Generals' office will be hosting a webinar in regards to the release of Juul funds on Wednesday, June 27th at 2 p.m. for anyone who may be interested.

Director Faisst also reported that the first meeting of the new Housing Coalition team took place on June 11 at Delphi Falls, with an excellent turnout of approximately 25 participants. During this meeting, a steering committee was identified, along with chairs and co-chairs for the six strategic focus areas. The steering committee is scheduled to hold its first meeting on July 9, at which point they will begin formally establishing the coalition. Once established, the chairs of each strategic area will begin developing implementation plans associated with their respective focus areas.

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 10:57 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Reger and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Kristine Burleigh for Chairwoman, Mary Cavanagh