

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Meeting Chambers

Committee Members Present

Mary Cavanagh, Chairwoman, City of Oneida

Brandee Henderson, Vice-Chairwoman, City of Oneida

Kyle Reger, Town of Cazenovia

Michelle Kinville, City of Oneida

Others Present

Emily Burns, Clerk, Board of Supervisors

Emily Pushlar, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services

Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health

Erica Bird, Deputy Director, Public Health

James Cunningham, Chairman

John Pinard, Town of Lenox

Kathryn Hopkins, Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator, Mental Health

Kristine Burleigh, Confidential Secretary, Mental Health

Mark Scimone, County Administrator

Michelle Browell, Executive Assistant, Department of Social Services

Ronald Raymer, Director, Veterans Service Agency

Samantha Field, Public Information Officer

Susan McConnell, Finance

Tina Louis, Director, Youth Bureau

Tina Wayland-Smith, County Attorney

Thomas Daviau, Town of Sullivan

William Nicholson, Director, Community Action Program

Call Meeting to Order

Chairwoman Cavanagh called the meeting to order at 10:12 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 June 24, 2025. A motion was made by Supervisor Reger to approve the minutes, seconded by and carried unanimously by Supervisor Kinville.

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Mental Health

On behalf of Director Cook, Kathryn Hopkins, Mental Health Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator, presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

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

A motion was made by Supervisor Kinville to approve the resolution, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Henderson.

Social Services

On behalf of Commissioner Prieto, Deputy Commissioner Pushlar reported on the Child & Family Services count data through June 2025.

There have been 700 CPS reports, 35 kids in foster care, and 6 kids in an institutional setting. Twenty-four neglect petitions have been filed and there are currently 4 kids in OCFS custody; 3 of which are in facilities, and 1 in community supervision.

Additionally, Deputy Commissioner Pushlar gave an update on the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Deputy Commissioner Pushlar stated they have thoroughly reviewed the additional funding made available through this year's budget, and while the updated projections are still being finalized, it is anticipated that the increased funding will allow for the opening of additional cases. The goal, as always, is to ensure that only cases which can be supported for a full 12 months are opened. A waiver request has also been submitted which, if approved, will provide us with additional flexibility to focus on the neediest families.

Veteran's Agency

Director Raymer reported that the Veteran's Family BBQ, held on July 12 at Delphi Falls was a great success, with approximately 100 people in attendance and around 140 hamburgers and hotdogs served. Feedback from the attendees was overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to all volunteers and team members for an outstanding job. The plans are already underway to host the event again next year around the same time.

Youth Bureau

Director Louis followed up with Supervisor Walrod after the last HHS meeting regarding the BRICKS funding opportunity to build a community center. It was determined that an application would not be submitted at this time; however, the connection was favorable for exploring future funding opportunities.

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Youth Bureau continued

Director Louis reported The Teen Assessment Project Survey question review is progressing well with strong support from Public Health. A draft review meeting with the District Superintendents/Designees is scheduled for July 29.

Director Louis met with Public Health to discuss the Youth Bureau's transition to the department in January and has also attended meetings with OCFS regarding 2026 funding.

Director Louis also reported the Youth Bureau's Summer Program will run two 3-day sessions in the first two weeks of August at locations including the Great Swamp Conservancy, the National Abolition Hall of Fame, the Gerrit Smith Estate and the Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum. Fifteen youth are registered for each week of the program.

Public Health

Deputy Director Bird presented to the committee the new platform formed in partnership with Oneida Health and Community Memorial hospitals; Madison County Public Health is launching the Madison County Health Atlas. This powerful and dynamic platform is designed to provide easy access to critical health data for our community. The interactive tool allows users to explore over 80 health indicators, visualize trends, and make data-driven decisions that support community health.

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 10:39 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Reger and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Kristine Burleigh for Chairwoman, Mary Cavanagh