

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Meeting Chambers

### **Committee Members Present**

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

### **Others Present**

Brett Hembach, Deputy Commissioner for Adm. Services, Department of Social Services  
Cindy Edick, County Treasurer  
Emily Burns, Clerk, Board of Supervisors  
Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health  
James Cunningham, Chairman  
Jennifer Cossette, Confidential Secretary, Board of Supervisors  
Jessica Prievo, Commissioner, Department of Social Services  
Jim Monfort, Director of Financial Services, CCSI  
John Pinard, Town of Lenox  
Kristine Burleigh, Confidential Secretary, Mental Health  
Mark Scimone, County Administrator  
Paul Walrod, Vice Chairman  
Ronald Raymer, Director, Veterans Service Agency  
Susan McConnell, Budget Analyst  
Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services  
Tina Wayland-Smith, County Attorney  
Trisha Platt, Deputy Commissioner for Financial Assistance

### **Call Meeting to Order**

Chairwoman Cavanagh called the meeting to order at 10:45 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 July 22, 2025. A motion was made by Supervisor Kinville to approve the minutes, seconded by and carried unanimously by Supervisor Reger.

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### **Mental Health**

Director Cook reported that Julie Mosley, who has been the Peer coordinator at Pathways for the past 4 years, has accepted the Mental Health Crisis Worker position that will be located at the Oneida Police Department. effective August 25, 2025. Julie will train with both Marcie Soule and Andrea Mitchell, Mental Health Crisis worker this week in order to familiarize herself with methods and procedures of the job.

Director Cook also reported she and Julie had a successful planning meeting last week with the City of Oneida's Chief of Police, Steven Lowell, and the Assistant Chief with the intention of creating a positive impact for the City of Oneida residents.

Director Teisha Cook and Jim Monfort, Director of Financial Services, CCSI presented the 2026 Mental Health budget summary, noting a projected revenue of approximately \$500,000. This is slightly less than last year's projection primarily due to the conclusion of the NYS OMH School Grant, and the NYS Upper Payment Limit Program, as well as increased costs related to the expansion of school satellite clinics, and salary adjustments under bargaining agreements. Director Cook requested the addition of a Nurse Psychiatric Practitioner in 2026 to address a 55% increase in clinic clients. The position is expected to generate billing revenue exceeding its cost, with salary and fringe costs offsetting each other, resulting in a projected net revenue surplus.

### **Public Health**

Director Faisst presented the 2026 Public Health Department budget summary, this is slightly increased primarily due to the inclusion of the Youth Bureau within Public Health, as well as salary adjustments resulting from bargaining agreements, promotions, retirement payouts, and vacation buyouts related to changes in job descriptions and responsibilities. The proposed budget includes the promotion of the PH Sanitarian I to PH Sanitarian II, as well as the downgrade of the Assistant Director of Administrative Services to Principal Account Clerk. Director Faisst requested the addition of a second summer mosquito intern to expand the mosquito surveillance activities in response to the rise in mosquito-borne human diseases. The salary and fringe costs are expected to offset one another, resulting in a projected net revenue surplus.

Director Faisst reported the first three of eight payments have been received from the JUUL Settlement Funds, totaling approximately \$150,000. The remaining five payments will be received over the next five years, with annual payments of approximately \$50,000. The next step will be to launch a participatory budgeting process, engaging the community - specifically individuals 18 to 34 – to gather input on the best ways to allocate these funds.

Director Faisst also reported receiving a grant of \$20,850 from the NYS Local Government Efficiency Grant Program, with a matching amount of \$20,850 from Madison County Public Health, to conduct a feasibility study for consolidating code enforcement. Director Faisst also noted that he is currently working on two additional grant applications: one to the CNY

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Community Foundation and another to the NYS Community Development Block Grant program. The CNY Community Foundation grant would fund a Housing Coordinator position for the newly established Housing Collaborative in Madison County, with the position housed at the Rural Health Council. The Community Development Block Grant would support a Housing Needs Assessment for Madison County.

### **Social Services**

#### **Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with VenTek, Inc.**

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

#### **Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with TipCo, (Computer Software Maintenance)**

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

Commissioner Prieto, in conjunction with Deputy Commissioner Brett Hembach, presented the Department of Social Services 2026 budget summary, noting a projected increase request of approximately \$282,000, or 1.41% compared to the 2025 adopted budget. This increase is primarily due to personnel-related costs, including step increases and higher projected health insurance expenses, and purchase of services. Additional cost pressures due to the uncertainty of funding within several core programs, include higher projected expenditures in foster care, and Medicaid cuts. These increases are largely offset by the significant reductions in Juvenile and State Training School expenses, as well as decreases in Safety Net and TANF.

### **Veteran's Agency**

Director Raymer presented the 2026 budget summaries for the Veteran's Service Agencies, covering both Work Center 6510 and the Work Center 6511, Dwyer Peer Program.

In presenting the Work Center 6510 budget summary, Director Raymer noted a projected increase of approximately \$13,000, or 4.11% compared to the 2025 adopted budget. This increase is primarily due to higher personal service costs, supplemental pay adjustments, and the estimated number of burials. However, the reduction in training and staff development line item (made possible through established partnership with NYS Dept. of Veterans Services who provides no cost training opportunities to county veteran service agency personnel), photocopy usage line item and central telephone expense line item have helped to offset some of the proposed budget growth.

For Work Center 6511, Director Raymer noted a projected increase in revenue of approximately \$3000 or 2.6%, which is primarily associated with the annual cost-of-living adjustment bringing the total allocation to \$109,732 for 2026. This budget is funded entirely through state grant aid, with allocations remaining consistent with 2025 aside from minor adjustments to individual line

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items related to the NYS Dwyer Peer Program. Director Raymer emphasized that the part-time Peer Specialist position, and outreach are funded 100% through this program.

Director Raymer reported that the Veteran's Breakfast continues to be an overwhelmingly positive experience for all, and attendance continues to exceed expectations. The location change from the American Legion to Theodore's Restaurant has proven to be beneficial, they will continue to explore other facilities within the community as additional options.

Director Raymer also reported an increased interest in volunteering by members. Currently, the Peer specialist is compiling the names of those who have expressed interest, as well as coordinating their availability, and the area and/or areas they would like to volunteer.

### **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 11:44 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Kinville and carried unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Kristine Burleigh for Chairwoman, Mary Cavanagh*