

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Meeting Chambers

Committee Members Present

Mary Cavanagh, Chairwoman, City of Oneida

Brandee Henderson, Vice-Chairwoman, City of Oneida

Michelle Kinville, City of Oneida

Alex Stepanski, Town of Stockbridge

Others Present

Emily Burns, Clerk, Board of Supervisors

Erica Bird, Deputy Director, Public Health

Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health

James Cunningham, Chairman

Jesica Prievo, Commissioner, Department of Social Services

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

Samantha Field, Public Information Officer

Susan McConnell, Budget Analyst

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

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 August 26, 2025. A motion was made by Supervisor Kinville to approve the minutes, seconded by and carried unanimously by Vice-Chairwoman Henderson.

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Public Health

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with the Center for Governmental Research for the Evaluation of Code Enforcement Services

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

Authorizing the Modification of the 2025 Adopted County Budget

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

Director Faisst reported the Housing Coalition met on September 11, 2025, which included new members, including landlords, hospital representatives, Syracuse Land Bank, and SUNY Morrisville's Residential Construction instructor.

Director Faisst submitted the pre application for The Community Development Block Grant which will support a Housing Needs Assessment for Madison County. Once approved Director Faisst will submit the full application.

Additionally, Director Faisst reported meeting with the JUUL Steering Committee and began developing the community engagement piece and gathering input on the best ways to allocate funds received from the JUUL Settlement Funds.

Social Services

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

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

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

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Liberty Resources, Inc.

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Liberty Resources, Inc.

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

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Social Services continued:

Commissioner Prievo reported the Department of Social Services has a new Director of Administration – Sabrina Fryman.

Commissioner Prievo also reported that the funding for the Safe Harbor Program was significantly reduced; therefore, there will no longer be a Safer Harbor Program. Children that are identified as being at risk of sex trafficking will continue to receive services through Child Protective Services and the Youth Bureau will be handling the education component.

Mental Health

Director Cook reported that Julie Mosley, has officially started her new position as the Mental Health Crisis Worker “Care Specialist” located at the Oneida Police Department. Julie has been visiting Church on the Rock weekly, as well as the homeless encampment. She has been received well and very successful with engagement and providing resources outreach within the community. Julie is available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Director Teisha Cook reported the Office of Mental Health site review came back very positive with minimal citations that were fully corrected by the next day.

Veteran’s Agency

Director Raymer reported the first Veteran’s Volunteer Peer Training at 10 a.m. this morning.

Director Raymer reported that the collaboration between the Veterans Service Agency and Wanderer’s Rest is going well, and the dog program is being reinstated. Two dogs have been visiting the office on Fridays, with the support of agency volunteers. Additionally, the Veterans Service Agency has officially adopted an office cat, *Tommy Knuckles*. While he is still adjusting, he has been well received by all.

The next Veteran’s Outreach Breakfast will be held on October 11, 2025, at Theodore’s Restaurant and continues to be a positive experience for all.

The first Veterans Volunteer Peer Support Training is taking place today, Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

Youth Bureau

Director Louis reported that she met with the County Attorney’s Office regarding the ability to offer modification and extension agreements for 2026 for Youth Bureau funded agencies. The office was very helpful regarding this process as well as future RFP and contract template formulation to adjust for the language change with the Youth Bureau going under Public Health

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in January. The extension is dependent upon OCFS approval. If this moves forward, an RFP will not be released for 2026 funding, but an RFP will be released for 2027 funding. Agencies currently funded have been contacted regarding this plan. Public release will follow.

The Teen Assessment Project (TAP) Survey materials have been distributed to school districts for administration to be done in October and November.

BOCES New Visions students have been on the county campus recently and will be visiting for county government lessons and department tours. There are nine students enrolled: three from Camden, one from Canastota, four from Oneida, and one from VVS.

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 10:30 a.m., seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Henderson and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Kristine Burleigh for Chairwoman, Mary Cavanagh