

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 21, 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

Others Present

Emily Burns, Clerk, Board of Supervisors
Erica Bird, Deputy Director, Public Health
Eric Faisst, Director, Public Health
James Cunningham, Chairman
John Pinard, Town of Lenox
Kristine Burleigh, Confidential Secretary, Mental Health
Mark Scimone, County Administrator
Paul Walrod, Vice Chairman
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
Tricia Platt, Deputy Commissioner for Financial Assistance
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 September 23, 2025. A motion was made by Vice-Chairwoman Henderson to approve the minutes, seconded by and carried unanimously by Supervisor Stepanski.

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Mental Health

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Coordinated Care Services, Inc.

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Onondaga-Cortland-Madison Board of Cooperative Educational Services (OCM BOCES)

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

Director Cook reported that since starting her position at the Oneida City Police Department in September, Julie Mosley has had approximately 80 interactions with members of the community, many of whom are experiencing homelessness. She has played a key role in making the process of obtaining identification significantly easier for unhoused individuals. By meeting with the Madison County Clerk and securing a PO box at the Oneida City Post Office, Julie established a reliable address that clients can use when applying for an ID. In addition, she partnered with The Mustard Seed in Oneida, which has generously agreed to cover the cost.

Additionally, Director Cook reported that the satellite position at DeRuyter Central School District has been filled, with a tentative start date of January 5, 2026. She comes with five years of experience at another agency in Onondaga County. She will be housed at DeRuyter Central School District two days a week and float between the other school districts on her off days.

Public Health

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with the NYS Department of State, Division of Local Government Services Countywide Shared Code Enforcement Grant and Modifying 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 will meet again in January of 2026 to finishing up strategic planning.

Additionally, Director Faisst reported meeting with the JUUL Steering Committee and continues to work on developing the community engagement piece.

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Social Services

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Together for Youth (Stepping Stones)

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with TipCo

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Together for Youth (Back on Track)

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

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

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

On behalf of Commissioner Prievo, Deputy Commissioner Platt reported on the Child & Family Services count data through September .

There have been 986 CPS reports, 34 kids in foster care, and 8 kids in an institutional setting. Thirty-four neglect petitions have been filed and there are currently 3 kids in OCFS custody.

Veteran's Agency

Director Raymer was not in attendance today due to his participation in The American Legion Department of NY Commander 2025 visit to Madison County. Director Raymer submitted update reports for October 2025, to be reviewed on his behalf.

Youth Bureau

Director Louis informed the committee that OCFS approved extensions and to look for modification and extension agreements to be coming through during annual session. Four contracts are under OCFS funding and two are under county funding. Other resolutions coming through will include new and returning Advisory Board members and adjusted bylaws.

Director Louis reported that the move to Public Health is moving ahead. Youth Bureau staff will be over to start January 1 and likely by the end of December.

An extension was requested for the SWIMS funding. One of the municipalities ran into unforeseen circumstances that delayed the start of the 2025 swimming season. The extension will run through September 30, 2026, and will allow for remaining funds to be used for the 2026 swim season.

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The TAP Survey is being completed in districts with 479 responses so far. Districts are scheduling the surveys as appropriate within the school day. Supervisor Cavanagh inquired whether there was an opt out or refusal option for students. Director Louis explained that there is an opt out letter that parents can complete, and as the survey is voluntary, youth can refuse to take the survey at any point in the survey process.

Director Louis noted that BOCES New Visions Government, Law and Public Administration students are in attendance today to observe the committee format as these students will be writing their own resolutions and holding a mock committee meeting. 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 Reger to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Stepanski and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Kristine Burleigh for Chairwoman, Mary Cavanagh