

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 23, 2024
Meeting Chambers/Zoom

Committee Members Present

Mary Cavanagh, Chairwoman, City of Oneida
Brandee DuBois, Vice-Chairwoman, City of Oneida
Michelle Kinville, City of Oneida
Kyle Reger, Town of Cazenovia

Others Present

Jesica Prievo, Commissioner, Social Services
Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services
Kathryn Hopkins, Mental Health Clinic Treatment Program Coordinator
Erica Bird, Deputy Director, Public Health
Tina Louis, Director, Youth Bureau
Ron Raymer, Director, Veterans Agency
Tina Wayland-Smith, County Attorney
Mark Scimone, County Administrator
Samantha Field, Public Information Officer
Emily Burns, Clerk to the Board
James Cunningham, Chairman
Paul Walrod, Vice Chairman
John Pinard, Town of Lenox
Thomas Daviau, Town of Sullivan
Keith Lummis, Assistant Director of Finance
William Nicholson, Director, Community Action Program
Peggy LeClair, via Zoom
Michele Browell, Confidential Secretary, DSS

Call Meeting to Order

Chairwoman Cavanagh called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m., indicating that there was a quorum for the Health and Human Services Committee.

Approve Minutes

The Health and Human Services Committee reviewed the meeting minutes for June 25, 2024. A motion was made by Supervisor Kinville to approve the minutes, seconded by Supervisor Reger and carried unanimously.

Mental Health

Director Teisha Cook presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Modifying an Agreement with Chenango Court Management

A motion was made by Supervisor Kinville to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor DuBois and carried unanimously.

This is a modification for the cost of remodeling trailers. It was estimated at \$20,000 per trailer but they have requested to up that amount to \$30,000.

Entering into an Agreement with Employees for Office of Mental Health Community Mental Health Loan Repayment Program

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

There are two Mental Health therapist that are interested in this opportunity. The employees can not apply themselves, so the department has applied for them. This is a three-year agreement and will be a county contract with the employee. This is an incentive for employees to stay three years with the county or they will have to pay it back.

Director Cook let the Committee know that they are still trying to recruit for a Staff Social Worker for the Canastota Central School District. She is also going to the Hamilton School to look at space for a Social Worker that they would like to serve the community.

Public Health

Deputy Director Erica Bird gave department updates. The Public Health Department has been preparing for accreditation over the past year and submitted a letter of intent in July. All documentation must be submitted within the year, followed by an on-site visit. There are only 16 counties in New York State that are accredited out of a total of 62 counties.

Deputy Director Bird also followed up on the Birnie Bus Proposal bid that was accepted last month. The department reached out to a consulting company to assist with a comparative analysis; however, the proposal fees were higher than anticipated and the department will be looking into capacity in-house to conduct the analysis.

Social Services

Commissioner Jesica Prieto provided the Commissioners Report and Burial Summary for June 2024. There were 27 burials to date. Foster care expenses are trending higher than budgeted. There is other children's services categories that are under budget and hope to use them to cover this shortage. There have been 959 CPS reports to date with 32 neglect and 29 kids placed in foster care. There are currently 11 kids in OCFS custody. Commissioner Prieto attended the NYPWA conference last week with other Commissioners from around the state. There was a discussion with OCFS regarding the lack of beds for the youth that are placed in OCFS custody. This is something that is out of our control, but we are responsible for the bill when the youth are

placed. There is currently and RFP for services that will help youth early on before it gets to the point of being placed in OCFS custody.

Veterans Agency

Director Ron Raymer supplied an update of the Veteran's Agency. There were 46 individuals served at the Veteran's breakfast on June 14th. Their animal program has been officially named "Karma's Kompanions". There have been 4 successful pet adoptions.

Director Raymer talked about a highly decorated Veteran that passed away. His family is unable to pay the funeral home so that they can get his ashes. Director Raymer is looking for any ideas so that he can help this family.

Youth Bureau

Director Tina Louis gave department updates. The 2025 OCFS funding has been released and there is a decrease in funds. The Youth Sport funding program was retained. There is a swim grant available for \$25,000 that is not getting a lot of interest. The county can apply on behalf of an entity. Currently the City of Oneida does have interest for lifeguard training, increase pool hours, and for recruitment and retention of lifeguards. It was found out during this meeting that the deadline had been extended until August 9th.

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 11:11 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Reger and carried unanimously.

Next meeting: August 27, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Browell for Chairwoman, Mary Cavanagh