

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Meeting Chambers

### **Committee Members Present**

Mary Cavanagh, Chairwoman, City of Oneida  
Brandee Henderson, Vice-Chairwoman, City of Oneida  
Adam Carvell, Town of Lebanon  
Alex Stepanski, Town of Stockbridge  
Michelle Kinville, City of Oneida

### **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  
Julie Mosley, Crisis Worker, Mental Health  
Kathryn Hopkins, Treatment Prog. Coordinator, Mental Health Services  
Kristine Burleigh, Confidential Secretary, Mental Health Services  
Melissa During, Town of Lincoln  
Megan Polhamus, Public Health Peer  
Mark Scimone, County Administrator  
Pete Walrod, Vice Chairman  
Ronald Raymer, Director, Veteran's Service Agency  
Ryan Warner, Lieutenant., City of Oneida Police Department  
Samantha Field, Public Information Officer  
Steve Lowell, Chief of Police, City of Oneida Police Department  
Susan McConnell, Budget Analyst  
Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services  
Tina Louis, Director, Youth Bureau  
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 October 21, 2025. A motion was made by Supervisor Kinville to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Henderson and carried unanimously.

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### **Mental Health**

Director Cook introduced Julie Mosley, Crisis Worker, along with City of Oneida Police Chief Steve Lowell and Lieutenant Ryan Warner. They attended today's committee meeting to provide an overview of Julie's position, which is embedded within the Oneida City Police Department.

Julie's position initially began as a Crisis Worker focused on assisting community members by accessing resources, responding to needs, and engaging individuals in crisis. Over time, her role has evolved into one that emphasizes preventative and proactive community-based work. Julie now spends approximately 95% of her time in the community, assisting individuals with immediate needs such as food, clothing, medical care, and other essential services.

Julie has been in this position for approximately four and a half months. During this time, she has interacted with more than 109 unique individuals within the community, many of whom are experiencing homelessness. She has played a key role in streamlining the process of obtaining identification by securing a PO box at the Oneida City Post Office for clients to use when applying for IDs. Additionally, she has partnered with The Mustard Seed in Oneida, which has generously agreed to cover any associated costs, and she is in the early stages of establishing a working relationship with the Oneida Nation.

Lieutenant Warner stated that Julie's role has far exceeded the original intent of her position as a Crisis Worker and is now best described as a CARE Specialist. He emphasized that addressing underlying mental health crises and other root causes of crime by meeting individuals where they are helps to guide them toward stability and success. This collaborative approach reduces the need for law enforcement intervention, strengthens community partnerships, and helps prevent crime by setting individuals on a path toward long-term success.

**Director Cook is requesting a verbal approval from the committee for the continued use of Medent and Revspring.**

Director Cook reported that every two years Mental Health comes to the committee regarding the ongoing contract the department has with Medent - the department's electronic medical records, and RevSpring – the department's calling service.

The consensus of the Committee was to approve the continued use of Medent and Revspring.

### **Veteran's Agency**

Director Raymer shared the 2026 Veterans Agencies calendar. There will be 6 MCVAS sponsored Veteran's Breakfast this year and continues to grow. The breakfast will continue to be hosted at Theodore's Restaurant in Canastota from 9 – 11 a.m. The dates are as follows: February 14, April 11, June 13, August 8, October 10, and December 12, 2026.

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### ***Veteran's Agency cont.***

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual MCVAS Veteran's Awareness Hike is scheduled for May 9, 2026, with a rain date of May 16. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. with step off at 9a.m.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veteran's BBQ, will take place on Sunday, July 12, at Delphi Falls, from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

The Veteran's support groups will continue to be held on a monthly basis at the MCVSA Community Center. The Wounded Widow's Bereavement Support Group, The League of Gentleman Warriors - Men's Veterans Support Group and Valkyrie's Rest - Woman's Veterans Support Group. These groups will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month, from 4p.m. – 5p.m.

Additionally, Director Raymer reported that the current Peer Support Coordinator has left the position, but they are in the process of hiring another and anticipate the transition will not affect or delay the services currently being provided.

### **Public Health**

Deputy Director Bird along with Public Health Fellow, Megan Polhamus shared the results from the Community Health Improvement Plan. An Executive Summary hardcopy was distributed.

The 2025 Community Health Assessment describes the health needs strengths and priorities of Madison County residents. Together in partnership with hospitals, community-based organizations, county departments and regional partners local data was reviewed and community members were listened to directly to through surveys and focus groups.

In total 769 survey responses were collected and there were 3 focus groups with 17 participants.

Using the assessment results, the planning team worked collaboratively to identify the following priority areas and goals where action could have the most impact.

- Improve Oral Health Care & Access to Care - reduce disparities in accessing and utilizing preventive and health services
- Increase Access to Healthy Eating – promote healthy eating and make nutritious, culturally appropriate foods available.
- Expand Opportunities for Physical Activity – improve safe affordable and accessible active transportation, physical, and social activity.
- Reduce Barriers to Financial Stability – identify, promote, and implement programs that address poverty.

In conclusion, the CHIP provides a structured, data driven roadmap to address the county's top health priorities over the next 5 years and adapt to emerging needs and promoting sustained improvements in health outcomes across Madison County. The full report is available at <https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/2482/Community-Health-Assessment-Improvement->.

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### **Public Health cont.:**

Director Faisst reported that the Housing Collaborative of Madison County met on January 14, 2026, for its second strategic planning meeting to complete the development of implementation plans for the remaining five strategic goals. The Steering Committee, which coordinates the work of the Collaborative, will then meet in February to begin the implementation process for the strategic plan developed during the January meeting.

Additionally, Director Faisst reported that Madison County has received three grants to date:

- NYS Local Government Efficiency Grant – This grant provides the county with the ability to conduct a feasibility study for code enforcement.
- Community Foundation of CNY Grant – This grant will support a Housing Coordinator position for the newly established Housing Collaborative of Madison County, with the position housed at the Rural Health Council. The Rural Health Council has also agreed to serve as the fiscal agent for the Housing Collaborative.
- Community Development Block Grant – This grant will fund the hiring of a consultant to conduct a Housing Needs Assessment for Madison County.

The Public Health Accreditation Board meetings will be held virtually on February 17th and in person on February 19th.

### **Social Services**

Commissioner Prieto provided a tentative Child & Family Services count data through December 2025.

There have been 92 neglect petitions filed, 2527 children served, 1221 CPS reports investigated, 1016 court appearances, 12 kids in foster care, and 172 people presented as homeless.

### **Youth Bureau**

Director Louis reported that several agreements will continue in 2026 with extensions or modifications. Four contracts are funded through the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), and two are county funded. OCFS funding is 100 percent reimbursable.

Extensions include the 4-H Explorers Club, Canastota Little League, Madison County Children's Camp (counselor in training), Community Action (volunteer mentoring), BRiDGES Suicide Prevention. The Great Swamp Conservancy will also host two programs funded through the Sports and Education program for Outdoor Pursuits and Art and Nature.

Director Louis also reported that an extension was approved for SWIMS funding, allowing remaining 2025 funds to be used for lifeguard recruitment and retention during the 2026 swim season. The extension runs through September 30, 2026.

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Director Louis reported that the Youth Bureau's move to the Public Health Department was successful and that the transition is complete.

Director Louis noted that BOCES New Visions students in Government, Law, and Public Administration are completing internships Tuesday through Thursday at various county buildings. There are nine students participating: 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 10:55 a.m., seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Henderson and carried unanimously.

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