

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 24, 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
Tom Daviau, Town of Sullivan

Attendees Present

Brett Hembach, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services
Emily Burns, Clerk, Board of Supervisors
Caleb Wilson, Community Service Coordinator, Community Action Program
Erica Bird, Deputy Director, Public Health
James Cunningham, Chairman
Jessica Prievo, Commissioner, Department of Social Services
Kristine Burleigh, Confidential Secretary, Mental Health Services
Melissa During, Town of Lincoln
Mark Scimone, County Administrator
Pete Walrod, Vice Chairman
Ronald Raymer, Director, Veteran's Service Agency
Samantha Field, Public Information Officer
Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services
Tina Wayland-Smith, County Attorney
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

Supervisor Stepanski requested an amendment to the motion that approved the meeting minutes of January 20, 2026, noting that the record should reflect the motion was seconded by Supervisor Daviau, rather than Chairwoman Henderson.

The Health and Human Services Committee subsequently reviewed the February 24, 2026, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Vice-Chairwoman Henderson to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Supervisor Stepanski, and carried unanimously.

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Mental Health

William Nicholson, Executive Director at Community Action Program (CAP) introduced Caleb Wilson; Caleb has taken over the position of the Community Service Coordinator that was previously held by William.

Director Cook reported that alongside Julie Mosley, Marcie Soule, and both the Oneida City Chief of Police and Sergeant attended the CIT training kickoff meeting in Albany, on February 25, 2026. This kickoff meeting is in relation to the OMH CIT grant the clinic received.

Director Cook also reported that the Office of Mental Health will facilitate a Sequential Intercept Mapping event, which will take place on April 21, 2026, at the Oneida Library. This system details how individuals may move through the crisis system and could prove to be very useful for Madison County - as it can help identify gaps in services and allow new programs to develop.

Veteran's Agency

Director Raymer reported there was a total of 569 client contacts as of February 2026. In which 210 of these client contacts were in office and are now receiving services.

The MCVAS sponsored Veteran's Breakfast will take place on April 11, 2026, at Theodore's Restaurant in Canastota from 9 – 11 a.m.

The 6th Annual MCVAS Veteran's Awareness Hike Bike is in the planning process and will take place 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.

Public Health

Authorizing the Modification of the 2026 Adopted County Budget

This Budget Modification is for the allocation of the 2025 payment JUUL Settlement Funds

- \$10,000 will be used for a consultant who is facilitating the process and \$135,000 will be awarded to a community agency or agencies via a Request for Proposal (RFP) process.
- The RFP opened on February 27 with an April 10 deadline.
- Anticipate subsequent payments of \$49,564.93 for the next five years (2026-2030); however, the company may choose to prepay at discounted rate, and the county will receive a lesser amount.

Deputy Director Bird reported that the Request for Proposals for a consultant to conduct a housing needs assessment using the funding awarded by a Community Development Block Grant closed on March 20 with 5 submissions. The proposals will be reviewed by the steering committee in early April.

Deputy Director Bird also reported that ticks are back for the 2026 season, and the Public Health department will be coordinating with the Public Information Office to share messaging with community members.

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Social Services

Commissioner Prieto provided a Child & Family Services count data through February 2026. There have been 254 CPS reports investigated, 6 neglect petitions filed, 34 kids in foster care, 3 in an institutional setting, and 2 in OCFS custody.

Commissioner Prieto also reported that the daycare waitlist decreased from last month's number of 60 cases to 34, representing 66 children.

Commissioner Prieto and Deputy Commissioner Hembach presented the End-of-Year Commissioners Report for 2025, which includes all year-end adjustments.

- The foster care expenditures have increased while juvenile delinquency costs have decreased; however, these variances are offsetting one another overall.
- The percentage to actual expenditures ranges from 91.75% to 100%. General administration and payroll are currently at 95% of the total budget.
- Public assistance expenditures are lower than expected and are keeping in check. Similarly, overall children's services costs are down; however, foster care costs are over budget. These two categories typically fluctuate and tend to balance each other over time.

State training school costs are calculated on a two-year lag: 2023 represents the accrual year, 2024 is estimated, and 2025 is the budget projection. The department had anticipated a 10% increase; however, the actual increase was 25%.

Youth Bureau

Deputy Director Bird presented the following resolution on behalf of Director Louis for informational purposes only to the Committee:

Authorizing the Modification of the 2026 Adopted County Budget

This Budget Modification is for the allocation of funds for the 2026 Youth Bureau youth development contracts, all of which are modifications and extension agreements.

- \$50,000 from County share and \$102,587 from Office of Children and Family Services

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 Daviau to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 a.m., seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Henderson and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Kristine Burleigh for Chairwoman, Mary Cavanagh