

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 26, 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

Emily Burns, Clerk, Board of Supervisors

Erica Bird, Deputy Director, Public Health

Jesica Prievo, Commissioner, Department of Social Services

Kathryn Hopkins, Treatment Prog. Coordinator, Mental Health Services

Keith Lummis, Assistant Director of Finance

Kristine Burleigh, Confidential Secretary, Mental Health Services

Pete Walrod, Vice Chairman

Ronald Raymer, Director, Veteran's Service Agency

Samantha Field, Public Information Officer

Teisha Cook, Director, Mental Health Services

Tina Louis, Director, Youth Bureau

Tina Wayland-Smith, County Attorney

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 April 28, 2026. A motion was made by Chairwoman Henderson to approve the minutes, seconded by Supervisor Carvell and carried unanimously.

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Mental Health

Director Cook reported that Human Resources will present the resolution for the newly created Complex Care Coordinator position at the upcoming Government Operations Committee (GOC) meeting toward the end of this week. This position is 70% funded by OMH with the other 30% consisting of billable time in the clinic with high risk clients.

Director Cook also reported that she will be submitting three additional contracts for the Office of Mental Health (OMH) Student Loan Repayment Program, each under \$100,000. This agreement is between the County and the employee. Under the program, the employee agrees to work at the clinic for three years, and in return, OMH provides up to \$30,000 toward the employee's student loan debt. This is paid to them at the end of each completed year of service. This will be the third round in which the clinic has participated in the program, and to date the clinic has achieved a 100% approval rate, bringing the total number of approved employees to ten. Additionally, if a therapist chooses to dissolve the agreement before fulfilling the commitment, any money received through the program up to that point must be repaid.

The following school districts contract agreements have been submitted and/or in the process to be submitted under \$100k: Canastota, Cazenovia, Madison, Morrisville, and Hamilton. Depending on the preference of the district, these agreements are for a one or two year term.

Veteran's Agency

Director Raymer reported there was a total of 613 client contacts for April 2026 – 262 client contacts took place in person and 351 took place via telephone/email.

Director Raymer also reported there was a great turnout for the 6th Annual MCVAS Veteran's Awareness Hike Bike held on May 9, 2026. Particularly well received was the add on to the event of 14 resource providers tabling after the hike bike, as well as luncheon served by Ray Brother's BBQ.

Additionally, all are welcome to attend the Annual WAVEM Memorial Day Ceremony held on Saturday, May 30, at 11:00 a.m. in front of the Madison County War Veterans Memorial. The ceremony will include guest performers, readers, a firing squad salute, and a wreath laying ceremony.

If anyone is looking to properly dispose of an old American flag, there is a collection box located in front of the DMV office. Director Raymer regularly picks up the flags and brings them back to the agency. In which the stars are carefully cut out and distributed to veterans, the remainder of the flags are given to the local Boy Scouts, VFW, and American Legion to be processed for retirement during specific ceremonies. The Veterans Agency will also accept old American flags for disposal.

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Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Meeting Chambers

Public Health

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with the Madison County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, LLC. dba BRiDGES to Implement the Vaping Outreach Initiative

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

Deputy Director Bird reported that, as part of the strategic planning process, the department is looking ahead to the next three to five years to determine how it can more effectively engage communities throughout the county and improve programs and services. A survey has been distributed electronically and is also available in hard copy. This is being sent to supervisors, community partners, and regulated entities with whom the department works. To date, 65 responses have been received.

Deputy Director Bird also reported that a kickoff meeting with the project committee for the Housing Assessment is being scheduled for the week of June 22. This project is funded through the Community Development Block Grant that the county received, and the department is working with a contractor to complete the assessment which should be by the end of October.

Deputy Director Bird announced that the Madison County Public Health Department received the national accreditation status – for the last three years this has been an undertaking in progress, with a lot of hard work put in by many. A celebration recognizing this achievement will be held in the near future.

Social Services

Commissioner Prieto provided a Child & Family Services count data through April 2026. There have been 451 CPS reports investigated, 21 neglect petitions filed, 35 kids in foster care, 6 in an institutional setting, and 3 in OCFS custody.

Commissioner Prieto also reported on the compliance regulations for Able-Bodied Adults Without Disabilities (ABAWDS) receiving SNAP benefits. ABAWDS are only eligible to receive SNAP benefits for three months in a 3-year period unless they meet certain requirements. These requirements include working and/or volunteering for at least 20 hours weekly/80 hours monthly. As of May, out of 194 cases only 4 have chosen to comply in order to receive their SNAP benefits. One hundred and sixteen chose to close their case, 35 remained open, 37 opted out due to more paperwork being required, 1 is working, 2 are volunteering, 1 changed their mind after receiving a closing letter, and 3 had errors and needed more information. The trend currently being seen is that

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Meeting Chambers

people would rather figure out another way rather than to comply. This will continue to be monitored.

Youth Bureau

Director Louis reported that the New Visions Government Law and Public Administration Program completed their final presentations on May 19th – May 21st in the Chambers Office. These presentations were recorded and is available for all to see.

Director Louis also reported that Interviews were completed for the new class in the fall. There are currently 8 students confirmed; 4 students that reside in Madison County and 4 students that reside out of Madison County.

Additionally, Director Louis reported that all school specific reports for the TAP survey have been provided to districts. A review of the TAP Survey can be provided to the committee at an upcoming meeting.

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 10:35 a.m., seconded by Chairwoman Henderson and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Kristine Burleigh for Chairwoman, Mary Cavanagh