

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Health & Human Services

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 8:30am.

Present:

Mr. William Standinger	Chair of the Committee
Ms. Jo Ellen Rose	Legislator
Mr. Andrew Aronstam	Legislator
Mr. Ray Bunce	Legislator
Ms. Sarah Begeal	Interim Director of Community Services
Mr. Chris Korba	Director of Administrative Services (MH)
Ms. Liz Myers	Commissioner of Social Services
Ms. Mickelle Andrews	Director of Administrative Services (DSS)
Ms. Heather Vroman	Deputy Public Health Director
Mr. Denis McCann	Director of Administrative Services (PH)

Guests:

Ms. Cathy Haskell	Legislative Clerk
Mr. Jackson Bailey	County Administrator
Mr. Tracy Monell	Chair of the Legislature

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the February 2, 2026, HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made. Seconded. Motion carried.

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Financial
 - Mr. Korba states 2025 accruals are not finished, still moving parts. Overall, 2025 is shaping up well.
2. Old Business
 - Criminal Psych – Resident listed on invoice as “covered” through to the end of April unless is discharged earlier or reevaluated and extended. Mental Hygiene has enough budget to cover criminal psych invoices through April, unless more residents enter court ordered care.
3. New Business
 - Jail Social Worker – Mental Hygiene and Sheriff’s department are working together to create a previously contracted position to a

- county paid social worker position providing the same services to the jail. A resolution has been created.
- AOT Position – Assisted Outpatient Treatment. Ms. Begeal stated she talked about this position in a previous committee meeting. The State Aid money received for this is more than needed. A portion of the money will be returned to the State.
4. Personnel
 - Brean Schaffer, LMSW started 2/23/26 – Owego Clinic
 - Rebecka Deretz, LMSW starting 3/23/26 – Tioga Central Schools
 5. Resolutions: Legislators approved resolutions to move forward
 - Create and Fill One Full-Time Senior Clinical Social Worker (Jail) Position
 - Reappointing member to Community Services Board
 6. Proclamations
 - None.

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Financial
 - Mr. McCann noted there are still accruals for 2025. Although the amount is not yet finalized, 2025 will return significant savings in local share from Public Health. The largest contributors to the savings in decreased expenses and additional received revenues were considered in the 2026 submitted budget that had a large reduction in local share for Public Health. In 2026, there are no surprises or concerns
2. Old Business
 - None.
3. New Business
 - February Agency Report included an increase of Flu and RSV. This will continue to be monitored closely. Tickborne illness cases are starting to show, awareness is already getting out to the public.
4. Personnel
 - Interviews are being conducted for a Weights & Measure position.
5. Resolutions: Legislators approved resolutions to move forward

- Authorization to apply for Grants for Traffic Safety program.
- Authorize appointment of part-time Speech Language Pathologist. (side note: this position has been vacant for two years)

6. Proclamations

- Public Health Week: April 6 – 12, 2026

SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Financial

- Ms. Andrews stated DSS also has moving parts for 2025. There are still adjustments/accruals to be made in the 2025 budget. Foster Care will remain high in 2026.

2. Old Business

- None

3. New Business

- Federal Funding impacts. (Overview attached)
 - Shift in Admin costs. State funds 75% while the County covers 25%.
 - County Share of SNAP Benefit Payments (eff 10/1/27). Anything over 6% NYS will owe. Cost will be passed down to the Counties.
 - ABAWD Expansion (eff. 3/1/26) Individuals must work/volunteer for 80 hours per month to keep their benefits.
 - Legislator Rose asked if this includes disabled adults. Ms. Myers replied that all adults are included, however, there are exceptions.
 - Medicaid and other impacts:
 - ABAWD Work Requirements
 - Medicaid Global Cap
 - Federal Withholding of TANF, Child Care Assistance, Social Services Block Grant
- Transportation - Ms. Myers reports this is part of the DSS Strategic Plan. Rural Health Network of South-Central New York is going to put out an RFP for someone to conduct a study regarding what transportation access looks like in Tioga County.
- Tioga Career Center will be attending a Job Fair at Waverly HS.
 - Legislator Rose asked if TCC focused on unemployed youth or is it broader. Ms. Myers responded that it is broader. Ms. Myers

added that the CCE operates a youth employment program within the center.

- Legislator Rose asked if TCC had any connections with opportunities within the Towns or County. Ms. Myers was going to look into this.
- TCC's personnel costs will soon become a budget challenge after June 1st. Rollover funds are currently covering the cost.
- Collaboration with Probation
 - Money received from the State will be used to provide a Therapist for children in the Raise the Age program.
- Joy MacNaughton was awarded Supervisor of the Year
- Child Abuse Awareness is next month.
 - Working with Building & Grounds to light the Courthouse blue

4. Personnel

- Sarah Moore was promoted to Deputy Commissioner effective 2/7/26.
- Crystal Wagstaff was promoted to Office Specialist III effective 2/7/26.
- Kelly Dean was promoted to Social Services Investigator effective 2/7/26.
- Kaylee Slezak was hired as Social Welfare Examiner effective 2/9/26.
- Tiffani Valentine was hired as Office Specialist II effective 2/21/26. Her Seasonal HEAP OSI position ended in 2/2026.
- Joy MacNaughton was promoted to Case Supervisor Grade A effective 2/21/26.

5. Resolutions: Legislators approved resolutions to move forward

- Authorize Contract with Liberty Resources (Co-location)
- Authorize Contract with Liberty Resources (MST)
- Authorize Contract with Catholic Charities for Boys of Courage

6. Proclamations

- None

ADJOURNED:

Health & Human Services Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:05am

Executive Session

- Motion made by Mr. Andrew Aronstam. Seconded by Mr. Ray Bunce
- Purpose: DSS Personnel Matter
- Time Commenced: 9:10am

- Attendance: Ms. Liz Myers, Mr. Bill Standinger, Ms. Jo Ellen Rose, Mr. Andrew Aronstam, Mr. Ray Bunce, Mr. Jackson Bailey, Mr. Tracy Monell, Ms. Cathy Haskell, Mr. Peter DeWind (9:20)
- Time Adjourned: 9:27am