

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Health & Human Services

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 8:27 AM.

Present:	Mr. William Standinger	Chair of the Committee
	Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislator
	Mr. Andrew Aronstam	Legislator
	Mr. Ray Bunce	Legislator
	Ms. Lori Morgan	Director of Community Services
	Mr. Chris Korba	Director of Administrative Services (MH)
	Mr. Shawn Yetter	Commissioner of Social Services
	Ms. Mickelle Andrews	Director of Administrative Services (DSS)
	Ms. Heather Vroman	Public Health Director
	Mr. Denis McCann	Director of Administrative Services (PH)
Guests:	Mr. Jackson Bailey	County Administrator
	Ms. Cathy Haskell	Legislative Clerk
	Ms. Marte Sauerbrey	Legislative Chair
	Ms. Liz Myers	Deputy Commissioner (DSS)
	Ms. Sarah Begeal	Deputy Director of Community Services

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Financial
 - Mr. Chris Korba reported that the financials show ten months of Expenses and nine months of Fee-for-Service Revenue. FFS Revenues are strong despite vacancies. Projections show a return to local share. The 2025 budget is tracking well.
2. Old Business
 - Criminal Psych – Patient has not been discharged as far as MH knows. There are only enough funds in the budget line to cover from October 1 through the first week in November. MH will do a resolution if needed to move money out of the salary line to cover any shortfall. Even with having to do that, MH will still meet budget goals.
3. New Business
 - Federal Impact – None so far
 - 3rd Quarter Remote Work Usage – Ms. Morgan shared that MH had 17 users over three months, mainly school-based workers
 - Opioid Abatement Money – The RFP went out today. This will be awarded by the end of December.
 - Death at Weitzman's – The clinic has made it a priority to see anyone that wants to come in.
4. Personnel
 - Hunter Buchmann, LMSW, started 10/20/25

5. Resolutions - Legislators approved resolutions to move forward
 - Authorize Contract with AspireHopeNY to Administer Parent Support Services
 - Authorize Contract with Fairview Recovery Services for Contracting with Mental Hygiene Contracted Staffing
 - Authorize Contract with Rehabilitation Support Services, Inc. to Administer Psychosocial Club, Health Home Non-Medicaid Care Management, Health Home Service Dollars & Administration, Supported Housing Rental Assistance and Community Services, Warm Line and Drop-In Center (pass through State Aid)
 - Authorize Contract with Trinity to Administer Prevention and Jail Services (pass through State Aid)
 - Authorize Contract with Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES to Administer Prevention Services (pass through State Aid)
 - Authorize Contract with Catholic Charities to Administer Ongoing Integrated Supported Employment Services (pass through State Aid)
 - Appropriation of Funds and Budget Modification (pass through State Aid)
6. Proclamations
 - None

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Financial
 - Mr. Denis McCann reported that the financial reports show 60% of local share used through October. The 3rd Quarter State Aid has not come in yet, will be in November. Expenses for Escrow and Preschool are down. He expects to have a good return of local share at the end of 2025.
2. Old Business
 - Federal Budget Impact – No direct impacts
3. New Business – Agency Report for October:
 - Submitted a Letter of Intent to apply for Project Public Health Ready (Public Health Emergency Preparedness Accreditation). Only 11 LHD's in NYS have ever been accredited.
 - PH would like to proceed with the process of entering into an agreement with an intern from SUNY Farmingdale to complete a 40-hour practicum in dental hygiene on the Dental Van. There is not currently an MOU with SUNY Farmingdale so, Mr. Peter DeWind will need to approve an MOU. Legislators gave their approval to move forward with this plan.
 - A question was asked how many kids are in the Early Intervention Program. Ms. Vroman noted there are 40 kids in the program with approximately 10 kids waiting for services at any given time. There is still a provider shortage throughout NYS.
 - Mr. Bailey reported that Ms. Vroman and PHEP Coordinator attended the CEPA, which emergency response led. Ms. Vroman stated Public Health has a great relationship with OEM and the CEPA was a great opportunity to look at where we are and where we need to improve. Municipalities were invited to take part in the finalizing the plan and distributing information to appropriate partners.

4. Personnel
 - Service Coordinator will be returning
5. Resolutions
 - None
6. Proclamations
 - None

SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Financial
 - Ms. Mickelle Andrews reported that the administrative side of the 2025 budget is on target. Foster Care continues to run over budget. Will be presenting a resolution to transfer money to cover the Foster Care expenses through the end of 2025. There is an increase in the 2026 budget for Foster Care.
2. Old Business
 - None
3. New Business
 - Caseloads – See Caseload Summary
During October, Cash Assistance decreased 8 cases, with Family Assistance decreasing 2 cases and Safety Net decreasing 6 cases. Cash Assistance is down 3% for the year.
MA-Only increased 11 cases
MA-SSI decreased 8 cases
Total Individuals on Medicaid decreased 4 to 3,459 – Medicaid is up 2% for the year.
SNAP decreased 46 cases - SNAP is down 6% for the year
Day Care decreased 6 cases
 - Tioga Career Center report is attached. The unemployment numbers have not been updated due to the government shutdown
 - Commissioner Yetter noted that 50%-60% of SNAP benefits will be released tomorrow. Then the State will process the payments.
 - HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) is also currently not funded due to the government shutdown. The State had delayed the opening of regular HEAP to 11/19/25 from 11/1/25. DSS is still taking applications for SNAP & HEAP. SNAP benefits are re-certified once a year.
4. Personnel Changes
 - Jeanette Carosella promoted to Senior Caseworker effective 10/20/25
 - Nancy Leonard, Seasonal OS I (HEAP), hired effective 10/20/25
 - Tiffani Valentine, Seasonal OS I (HEAP), hired effective 10/20/25
 - Penny Walker, Seasonal OS I (HEAP), hired effective 10/20/25
 - Julie Whipple, Director of Employment & Transitional Supports, retired effective 10/21/25
 - Deborah Cooper, Senior Caseworker, resigned effective 10/27/25

5. Resolutions - Legislators approved resolutions to move forward
- Authorize Tioga County Department of Social Services to Accept Donations in Excess of \$1,000 – (Gifts for FC children)
 - Amend 2025 Budget (FC)
 - **PULLED RESOLUTION:** Appropriation of Funds & Amend 2025 Budget (CAC). This was a competitive grant that was protested by an applicant and is now with the State Comptroller's office. We will need to re-apply for this funding when the RFP comes out in the spring. The CAC office will remain open; however we will not be able to add a position as planned. The funding has gone back to 2024 levels.

6. Proclamations

- Adoption Awareness Month (repeat)

Ms. Myers shared that almost 10 adoptions have gone through recently.

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the October 7, 2025 minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Monell. Seconded by Legislator Bunce. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNED:

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 8:58 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services