

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Health & Human Services

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 8:31AM.

Present: Mr. William Standinger	Chair of the Committee
Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislator
Mr. Ray Bunce	Legislator
Mr. Andrew Aronstam	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. Sarah Begeal	Deputy Director of Community Services
Ms. Marte Sauerbrey	Legislative Chair

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the June 3, 2025 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Monell. Seconded by Legislator Bunce. Motion Carried.

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Financial

- Mr. Chris Korba reported that the financials are showing five months of Revenue and six months of Expenses. The Fee-For-Service revenue is trending very well despite the vacancies. The budget is tracking well.

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2. Old Business

- Criminal Psych – No invoices have been received.

3. New Business

- Strategic Plan Update: No updates. The Waverly Clinic goal was completed. The rest remain on-going. MH is working on recruitment & retention.
- 2nd Quarter Remote Work Usage: 9 people worked remote in April, 10 people in May and 8 people in June. No set schedule.
- Federal Budget Impact – There has been no impacts so far.

4. Personnel

- Louise Henley, CSW starting 7/28/25
- Breanna McCartney, CSW resignation effective 7/25/25

5. Resolutions - Legislators approved all resolutions to move forward
 - Authorize Grant Renewal (CARA) Appropriation of Funds and Amend 2025 Budget
 - Appropriation of Funds (TST BOCES/TRINITY) Budget Modification 2025
 - Appropriation of Funds (OASAS) Budget Modification 2025
 - Appropriation of Funds (ABATE) Budget Modification 2025
 - Appropriation of Funds (OSF) Budget Modification 2025
 - Reclassify Mobile Crisis Vacant Position
 - Create and Fill Permanent, Full-Time Senior Clinical Social Workers (School/Community Based) Position (Newark Valley School District paying \$25,000 towards the position and the balance from increased fee-for-service)
6. Proclamations
 - None

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Financial
 - Mr. Denis McCann reported that the 2025 budget is tracking well. The report shows 73% spent, however, there was over \$800,000 that came in the first two days of July. Expenses are under budget.
2. Old Business
 - Strategic Plan Quarterly Update: Ms. Vroman noted that 3 out of 6 goals have been completed. 20 out of 24 milestones are complete. Each Director was tasked with a goal. A hand-out was distributed from Mr. Denis McCann's team, "What does Public Health do for your tax dollars?" This will be put out onto social media with links to find out more information. Mr. McCann noted that he considers it a "living document" that his team will continue adding to along with a QR code. This goal will be carried out through the end of the year to complete the goal. PH will be doing a Press Release.
 - Remote Work: 23 staff members are approved for remote work. 18 work 2 days a week remote and the rest work ½ or 1 day a week. Not all do remote work consistently 2 days. Directors/Supervisors are constantly reviewing remote work policies to manage compliance. Ms. Vroman thanked the Legislators for supporting the program. Employees like the flexibility and it helps with retention.
3. New Business
 - There were 4 new staff added in June: Preparedness Coordinator, a Public Health Sanitarian, a Public Health Educator and a Seasonal Public Health Educator.
 - In Early Intervention, the wait list has more than doubled in the past month due to retirements and the shortage of providers across the state.
 - In May and June, 74 electronic payments were received, mostly Environmental Health & Dental.
 - Staff continue to track tick-borne illness.
4. Personnel
 - None.

5. Resolutions – Legislators approved resolution to move forward
 - Amend Budget & Appropriate Funds (Pass-through to Mental Hygiene)
6. Proclamations
 - None

SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Financial
 - Ms. Mickelle Andrews reported that the administrative side of the budget is tracking under budget due to payroll (vacancies). Foster Care continues to run over budget. There is some savings in other programs, but it may not be enough to offset the Foster Care line.
2. Old Business
 - Strategic Plan Update: Nothing new. The Mandated Training goal process will start soon now that Services is only down 1 Caseworker.
 - Remote Work Update: There are 22 staff in total that are approved for remote work. Not all who are approved are working remote. The Services staff usually only work 1 day a week remote. Commissioner Yetter feels that it is working well, and staff appreciates the perk.
3. New Business
 - Caseloads – See Caseload Summary
During May, Cash Assistance decreased 4 cases, with Family Assistance decreasing 2 cases and Safety Net decreasing 2 cases.
MA-Only decreased 10 cases
MA-SSI increased 2 cases
Total Individuals on Medicaid decreased 18 to 3,480
SNAP decreased 54 cases
Day Care increased 7 cases
 - Tioga Career Center report is attached. They filled the vacant Employment & Training Counselor with the promotion of Kim Heyman.
4. Personnel Changes
 - Lauren Andrews, PT Mail Clerk, hired effective 6/18/25
 - Kimberly Heyman, SS Investigator, was promoted to Employment & Training Counselor in TCC, effective 6/30/25

Commissioner Yetter shared that he has been working with Gary Hammond at Public Works to establish a cleaning schedule for the CAC. Any expenses will be covered by the CAC.

Commissioner Yetter noted that he is meeting with a group of TC Funeral Directors this afternoon. There has not been an increase in the burial amount since 2015. DSS pays for burials of indigent individuals. An application is taken and then DSS works directly with the funeral homes. He will bring back any proposals to the Committee next month.

5. Resolutions - Legislators approved resolutions to move forward
- Re-Appropriation of Funds and Amend 2025 Budget (CAC)
 - Authorize Contract, Appropriation of Funds and Amend 2025 Budget (SYEP) Summer Youth Employment Funding. This is 100% state funded with no local share. DSS was able to hire 59 kids this year. They work at various places around Tioga County, such as food pantries, schools doing maintenance, and some non-profit agencies to do community work.

Legislator Bunce asked how a non-profit agency could get on the list for next year. Commissioner Yetter noted that any interested agencies will be referred to BOCES to coordinate.

6. Proclamations
- None

Legislator Standinger asked about the proposed Federal cuts to Medicaid and SNAP and if they will affect Tioga County. Commissioner Yetter noted that there are minimal cases on Medicaid that will be impacted by the work rules requirement as many recipients are already fully employed or they will be exempt from the work rules. If MA recertifications are changed from 1 year to 6 months, there will be a huge administrative recert impact. The Federal government wants to reduce the SNAP admin dollars from 100% to 75%. If that happens, the State has made it clear that they will not make up the difference. The counties will have to pay. (Tioga County DSS estimated cost is around \$293,000/year). The Medicaid changes would not be in effect until 2027. The SNAP proposed work rules are households with child under 14 is exempt. Every adult 64 and under will need to comply with the work rules or risk losing their benefits. Work rules require 80 hours a month, which can include community service. He will bring as much information as possible to the Committee as more information is provided.

ADJOURNED:

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 9:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services