

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Health & Human Services

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 8:32 AM.

Present: Mr. Bill Standinger	Chair of the Committee {Arrived 8:38 AM}
Mr. Andrew Aronstam	Legislator
Mr. Ray Bunce	Legislator
Ms. Jo Ellen Rose	Legislator
Ms. Sarah Begeal	Director of Community Services
Ms. Liz Myers	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
Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislative Chair
Ms. Laura Schurter	Chief Accountant – Treasurer's Office
Mr. Paul Stagg	Deputy Treasurer – Treasurer's Office

Legislator Bunce asked for a motion to approve the July 7, 2026 minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Aronstam, seconded by Legislator Rose. Motion Carried

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Financial

- Ms. Sarah Begeal reported that the 2026 budget is tracking as expected. They are continuing to monitor the Court Ordered Criminal Psychiatric line. The line is over budget and to cover June's 2026 invoice, a resolution to transfer money out of Full Time Salary, available due to vacancies, to the Criminal Psych line is presented.
- 2027 Budget – Included in packet. Contact Ms. Begeal with any questions.

2. Old Business

- Criminal Psych – See above
- AOT/EVA – The program manual and budget proposals were approved by OMH.

3. New Business

- Disaster Mental Health – This will be an all staff 2-day training in August. At the completion of the training, staff will be Certified Disaster MH Responders.

4. Personnel

- Debra Janisse, Account Clerk Typist (PT) will be starting 8/10/26
- Matthew McDonald, MH Intern will be starting 8/17/26
- Zainab Sheikh, School-Based Intern will be starting 8/19/26
- Anna Walker, Supervisor Clinical Social Worker will be starting 8/24/26
- Candon Westervelt, School-Based Intern will be starting 9/8/26

5. Resolutions

- Transfer of Funds 2026 Budget Modification (Criminal Psych)
- Funding An Unfunded Position

Legislators approved resolutions to move forward

6. Proclamations

- September – National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Financial

- Mr. Denis McCann reported that the Fee-for-Service Revenues for 2026 are ahead of budget. He expects to see a return to local share at the end of year.
- 2027 Budget – Some highlights are: No Capital Requests, switch out two part-time Dentists to Early Intervention Therapists (OT/PT), consider contractual Dental positions of Hygienist, Assistant and Dentist, support for assisting positions in Legal Support and IT Support, and there are no grant funded positions.
- Under Handicapped Education, the Services Rendered line decreased by \$200,000 and the transportation line was decreased by \$75,000. Revenues for Fees were reduced by \$50,000 due to decreased costs of the program. State Aid was reduced by \$138,625 based on the formula for reimbursement with costs of the program down.
- Under PH Admin, the Software Expense line was increased \$15,000 due to expenses with Credible Minds and Metopio software applications.
- Under Early Intervention, the EI escrow was decreased by \$10,000
- Under Dental Health, Dental Van Fees increased by \$10,000. The Contracting Services line was increased by \$25,000 due to the need for contractual coverage for part-time usage of Dental Hygienist, Dental Assistant, and Dentist.
- Under Child Health & Surveillance, the Contracting Service line was increased by \$10,000 based on the UHS Contract for Communicable Disease.
- Under Environmental Health, the Program Expense line increased by \$10,000 due to the costs of water lab services & Rabies- Post Exposure Prophylaxis.
- Under Weights & Measures, the Part Time salary line was decreased by \$18,702 because the position moved to full time. The Equipment line was increased by \$9,500.
- The total 2027 Budget was decreased by \$141,540. See breakout on last page.

2. Old Business

- None.

3. New Business – Agency Report for July:

- The Communicable Disease team had been working on an increased number of investigations for gastrointestinal illness (including cyclosporiasis), and Salmonella. These investigations are very labor intensive. Tick borne illness continues to trend on the high side. Ms. Vroman noted that she would like an Executive Session after the Committee meeting regarding communicable disease.
- They had the first fully drive-through Rabies Clinic at Hickories Park, and it was a success vaccinating 169 pets!
- PH Director worked with UHS & Care Compass Network to develop their Rural Health Transformation grant proposal for Tioga County.

4. Personnel

- None

5. Resolutions

- Authorize Purchases of Merchandise Advertising
- Amend 2026 Budget and Appropriate Funds (NYS SBHC Foundation)
- Authorization to Contract with New York State Agriculture & Markets for Weights and Measures to purchase Tioga County Fair Board Tickets.
- Amend 2026 Budget & Appropriate Funds (ASAP program)

Legislators approved resolutions to move forward

6. Proclamations

- Immunization Awareness Month (repeat)

SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Financial

- 2026 - Ms. Mickelle Andrews reported that expenses on the Admin. side are tracking under budget. The program side is tracking well except for Foster Care which continues to track over budget.

2. Old Business

None.

3. New Business

- 2027 Budget Presentation – 2027 will be the first year DSS will be required to pay 25% of the SNAP admin budget. This is something DSS never had to pay for before (Federal). In addition, for the fourth quarter of 2027, DSS will be responsible for 15% of the cost of SNAP benefits issued. The percentage will be based on error rates. The DSS 2027 budget comes in at \$920,000 over target. \$622,00 represents the changes to SNAP. Under Payroll, the addition of one Accounting Associate II (+\$37,170) and the headcount will increase by one. Title XX after care services were increased by \$590,000 due to high-cost Foster Care placements. Under the Capital Plan, we will be replacing 4 vehicles (Discussed with Gary Hammond). There was a cut in the WIOA grant funding.
- 5311 Audit Report – Commissioner Myers distributed copies to the Committee. This audit is done every three years. It went very well with no findings or recommendations.
- Career Center Report – The unit has been down an employee due to a leave of absence. Funding is down so the local share was increased to cover.
- Caseloads – See Caseload Summary
During July, Cash Assistance increased 4 cases, with Family Assistance increasing 1 case and Safety Net increasing 4 cases.
MA-Only increased 8 cases
MA-SSI decreased 22 cases
Total Individuals on Medicaid increased 3 to 3,248
SNAP decreased 33 cases
Day Care increased 8 cases

4. Personnel Changes

- Samantha Allen, Accounting Associate II, was hired effective 7/13/26
- Kelly Dean was promoted to Principal Social Welfare Examiner effective 7/25/26
- Alison Wales was hired as Caseworker on 7/27/26 but she will be returning to Dispatch at the Sheriff's office.
- Kealy West, Caseworker, was hired effective 7/27/26

5. Resolutions

- Create and Fill Seasonal Social Welfare Examiner Positions and Seasonal Office Specialist I Positions for the HEAP Program
- Authorize Contact with A New Hope Center

Legislators approved resolutions to move forward

6. Proclamations

- None

ADJOURNED:

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 9:02 AM.

Legislator Standinger motioned to move into Executive Session, seconded by Legislator Anronstam at 9:02 AM.

Executive Session adjourned at 9:07 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services