

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Health & Human Services

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

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. 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

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Financial
 - Mr. Denis McCann reported that August was a large revenue month, receiving over \$1.6 million dollars. Fee-for-Service Revenues for 2026 are ahead of budget. They continue to see savings in the Preschool Services and Transportation lines and the Early Intervention escrow is down.
2. Old Business
 - None.
3. New Business – Agency Report for August:
 - Measles – One confirmed case in Tioga County that required 42 contacts; 20 Tioga residents. They held an impromptu vaccination clinic for unvaccinated individuals. To date 43 adults & children vaccinated with one individual quarantined. PH is continuing with continued education and outreach for the community. Surrounding counties have had 23 confirmed cases of measles. The population with confirmed cases are mostly unvaccinated. Legislator Standinger appreciated the efforts of Public Health to jump into action with the measles outbreak.
 - Tick borne illness continues to trend on the high side. There are two spreadsheets in the packet that show animal bite investigations are high compared to previous years at 227 currently, compared to 237 for all of 2025. 42 individuals have received post-exposure treatment so far this year, compared to 39 for all of 2025. This is likely attributed to education of what to do when exposed for both public and providers. For post exposure county is responsible. The bills for these come later and PH tries to get reduced to the Medicaid rates if there is no insurance. PH will try to cover other areas but may need a resolution to transfer funding by the end of the year to cover. The first shot in the series averages \$3,000-\$20,000. There is a significant amount of follow-up required.

- The application for Project Public Health Ready (accreditation for Public Health Emergency Preparedness) was submitted at the end of August. Expect to be accredited in March. The National Review Team stated their application was one of the best applications ever submitted.

4. Personnel

- Jodi Inderwies, Office Specialist II, new hire effective 8/10/26

5. Resolutions

- Recognition of Rani Kapur-Pado's 26 Years of Dedicated Services to Tioga County Board of Health

Legislators approved resolution to move forward

6. Proclamations

- None

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 exceeding the \$198,000 budgeted. They had been transferring money from unused Salary line but that surplus due to vacancies has been depleted. They are bringing a resolution to transfer money from contingency to cover July's invoice of \$42,284.37.

2. Old Business

- Criminal Psych – see above
- DMH Training – This was completed. Most MH staff are now Certified Disaster Responders.

3. New Business

- AOT (Assisted Outpatient Treatment) Program Update – They are looking at 2014-2025 cases. Currently monitoring 6 clients.

4. Personnel

- Riley Lenetsky, Clinical Social Worker starting 9/21/26
- Brean Schaffer, promotion to Sr. Clinical Social Worker – transferring to the CAC effective 9/8/26
- Janeille Williams, Supervising Clinical Social Worker resigned effective 9/29/26.

5. Resolutions

- Create One (1) Full-Time AOT Coordinator Position (100% State Aid Funding)
- Resolution to Change the Composition of the Community Services Board from Fifteen (15) to Nine (9) Members
- Amend 2026 Budget Contingency Transfer Request (Criminal Psych)

Legislators approved resolutions to move forward

6. Proclamations

- None

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the August 4, 2026 minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Bunce, seconded by Legislator Anronstam. Motion Carried

SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Financial

- 2026 – Commissioner Myers reported that there is some payroll savings. Foster Care continues to run over budget by \$600,000. Will bring a resolution next month to move funds from the Admin line to cover FC expenses. EAA has an unexpected payment – will bring a resolution next month to cover the overage. The Detention allocation for 2027 was raised by \$26,000-\$27,000.

2. Old Business

- Stone Building – The estimate of \$1.2 million dollars has come in to make the building useable.
- Career Center – Commissioner Myers asked Jackie Burdick to outline the value of the Career Center.

3. New Business

- CAC Funding – Was awarded another increase award of \$259,000. Other counties had their funding cut. Commissioner Myers is looking to add a Senior Caseworker to conduct forensic interviews and an additional advocate at the CAC to have three advocates at the CAC.
- Foster Care Numbers – There were 5 new placements in August. We have 8 children in residential placement. One child has specialized placement that is currently \$1,000/day.
- Caseloads – See Caseload Summary
During August, Cash Assistance decreased 3 cases, with Family Assistance increasing 1 case and Safety Net decreasing 4 cases.
MA-Only decreased 20 cases
MA-SSI increased 4 cases
Total Individuals on Medicaid decreased 20 to 3,228
SNAP increased 4 cases
Day Care remained flat

4. Personnel Changes

- Lorine Heveland was promoted to Social Welfare Examiner effective 8/8/26
- Joy MacNaughton was reinstated to Case Supervisor Grade B effective 8/22/26
- Amber Johnson was reinstated to Caseworker effective 8/22/26

5. Resolutions

- Appropriation of Funds and Amend 2026 Budget
- Appropriation of Code Blue 26-27 Funds and Amend 2026 Budget
- Authorization to Create and Fill One (1) Temporary Part-Time Principal Social Welfare Examiner Position (Assist with Chronic Care cases)
- Recognize Debra A. Goodspeed 22 Years of Dedicated Service

Legislators approved resolutions to move forward

6. Proclamations

- None

Commissioner Myers shared that she recently held a staff picnic where she grilled hot dogs & hamburgers and everyone brought a dish to pass. She presented several Commissioner's Awards of Excellence.

ADJOURNED:

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 8:54 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services