

## **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **Health & Human Services**

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 8:29AM.

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. Marte Sauerbrey	Legislative Chair
Ms. Liz Myers	Deputy Commissioner (DSS)
Ms. Laura Schurter	Accountant
Mr. Peter DeWind	County Attorney {Arrived 8:45 AM}

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the July 8, 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 Fee-For-Service revenue is trending very well despite the vacancies. The 2025 budget is tracking well. No Criminal Psych invoices yet.
- 2026 Budget Highlights:
  - Electronic Health Records contract is up for renewal, no cost yet.
  - No increase to local share other than salary & fringe.
  - Using abatement to cover fringe & salary for position created for Sr. CSW with the DSS CAC. Also, using abatement funds for advertising & recruitment.
  - A&D Budget – add State Aid to pass through to Tioga County Jail (meds)
  - Increased Mental Health Fees to offset salary & fringe for new School-based Therapist.
  - Earlier this year Dr. Bezirgianian retired, and we moved his salary and fringe from County employee budget lines to Contractual budget lines in A4310 Nurse/Doctors through Fairview. Same holds true for 2026 budget.
  - State Aid removed from A4321- will be given directly to state employee by OMH.
  - RSS pass through State Aid to RSS for Warmline, Drop-In Center & Supported Housing

Vacancies: Mr. Jackson Bailey went over vacancies

- Still need 2 p/t clerical positions, may possibly change to 1 f/t position: not getting very many applicants. Due to the Waverly office being closed for 3 years, the clinic had an extra clerical person.
- 1 SW recently submitted resignation

2. Old Business

- Criminal Psych – No invoices have been received. There is someone inpatient but waiting for invoices.

3. New Business

- None

4. Personnel

- None

5. Resolutions - Legislators approved all resolutions to move forward

- None

6. Proclamations

- None

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

1. Financial

- Mr. Denis McCann reported that the 2025 budget is tracking well. Fee-for-Service revenues continue to be up in almost every area.
- 2026 Budget Highlights:
  - PH has slight overall increase (under \$5K) in Expenses; however, there is added Revenue of over \$30K to offset those increases.
  - Security System increased just over \$5K
  - El Escrow has decreased by \$10,000
  - Fee revenue increased in Dental (\$15K) and Environmental Health (\$6K)
  - Rabies Treatments costs have increased as the cases keep increasing; however, the revenues are also increasing
  - Pre-School savings as a result of less kids in program, so services (\$200K) and transportation (\$100K) have been reduced. These have related revenue which decreases based on formula (less expense results in less reimbursement) resulting in a net savings of nearly \$90K.
  - Overall budget comes in @ \$121, 840 under zero-local share requirement.
  - Capital Budget – PH has been working with Gary Hammond on vehicles. 3 cars will be turned over improving overall County fleet and PH will be purchasing 2 new cars. Reducing PH fleet by one vehicle in 2026.

Vacancies: Mr. Jackson Bailey went over vacancies

- Community Health Supervisor – would like to keep that position (Plan to fill by the end of 2025)
- El Services Coordinator – This position is based on the number of children in the program.

- Supervising Public Health Nurse – Currently have a Director of Patient Services but may return to this model.
- 2 Part-Time Dentists – Always have need of an extra dentist. Ongoing recruitment continues to be challenging (There is offsetting revenue to cover these positions).

## 2. Old Business

- None

## 3. New Business – Agency Report for July

- The well head program has been restored
- Tickborne illness is on the rise – Cases have doubled since last month. This is a state-wide issue. Continue to push prevention messaging and offer tick kits to public.
- Flood Response in Newark Valley – Clinic set up for tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis vaccines – 8 vaccines were given. Numerous buckets of cleaning supplies were distributed in Newark Valley & Willseyville. The people were very appreciative. The Emergency Preparedness Coordinator was involved in the planning. There were also staff members at the Newark Valley fire hall the night of the flood assisting community members with going to a shelter.

## 4. Personnel

- Rachael Baker, Early Intervention Service Coordinator, resigned effective 7/22/25

## 5. Resolutions

- None

## 6. Proclamations

- Immunization Awareness Month

# **SOCIAL SERVICES**

## 1. Financial

- Ms. Mickelle Andrews reported that the administrative side of the 2025 budget is tracking under budget due to payroll (vacancies). Foster Care continues to run over budget.
- 2026 Budget Highlights
  - Local share increase of \$400,000
  - Positions – add Sr. Social Welfare Examiner, upgrade p/t CSW to f/t, there is savings to the p/t line after a retirement. CAC has increased funding – will add an Office Specialist II.
  - 3.5% increase in contracts line
  - JD decreased by \$78,562
  - State training decreased by \$210,500
  - Family Assistance decreased by \$110,000
  - Foster Care line increased \$565,894 – FC Block Grant funding is unknown at this time. Recruitment for Foster Parents continues to be a challenge. Most want to adopt young children already cleared for adoption, not fostering
  - Capital – Purchasing 1 vehicle in 2026

Vacancies: Mr. Jackson Bailey went over vacancies

- Part-Time Youth Bureau Director (This can come off budget) This is being done by the Director of Employment & Transitional Supports

2. Old Business

- None

3. New Business

- Caseloads – See Caseload Summary  
During July, Cash Assistance decreased 11 cases, with Family Assistance decreasing 5 cases and Safety Net decreasing 6 cases.  
MA-Only decreased 14 cases  
MA-SSI decreased 11 cases  
Total Individuals on Medicaid decreased 52 to 3,428  
SNAP decreased 29 cases  
Day Care increased 5 cases
- Tioga Career Center report is attached. The unemployment numbers continue to run below State & Federal levels. Some job fairs are coming up.

4. Personnel Changes

- Caitlin Scanlon, Accounting Associate II, removed effective 7/18/25
- Cassandra Forrest, Office Specialist II, resigned effective 7/25/25
- Brett Bright, promoted to Social Services Investigator (Fraud), effective 7/28/25

5. Resolutions - Legislators approved resolutions to move forward

- Authorize Replacement of the Mail System at DSS
- Create & Fill Seasonal Social Welfare Examiner Positions and Seasonal Office Specialist I Positions for the HEAP Program
- Appoint new Youth Board Member Term (Application attached)
- Reimbursement Rates for Funeral Home. (Historically, rates increase every ten years)

Legislator Standinger asked about the response to the Newark Valley flooding from DSS. Commissioner Yetter noted that DSS staff met with each family (12) the next morning to explain services that are available, but the resident's declined assistance.

Legislator Bunce asked if food insecurity is a problem in Tioga County. Commissioner Yetter responded that SNAP provides several million dollars into the community. DSS also works with the food pantries. The Southern Tier Food Bank distributes food to Tioga Opportunities, Inc. who then pass it onto the food pantries. Catholic Charities received funding for a mobile food distribution vehicle with scheduled days throughout the community. Tioga Downs also donates food to Catholic Charities. The Veteran's Office comes with a truck to offer food to veteran's families. There are several free meals a week provided through various churches. Schools also have a free meal program.

6. Proclamations

- None

**ADJOURNED:**

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gail V. Perdue*

Executive Secretary, Social Services