

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Health & Human Services

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 8:30 AM.

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| Present: Mr. Bill Standinger | Chair of the Committee |
| Ms. Jo Ellen Rose | Legislator |
| Mr. Andrew Aronstam | Legislator |
| Mr. Ray Bunce | Legislator |
| Ms. Sarah Begeal | Interim Director of Community Services |
| Mr. Chris Korba | Director of Administrative Services (MH) |
| 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) |
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| Guests: Mr. Jackson Bailey | County Administrator |
| Mr. Tracy Monell | Chair of the Legislature |
| Ms. Cathy Haskell | Legislative Clerk |
| Mr. Peter DeWind | County Attorney {Arrived 8:35 AM} |

Introductions were made around the table.

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the January 6, 2026 minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Bunce. Seconded by Legislator Standinger. Motion Carried

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Financial

- Mr. Chris Korba reported that changes are still being made to the 2025 budget. Some Fee for Services funds received in January and February that have 2025 dates of service will go back to 2025. Abatement funding of \$89,000 will move back to reserve account. \$20,000 of the Abatement funding was allocated to the Sheriff's Dept. for medication budget overruns, with any unused amounts also going back to a reserve account. Projections show a return to local share. The 2026 budget is tracking well.

2. Old Business

- Criminal Psych – Patient has not been discharged as far as MH knows. MH has received invoices through December. Resolution to transfer funds from the salary line of \$35,699.91 to cover those invoices. MH budgeted \$198,000 for this service in 2026.

3. New Business

- Federal Impact – None so far. Stop Back Grant was suspended for one day but has been restored.
- AOT/EVA – State Aid. Will begin using voluntary agreements to enhance services.

- Contract Request – Would like to set up a contract with Liberty University for interns. Three previous students are now employed by TCMH. Legislators agreed that MH can pursue this contract.
4. Personnel
 - Preston Gorski (Intern) Completed internship December 2025
 - Steven Carter, Certified Peer Specialist, not retained as of 2/9/26
 5. Resolutions - Legislators approved resolutions to move forward
 - Authorize Contract for Professional Service – Consulting Amend Budget & Appropriate Funds
 - Transfer of Funds 2025 Budget Modification (Criminal Psych)
 - Transfer Reserve Funds to Purchase Copier for Mental Hygiene
 - Authorize Position Reclassification
 6. Proclamations
 - None

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Financial
 - Mr. Denis McCann reported that adjustments are still being made to the 2025 budget. He is confident there will be a sizable return of local share, due to combined expense savings and additional revenues. He reported that these areas were adjusted per these trends during the 2026 budget submittal.
2. Old Business
 - None
3. New Business – Agency Report for January:
 - Submitted the 2025-2030 Tioga County Community Health Assessment to New York State. Work on the improvement plan will begin.
 - Respiratory illness has decreased as far as flu cases, but RSV cases are increasing.
 - The CDC recently published changes to the childhood vaccine schedule. However, New York State is maintaining current recommendations and will not be implementing any changes. PH is communicating this information with Tioga County school districts.
 - Stay Interviews were conducted with all 30 Public Health staff. There were 9 questions asked and overall, the results were positive. This information will be used for recruitment and retention.
 - The ASAP Coalition is requesting to start a TikTok account. Mr. Bailey and Mr. Clark have reviewed the request. Committee approved this request as long as it's reviewed by Mr. Peter DeWind.
 - Viewed a commercial that will air on local channels during the Super Bowl.
4. Personnel
 - None

5. Resolutions- Legislators approved resolutions to move forward
 - Amend 2026 Budget and Appropriate Funds (Performance Incentive)
 - Abolish One (1) Full-Time Funded Early Intervention Services Coordinator, Reclassify One (1) PT Director of Weights & Measures 1 Position to One (1) Full-Time Director of Weights & Measures 1
6. Proclamations
 - Children's Dental Health Month (New)

SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Financial
 - Ms. Mickelle Andrews reported that there are still adjustments/accruals being made on the 2025 Budget. All programs are at or below except for Foster Care. There was an extra bill for \$50,000 that was received. Foster Care early trends for 2026 show we will be over budget and will continue to monitor. There are currently 51 children in Foster Care. Some of the residential placements are \$20,000- \$30,000 a month. There are currently no Raise the Age children in Tioga County. Under the Raise the Age policy, children over 16 years old are no longer considered adults.
2. Old Business
 - None
3. New Business
 - Caseloads – See Caseload Summary
During January, Cash Assistance increased 7 cases, with Family Assistance increasing 6 cases and Safety Net increasing 1 case.
MA-Only decreased 63 cases
MA-SSI decreased 3 cases
Total Individuals on Medicaid decreased 67 to 3,397
SNAP increased 49 cases
Day Care increased 7 cases
 - Tioga Career Center report is attached. There are some “roll-over” funds that are being reviewed to address specific funding challenges.
 - A flyer promoting the new food truck, Tioga F.R.E.S.H was attached. The truck will be providing meals for anyone who needs one. It will be parked at Tioga Catholic Charities in Nichols and will travel throughout the county. Commissioner Myers is hoping to have HHS be a monthly stop.
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 - Stone House/Building – Commissioner Myers shared that Economic Development & Planning is looking into the building possibly being renovated. ED&P will take the engineers through the building to determine if it can be renovated and used. Commissioner Myers would like to bring the CAC back to HHS if possible.
 - Commissioner Myers noted that the Feds are withholding some program funds. This is currently in the NYS court system to prevent the withholding of funds. She will be compiling a Federal Impact Report and will share with the Legislature.

4. Personnel Changes

- Sarah Moore was promoted to Director of Social Services effective 1/10/26
- Brett Bright was promoted to Social Services Employment Specialist effective 1/24/26
- Brandy Lunn was promoted to Senior Social Welfare Examiner effective 1/24/26

5. Resolutions - Legislators approved resolutions to move forward

- Authorize Grant Application (VOCA)
- Execute Lease Extension with C&M Real Estate Holdings, LLC for CAC
- Authorize Appointment of Deputy Commissioner of Social Services (SM)

The recent DSS Employee of the Quarter was Lori Heveland.

Commissioner Myers asked for permission to bring a resolution regarding copier purchases for DSS to the Legislative Work Session. Committee approved. Ms. Andrews will be there to present.

6. Proclamations

- None

ADJOURNED:

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 9:04 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services