

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Health & Human Services**

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 8:29 AM.

|                            |                                           |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Present: Mr. Bill Standing | Chair of the Committee                    |
| Mr. Andrew Aronstam        | Legislator                                |
| Mr. Ray Bunce              | Legislator                                |
| Ms. Jo Ellen Rose          | Legislator                                |
| Ms. Sarah Begeal           | 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)  |

|                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Guests: Mr. Jackson Bailey | County Administrator |
| Ms. Cathy Haskell          | Legislative Clerk    |
| Mr. Tracy Monell           | Legislative Chair    |

**MENTAL HYGIENE**

1. Financial

- Mr. Chris Korba reported that the State Aid and Fee for Service Revenue are tracking as expected up to June. As previously discussed, one area of concern is the Court Ordered Criminal Psychiatric line. There is currently one person in court-ordered criminal psychiatric care since last May. It looks like this person was approved for another year. There is not enough money left in that budget line to cover all of the May 2026 invoice. A resolution to transfer money out of Full Time Salary, available due to vacancies, to the Criminal Psych line is presented. Mr. Korba noted that MH may have enough money in their budget due to vacancies to transfer to cover the rest of this year. \$198,000 had originally been budgeted for this service in 2026.

2. Old Business

- Criminal Psych – See above

3. New Business

- Local Service Plan – Ms. Begeal shared that the plan was submitted at the end of June and has not been approved yet.
- 2026 Strategic Plan Update – Most goals are either completed or are on-going. Certain positions such as Peer Specialist are more challenging to fill than others. There has been some success with offering incentives such as remote work, and continuing education training that offers CEUs. An electronic version of the Resource Guide has been added to the MH County website. Ms. Rose asked if we are using text messages as an option for crisis calls to accommodate younger individuals. Ms. Begeal explained that the 988 hotline has texting available. TCMH is connected with 988.

- Remote Work – A list was provided in the MH packet.
  - IT/Security – Executive Session will be done at the end of HHS Committee meeting.
4. Personnel
    - Carissa Singer, Accounting Associate II resignation retracted
    - Amber Swawola, CSW resigned 6/22/26
  5. Resolutions
    - Transfer of Funds 2026 Budget Modification (Criminal Psych)
    - Resolution appointing New Member to Community Services Board (From RSS)Legislators approved resolutions to move forward
  6. Proclamations
    - None

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

1. Financial
  - Mr. Denis McCann reported that the Fee-for-Service Revenues for 2026 are on track. State Aid is also tracking well. There are no surprises. He expects to see a return to local share at the end of year.
2. Old Business
  - Work from Home Update – Ms. Vroman reported that 27 out of 31 staff members are approved for flexible days. It has been going very well. Employees have electronic logs they turn in to their supervisor. Ms. Vroman feels this is a great benefit and thanked the Legislature for extending this pilot program.
  - Strategic Plan Update – The goals/milestones have been complete for at least six months. They are developing a new strategic plan (timeline included) and it includes surveys from stakeholders. They will be conducting a training needs assessment for staff coming up next, with the plan to be completed in December.
3. New Business – Agency Report for June:
  - Tick-borne illnesses continue to increase with anaplasmosis being a major test that comes back positive. There is no “bullseye” rash with this tick-borne illness. There has been a slight increase in gastrointestinal illness as well.
  - The Community Health Improvement Plan is complete and submitted to NYSDOH. Interventions that PH will be working on over the next five years were selected by NYS Prevention Agenda and Steering Committee.
  - There is funding available to Tioga County up to \$500,000 for Rural Health Transformation. Current plan is that UHS will be submitting an application to support Tioga County initiatives.
  - TCPH is working on a Quality Improvement project to look at their food course. Ms. Vroman noted that a food permit is required where food is being given to the public, i.e. any restaurants, food trucks, special events, catering, BBQs, and concessions in Tioga County. This is a NYS law. This is necessary to track food safety and handling, to prevent widespread foodborne outbreaks. Fund raising agencies/events are not charged for the permit. Legislator Bunce inquired if there is proper compliance. Ms. Vroman stated that compliance is good and that Environmental Health works with vendors to build a rapport and provide education,

rather than be punitive. If there is a violation during an investigation, EH will educate the workers. The owner/operator must correct the issue, and must pay any fees associated with the violation, or has the option to have an Administrative Hearing. PH goal is not to bring in revenue from these permits or violations but to keep the community safe.

4. Personnel

- None

5. Resolutions

- Amend Budget and Appropriate Funds (MH & PH))
- Amend 2026 Budget and Appropriate Funds (NYS SBHC Foundation)
- Authorization to Contract with Allison Haslund for Preschool Special Education Services.

Legislators approved resolutions to move forward

6. Proclamations

- None

### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

1. Financial

- 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

- Stone House – Commissioner Myers shared that the architect has provided the documents needed to determine the cost of remodeling the space.

3. New Business

- Remote Work – 15 total employees are approved for remote work. Seven of those are on an as needed basis. Eight use it regularly. Work logs are submitted to supervisor. Commissioner Myers thanked the Legislature for this program as it has helped with recruiting & retention.
- Strategic Plan – Most are completed or are on-going. Under transportation needs, we continue to work with Mobility Management through Rural Health Network. An affordable housing coalition was established and met once. Recruitment and Retention numbers are better this year than last. It will continue to be a goal as well as succession planning. Commissioner Myers continues to conduct “stay interviews” with new employees and will extend it to employees that have been there for three years to better understand why people stay. The needs assessment of mandated training is continuing. Under Community Partnerships, Commissioner Myers expanded her Commissioner’s Advisory Council by including more community partners in her quarterly meetings. They met most recently in June 2026.
- Syracuse University Intern – This a current Caseworker using her employment for her internship. She will be supervised daily by a Grade B Supervisor in Foster Care Preventive. Clinical Supervision is being provided by the MH Clinical Director.

- Damage to County Property – A picnic table was defaced, and Buildings & Grounds had to clean it. Charges were pressed and the person was arrested. Two iPads used by Children's Services staff were accidentally damaged.
- Shared IT Specialist – Commissioner Myers has spoken with Brandon in IT to look into having an IT Specialist housed at HHS who would work with DSS, MH, & PH.
- 2027 Budget – 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. An information sheet was included in the packet.
- Career Center Report – Commissioner Myers reported that TCC has received the funding allocation from the Broome/Tioga WorkForce that was 18% less than previous years. TCC will be looking into regional grants to offset this cut.
- Caseloads – See Caseload Summary  
During June, Cash Assistance decreased 2 cases, with Family Assistance increasing 2 cases and Safety Net decreasing 4 cases.  
MA-Only decreased 13 cases  
MA-SSI decreased 11 cases  
Total Individuals on Medicaid decreased 28 to 3,245  
SNAP decreased 24 cases  
Day Care decreased 10 cases

#### 4. Personnel Changes

- Rebekah Richter, Caseworker resigned effective 6/5/26
- Kristi White, Social Welfare Examiner resigned effective 6/25/26

#### 5. Resolutions -

- Approve BOCES Contract, Appropriate Summer Youth Employment Funds and Amend 2026 Budget.
- There may be a workforce contract resolution that will go to the Worksession if needed

Legislators approved resolution to move forward

#### 6. Proclamations

- None

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the June 2, 2026 minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Bunce, seconded by Legislator Aronstam. Motion Carried

Legislator Standinger made a motion to move into Executive Session for IT/Security Issue with Mental Hygiene.

### **ADJOURNED:**

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 9:14 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gail V. Perdue*

Executive Secretary, Social Services