

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Health & Human Services

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

Present: Mr. Bill Standinger	Chair of the Committee
Ms. Jo Ellen Rose	Legislator
Mr. Andrew Aronstam	Legislator
Mr. Ray Bunce	Legislator
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
Mr. Tracy Monell	Chair of the Legislature
Ms. Cathy Haskell	Legislative Clerk

Motion by Legislator Bunce, seconded by Legislator Aronstam at 8:25 AM to discuss employment of a particular person.

Legislator Standinger motioned to adjourn Executive Session, seconded by Legislator Aronstam at 8:27 AM

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Financial

- Mr. Chris Korba reported that the 2025 budget has been closed. MH will have a return to local share of \$437,000. Revenue of \$93,810 was received since last meeting for opioid settlement funds that will stay in the 2025 budget.
- The 2026 budget is tracking well except for the Criminal Psychiatric line. There is currently one person in court-ordered criminal psychiatric care since last May. The person is due to have a review at the end of April. \$198,000 has been budgeted for this service in 2026.

2. Old Business

- Criminal Psych – See above

3. New Business

- Mental Health Awareness – MH would like to light up the courthouse with green lighting for the month of May. Legislators approved this request.

4. Personnel

- Lorrie Woloszyn, LMSW started 4/1/26 (Jail)
- Joanna Shawley, PT Account Clerk Typist started 4/6/26
- Kirsten VanSlyke, LMSW starting 5/18/26

5. Resolutions - Legislators approved resolutions to move forward
 - Appropriation of Funds Budget Modification 2026 (Veteran's Services)
 - Appropriation of Funds Budget Modification 2026 (Catholic Charities)
 - Appropriation of Funds Budget Modification 2026 (RSS)
 - Appropriation of Funds Budget Modification 2026 (AspireHopeNY, Inc.)
 - Appropriation of Funds Budget Modification 2026 (TST BOCES/Trinity)
 - Deferred Revenue Appropriation of Funds Budget Modification 2026 (Mobile Crisis)
 - Authorize Contract with Park Outdoor Advertising of New York, Inc. (Mobile Crisis)
6. Proclamations
 - May - Mental Health Awareness Month & Mental Health Awareness Week (repeat)

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Financial
 - Mr. Denis McCann reported that 2025 had a combination of end-of-year revenues higher than expected and several large program expenses lower than expected led to the return of local share of \$1.1 Million. Included in this are Juul settlement funds being recorded in the year received while the funds to expend carry forward into future years. Mr. McCann also noted that the Preschool program represented more than \$400,000 of this return and reminded that this program decreased significant costs in the 2026 budget process based upon identification of this trend.
 - 2026 continues the receiving of strong levels of Fee revenues. Preschool is realizing additional children in the program and is on track with the budget.
2. Old Business
 - None
3. New Business – Agency Report for March:
 - As this is Public Health Week, PH will be recognizing their employees today with a luncheon where they will present four awards. There will be a press release later this week. (This is all funded through the infrastructure grant). Respiratory illness has decreased 26% in the last month. Tick-borne illnesses continue to increase with an uptick in hospitalizations.
4. Personnel
 - Jenniferr Lazarou, P/T Speech-Language Pathologist, new hire effective 3/11/26
 - Tristin Reigelman, Director of Weights & Measures, new hire effective 3/23/26
5. Resolutions- Legislators approved resolution to move forward
 - 2026 Staffing Changes (was approved in 2026 budget process)
6. Proclamations
 - None

SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Financial

- Ms. Mickelle Andrews reported that DSS will have a \$900,000 return to local share for 2025. Most of the savings were from the Administrative line (payroll) and \$300,000 as the result of a claims adjustment from 2024. In the 2026 budget, Foster Care has remained high while the rest of the program areas are tracking well.

2. Old Business

- None

3. New Business

- Caseloads – See Caseload Summary
During March, Cash Assistance decreased 9 cases, with Family Assistance remaining flat and Safety Net decreasing 9 cases.
MA-Only decreased 12 cases
MA-SSI decreased 1 case
Total Individuals on Medicaid decreased 17 to 3,344
SNAP decreased 11 cases
Day Care decreased 2 cases
- Cost Avoidance Letter – FEDS Program was included in the packet. DSS investigators were commended for savings in excess of \$600,000 in 2025. Most cases are not intentional fraud. Some are just missing documentation.
- Discharged Foster Children – A picture of the adoption of a sibling group of 3 court hearing was included in the packet. There are some upcoming adoptions & two residential foster children were discharged last month.
- County Vehicles – There have been some damages (dents & scratches) found that were not reported. DSS is educating staff on making sure they are reporting any damage when they happen. There will be weekly inspections starting with follow-up with who had the vehicle last. County Administrator Bailey noted that the insurance won't cover damages if they have not been reported timely.
- Spencer Big M – Skimming Incident – A skimming device was found on a card reader at the Spencer Big M. Around 25-30 SNAP clients had their benefits stolen when they swiped their EBT cards. It also affected some debit & credit card transactions. The Fraud unit has been working with the affected clients. SNAP benefits cannot be replaced. Cash benefits are eligible for replacement. Law enforcement is involved as well as other counties were notified.
- Tioga Career Center report is attached.
- Remote Work – There are 11 staff members approved: 4 work remotely on a regular basis and 7 on occasion.

4. Personnel Changes

- Tiffany Albright was hired as Office Specialist II effective 3/9/26
- Ethan Barry was hired as Caseworker effective 3/9/26
- Amber Johnson was promoted to Grade B Supervisor effective 3/9/26
- Heather Strohl was hired as Social Welfare Examiner effective 3/23/26

5. Resolutions - Legislators approved resolutions to move forward
 - Amend Resolution Nho. 50-26; Appropriation of Funds and Amend 2026 Budget
 - Appropriation of FSP Funds and Amend 2026 Budget
6. Proclamations
 - Child Abuse Prevention Month (repeat)

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve March 3, 2026 minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Aronstam, seconded by Legislator Rose. Motion Carried

Legislator Rose asked a question regarding how important the SNAP outreach is being done by Catholic Charities. Commissioner Myers noted that the SNAP funds for outreach have been cut. People can apply online. Commissioner Myers will check with Renee Spear at Catholic Charities to determine the volume of applications received.

ADJOURNED:

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 9:03 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services