LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Health & Human Services

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at 8:30AM.

Present:	Mr. Bill Standinger	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
	Ms. Liz Myers	Commissioner of Social Services
	Ms. Mickelle Andrews	Director of Administrative 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

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the September 8, 2026 minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Bunce, seconded by Legislator Rose. Motion Carried.

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Financial
   - Mr. Chris Korba reported that the 2026 Fee-for-Service revenue is tracking well, despite the staff vacancies. Expenses are tracking as expected except for the Court Ordered Criminal Psychiatric line. They are bringing a resolution to transfer money from contingency to cover August through December 2026.

2. Old Business
   - Criminal Psych – The person currently in Court Ordered Criminal Psych care is expected to be receiving services through April 2027. There was another exam completed and the person was determined to be incompetent so there may be another person placed in Criminal Psych care.

3. New Business
   - Remote Work Update – MH has twelve approved users. Nine of those were remote during the 3rd quarter.

4. Personnel
   - Matthew McDonald, Intern withdrew from internship effective 9/16/26
   - Emily Parsons, Clinical Social Worker started 10/5/26

5. Resolutions
   - Amend 2026 Budget Contingency Transfer Request (Criminal Psych)
   - Authorize One (1) Position Reclassification

Legislators approved resolutions to move forward

Mr. Korba noted they may have a late file resolution regarding AOT State Aid Funding. They are waiting on the quote for the vehicle.

6. Proclamations
   - None

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Financial
   - Mr. Denis McCann reported that Public Health revenue is going very well. The Expenses are also tracking well. They continue to see savings in the Preschool Services, Dental & Early Intervention budgets. He expects to have a return to local share at year end.

2. Old Business
   - Remote Work Update – Ms. Vroman noted that there are 26 out of 32 staff members approved for remote work and all is going well. She thanked the Legislature for allowing this policy to continue.

3. New Business – Agency Report for September:
   - Measles – The Governor's office has declared a State of Emergency due to the measles outbreak. It will allow Public Health nurses to have more flexibility with ordering testing. There has been one confirmed case in Tioga County with four other suspect cases. To date 61 adults & children have been vaccinated related to the Measles Outbreak. Not all healthcare systems have a "Measles Response Plan", so PH staff are continuing to work with providers, which is time consuming; as Tioga is served by five hospitals. Measles is very contagious and can live on surfaces for up to two hours. Ms. Vroman noted that Tioga County has an 80% vaccination rate among two-year-olds for the Measles vaccine.
   - Respiratory (flu) season has begun. There are 45 confirmed cases of flu in Tioga County. The trend is one month earlier than last year. Initially, flu was more prevalent in the 19 years of age & younger group. It has now spread to the 70 and older population. Public Health has been partnering with Tioga Opportunities and Rural Ministries to provide flu clinics.
   - Tick borne illness has started to decrease; plus, testing rates have also decreased dramatically.
   - The lactation education program continues to go well. There are 24 people enrolled. PH is in early planning stages of starting a Breastfeeding Coalition and reaching out to partners to gauge interest.

- October is Lead Poisoning Prevention Month. Lead poisoning can be deferential to children. Providers are mandated to test for lead at age one and two. PH manages children with elevated lead levels and the homes; often working with landlords and Code Enforcement. There are 17 children in the current caseload. PH provides resources for families and remediation processes to help the child and home to be safe.

4. Personnel
   - None

5. Resolutions
   - Amend Budget & Appropriate Funds (DFC)
   - Amend Resolution Nos. 224-25 and 49-24; Authorize Purchases Outside County Policies
   - Authorize Execution of Agreement with Liberty Dental Plan of New York, Inc. for Tioga Smiles Dental Program
   - Reappoint Member to the Tioga County Board of Health (T. Leary)
   - Approve Single Source Purchase of Tioga Theater Tickets

Legislators approved resolutions to move forward

6. Proclamations
   - Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (repeat)

SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Financial
   - 2026 – Ms. Mickelle Andrews reported that there is some payroll savings. Foster Care continues to run over budget. EAA (Emergency Adult Assistance) and Title XX are running high. Will bring a resolution next month to move funds from the Administration line to cover FC expenses.
   - Legislator Bunce inquired about the Code Blue program. Commissioner Myers explained that new processes and procedures are being created. The allocation is $6,000. Code Blue is in effect whenever the temperature goes below 32 degrees or with a wind chill of under 32 degrees, DSS is required to provide assistance and house them. There are current agreements with the Deep Well & Sunrise motel. The Comfort Inn in Apalachin was added. DSS is trying to develop more resources but it's difficult when surrounding counties end up using the motels in Tioga County. Commissioner Myers will bring more information to the November meeting.

2. Old Business
   - Remote Work Update – There are 12 employees that are approved for remote work, and one person has been suspended for 90 days. Mr. Jackson Bailey needs to be informed of any suspensions or terminations.

3. New Business
   - Career Center Report – Out of 20 DSS clients receiving intensive career readiness assistance this month, 2 individuals have already secured work. There will be an upcoming Unemployment Insurance State System shutdown starting November 2 and lasting 9-12 days. TCC has been preparing current and future UI benefits recipients to understand how the transition will impact their payment timelines and claims processing.
   - Upcoming Medicaid Changes – Starting January 2027, the State will continue to take over Medicaid. Medicaid will now have work requirements for recipients, but not the same as the work requirements for SNAP. Medicaid clients will be directed to contact the State with any MA questions.
   - CAC Funding – Still waiting on the Comptroller to approve funding.
   - Caseloads – See Caseload Summary
     During September, Cash Assistance decreased 7 cases, with Family Assistance decreasing 6 cases and Safety Net decreasing 1 case.
     MA-Only decreased 12 cases
     MA-SSI decreased 3 cases
     Total Individuals on Medicaid decreased 16 to 3,212
     SNAP increased 27 cases
     Day Care increased 3 cases

4. Personnel Changes
   - Victoria Macbeth was hired as a Caseworker effective 9/8/26
   - Ashley Lavore was hired as Social Services Investigator effective 9/21/26
   - Debra Goodspeed retired from Principal Social Welfare Examiner effective 9/30/26

5. Resolutions
   - Amend Resolution No. 359-26; Authorize Contract with A New Hope Center
   - Authorize Contract with Multiple Foster Care Agencies
   - Amend 2026 Budget
   - Approve Funding 2027 Youth Bureau Program Funding
   - Authorize Tioga County Department of Social Services to Solicit & Accept Donations in Excess of $1,000
   - Authorize Out-Of-Title Pay

Legislators approved resolutions to move forward

6. Proclamations
   - None

ADJOURNED:

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 9:02 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue
Executive Secretary, Social Services