

**ONEIDA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2026**

Members Present: Mr. Robb Jensen, Chairperson, Mr. Dan Hess, Mr. Ted Cushing, Mr. Jim Winkler, Ms. Mary Roth Burns, Ms. Angie Koch and Ms. Miranda Gavrilesco (via Zoom)

Members Excused: Ms. Debbie Condado and Ms. Tiffany Rohan

Staff: Ms. Beth Hoerchler, Ms. Carrie Mikalauski, Ms. Heidi Chavez and Mr. Matthew Young

1. **Call to Order. Approval of Agenda:** The regular meeting of the Oneida County Human Services Committee was brought to order at 10:02 a.m. by Mr. Robb Jensen, Chairperson; starting with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chairperson noted that the meeting had been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws. Motion made by Mr. Dan Hess, seconded by Mr. Jim Winkler to approve the agenda as posted. All ayes; motion carried.
2. **Vice Chair Selection:** Mr. Robb Jensen opened the nominations and nominated Mr. Ted Cushing to be Vice Chair of the Human Service Committee. Mr. Dan Hess seconded the nomination. No other nominations were submitted; therefore, nominations were closed. Motion made by Mr. Robb Jensen, seconded by Mr. Dan Hess to approve the nomination. All ayes; motion carried.
3. **Minutes of May 18, 2026 Human Services Committee Meeting** It was mentioned that there was a Scribner's error on the agenda indicating that the minutes being approved listed the wrong date. Motion made by Mr. Ted Cushing to approve the May 18, 2026 meeting minutes that were included in the packet, seconded by Mr. Robb Jensen. All ayes; motion carried.
4. **Public Comment:** None.

Mr. Robb Jensen made a motion to move down in the agenda to Koinonia, seconded by Mr. Dan Hess, all ayes, motion approved.

Veterans Services:

1. **Veteran's Service Officer Report:** It was noted by Mr. Robb Jensen that the VSO Report was received. Mr. Matthew Young indicated that he has passed his certification and is just waiting for the certificate from the VA. Sam has officially been selected as the full time Assistant VSO, which will leave the part-time LTE position open. The County Clerk's Office is helping in the office one day a week. Mr. Matthew Young indicated that his office did 135

more calls last month than last year and 100 new files since March. Memorial Day services went well.

2. **2026 Financial & Statistical Reports, Department Head Expense Voucher and Vender Payment Report:** It was noted by Mr. Robb Jensen that the Financial Reports were received. Mr. Matthew Young indicated that there was an entering error on the reports, but that has been fixed with the Finance Department.

Human Services:

1. **2027 Budget:** Ms. Heidi Chavez here to discuss items regarding the 2027 budget.

- a. **Decision Items:** Items Ms. Heidi Chavez needs a decision on is in regards to the \$15,000 of County tax levy we budget every year for Tri-County Council on Domestic Violence. This is not a mandated service.

Second is Supportive Home Care program, which is a mandated service; however, there is no specific dollar amount required for that program. Each year, Ms. Heidi Chavez looks at how much we are spending in that program. The budgeted amount was reduced by \$5,000 for the 2024 budget. Estimated spending is \$20,473.31 in 2026 based on current authorized funding. We would like to reduce the budget another \$5,000 for 2027 due to our current spending of the funding to assist vulnerable adults that do not meet criteria for other program funding with one-time or short-term costs during times of need.

The third program is the Juvenile, Children and Family, which is not mandated, however we do get state funding for this program and the state does require match. Non-County tax levy varies year to year depending on the grants and State budget. In order to align with actual expenditures based on a three-year average and to provide the match for additional state allocations we are requesting to increase county tax levy by \$10,380 from the 2026 budget.

The last program is the Crisis Respite Child Care program. These services are mandated, but no specific dollar amount is required. Based on a three-year average of funding and the increase of tax levy in Juvenile/Children & Families programs, we are reducing the county tax levy by \$500.00. We reduced the amount of tax levy by \$350.00 for 2026 budget as well.

Committee is good with including these programs on the 2027 budget.

- b. **Out of Home Placements:** Provided a chart with Out of Home Care (OHC) costs for past 10 years. When looking at the number of placements, the number of placements haven't really changed. The costs continue to go up, however. Ms. Heidi Chavez would like to know how to budget OHC placements going forward as the costs continue

to go up. Mr. Ted Cushing stated to budget realistically. Mr. Hess stated it should be a three-year average starting with year 2024 instead and then budget realistically. Mr. Robb Jensen will forward this number to the Executive Committee Chair. Mr. Robb Jensen asked what we are doing as a county to reduce OHC placements/costs. Ms. Beth Hoerchler indicated that less children are in Residential Care Centers (RCC). Two children will age out of the program, but we are probably going to have one more child going in. We definitely need more foster homes in our area. Mr. Robb Jensen asked if there has been any research in other counties that recruit foster homes well. Ms. Beth Hoerchler indicated there is a state shortage of foster homes and that manager, Ms. Rachel Nelson, does meet with other regional managers regarding the foster care program.

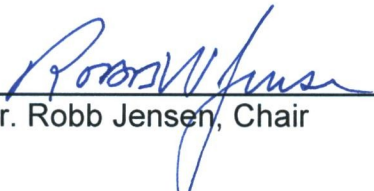
2. **Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) Plan 2026/2027:** This program has been administered in house for many years. The department would like to move the supervision of this program out of the Economic Support unit to the Financial Services unit due to all of the policy changes, economy and consortium turn over. The department would like to hire two LTE employees for the fuel program, which starts October 1, 2026. A separate request will be made for the 2027 LTE positions. This is not in the current budget, however this is 100% covered by the Department of Administration, Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources and would have no cost to the county tax levy. Mr. Dan Hess made the motion to approve the hiring of two LTE positions at 700 hours each for 2026, at a Grade F category on the LTE wage scale, with a starting wage of \$18.73, which would be a total cost of \$28,774 for both positions in 2026. Ms. Mary Roth Burns seconded the motion. All ayes, motion passed.
3. **Koinonia Services:** Mr. Bruce Decorah, Director, attends to explain the services of Koinonia. Koinonia Residential Treatment Center is a 35-bed residential center for alcohol and drug addiction. Clients must have alcohol as a substance use disorder. Pregnant female are priorities. Must be 18 or older. They contract with 30 counties and all 11 tribes in Wisconsin. They only contract with four commercial insurance companies. The facility is co-ed, three different wings. Two wings are typically male with one wing female due to the population of the clients, but if the female population grows, then the units are flip-flopped. They employ around 15-16 people. Ms. Kari Decorah is the Clinical Director. Open 24/7. Mr. Robb Jensen asked if there have been many changes since the merging of Social Services and the Human Service Center. Mr. Bruce Decorah stated that things have been a lot better since the merge into Oneida County Human Services because in the past, previous owners did not take care of the building. Mr. Robb Jensen asked where the referrals for Oneida County came from? Mr. Bruce Decorah indicated that referrals really could come from anywhere, but mostly from lawyers, social workers, and law enforcement. Mr. Jim Winkler asked what the minimum stay is. Mr. Bruce Decorah stated 30 days is the length of stay, but Koinonia cannot force anyone to stay, as they are not a locked unit. Some people are detained there through court order or third party petitions so if the client is looking to abscond, Koinonia will contact law enforcement and they will detain the client. Ms. Mary Roth Burns asked how many ATR (Access to Recovery) placements were in a month. Mr. Bruce Decorah stated he wouldn't be able to give

an answer. Mr. Robb Jensen asked if Koinonia were full, where someone would have to go to get services. Mr. Bruce Decorah stated that they have never been full as they try to cap at 28 due to staffing reasons, but ultimately he is not sure if the Lac du Flambeau is open to the public or just the tribes. Otherwise, there may be one in the Appleton area and there are some in the Milwaukee area.

4. **Agency Update:** Filled five positions since last month, including one Ongoing Social Worker, two Economic Support Workers that start this week, the CLTS/Birth to Three Manager and one of the Behavioral Health Therapist. The second position for Behavioral Health Therapist is being reposted. Interviews are scheduled for the CLTS Support and Service Coordinator and applications are due today for the Behavioral Health Service Facilitator position.

Events and other Updates for the department include the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program started June 1st; World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is being celebrated on June 18th. The ADRC Committee is seeking a citizen member to join their committee in July. Those applications were due today. There is a boating trip on Boom Lake on June 26th. The Recovery Workers have organized Community Yoga in the Park for the summer on every other Tuesday at 6PM at Pioneer Park. There will be a Recovery Picnic in the Park on July 31st with Let's Go Fishing. Ms. Beth Hoerchler indicated that the recovery events have been really well attended. Ms. Koch stated she saw the Birth to Three Popsicles in the Park and thought that was a genius idea.

5. **2026 Financial & Statistical Reports, Department Head Expense Voucher and Vender Payment Report:** It was noted by Mr. Robb Jensen that the financial reports were received. Primarily the only area that is outside of budget is the Out of Home Care program. Ms. Heidi Chavez indicated that she is available to meet with any committee member that may have questions regarding funding/budget.
6. **Public Comment:** None
7. **Agenda Items for future Meetings:** Usual agenda Items. Discussion on meeting time. Presentations on programs. Members should contact Ms. Beth Hoerchler or Mr. Robb Jensen if they would like something placed on the agenda.
8. **Adjourn:** There being no further business to be brought before the Committee; it was moved by Mr. Robb Jensen to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 a.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Committee will be July 20, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.



Mr. Robb Jensen, Chair



Date: June 15, 2026