ONEIDA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF AUGUST 31, 2026

Members Present: Mr. Robb Jensen, Chairperson, Mr. Dan Hess, Mr. Ted Cushing, Mr. Jim Winkler, Ms. Mary Roth Burns, and Ms. Tiffany Rohan

Members Excused: Ms. Angie Koch, Ms. Miranda Gavrilescu and Ms. Debbie Condado

Staff: Ms. Beth Hoerchler, Ms. Carrie Mikalauski, Ms. Heidi Chavez, Mr. Joel Gottsacker, Mr. Logan Malone (Intern), Mr. Matthew Young and Ms. Tracy Hartman

Others: Ms. Linnaea Newman, Mr. Michael Tautges (via Zoom)

1. **Call to Order. Approval of Agenda:** The regular meeting of the Oneida County Human Services Committee was brought to order at 1:03 p.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. Ted Cushing, seconded by Mr. Jim Winkler to approve the agenda as posted. All ayes; motion carried.

2. **Minutes of July 20, 2026 Human Services Committee Meeting** Motion made by Mr. Dan Hess to approve the July 20, 2026 meeting minutes that were included in the packet, seconded by Mr. Ted Cushing. All ayes; motion carried.

3. **Public Comment:** Mr. Joel Gottsacker introduced Intern Logan Malone. Logan is a Social Work student from UWSP that will be completing his internship with Human Services this semester.

Veterans Services:

1. **Veteran's Service Officer Report:** It was noted by Mr. Robb Jensen that the VSO Report was received. Mr. Matthew Young now has access to the VA System. Ms. Tiffany Kalio just passed her accreditation process. In June, we hit over 500 for walk-ins/calls and has maintained that amount all summer.

   Mr. Robb Jensen noted that we are approaching the 25th anniversary of 9/11.

   The Veterans Service 2027 Budget was not on the agenda so a meeting will occur on Tuesday, Sept 8 at 10:30am to go over the budget.

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.

Human Services:

1. **Netsmart Training:** The request is to approve Ms. Christine Wenninger to go to a National Netsmart Training in Colorado. The cost of the training is in our budget; however, our request is for her to be able to travel out of state. Mr. Robb Jensen made motion to approve Ms. Christine Wenninger to be able to travel out of state for the Netsmart training, Ms. Mary Roth-Burns seconded. All ayes; approved.

2. **Capital Improvement Project – Program Participation System (PPS) Redesign Project:** The State of Wisconsin is updating the PPS system and is requiring us to update our platform in 2027 and go live in 2028. The preliminary estimate from Netsmart is $40,000, but this is a very preliminary estimate and it may go up once the state details the actual system requirements. Mr. Robb Jensen made a motion to approve and forward on to the CIP Committee. Mr. Dan Hess seconded. All ayes, passed.

3. **Opioid Request TAD Grant Match:** Ms. Mary Rideout wrote for this grant. We were pre-approved for $240,000 ($180,000 in state funds and local match of $60,000). Mr. Ted Cushing made motion to approve the match and forward to Executive Committee, seconded by Mr. Jim Winkler. All ayes, passed.

4. **Human Service Department Budget Hearing and Approval:** Ms. Heidi Chavez indicated that there is a summary page that goes over county levy. As a reminder, we brought forward to this meeting and the Executive Committee to ask how to budget the out of home care and was told to use the 3-year average. Increase of $1,579,136 for next year. The primary area that we could decrease would be the Courthouse and ADRC. Salary and Fringe costs increased by $967,167 from what was budgeted in 2026. We did get our Youth Aide funding and it decreased by $44,970 from 2026.

   Other changes, ADRC and Aging group had an increase in rent of $87,963 that was not budgeted in 2026. Previously this was billed through indirect but is now being direct billed to the department. Looked at different ways to reduce costs. One way is, we currently serve meals for Vilas County residents and Vilas doesn't reimburse us for those costs. If we reduce this, we could save approximately $12,750. Also looked at reducing the amount of meals served per week from 4 congregate meals per week to 3 days and providing a frozen meal instead of the extra day of meals. This would save $17,500. We continue to look at our staffing levels. We talked with the ADRC Manager and she felt we could reduce by one full-time position down to a .8FTE position. There is a retirement expected at which time we could reduce this position at that time. This would save about $6,300. We are also looking at combining a couple meal sites into one meal site. This would save $17,000.

   Ms. Mary Roth Burns asked if the money from the sale of Koinonia could go to the Human Service budget. Mr. Robb Jensen indicated that the money from the sale of property typically goes into the General Funds, not a specific department.

Overall, we are at a 4.75% increase for next year, which is about $160,000. Agreed to stop paying for Vilas County residents. Would like to keep 4 meals per week. Agreed to reduce the amount of staff after the retirement. Would like to ask the State regarding combining sites. With these changes, it would reduce our deficit to $141,000.

Discussion regarding the out of home care budget. It was agreed that we should use the 5-year average in the budget instead of the 3-year average. After using this, the total would be just over $1 million more in levy than last year. Mr. Robb Jensen made motion to approve the budget as presented with changes and send to the Executive Committee, seconded by Mr. Ted Cushing. All ayes, motion passed.

5. **SMARSH:** This is a system that backs up the text messages at Timber Drive. We transitioned to Page Free, but the SMARSH account hasn't been closed out. Per Corporation Council, it was indicated that we didn't give the proper notice to close this contract so we have to pay. We have since given proper notice to cancel the contract as of the end of this year. Mr. Ted Cushing made the motion to pay SMARSH $9,186.98, Mr. Dan Hess seconded. All ayes, passed.

6. **Agency Update:** We filled five positions. We are still recruiting for our BH Therapy positions. We have one accepted offer and interviews scheduled for next week. The accounting position is scheduled for interviews tomorrow. We currently have 70 clients on our waiting list for Therapy. Child Support Awareness month proclamation from the Governor is attached in the packet along with flyers for the multiple events occurring this month.

7. **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. School starts tomorrow, which typically makes the increase of referrals.

8. **Public Comment:** Ms. Linnaea Newman indicated that September is Suicide Awareness Month. The library does keep a suicide awareness number there.

9. **Agenda Items for future Meetings:** Usual agenda Items. Members should contact Ms. Beth Hoerchler or Mr. Robb Jensen if they would like something placed on the agenda.

10. **Adjourn:** There being no further business to be brought before the Committee; it was moved by Mr. Robb Jensen to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Committee will be September 8, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Robb Jensen
Mr. Robb Jensen, Chair

August 31, 2026
Date: August 31, 2026