

**ONEIDA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2025**

Members Present: Mr. Robb Jensen, Chairperson, Mr. Dan Hess, Mr. Ted Cushing, Mr. Jim Winkler, Mr. Steven Schreier

Members Excused: Ms. Debbie Condado, Ms. Tiffany Rohan, Ms. Michelle Hartness, Ms. Angie Koch

Staff: Ms. Mary Rideout, Mr. Joel Gottsacker (Zoom), Ms. Beth Hoerchler, Ms. Amber Dickman

1. **Call to Order. Approval of Agenda:** The regular meeting of the Oneida County Human Services Committee was brought to order at 1:00 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 by Mr. Steven Schreier, seconded by Mr. Ted Cushing to approve the agenda as posted. All ayes; motion carried.
2. **Minutes of April 21, 2025 Human Services Committee Meeting** Motion made by Mr. Robb Jensen, seconded by Mr. Ted Cushing to approve the minutes of April 21, 2025. All ayes; motion carried.
3. **Public Comment:** None.

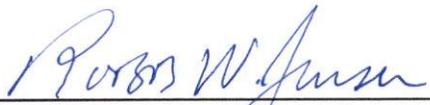
Veterans Services:

1. **2025 Financial & Statistical Reports, Department Head Expense Voucher and Vender Payment Report:** It was noted by Mr. Robb Jensen that the Financial Reports were received.
2. **Veteran's Benefits Expo:** Had to be cancelled due to the dome collapsing. No other facility large enough to hold it.
3. **County/Tribal Veterans Service Officers Spring Conference Debrief:** Was held in Superior. It was a good training. Spoke with the new Director of the Milwaukee VA Regional Office via Teams. Learned about some of the plans for regional office restructuring and how it should have minimal, if any, noticeable effect to Veterans.
4. **Memorial Day Ceremony:** Everything is planned out, all participants have been contacted and the high school auditorium reserved. No issues anticipated.

Human Services:

1. **Staff Presentation – Child Protective Services and Children, Youth, and Families Services:** Ms. Beth Hoerchler presented on the Child Protective Services duties, strengths, and opportunities for improvement. Ms. Brenda Lee was unable to attend due to a schedule conflict, so Ms. Beth Hoerchler also presented on the Children, Youth, and Families Services duties.
2. **Human Services Department Director Recommendation:** Second interviews were held and Ms. Beth Hoerchler was selected to be the new Human Services Director. Mr. Robb Jensen created a resolution that will be going to the County Board tomorrow for final approval.
3. **AmeriCorps Recovery Coaches – Program Ending and Solutions:** Our Recovery Coaches had been utilized through Marshfield Clinic. They received an e-mail on April 28, 2025 informing them funding was eliminated effective April 25, 2025. The Department worked with the Health Department and the police department to figure out a way to continue providing services to the 57 participants utilizing the services. The Health Department has approved use of the COSSUP grant to keep the Recovery Coaches on as LTEs through August. This gives time to figure out the future of this service.
4. **Federal Updates on Medicaid and Other Funding Effecting Human Services:** Initially, it was estimated that 800 billion dollars would be cut from Medicaid. This has been decreased to 715 billion dollars being cut over the next ten years. This is currently at the House Energy and Commerce Committee level. Other proposed changes include requiring recertification twice a year. There is a proposed 300 billion dollar cut to SNAP (FoodShare) budget from the Federal level. Our Department is able to bill Medicaid for services provided. If fewer people have Medicaid, it may cause a loss of revenue.
5. **2026 Budget Priorities – Wisconsin Human Services Association:** Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) has developed some state budget priorities that effect Human Services. The three requests that our Department will be seeking support for are: An annual 2% increase in funding for the State Human Services Aide Programs to help offset the increased costs of services annually, for the Juvenile Corrections daily rate to be frozen and the state make up the difference, and for crisis intervention to be 100% funded by Federal and State money. The new proposed daily rate for Lincoln Hills is doubling from \$1,268.00 to \$2,305.00, or \$841,000.00 per year. This increase could be crippling to a county.
6. **Facilities Discussion and Long-Term Planning:** There is an item on the agenda for the Executive Committee that may help determine where things go moving forward.

7. **Agency Update – Vacancies and Recruitment, Recovery Events, Mental Health Month, Economic Support Month:** The Social Services Aide, Human Services Director, two Finance Technicians, Administrative Support (Courthouse location) and an Administrative Support (Timber Drive location) have been filled. Interviews have been scheduled for four CCS Facilitators, Behavioral Health Therapist, and two Social Worker positions. Internal recruitment is in progress for a Social Work Manager. There will be a posting for two CLTS workers in May and the 0.5 Billing Clerk position is being evaluated for the need.
8. **2024 and 2025 Financial & Statistical Reports, Department Head Expense Voucher and Vender Payment Report:** It was noted by Mr. Robb Jensen that the financial reports were received. There is currently a projected \$1,000,000 deficit for 2025, once again being driven by the cost for youths in out-of-home/residential placement.
9. **Public Comment:** None.
10. **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.
11. **Adjourn:** There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, it was moved by Mr. Robb Jensen to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Committee will be June 16, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.



Mr. Robb Jensen, Chair

Date: April 21, 2025