

**ONEIDA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2024**

Members present: Mr. Jim Winkler, Chairperson, Ms. Linnaea Newman, Mr. Ted Cushing (Zoom) and Mr. Robb Jensen

Approved absence: Mr. Anthony Rio

Staff: Ms. Mary Rideout, Ms. Stephanie Keckeisen and Ms. Tammy Javenkoski

Other: Ms. Tamara Feest (Human Service Director via Zoom)

**1. Call to Order. Approval of Agenda:**

The regular meeting of the Oneida County Social Services Committee was brought to order at 1:01 p.m. by Mr. Jim Winkler, 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. Robb Jensen, seconded by Ms. Linnaea Newman to approve the agenda as posted. All ayes; motion carried.

**2. Minutes of Social Services Committee – February 21, 2024:**

Motion made by Mr. Robb Jensen, seconded by Ms. Linnaea Newman to approve the Minutes of February 21, 2024 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**3. Public Comment: None**

**Veterans Services:**

**1. Northwoods Veterans Homestead Update:**

One of the NVH board members has resigned. NVH applied for a \$750,000 grant but found out it couldn't be used for capital so if they receive the grant, it's going to be used to pay their grant writer.

**2. 2024 Financial & Statistical Reports, Department Head Expenses Voucher and Vendor Payment Report:** Have not spent much this year yet. Received about \$1500 in donations that has been applied to the donation fund. Spend about \$800 a year on memorial flags.

**3. Public Comment: None**

**4. Agenda Items for Future Meetings:** Ms. Tammy Javenkoski will be at a conference and unable to attend the April meeting. In May Ms. Tammy Javenkoski will debrief on the conference and discuss the Memorial Day Ceremony. Usual Agenda Items.

## **Social Services:**

### **1. Human Service Center Structure Update:**

Forest and Oneida Counties have passed the resolution to create Departments of Human Services. Vilas County is scheduled to meet next week regarding the resolution. On Tuesday, March 26, 2024 Ms. Mary Rideout will attend a meeting on repair work that needs to be done at Koinonia Residential Treatment Center. Repair work was supposed to be done this year but because of the tax Levy the HSC was not sure where their budget would fall and the repairs were put on hold. New estimates will need to be completed. On Friday, March 22, 2024 Ms. Mary Rideout will meet with Mr. Patrick Cork, Ms. Lisa Charbarneau and Mr. Tyler Young to discuss staffing and how to integrate them into Oneida County. We will provide regular updates.

### **2. Woodland Enhanced Health Services Commission Meeting Update:**

About 10 years ago the Department of Social Services joined the Woodland Enhanced Health Services Commission. The spring meeting was held on August 22, 2024 which Mr. Jim Winkler attended. The Commission talked about holding a face-to-face meeting. The current rate for a client is \$95.00 a day in addition to medical assistance. This rate should be going down. In August of 2025 is when we should expect to see the new rate.

### **3. 2023 Year End Fiscal Report-Restricted Fund Balance For Out of Home Care:**

As of now, the Department of Social Services is trending to have a surplus of about \$256,421 at the end of the year. Of that amount, \$80,000 will return to the general fund and \$176,421.13 will go into the Agency reserve account. Discussed reserve amounts and source. The Agency owns two vans and has enough money to purchase another.

### **4. Agency Update: Staffing, Out of State Travel, Department of Children and Families Letter of Recognition:**

Bride Curtis an Economic Support Specialist has submitted her resignation. Her last day is March 27, 2024 and recruitment efforts have already begun with an application deadline of March 20, 2024. The Agency has a youth placed out of state in Tennessee. Social Workers are required to see youth placed out-of-home once a month with a face-to-face visit. The facility is maintaining the face-to-face visits, however, quarterly we need to send a Social Worker to Tennessee for the face-to-face visit. Ms. Mary Rideout approved a Social Worker to leave March 20<sup>th</sup> and return March 21<sup>st</sup> for the quarterly visit. The Agency received a letter of recognition from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families on their exceptional performance of 100% for face-to-face contact with children placed in out-of-home care.

5. **2024 Financial & Statistical Reports, Department Head Expense Voucher and Vendor Payment Report :**  
As of March 2024, the Agency is trending at about a \$400,000 deficit for the year.
6. **Public Comment:** No public comment.
7. **Agenda Items for future Meetings:**  
Usual agenda Items. Update on the Human Service Structure.
8. **Adjourn:**  
There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, it was moved by Mr. Jim Winkler to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Social Services Committee will be April 18, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

---

Mr. Jim Winkler, Chair

Date: March 21, 2024