

**ONEIDA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 28, 2022**

Members present: Mr. Bob Thome, Jr., Mr. Ted Cushing, Mr. Jim Winkler, Ms. Linnaea Newman

Members via Zoom: Mr. Anthony Rio

Approved absence: None

Staff: Ms. Mary Rideout, Mr. Joel Gottsacker, Ms. Jeri Driscoll

Others: Mr. Steven Schreier, Ms. Tamara Feast, Ms. Tracy Paquette, Mr. Grady Hartman

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

The regular meeting of the Oneida County Social Services Committee was brought to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mr. Bob Thome, Jr., Chairperson. The Chairperson noted that the meeting had been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws. Motion by Mr. Jim Winkler, seconded by Ms. Linnaea Newman to approve the agenda as posted. All ayes; motion carried.

**2. Minutes of Social Services Committee – October 24, 2022:**

There was one change to the October 24, 2022 minutes. On number 9, Adjourn it should say it was moved by Mr. Bob Thome, Jr. instead of it was moved by Mr. Jim Winkler. Motion made by Mr. Jim Winkler, seconded by Mr. Ted Cushing to approve the Minutes of October 24, 2022 with the change above. All ayes; motion carried.

**3. Public Comment:**

No comments.

**Veterans Services:**

1. Nothing for Veterans Services this month.

**Social Services:**

**1. Staff Presentation – Energy Assistance:**

Ms. Tracy Paquette presented the Wisconsin Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP). WHEAP is a one-time payment during the heating season (October 1 – May 15). The funds pay a portion of energy costs, but it is not intended to cover the entire energy costs of a residence. The amount of the energy assistance benefits depend on a variety of factors, including the household's size, income and energy costs. Households may be eligible for the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program, Weatherization Assistance Program, and the Furnace

Program based on a number of factors. If your household gross income (before taxes and other deductions) is less than the 60% median income, households may be eligible. Also available is the Wisconsin Water Assistance Program that can help eligible people with their water bills and assistance is also available to eligible people for assistance with water heaters, pipes breaking, and furnaces that are not working. These programs also follows the same gross income of below the 60% median income.

So far this heating season Oneida County has received 880 applications, had 9 crisis situations and 19 furnace issues of which replaced 8 and repaired 11.

**2. 2023 Budget Update:**

Ms. Mary Rideout explained that there were no changes from the County Board. We were approved to move full-time staff to 2080, hire an additional Social Worker but the Resolution needs to be brought to the January 2023 County Board Meeting to create the position. Also approved was the creation of two Lead Social Work positions which would be filled with current Social Workers. Informational only, no action needed.

**3. 2022 Budget Deficit:**

Ms. Mary Rideout explained that as a whole department which includes Social Services and the ADRC we are projected a deficit of approximately \$370,000. We are still waiting to hear if we will be receiving funds for the Anti-Human Trafficking dollars as we have youth who are eligible and also Youth Aide Emergency. If we get both we could reach close to a zero deficit.

We will be going to the Administrative committee as this is required when we as a department have such a deficit. Informational only, no action needed.

**4. Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) – Treatment Alternative and Diversion (TAD) Grant Application:**

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee was approved by the County Board so it is now a formal committee. We have applied for the TAD Grant which is for 2023. The grant is a total of \$100,000 which requires a 25% match. The CJCC would likely present a Resolution to the County Board to use ARPA dollars for the 25% match. Ms. Mary Rideout should hear sometime in December if we were awarded the Grant. Informational only, no action needed.

**5. Joint county Human Services Agreement of Forest, Oneida and Vilas counties Discussion:**

Ms. Mary Rideout explained that the current agreement is from 1984. The Agreement was brought to the Public Safety Committee and they would like Ms. Mary Rideout and Sheriff Hartman to put together what it would look like if it was just Oneida County and combined with Social Services versus the Tri-County as it is now. The Social Services committee was in favor of Ms. Rideout and Mr. Grady

Hartman getting together to put together a presentation. Once the presentation is ready, it was recommended to have one presentation with both the Public Safety Committee and the Social Services Committee. The Social Services Committee was in favor. Ms. Mary Rideout will coordinate a combined meeting once the presentation is complete.

**6. Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Report:**

- Kris S., Elder Benefits Specialist has been very busy meeting with people regarding Medicare open enrollment.
- Meal sites are doing well. We had 27 diners here at the ADRC Site.
- Home delivered meals are staying pretty consistent.
- Dementia Innovations is completed. When someone calls 911 they dispatch EMS and not law enforcement when the primary concern is dementia.
- Cycling without Age is all set up. Will do a public service announcement the first of the year.

**7. Agency Update:**

**FORK**

- The donation from FORK resulted in 19 baskets for families for Thanksgiving. We will have a full report on our Thanksgiving donations at December's meeting.

**Staffing/Vacancies:**

- Samantha Malone accepted the Administrative Support position. She will begin her employment with us on November 21, 2022.

**Building Project Update:**

- Below is the current schedule for our remodeling project:
  - Start demolition January 3
  - Demolition January 3 – January 6.
  - Steel Stud Install January 9 - January 13.
  - Drywall installation and mechanical rough in's January 16 - January 27.
  - Ready for cabinets the 1<sup>st</sup> week of February
  - Cabinet installation early February (if received)
- We are working with Building and Grounds and ITS to prepare for relocating staff during the construction. Crystal Schaub has graciously offered the use of two office spaces in the Medical Examiner's Office. Jason Rhode has issued all lap top computers to Economic Support Staff to allow them to utilize more work from home. We will be utilizing our conference room for our copier, fax and mailboxes, in addition to other storage needs. We will then need to use other conference rooms in the courthouse and ADRC and

will utilize Zoom for meetings. We will begin moving some of our equipment the week of December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**8. 2022 Financial & Statistical Reports, Vouchers, Audit of Payments and Line Item Transfers:**

The committee reviewed the Financial/Statistical Reports, Vouchers, and Audit of Payment. The projected 2022 deficit for the Department of Social Services is approximately \$435,378.

- Motion by Ms. Linnaea Newman, seconded by Mr. Jim Winkler to approve Financial and Statistical Reports, and Audit of Payments as presented. There were not any Vouchers. All ayes; motion carried.

The committee also reviewed the CPS Staffing report and noted that we are still significantly under staffed in both workers and supervision. Social Services is under staffed by approximately 4 Social Workers two supervisors according to the DCF standards. Also reviewed the FoodShare information and the FoodShare benefit was over a million dollars this month for Oneida County

**7. Public Comment:**  
No Public Comment.

**8. Agenda Items for future Meetings:**

- Human Service Center – Joint Meeting – will talk about in December for the January Meeting.
- Usual Agenda Items

Next Meetings: December 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the ADRC.

**9. Adjourn:**

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, it was moved by Mr. Bob Thome, Jr. to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m. The next meeting of the Social Services Committee will be Monday, December 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the ADRC.

*Tony Rio*

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Signer ID: 180YVNPCT  
Mr. Anthony Rio, Secretary

*Robert Thome*

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Mr. Bob Thome, Chair

Date: November 28, 2022



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