

**ONEIDA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2022**

Members present: Mr. Jim Winkler (Acting Chair)

Members via Zoom: Mr. Bob Thome, Jr., Mr. Ted Cushing, Ms. Linnaea Newman, Mr. Anthony Rio

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

**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. Jim Winkler, Acting Chairperson. The Chairperson noted that the meeting had been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws. Motion by Ted Cushing, seconded by Mr. Bob Thome to approve the agenda as posted. All ayes; motion carried.

**2. Minutes of Social Services Committee – August 22, 2022:**

Motion made by Mr. Ted Cushing, seconded by Mr. Bob Thome, to approve the Social Services Committee Minutes of August 22, 2022 minutes as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**3. Public Comment:**

No comments.

**Veterans Services:**

**1. VA Medical Center, Iron Mountain Director Presentation:**

Mr. Jason Daily explained that the Director was unable to attend this meeting. Will be presented at a future meeting.

**2. PACT Act:**

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans and their survivors with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve. The act (1) expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposure and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and (2) expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances. Informational only, no action needed.

**3. Northwoods Veterans Homestead Update:**

Mr. Jason Daily explained the last meeting was September 6, 2022, minutes were unavailable for this committee meeting. Northwoods Veterans Homestead is now

an official member of the Chamber and they have developed a formal fundraising committee. Informational only, no action needed.

4. **2022 Financial & Statistical Reports:**  
The Statistical Report was reviewed by the committee. There were no Line Item Transfers or Vouchers. Motion by Mr. Bob Thome, seconded by Mr. Jim Winkler to approve the Statistical Report as presented. All ayes; motion carried.
5. **Public Comment:**  
No comments
6. **Agenda items for future meetings:**  
- Usual Agenda Items

### Social Services:

1. **ARPA Funding Request Update:**  
Ms. Mary Rideout presented the changes to the ARPA Recommendations. The Department of Social Services Office Remodel and the Children Services Support Worker remains on the list. The Substance Abuse Mitigation was reduced to \$130,000 and the Social Worker Position was removed. Informational only, no action needed.
2. **2023 Social Services Budget – Move Staff to 2080 Update:**  
Ms. Mary Rideout presented the Additional Salary/Wage and Fringe Cost Moving to 2080. The increase would equate to 0.93 or an additional 1,942 hours. Social Services has absorbed a lot of the cost already. We were unable to absorb all of the cost of health insurance, benefits etc. Will be going to the Budget Meeting for approval. Informational only, no action needed.
3. **Professional Foster Parent Utilization:**  
Ms. Mary Rideout explained that the Department began using the Professional Foster Parent Program with one youth and so far has been going well. The committee reviewed the Average Cost of Out of Home Placements cost comparison per month. Whenever possible we place children with a relative. Informational only, no action needed.
4. **Contract to Perform Child Protective Services – Forest County:**  
Ms. Mary Rideout explained that a Memorandum of Understanding is in the process of being finalized between Forest County Department of Social Services, Oneida County Department of Social Services and Langlade County Department of Social Services to provide Access/IA duties for Forest County. Oneida County and Langlade County will rotate on a weekly basis. Motion by Mr. Ted Cushing, seconded by Mr. Bob Thome to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Forest County. All ayes, motion carried.

**5. Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) Update:**

Ms. Mary Rideout explained that she presented the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee information to the Public Safety Committee. They had a lot of questions since it is recommended that they be the responsible committee. The hopes is to bring this to the October County Board Meeting. Informational only, no action needed.

**6. Agency Update: Staffing, Youth Justice Innovation Grant, Partnership with FORK (Feed our Rural Kids), Building Project Update:**

Staffing/Vacancies:

- Sophia Africano started in a Social Work position on September 14, 2022.
- We were fully staffed for four days. We currently have a Clerical Support/Administrative Support position open. We did evaluate if we needed to continue this as 1 FTE or could it be reduced. A reduction is not feasible at this time but will continue to look at reductions as vacancies become available.

Youth Justice Innovation Grant:

- The Department applied for, and was awarded, a \$50,000 Youth Innovation Grant. The funds will be used to provide individual and group programming for young people involved in the Youth Justice (YJ) System and for youth at-risk of entering the YJ system.

Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK):

- We are collaborating with the Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK) and Vilas County DSS to develop and support the Family Food Helpline. The helpline will be a toll free, confidential source of information for area families. FORK's mission is to provide nutritional support to children from food insecure homes across Vilas and Oneida Counties. FORK is developing a directory of food assistance available in both Oneida and Vilas counties. In addition, they will publicize a "helpline" phone number that will be answered by Vilas County DSS. Callers that need assistance in Oneida County will be forwarded to our office. More information about FORK can be found on their website at <https://www.feedourruralkids.org/>

Building Project Update:

- Building and Grounds is still working with the contractor on scheduling. They believe the project may start sometime in November.

**6. 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 \$455,540.

- Motion by Mr. Jim Winkler, seconded by Mr. Bob Thome to approve Financial and Statistical Reports, Vouchers, and Audit of Payments as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

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

**8. Agenda Items for future Meetings:**  
-Budget Report  
-Usual Agenda Items

Next Meetings:      October 24, 2022  
                                 November 28, 2022  
                                 December 19, 2022

**9. Adjourn:**  
There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, it was moved by Mr. Jim Winkler to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 a.m. The next meeting of the Social Services Committee will be Monday, October 24, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room.

*Tony Rio*

Signer ID: 180YZVNP07...  
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Mr. Anthony Rio, Secretary

*Robert A. Thome*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Bob Thome, Chair

Date: September 26, 2022

# Signature Certificate



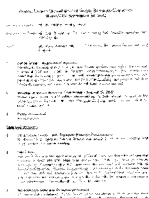
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