



Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES – FEBRUARY 24, 2026 DAN ROMEO, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Romeo, Ms. Denton, Ms. Block, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Burtis

ALSO ATTENDING: Chairwoman Watts, Mr. Ryan; also see attached list

Chair Romeo called the meeting to order on February 24, 2026 at 8:48 a.m., and the previous meeting's minutes were approved

1. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES – ECONOMIC SECURITY: Ann Rooney, Deputy County Executive for Human Services

a. 2025 Transfer Resolution (\$280,000)

- Purchase of 325 computers
- Requirement from State: replace a quarter of computers annually to maintain system eligibility
- Applies to:
 - Department of Social Services
 - Adult Long-Term Care
 - Children and Family Services
 - Funded through transfer from Medicaid account
 - Annual practice
- Gross: \$280,000
 - Local: \$196,000

Questions/ Comments:

- Ms. Denton: Do you recycle or sell the old computers?
- Ms. Rooney: Recycled or repurposed
 - Managed by County IT and DSS IT
- Ms. Block: Who is getting them or benefiting?
- Ms. Rooney: State required computers to be replaced every 4-year cycle
 - Will not update software
- Mr. Burtis: When do they arrive?
- Ms. Rooney: We get computers continuously and have an inventory
 - Allows the purchase
 - Ongoing installation throughout year
- Ms. Denton: Are we receiving money from the state and transferring funds. How does it work in the budget?
 - State reimbursement: 30–40% range
 - Local components are less

- Ms. Smiley: Budget purpose, uses surplus 2025 funds transferred into transfer agreement line

A motion was made by Ms. Denton, seconded by Mr. Burtis, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. INFORMATIONAL – Children and Family Services; Update on Child Care Assistance (Ms. Rooney)
- 264 families on waitlist
 - Governor’s proposed budget, adding 40% increase in childcare assistance
 - If Senate and Assembly include Governor’s increase in budget
 - Remove people on the waitlist prior to final budget passage
 - Transition families to active benefits
 - Reopen program to new applicants
 - Expanded \$48 million last year in childcare assistance
 - Approx. \$19 million increase
 - Waitlist cost: \$2–3 million
 - Mr. Kelly: NYS decided to implement hard cap last year and would now allow rollover of funds. Will hard cap remain an issue?
 - Ms. Rooney: Program previously impacted by State-imposed hard cap
 - Past relief included \$3 million waiver funding
 - Future depends on ability to roll over unused funds
 - Likely mitigated by increased funding
 - Mr. Kelly: What is the typical ballpark for typical expenditures per family per year?
 - Ms. Rooney: Approx. \$2–3 million for 264 families
 - Ms. Denton: There have been issues with providers. Is there provider availability?
 - Ms. Rooney: Active engagement to expand capacity
 - County working with providers and Childcare Solutions
 - CE is looking into regulatory burdens impacting providers
 - OCFS used to conduct annual inspections, increased to four times per year
 - Exploring lifting inspections
 - Reduce the number of absences from 80 days per year to a proposed reduction of 30 days
 - Mr. Romeo: Are there any changes like that from 80-30 or anything similar in the Governor’s proposal?
 - Ms. Rooney: None currently included
 - Seeking inclusion in Senate and Assembly bill
 - Mr. Kelly: Payment delays, digital versus physical. People would wait to receive check payments in the mail from NYS
 - Ms. Rooney: Largely resolved
 - Mr. Kelly: Any updates on capital projects undertaken with childcare facilities?
 - Ms. Rooney: Administered by social services
 - Partnership with Childcare Solution provided some funding to make improvements to facilities
 - Part of 2024-2025 budget
 - Funding redirected when waitlist implemented
 - Over 100 daycares were able to make improvements, i.e., playgrounds

2. HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Kathryn Anderson, Commissioner; Jessica L. Vinciguerra, Deputy Commissioner

- a. INFORMATIONAL – Presentation on Lead

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program informational materials on file with the Clerk

- Undertaking lead prevention endeavors
- Young children are vulnerable to the effects of lead
 - Primary source: lead-based paint
- City of Syracuse, Buffalo, and Rochester have an aging house stock
- Lead banned in 1978
 - 90% of housing built before 1978
- High density of rental properties
- Children exposed through:
 - Dust from friction
 - Crawling and hand-to-mouth behavior
- Lead exposure impacts:
 - Brain development
 - Academic performance
 - Behavior
- In the city, the state recommends testing at ages 1 and 2
- 10% of children tested have elevated blood lead levels
 - 1 in 10 experiencing elevated blood levels
- Case management and family support

Presentation by Jessica L. Vinciguerra, Deputy Commissioner



Lead Poisoning Prevention Team

The [Lead Poisoning Prevention team](#) offers various services that focus on reducing childhood lead poisoning and improving housing health and safety

Main Areas of Focus:

- Health Education and Outreach
- Surveillance and Blood Lead Testing Services
- Care Coordination & Family Support

Key Partnerships Include:

- Head Start, PreK, Child Care Providers
- SUNY Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital
- RLRC and Asthma Programs
- WIC



- Health and education outreach teams
- Surveillance and blood lead testing services
- Facilitate care coordination and family support
- Focuses on providing educational tips to prevent lead poisoning
- Attend community events
- Main goal is to support and participate with various service providers in the area
 - Lead Safe Coalition of CNY
 - Partners with Upstate Poison Control Center
 - Syracuse City School District

- Responsible promoting health department services
 - Home repairs
 - Remediation services
 - Inspections
 - Assessments



Community Health Education Efforts

Health Education and Outreach

- Attend community events, tabling opportunities and testing events
 - Focus on childhood lead poisoning, exposure risks, and poisoning prevention tips
 - Promotion of services: blood lead testing and home inspections/assessments
 - Referrals to funding for home repairs and remediation
 - Support and participate in coalitions and service provider outreach and education initiatives (e.g., LSCNY, SafeKids, Upstate Poison Center)



- Onondaga County provides free blood lead testing, onsite and through mobile testing unit (Lead Van)
- Lead van available for community events
- Health Department website has form to reserve Lead Van
- New York State Department of Health
 - Mandatory testing at ages 1 and 2
- Child elevated blood level, triggered at over five (5) micrograms per deciliter
- Case management intervention
 - Family outreach
 - Education
 - Medical coordination
- Collaborate with primary care physicians to facilitate tests
 - Sift through 10,000 tests annually
- Promotes services through Facebook, County Executive newsletter
- Facilitate Fingerstick Lead screening
 - Preliminary screening
 - Venipuncture if blood level elevated



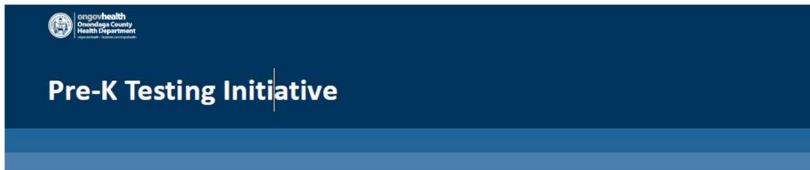
Blood Lead Testing Services

Surveillance and Blood Lead Testing Services

- Review all incoming test results received from NYSDOH
 - 10,000+ test results received annually
 - NYSDOH requires public health response for results > 5 mcg/dL
 - The higher the level, the faster the response
 - Children should be tested for lead at ages 1 and 2
- Accept referrals for children in need of testing
 - Internal Referrals: WIC and Healthy Neighborhoods Program
 - External Requests: phone and online requests
- Offer Mobile and On Site Based Fingerstick Testing
 - Onondaga County purchased a mobile testing van in 2023
 - Tests completed with a Point of Care device
 - Results are available within 3 minutes of sample collection
 - Results > 5 mcg/dL require a venipuncture to confirm need for public health action
 - Elevated Blood Levels (EBLs) trigger case management and intervention



- Partnership with Syracuse City School District in response to water levels that were found to be in the schools



- Syracuse City School District Pre-K Testing**
- Tests were completed in spring 2024, fall 2024, and spring 2025
 - County response to suspicion of lead in school water. First initiative of its kind in NYS
 - Performed at 18 schools with Pre-K classrooms
 - 531 children were tested
 - .013% had a known elevated finger stick at the time of testing
 - .009% were confirmed as a new EBL after follow up venipuncture was completed
 - Follow up was completed with these children per NYS requirements



*All testing data shown is preliminary.

- Testing across 18 schools
 - Spring of 2024
 - Fall 2024
 - Spring 2025
- Tested 531 children
 - Opt in/opt out service
- Very low rates of new elevated cases

Testing Data Correction: noted a typographical error regarding the decimal placement in the presented testing data. The corrected figures reflect a 1.3% elevated fingerstick rate and a .9% confirmed EBL rate. A corrected version of the presentation was submitted by the presenter on 2.24.26 and is attached as Attachment No.1.

- Tested every child, whether they were known to have been tested previously or not
- Mr. Kelly: What are the test properties of a fingerstick? Are there concerns for false negatives?
- Ms. Anderson: Sensitive; more false positives than false negatives
- Confirmed through venipuncture
- Ms. Lewis: The device is comparable to laboratory analysis, but is a lot more sensitive
- Primary exposure source is home environment, not schools

Care Coordination & Family Support

Care Coordination & Family Support

- Provide care coordination for children with elevated test results
 - Communicate with families and ensure follow up occurs
 - Oversee cases until blood lead levels are back to an acceptable range
 - Coordinate with the environmental team to handle the housing side of the process (inspections)
- Housing Care Coordination
 - Facilitate investigations of home environments as required by the state
 - Identify homes with lead-based paint before children are harmed
 - Ensure property owners complete needed repairs



- Care Coordination & Family Support team calls families, completes follow-up, provides educational material
 - Offers language line services
 - Coordinates environmental team
- Facilitates elevated blood lead level investigation where the child spends the most time

Lead Safe Healthy Housing

Lead Safe Healthy Housing:

Home health and safety and exposure investigations are completed by our team of EPA-certified inspectors to identify the presence of lead hazards. These investigations also follow a nationally recognized healthy homes model to identify and address health concerns connected to unsafe housing conditions.

- Exposure investigations – all potential sources
- Proactive inspection referrals –for rental units
- Healthy Neighborhoods Home Health Assessments
- Promotion of funding and training resources

Key Partnerships:

- Onondaga County Community Development & Lead Initiatives Teams
- City of Syracuse Code Enforcement
- State and Federal Enforcement partners (NYS AG, US EPA, US HUD)



- Inspectors: EPA-certified lead inspectors and risk assessors
 - Surface-by-surface inspection to assess
 - Identifying specific locations with positive lead detections
 - Utilize X-ray fluorescence devices to detect lead levels
- Hazard:
 - Friction surfaces
 - Chipping/peeling paint
- Generate report to map all identified lead locations
- Exposure primarily from lead dust, not paint ingestion
- Dust wipe sampling is conducted in addition to surface assessments
- Inspectors report back to case management teams

- Lead families to funding and training resources
- Ms. Block: How does a fluorescent XRF device work? Does it scan an entire room at once?
- Ms. Vinciguerra: No, it doesn't scan a whole room. You hold the device up to a specific surface (like a wall or door frame), press the trigger, and it shoots X-ray signals directly into that surface at that localized point
- Mr. Kelly: Service by service inspection
 - Looks at different components
- Ms. Lewis: It looks and works like those handheld shelf scanners; you press it against the surface, pull the trigger, and it reads a small, localized area. It penetrates through the paint layers to return a concentration percentage of lead, and if that reading is above the allowable threshold, it flags it.
- Ms. Block: reading a relatively small surface area?
- Yes, it reads a small, localized surface area
- Ms. Vinciguerra: Lead exposure:
 - Eating paint chips
 - Inhaling/ingesting lead dust from friction surfaces (windows, doors, cabinets)
 - Dust settles on floors where kids crawl and play, hand-to-mouth contact



- Year-end video, working on 2025

[26:26] Video playback issue, unable to review this segment



Provides funding to reduce lead paint hazards in privately owned residential homes

- Onondaga County has successfully administered this grant for decades.
- Focuses on eliminating lead exposure risks for young children
- Common repairs include window and door replacement, siding repair, and porch work
- Eligible properties: 1-4 family homes with identified lead hazards
 - A child under age 6 must live in or regularly visit the home
 - Household income must be at or below 80% of the Area Median Income
- Vacant rental units are eligible but a lower priority; owners must give preference to low-income families with young children for 3 years
- Program is administered by Onondaga County Community Development and funded through federal HUD grants. Health Department Education Team assists with promotion and occupant education.



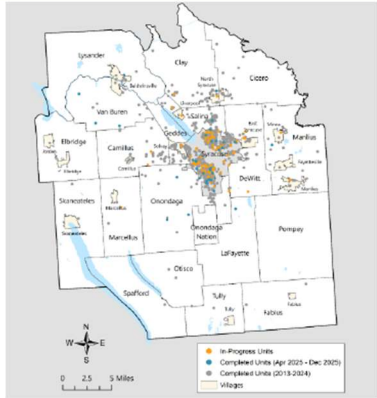
- Run out of community development for decades
- Serves properties county-wide, though highest concentration of pre-1978 homes is within city limits

- Currently working on their 10th grant, largest award received to date
 - Occupant-based, both owner-occupants and renters can apply
 - Must have a child under age 6 living in or frequently visiting the home (e.g., grandma’s house, in-home daycare)
 - Income-based: 80% of area median income
- Program Numbers:
 - 39 units completed (current grant)
 - 240 units completed (last 4-year grant cycle)
 - 136 units in pipeline
- HUD sets per-property spending threshold
- County dollars bridge the gap when exceeded
- Families not asked to contribute
- Likely won’t turn families away if goal is surpassed


Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program Numbers

2019-2029 Grant Funding Cycles

Lead Hazard Reduction Grant	Units
Total Units Completed (2020-2024 Grant)	240
Units Completed (Current Grant)	39
Units in Progress (Current Grant)	136



- \$2M from American Rescue Plan
- \$13M total county contribution to date
- County Executive commits annually
- State grant (bulk of lead poisoning prevention team funding)
- HUD grant
- Housing & Community Renewal (state)
- \$24M allocated since 2022 across all sources

Lead Initiatives

County Lead Initiatives

In 2022, for the first time in Onondaga County, the annual budget included a sizeable investment to address gaps and fund special projects to prevent childhood lead poisoning through various initiatives. This allocation was paired with a \$2 million dollar ARPA contribution. County Executive McMahon continues to invest annually in lead poisoning prevention. To date, just over \$13 million has been committed to this local effort. This is in addition to existing state and federal grant funding administered by the Health Department and Division of Community Development that totals \$11 million since 2022. For a total of \$24 Million.



- Three Focus Areas:
 - Workforce & remediation initiatives
 - Furthering existing program support
 - Special projects

Workforce and Remediation Initiatives Numbers

- **Total EPA Certificates Issued Since 2023 – 554**
 - Training contributed to quicker turnaround times and more diversity in local workforce options
- **Windows and Doors Program** – Partnership with Home HeadQuarters for rental properties built before 1980.
 - Windows Replaced Since 2024 - 826
 - Doors Replaced Since 2024 – 84
- **Windows, Doors, and More Program** – proactive effort to mitigate amount of lead hazards in State Rental Registry target area.
 - 5 units completed
 - 48 units in progress
- **Foster Care Lead Hazard Reduction Assistance**
 - Potential foster homes, with OCHD open lead violations are eligible
 - 7 units completed
 - 5 in progress



- Significant time spent on contractor workforce development around lead
- Had successful contractor pool pre-COVID
- Pandemic halted inspections and remediation work
- Post-COVID, contractors prioritized private sector jobs
- 2021-2022 required significant effort to rebuild contractor pool
- Limited contractors - long wait times for grant programs
- Rebuilt pool from 5 to 21 contractors
- Current turnaround: 8 months; goal is 6 months

- Monthly 1-day & quarterly 3-day EPA certified trainings offered free
- 554 certificates funded since 2023
- Back office support provided (resumes, MWBE certifications, EPA exam prep)
- Contractor cost reimbursed for testing (\$1,600)
- Outreach via LinkedIn, Facebook, Lead Safe CNY Coalition, school trade programs
- Annual contractor breakfast/networking event during Lead Poisoning Prevention Week
- Windows & Doors: 826 windows, 84 doors replaced since 2024
- Windows, Doors & More (no income requirement, pilot): 5 units completed, 48 in pipeline, 3rd round of state funding just received
- Foster Care Lead Hazard Reduction
- Partnership between lead poisoning prevention team and Department of Family & Children Services
- If lead is found, property is referred to community development for remediation
- Income requirements waived (county dollars used)
- Expedited process compared to standard HUD grant
 - 7 units converted to foster homes to date
 - 5 more approved and in progress

- Mr. Romeo: With contractor training, you said you have 14 contractors, do you generally see them continuously taking on jobs, or are there some that are slower to engage?
- Ms. Vinciguerra: There's a bid process and contractors rotate
- Mr. Romeo: If a child tests positive, are we able to go in and remediate the home regardless of income situation?
- Ms. Vinciguerra: Yes, that is the point of the Windows, Doors, and More program. The state has set no income requirement for this program. The work is also more invasive than a standard job, described as abatement adjacent, and typically costs more, but the funding is able to cover it.

Presentation continued:

- Required when a child has a critical elevated blood level
 - Triggered by hospitalization or chelation therapy
- Team ensures family has a safe environment to stay
- Options include:
 - Helping family find a new rental altogether
 - Temporary stay while going through a grant program
 - Waiting at temporary housing while landlord completes work
- Covers costs: hotels, Airbnb's, temporary rentals
- Lead testing mobile unit (county funded)
- General education, program incentives, promotional items
- Staff support and training
 - Pre-K lead screening (response to community news)
 - Water filter distribution (response to community concern over water safety)

Initiatives Impact on Turnaround Times

Increased **contractor pool** has contributed to quicker turnaround times for grant program.

2022-2024 Turnaround Times

- 125 units completed
- 13 months – 392 days (median)

Current Grant Turnaround Times

- 39 Units completed
- 8 months – 248 days (median)
- 4 months – 125 days (minimum)



- All trainings free of charge
- 554 certificates funded since 2023 (certificates, not unique individuals)
- Three training levels:
 - 1-day (offered monthly, never cancelled due to demand)
 - 2-day
 - 3-day/supervisor level (offered quarterly)
- Partner trainer: Eco Testing
 - Daryl
- Pathway: 1-day attendees recruited into 3-day to become supervisors
- Open to anyone working in pre-1978 homes, not just grant contractors (landlords, property managers, handy homeowners, etc.)
- Goal is both contractor recruitment AND promoting lead-safe work practices community-wide
- Windows and Doors Program:
 - 826 windows replaced since 2024
 - 84 exterior doors replaced
 - No Income requirement
- 48 additional in pipeline
- Ms. Denton: For some of these programs, how long does it take once families get on the list?
- Ms. Vinciguerra: Noted a slide coming up to address question

Presentation Continued:

- 2022 average turnaround: 13 months (125 units completed under old grant)
- Process steps:
 - Application (income verification, scheduling)
 - Inspector assigned
 - Surface-by-surface inspection with Eco Testing
 - Risk assessment report written
 - Scope of work developed for contractors
- Scope of work put out to bid for 3 weeks (required by county & state)
- Office has 1 week to review and award bids

- Front end alone: 2-3 months minimum
- Windows & doors material lead time: 6-8 weeks
- Out-of-town landlords can cause additional delays in document signing
- 39 units completed under new grant
- Turnaround down to 8 months (from 13)
- Case management team proactively provides lead-safe cleaning guidance

[50:27] Video playback issue, unable to review this segment

- Contractors eligible for other county programs, not just lead grant
- Must award to lowest bidder
 - Case-by-case exceptions when child is at critical risk and a higher bidder can start immediately
- Mr. Burtis: How are we doing recruiting new contractors, and is there anything that can be done to motivate and incentivize them to move quicker so families can get back to their lives?
- Ms. Vinciguerra: Material orders are out of contractors' control, but with more contractor diversity, projects can now be dedicated focus rather than juggling multiple sites.
 - Recruitment efforts include:
 - Word of mouth in the community
 - Lead Safe CNY Coalition contractor training & recruitment subcommittee
 - Chairs committee
 - Community workforce development partners at the table
 - LinkedIn and Facebook outreach
 - Partnered with Nottingham and Fowler high schools (construction & electrical trade programs), offered trainings and tracked outcomes
 - Trainer Daryl has relationships with BOCES and SUNY EOC
 - County one-stop shop provides MWBE certification assistance
 - Back office support including resume help for EPA exam applications
- Martin Skahen's team brought into trainings to explain what county job sites are actually like
 - Inspectors assigned to job sites to guide, not penalize contractors
 - Helps address fear of constant EPA oversight
 - County already covers certification costs
 - Open to exploring additional incentives to retain contractors along the career ladder
- Mr. Romeo: Is the reason we don't have larger window replacement contractors participating due to concerns about oversight?
- Ms. Vinciguerra: Larger specialty window companies aren't ideal because the grant requires contractors who can handle everything, flooring, painting, porches, etc., not just windows. Larger general construction companies could help increase capacity, but the pay cap is a barrier; it simply comes down to money. Referrals welcome
- Mr. Kelly: Some larger contractors do bid but don't always follow through
 - 17 attended last supervisor training in January; 9 already being actively supported through the process
- Ms. Block: Is there a pathway program for contractors through OCC?
- Ms. Vinciguerra: 2026 goal is to establish that connection, could be integrated into construction curriculum. Already done with high school students, BOCES, and EOC
- Ms. Denton: ARPA funding is only 50% complete and must be spent by end of year, is there a plan to do that?

- Ms. Smiley: It's very close to being closed. I can follow up with you on that
- Ms. Denton: With HUD money, do the federal dollars roll over until spent and then we reapply?
- Ms. Vinciguerra: Yes, it's a 4-year grant cycle; spend it down and reapply
- Ms. Denton: We've allocated \$13 million in local dollars. Do we know how much has been spent?
- Ms. Vinciguerra: Kristy and I can connect, and we can get back to you
- Mr. Kelly: Is the Lead Freedom House up and running?
- Ms. Vinciguerra: More updates coming soon, still very much underway

Presentation continued:



Registration, Inspection, and Clearance Requirements

- Registration is required for property owners (landlords) of 2+ unit buildings built before 1980 located in zip codes 13203, 13204, 13205, 13207 and 13208.
- Inspection of painted surfaces in interior living unit, common area, and building exterior is completed to identify lead hazards.
- Bare soil will also be inspected and may require remediation.
- Health Department Inspectors will complete inspections of units
- Windows Doors and More connection

- These new requirements are in addition to the City of Syracuse's rental registry or certificate of compliance requirements and requires by the State for Local Health Departments to carry out.
- Inspection and clearance information for properties within city zip codes can be shared with the city of Syracuse.



- State requiring health departments to inspect 2+ unit properties in high-risk zip codes
- Inspections cover painted surfaces, interior units, common areas, and bare soil
- Zip codes overlap with already known high-risk lead areas
- Windows, Doors & More funding was proactive preparation for this requirement
- Still awaiting official state guidance
- New requirement is in addition to City of Syracuse's existing lead ordinance
- Monthly meetings with city team already underway
- Access to city database to check compliance status and open violations
- Landlord open houses planned once guidance is finalized
- Mr. Ryan: How are you going to enforce compliance?
- Ms. Speaker 2: We are not intending to charge registration, inspection, or health department-based inspection
- Mr. Ryan: Have we coordinated with the city?
- Ms. Speaker 2: We are already doing that
- Mr. Romeo: What about situations where there is a lead risk to a child that may not be within their unit or property?
- Ms. Vinciguerra: Investigations go beyond the home
 - Full investigation includes painted toys, kitchenware, spices, and other sources
 - Common areas in apartment buildings are included in investigations
 - Neighboring properties; staff can't force anyone to apply but will make neighbors aware of available programs
 - Inspectors have proactively flagged neighboring properties
- Mr. Romeo: Looking at addressing lead in another county, is the bigger opportunity more testing or

more remediation?

- Ms. Anderson: Both are important, but testing serves as a sentinel to guide where remediation is needed
 - 90% of children got tested at least once within the recommended window; still room for improvement
 - Testing ideally happens in primary care, but not all children have access
 - Area of improvement: Education between diagnosis and remediation
 - Safe cleaning practices (wet wipes, not vacuums, to avoid aerosolizing dust)
 - Healthy nutrition as a protective factor (iron, Vitamin C)
 - Food deserts in the area create additional barriers to protective nutrition
- Ms. Block: When families are in temporary housing during remediation, what is the effort like for them to stay within the same area?
- Ms. Anderson: Case managers work closely with families to assess individual needs (school location, transportation, pets, etc.)
 - Has worked out in every case so far
 - 4-unit property in development, centrally located, Airbnb-style for displaced families
 - Current hotel connection used but not ideal
 - Local landlord example: offered HUD grant property for a family with two dogs to stay nearby for a month during remediation
 - Long-term goal: known non-hotel options in each quadrant of the city
- Ms. Watts: Is there any possibility to connect DSS to enforce compliance?
- Ms. Lewis: Yes. DSS is made aware of that. In 2019 County Executive put forth statement that any other unit in that same structure, if it is a 4 unit building, and the county stops renting 1, publicly subsidized funds can be held until issues are resolved
- Ms. Watts: If those people find themselves displaced, is there any assistance offered?
- Ms. Lewis: Team is generally aware and can support by connecting them with housing options or arranging emergency temporary stay
- Ms. Anderson: Team actively engaged in proactive outreach to landlords and property developers, building collaborative relationships

3. DISCUSSION OF CORRESPONDING OUTSIDE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Nicole Watts, Chairwoman

- a. Review and Discussion of Appointments to Outside Boards (*Attachment No. 2: Boards and Commissions*)
 - Committees to review all appointments, both legislative and county executive
 - Each outside board matched to a standing committee
 - Most Health & Human Services appointments made by county executive
 - Legislature approves before going to session
 - Exception: Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Onondaga County Board
 - Appointing Dan Romeo and Dr. Cody Kelly

A motion was made by Ms. Block, seconded by Mr. Burtis, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Full board listing with current members and expiration dates available on BaseCamp

C. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



HASSINA ADAMS, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

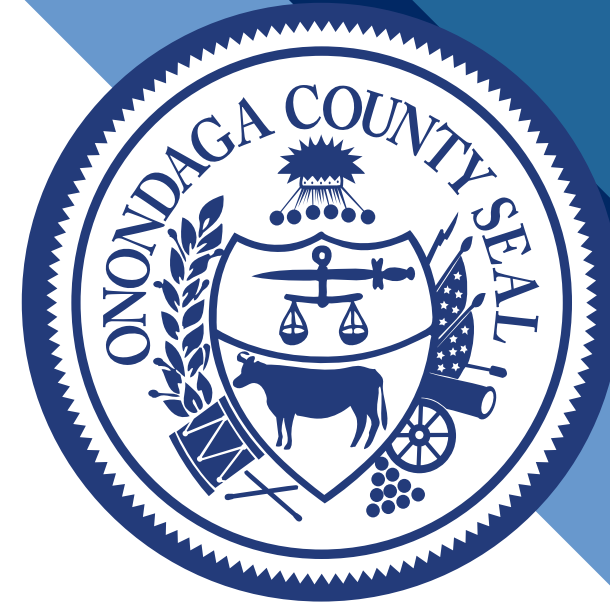
COMMITTEE: **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**
DATE: **FEBRUARY 24th, 2026**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Krista Smiley	Finance
Mauricio Palmer	N/A
Shayla Napier	Lead
Jessica Vinciguerra	Health Dept/Lead
Debra Lewis	Health/Lead
Nadja Allmann	Health/Lead
Tim Kelly	Health/Lead
Doug Dowty	Syracuse.com
Jason Dean	Finance
Marty Stehler	CD
Keri Allen	OC&D

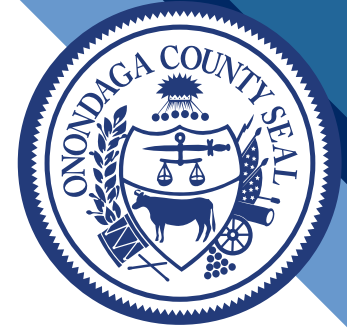
ATTACHMENT NO. 1:
LEAD POISONING PREVENTION &
HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION & HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVES

Onondaga County Health Department Program Overview



- Overview of OCHD Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Initiatives Programs
- HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Grant
- Lead Free Onondaga Investments and Initiatives
- NYSDOH Lead Inspection Rental Registry Update



Lead Poisoning Prevention Team

The [Lead Poisoning Prevention team](#) offers various services that focus on reducing childhood lead poisoning and improving housing health and safety

Main Areas of Focus:

- Health Education and Outreach
- Surveillance and Blood Lead Testing Services
- Care Coordination & Family Support

Key Partnerships Include:

- Head Start, PreK, Child Care Providers
- SUNY Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital
RLRC and Asthma Programs
- WIC



Community Health Education Efforts

Health Education and Outreach

- Attend community events, tabling opportunities and testing events
 - Focus on childhood lead poisoning, exposure risks, and poisoning prevention tips
 - Promotion of services: blood lead testing and home inspections/assessments
 - Referrals to funding for home repairs and remediation
 - Support and participate in coalitions and service provider outreach and education initiatives (e.g., LSCNY, SafeKids, Upstate Poison Center)



Blood Lead Testing Services

Surveillance and Blood Lead Testing Services

- Review all incoming test results received from NYSDOH
 - 10,000+ test results received annually
 - NYSDOH requires public health response for results > 5 mcg/dL
 - The higher the level, the faster the response
 - Children should be tested for lead at ages 1 and 2
- Accept referrals for children in need of testing
 - Internal Referrals: WIC and Healthy Neighborhoods Program
 - External Requests: phone and online requests
- Offer Mobile and On Site Based Fingertick Testing
 - Onondaga County purchased a mobile testing van in 2023
 - Tests completed with a Point of Care device
 - Results are available within 3 minutes of sample collection
 - Results > 5 mcg/dL require a venipuncture to confirm need for public health action
 - Elevated Blood Levels (EBLs) trigger case management and intervention



Pre-K Testing Initiative

Syracuse City School District Pre-K Testing

- Tests were completed in spring 2024, fall 2024, and spring 2025
- County response to suspicion of lead in school water. First initiative of its kind in NYS
- Performed at 18 schools with Pre-K classrooms
- 531 children were tested
 - 1.3% had a known elevated finger stick at the time of testing
 - .9% were confirmed as a new EBL after follow up venipuncture was completed
 - Follow up was completed with these children per NYS requirements



Care Coordination & Family Support

Care Coordination & Family Support

- Provide care coordination for children with elevated test results
 - Communicate with families and ensure follow up occurs
 - Oversee cases until blood lead levels are back to an acceptable range
 - Coordinate with the environmental team to handle the housing side of the process (inspections)
- Housing Care Coordination
 - Facilitate investigations of home environments as required by the state
 - Identify homes with lead-based paint before children are harmed
 - Ensure property owners complete needed repairs



Lead Safe Healthy Housing

Lead Safe Healthy Housing:

Home health and safety and exposure investigations are completed by our team of EPA-certified inspectors to identify the presence of lead hazards. These investigations also follow a nationally recognized healthy homes model to identify and address health concerns connected to unsafe housing conditions.

- Exposure investigations – all potential sources
- Proactive inspection referrals –for rental units
- Healthy Neighborhoods Home Health Assessments
- Promotion of funding and training resources

Key Partnerships:

- Onondaga County Community Development & Lead Initiatives Teams
- City of Syracuse Code Enforcement
- State and Federal Enforcement partners (NYS AG, US EPA, US HUD)



2024 Year In Review Highlights



Lead Initiatives | 2024 Year In Review



Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program

Provides funding to reduce lead paint hazards in privately owned residential homes

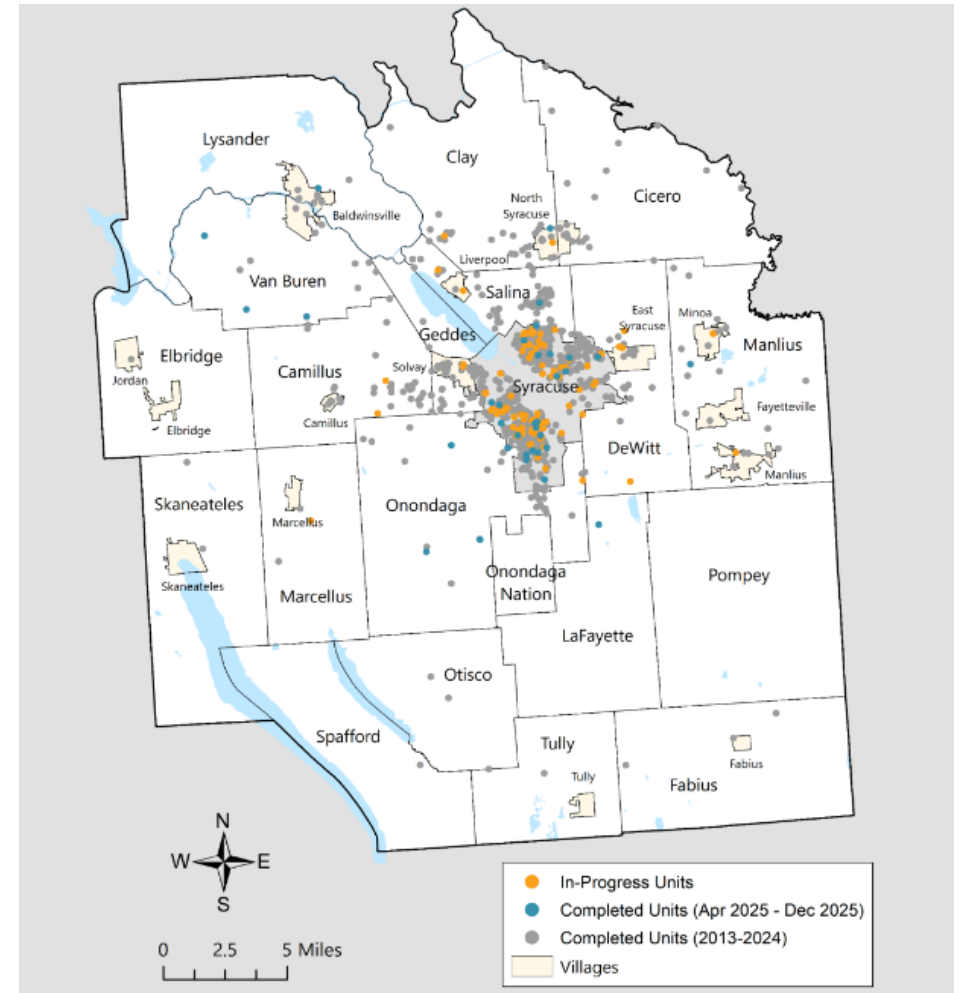
- Onondaga County has successfully administered this grant for decades.
- Focuses on eliminating lead exposure risks for young children
- Common repairs include window and door replacement, siding repair, and porch work
- Eligible properties: 1–4 family homes with identified lead hazards
 - A child under age 6 must live in or regularly visit the home
 - Household income must be at or below 80% of the Area Median Income
 - Vacant rental units are eligible but a lower priority; owners must give preference to low-income families with young children for 3 years
- Program is administered by Onondaga County Community Development and funded through federal HUD grants. Health Department Education Team assists with promotion and occupant education.



Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program Numbers

2019-2029 Grant Funding Cycles

Lead Hazard Reduction Grant	Units
Total Units Completed (2020-2024 Grant)	240
Units Completed (Current Grant)	39
Units in Progress (Current Grant)	136



Lead Initiatives

County Lead Initiatives

In 2022, for the first time in Onondaga County, the annual budget included a sizeable investment to address gaps and fund special projects to prevent childhood lead poisoning through various initiatives. This allocation was paired with a \$2 million dollar ARPA contribution. County Executive McMahon continues to invest annually in lead poisoning prevention. To date, just over **\$13 million has been committed to this local effort**. This is in addition to existing state and federal grant funding administered by the Health Department and Division of Community Development that totals \$11 million since 2022. For a total of **\$24 Million**.



Lead Initiatives

Workforce and Remediation Initiatives

- Contractor Training and Recruitment
- Windows and Doors
- Windows, Doors, and More
- Foster Care Home Assistance
- HUD Grant Support

Furthering Existing Program Support

- Temporary Relocation
- Lead Testing Mobile Unit
- Education and program incentives and promotional items
- Staff support and training

Special Projects

- Based on observed community needs as they arise (i.e. water filter distribution)



Windows, Doors, and More units

Workforce and Remediation Initiatives Numbers

- **Total EPA Certificates Issued Since 2023 – 554**
 - Training contributed to quicker turnaround times and more diversity in local workforce options
- **Windows and Doors Program – Partnership with Home HeadQuarters for rental properties built before 1980.**
 - Windows Replaced Since 2024 - 826
 - Doors Replaced Since 2024 – 84
- **Windows, Doors, and More Program – proactive effort to mitigate amount of lead hazards in State Rental Registry target area.**
 - 5 units completed
 - 48 units in progress
- **Foster Care Lead Hazard Reduction Assistance**
 - Potential foster homes, with OCHD open lead violations are eligible
 - 7 units completed
 - 5 in progress



Initiatives Impact on Turnaround Times

Increased [contractor pool](#) has contributed to quicker turnaround times for grant program.

2022-2024 Turnaround Times

- 125 units completed
- 13 months – 392 days (median)

Current Grant Turnaround Times

- 39 Units completed
- 8 months – 248 days (median)
- 4 months – 125 days (minimum)



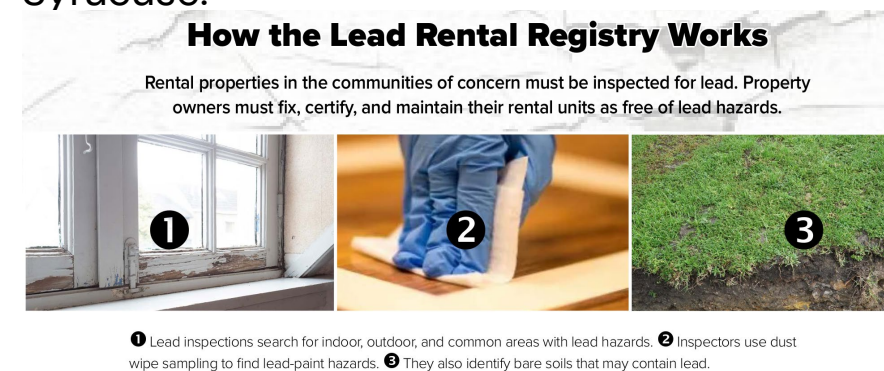
New York State Lead Inspection Rental Registry

FAQs

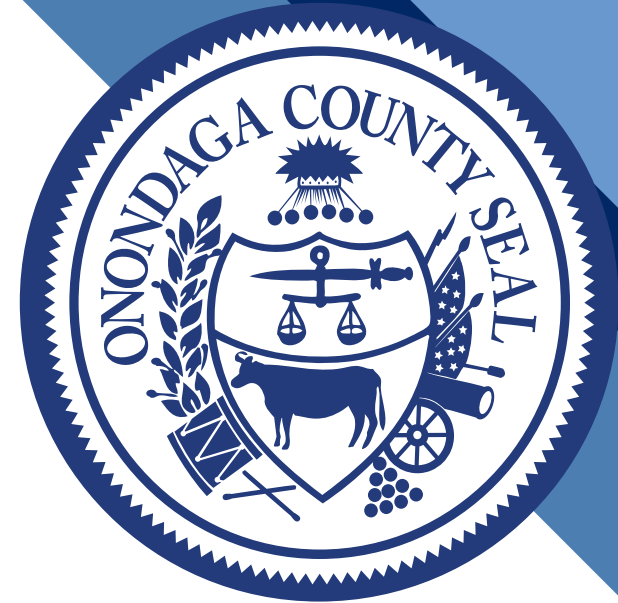
Registration, Inspection, and Clearance Requirements

- Registration is required for property owners (landlords) of 2+ unit buildings built before 1980 located in zip codes 13203, 13204, 13205, 13207 and 13208.
- Inspection of painted surfaces in interior living unit, common area, and building exterior is completed to identify lead hazards.
- Bare soil will also be inspected and may require remediation.
- Health Department Inspectors will complete inspections of units
- Windows Doors and More connection

- These new requirements are in addition to the City of Syracuse's rental registry or certificate of compliance requirements and requires by the State for Local Health Departments to carry out.
- Inspection and clearance information for properties within city zip codes can be shared with the city of Syracuse.



Questions?



ATTACHMENT NO. 2:
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

OUTSIDE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Health & Human Services Committee

County Library Board of Trustees

Established by Article XXV, Section 25.05, of the Onondaga County Administrative Code, Resolution 52-1973, Local Law 622-1975, and Resolution No. 56-2024. The purpose of the board is to govern the operations of the Onondaga County Public Library, both the OCPL:System and OCPL:City. The board has 11 members including a president, vice president, immediate past president, secretary, and treasurer.

Appointing Authority: County Executive with legislative approval

Current Appointments:

Sam Edelstein

Appointed: 4/2/2024

Exp.: 12/31/2028

Mary Bilbo Coughlin

Appointed: 4/2/2024

Exp.: 12/31/2028

Esteban M. Gonzalez

Appointed: 4/2/2024

Exp.: 12/31/2028

Svetlana Dyer

Appointed: 4/2/2024

Exp.: 12/31/2028

Dedaree Dixie

Appointed: 4/2/2024

Exp.: 12/31/2028

Jill Hurst-Wahl

Appointed: 3/20/2024

Exp: 12/31/2027

Maria Mahar

Appointed: 12/3/2024

Exp: 12/31/2027



Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

Brianah M. Lane

Appointed: 12/3/2024

Exp: 12/31/2027

Timothy Mulvey

Appointed:

Exp: 12/31/2026

Edward Kochian

Appointed:

Exp: 12/31/2026

Ellen James Mbque

Appointed: 2025

Exp:



Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

OUTSIDE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS Health & Human Services Committee

Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Onondaga County Board

Established in 1913, this board serves to respond to the needs of local residents with unbiased, research-based information that will enable individuals to improve their lives and communities. CCE-OC is an educational non-profit organization that operates under organization approved by Cornell University.

Appointing Authority: 15 total members, 13 elected community volunteers and 2 directors appointed by the Onondaga County Legislature

Current Appointments:

VACANT as of December 2025, will be Dan Romeo

VACANT as of December 2025, will be Cody Kelly



Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

OUTSIDE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Health & Human Services Committee

Onondaga County Council on Environmental Health

The Onondaga County Council on Environmental Health is an advisory body established to provide guidance and recommendations on matters affecting environmental health within the county. The council serves as a liaison between public health officials, environmental agencies, and community stakeholders, focusing on issues such as environmental exposure risks, community health impacts, regulatory compliance, and long-term environmental planning. Its purpose is to support informed decision-making that protects public health while promoting sustainable environmental practices.

The council operates in coordination with the Onondaga County Department of Health and other relevant county agencies. Membership is intended to reflect a mix of professional expertise, public representation, and institutional knowledge related to environmental and public health.

Appointing Authority: Appointments are made by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature.

Current Appointments:

- William Ayling
- John Benson
- Jeremy Euto
- Donald Gates
- Carl Wieszalis
- Vacant
- Vacant
- Vacant
- Vacant



Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

OUTSIDE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Health & Human Services Committee

Onondaga Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation

The Onondaga Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation (OTASC) is a public benefit corporation created to manage and securitize Onondaga County's share of payments received under the Master Settlement Agreement with major tobacco manufacturers. The corporation issues bonds backed by anticipated tobacco settlement revenues, allowing the county to convert long-term settlement income into immediate funding while maintaining structured debt repayment oversight.

OTASC operates as a legally separate entity to protect the county's financial interests while ensuring compliance with New York State public authority law and bond covenants. The corporation's responsibilities include fiscal oversight, debt service management, financial reporting, and coordination with county finance officials and bond trustees.

5 directors are to be appointed, 2 by the county legislature. So since the terms are for 1 year it appears there are two vacancies.

Appointing Authority: Directors are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Legislature

Current Appointments:

- Peter Seitz
 - o Appointed: 2/21/2021
- **VACANT** (Was Legislator Colleen Gunnip)
 - o Appointed: 2/6/2024
- **VACANT** (Was Legislator Richard McCarron)
 - o Appointed: 2/6/2024



Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

OUTSIDE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Health & Human Services Committee

Health Advisory Board

The Onondaga County Health Advisory Board is an advisory body established within the Department of Health to counsel the Commissioner of Health on matters relating to the preservation and improvement of public health and public health services throughout Onondaga County. The board provides guidance on policy issues, review of health programs, and recommends actions to support the county's sanitary code and health initiatives, including environmental health, chronic disease prevention, and community health improvement planning.

Appointing Authority: 8 members appointed by the County Executive; 1 must be a Legislator (But no recent record of a legislator being appointed)

Current Appointments:

- David Page, MD, Chair (CE appointed)
- Robert Hack (CE appointed)
- Maryellen Lewis, MD (CE appointed)
- Derrick Murry (CE appointed)
- Ann Rooney (CE appointed)
- Simone Seward (CE appointed)
- Vacant
- Vacant (Legislator)



Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

OUTSIDE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Health & Human Services Committee

Community Services Advisory Board

The Onondaga County Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB), also referred to as the Community Services Board (CSB), is established under New York State Mental Hygiene Law to advise the County Executive and the Department of Mental Health on the planning, coordination, and evaluation of local mental health, substance use, and developmental disability services.

Appointing Authority: Appointed by the Onondaga County Executive and confirmed by the County Legislature.

Current Appointments:

- Jennifer Parmalee, Chair
- Sarah Merrick, Voting Member
- Jim Yonai, Voting Member
- **VACANT SLOT**
- Monika Taylor
 - o Confirmed: March 2020
 - o **Term expired**
- Tania S. Anderson
 - o Confirmed: September 7, 2021
 - o **Term listed through December 31, 2024**
- Michael Raab
 - o Confirmed: September 7, 2021
 - o **Term listed through December 31, 2024**
- Juhanna Rogers
 - o Confirmed: September 7, 2021
 - o **Term listed through December 31, 2024**
- Indu Gupta, M.D.
 - o Confirmed: March 2020
 - o **Term expired**
- Jennifer Redmond
 - o Confirmed: March 2020
 - o **Term expired**



Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

OUTSIDE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Health & Human Services Committee

County Veterans Service Advisory Board

The Onondaga County Veterans Service Advisory Board serves as an advisory body to the Onondaga County Veterans Service Agency and the County Executive. Its role is to provide guidance on policies, outreach efforts, and program development affecting veterans and their families within the county.

Last action 2018.

Appointing Authority: Members are appointed by the Onondaga County Executive with recommendation as listed below.

Current Appointments:

All 8 positions vacant including legislator

- 2 Majority Leader Appointments
- 2 Minority Leader Appointments
- 4 Chair Appointments (1 of whom is a legislator)



Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

OUTSIDE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Health & Human Services Committee

Council on the Disabled

Records lacking. From what can be gathered: Appointed by the Chairman (1/3 shall be comprised of disabled individuals or the parent(s) of a disabled child). 9 total voting member, appointed by the chair.

The last action of this body took place in 1999. Seeing as how term limits are 2 years this board is more than likely defunct.

Appointing Authority: Appointments made by the chair of the legislature.



Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board

The Onondaga County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Board is a formal citizen-participation body that provides guidance on public safety and emergency medical care within the county. It acts as a bridge between the professionals on the ground (ambulance services, fire departments, and dispatchers) and the county government. 18 members are appointed by the County Executive for 3 years terms. One is a legislator who is recommended by the chair.

Appointing Authority: County Executive, Chair makes a recommendation.

Appointment:

- VACANT



Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

OUTSIDE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Health & Human Services Committee

County Community Services Advisory Board / Department of Mental Health

Established pursuant to New York State Mental Hygiene Law, the Onondaga County Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB), also referred to as the Community Services Board (CSB), serves as the primary advisory body to the Department of Mental Health. The board evaluates county mental health, substance use, and developmental disability services and provides policy and planning recommendations to ensure programs remain responsive, coordinated, and compliant with state standards. The board functions as a bridge between government leadership, service providers, and community stakeholders.

State law permits up to 15 voting members, serving staggered multi-year terms. Meeting records show the board remains active and continues recruiting additional members, suggesting that not all authorized seats are currently filled.

Appointing Authority: Appointments are made by the County Executive