



County of Onondaga  
 Department of Children & Family Services

Child Welfare • Mental Health Services • Juvenile Justice • Youth Bureau • School Based Initiatives

**J. Ryan McMahon II**  
 County Executive

John H. Mulroy Civic Center  
 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202  
 Phone: 315-435-2884 Fax: 315-435-3814

**Amy Cunningham**  
 Commissioner

[www.ongov.net](http://www.ongov.net)

**Community Services Board**

**March 2, 2026**

**12:00 pm – 1:30 pm**

**OCM BOCES**

**110 Elwood Drive Road**

**Liverpool, NY 13088**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Monica Bacote, Marla Byrnes, Lisa Coggi, Lashae Coleman, Sarah Easterly, Scott Herron, Paul Joslyn, Stephen Luce, Lisa Mancini, Siphon Mbuqe, Antara Mitra, Andrea Morgia, Elizabeth Nolan, Jennifer Parmalee, Novelette Pierce, Alexandra Punch, Mark Rusin, Vince Schmidt, Mariah Senecal-Reilly

**Welcome/Introductions**

Jennifer Parmalee, Director of Community Services, opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. All attendees introduced themselves, including their job titles and affiliated organizations.

**Review of members approved by the Onondaga County Legislature**

On December 16, 2025, the Onondaga County Legislature approved the following individuals and their respective term expiration dates for the Community Services Advisory Board:

**Reappointment**

<b>Names</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Elizabeth Nolan	December 31, 2028

**Appointments**

Alexandra E. Punch	December 31, 2028
Antara Miltra	December 31, 2028
Mark M. Rusin	December 31, 2028

Paul M. Joslyn December 31, 2028

Lisa Mancini December 31, 2027

Seethalakshmi Ramanathan December 31, 2027

Sarah M. Easterly December 31, 2027

### **Nominations for Next Co-Chair of Community Services Board**

- A. Jennifer Parmalee made a motion to open up nominations for the next Co-Chair of the Community Services Advisory Board.
- B. Nominations should be submitted to Stephen Luce, Administrative Assistant to the Division of Mental Health, at [StephenLuce@ongov.net](mailto:StephenLuce@ongov.net).
- C. Community Services Board requested a document describing the role of the chair.

### **Discussion: "Children's System of Care" Facilitated by Jennifer Parmalee**

#### **Children's System of Care**

- A. The Children's System of Care addresses the needs of youth with SED (serious emotional challenges) and provides support to children and families need at the time they are needed and does so under a shared set of values: family driven, youth focused, least restrictive, community based, and data driven.
  - I. As part of the Children's System of Care, Access receives referrals and helps to identify at risk youth in home, school and/or the community.
  - II. Grants under the Children's System of Care support specific populations.
- B. There is currently a high level of coordination between "No Wrong door Portal", which identifies youth with serious emotional needs, and high-need services.

#### **SAMHSA System of Care**

- A. SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) is the grant framework where systems identify youth with SED to ensure they do not fall off services and to follow them across the eight services through childhood.
- B. The ultimate goal is to reduce hospitalizations out of home placements.

#### **Discussion Highlights**

- A. Jenn discussed current identification and follow-up possibilities with the goal of supporting youths and families.
- B. Brainstorming
  - I. Explore family peer support throughout treatment life cycle
  - II. Explore whether an AI-Supported application would be helpful.
  - I. Create a questionnaire asking families whether services are effective.

- II. Change the timeframe in which Access follows up with families after closure.
- III. Develop a system allowing providers to view referral status and determine whether a child is already working with another provider.

### **Presentation: “Vulnerable Populations and HMIS” by Jennifer Parmalee**

- A. Onondaga County aims to create a system allowing providers serving individuals who are unhoused with serious mental illness and substance use challenges to share information.
  - I. The goal is to support individuals across service providers.

### **Discussion Highlights**

- A. County is wanting to expand access to HMIS to additional areas like mobile crisis.
  - I. This is a viable option because a large portion of the target population is already in this system.
  - II. This could be implemented through a program module within HMIS accessible to other agencies.
- B. If mental health providers utilize Healthy Connections, other health providers could access relevant information.

### **Presentation: “Dual Recovery” presented by Andrea Morgia**

- A. The Dual Recovery Coordinator position within Onondaga County Adult Mental Health focuses on individuals with co-occurring mental health diagnosis and a substance abuse disorders.
- B. This position was established several years ago in collaboration with OASAS and OMH.
- C. The role of Dual Recovery Coordinator will focus on infrastructure support and system coordination to address fragmented systems that result in duplication of efforts and preventable crises.
- D. Responsibilities will include eliminating barriers and developing protocols to prevent “wrong door” experiences.

### **Roundtable Updates**

- A. **Monica Bacote (Professional Development Initiatives):**
  - I. Upcoming provider training will focus on creating improved outcomes and will be facilitated by Dr. Laura Quiros.
  - II. Contact Monica regarding classroom or youth group presentations about career opportunities in the mental health field.
- B. **Lisa Coggi (School-Based Initiatives):** Monthly School-Based Mental Health Steering Committee meetings. Contact Lisa to present or contribute.

- C. **Sarah Easterly (DSS-ES):** DSS-ES programs (Medicaid, SNAP, HEAP, etc.) are waiting for governor's budget. If additional child care funding is approved, more families on the waitlist can be served. Case management services will now be provided to individuals sheltered in hotels.
- D. **Scott Herron (NAMI):** NAMI will train peer supporters. NAMI has launched FLARE, an online tool to help teachers build customized mental health curriculum.
- E. **Paul Joslyn (AccessCNY):** AccessCNY operates Onondaga CASA, which connects Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) with neglected and abused children in foster care.
- F. **Andrea Morgia (Adult Mental Health & Crisis Services):** A new Dual Diagnosis Coordinator position at CCSI will open in the coming months.
- G. **Sipho Mbuqe (Upstate):** The Upstate After-Hours Clinic is scheduled to open in June.
- H. **Vince Schmidt (OPWDD):** Central NY DDSO is awaiting the next state fiscal year budget. Preliminary information appears positive.
- I. **Mariah Senecal-Reilly (DCFS):** Approximately 90% of calls to the Onondaga County Substance Use Hotline are related to spike and other synthetic drugs. The Department of Health is currently working with New York State to obtain training for working with individuals currently using spike and other synthetics substances.

### **Action Items**

- A. Next Meeting will be held on 06/01/2026 at 12:00 pm in OCM BOCES Elwood Davis Road.
- B. Election for Co-Chair of the Community Services Advisory Board
- C. Sarah Easterly will share information about the implementation of new Medicaid Work Requirements.