



County of Onondaga

Department of Children & Family Services

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

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Community Services Board

June 1, 2026

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

OCM BOCES

110 Elwood Drive Road

Liverpool, NY 13088

Meeting Minutes

Present: Henry Brigham, Marla Byrnes, Shevanie Clark, Lisa Coggi, Lashae Coleman, Sarah Easterly, Karen Fuller, Tyler Gilyard, Scott Herron, Kyle Holst, Jessica Hopps, Kirsten Hubel, Paul Joslyn, Shannon Kelley, Stephen Luce, Lisa Mancini, Rick McNeil, Antara Mitra, Andrea Morgia, Jennifer Parmalee, Novelette Pierce, Mariah Senecal-Reilly, Trae Tape

Welcome/Introductions

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

Brief Overview of the Community Services Board Meeting

Jenn provided a brief overview of the purpose and mission of the Community Services Board.

Review of minutes from Community Services Board Meeting on 12/01/2025

Due to lack of quorum, approval of the 12/01/2025 meeting minutes will be moved to the next scheduled meeting on **09/14/2026**.

Announcement of Nominations for Next Co-Chair of Community Services Board

- A. Jennifer Parmalee reviewed the nominations submitted for Community Services Board President.
- B. It has been noted that **Antara Mitra** is the sole individual nominated for Community Services Board President.
- C. The Election will take place at the scheduled next meeting for **09/14/2026**.

Peer Services Panel Discussion

Panel Members

- A. Henry Brigham - Founder, Devin's Rec Room
- B. Shevanie Clark - Project Director, Center for Community Alternatives, Cuse Center
- C. Karen Fuller - Lead Family Coordinator, Access CNY
- D. Tyler Gilyard - Program Coordinator, Dept. of Health, Division of Substance Abuse Initiatives
- E. Kyle Holst - Training Institute Generalist, Helio Health, Inc.
- F. Kirsten Hubel - Peer Workforce Development Coordinator, CCSI on behalf of Onondaga County DCFS
- G. Rick McNeil - Peer Advocate, Catholic Charities
- H. Trae Tape - Youth Act Coordinator, CCSI on behalf of Onondaga County DCFS

Brief Description of Program/Panel Background

- A. **Henry Brigham** - Devin's Rec Room was founded with idea that Community plays a powerful role in recovery. The program has 600 members, 87% of whom have checked in within the last year. Services are around the eight dimensions of wellness.
- B. **Shevanie Clark** – Project Director for the Cuse Center, which provides peer-led support groups for youth and adults including workforce readiness services.
- C. **Karen Fuller** – Credentialed Peer Family Advocate at AccessCNY supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health needs. She runs support groups and provides linkage and is working to expand the number of peer family advocates.
- D. **Tyler Gilyard** – Oversees Onondaga County Peer Engagement Services, offering transitional peer support for adults in all stages of recovery. Case management staff are available to support peers, and there are no eligibility requirements.
- E. **Kyle Holst** – Provides peer trainings at Helio Health Training Institute and assists with CRPA courses.
- F. **Kirsten Hubel** – Supports the regional peer workforce by working with peers and providers across Central New York to strengthen peer services in mental health and substance use systems.
- G. **Rick McNeil** – Works for Hope Connections under Catholic Charities. The program supports individuals struggling with substance use to achieve their personal goals.
- H. **Trae Tape** – Supports the OnCare Transition Age Youth program, connecting youth to services, helping them obtain certifications, and supporting employment searches. He has worked with 20–30 youths, with 6–7 becoming credentialed.

Discussion Highlights

What is Proceeding Well and Current Challenges

- A. **Henry Brigham** - Collaboration across agencies has been strong. Challenges include limited opioid settlement funding directed to grassroots organizations (only 3%) and the need for additional peer staff.

- B. **Shevanie Clark** - Shared a success story about an individual in recovery who wishes to stay in the field but faces employment barriers due to background checks.
- C. **Karen Fuller** – Collaboration is positive, but long waitlists for services create barriers in supporting clients.
- D. **Kyle Holst** - Helio Health has scholarship opportunities for prospective peers (<https://www.helio.health/crpa/>). Challenges include peers being assigned tasks outside their scope and being supervised by clinicians without lived experience, which contributes to turnover.
- E. **Kirsten Hubel** - Collaboration is going well, but peers often receive limited support early in their roles. Many transition to other positions (often MSW programs) within five years. Stigma remains a barrier.
- F. **Rick McNeil** - Discussed challenges in relationship-building and the fine line between peer services and case management.
- G. **Trae Tape** – Lived experience is valuable in working with youth, but newly certified peers face difficulty securing employment.

Thoughts and Questions from Attendees

- A. **Scott Herron (NAMI)** - NAMI has its own peer program, Overwatch Peer Support. Scott identified the need for peers to connect with each other.
- B. **Jessica Hopps (CCSI)** – Identified the need for a centralized hub of peer services information.
- C. **Kirsten Hubel** – Noted the lack of a unifying system for peer services, despite some efforts.
- D. **Shevanie Clark** – OASAS will hold a Statewide Listening Tour stop in Syracuse at the Onondaga County Emergency Management Office (420 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, NY) on June 24th from 10:00 am–12:00 pm.
- E. **Lisa Coggi (Onondaga Co. DCFS School-Based Initiatives)** – Asked whether the “peer” job title should be changed due to stigma.
- F. **Tyler Gilyard** – Stated he does not like the current job title; NYC has changed the title to reduce stigma.
- G. **Paul Joslyn (AccessCNY)** – It would be a good idea to train at the organizational level for agencies that are supervising peers.
- H. **Lisa Mancini (Helio Health)** – Stated that the NYS Opioid Settlement Board has limited representation from Central New York.
- I. **Kirsten Hubel** – Noted that Medicaid billing structures limit the ability of peers to attend trainings. Suggested applying for settlement funds to hire independent peer trainers for employers.

Local Services Plan Updates

Jenn presented the “2024–2028 Strategies” handout and asked the group to review it. Updates to the Local Services Plan will be made by June 30th.

Highlights of Document

- A. Milestones achieved include:

- I. Expansion of treatment options, supporting services and services across the lifespan.
- II. Launch of the START program, which applies evidence-based practices to support practitioners at the child's level.
 - a. The next objective is to expand to the adult level.
- III. Development of Crisis Response (911 & 988) injunction with Onondaga 911 Administration Center.
- IV. Increased housing opportunities.
- V. Support for contracts through the Analytics Unit.

Round Table Updates

A. Paul Joslyn

- I. ACCESS CNY has OMH programs designed to support children and adults with developmental disabilities or mental health diagnoses in returning home or living independently.
- II. The new intensive respite program, Crystal House, is now open.

B. Andrea Morgia (CCSI obo Onondaga Co. Adult Mental Health)

- I. CCSI is currently hiring an Outreach Supervisor and a Dual Diagnosis Coordinator.

C. Lisa Coggi

- I. Monthly School-Based Mental Health Steering Committee meetings. Contact Lisa to present or contribute.

D. Antara Mitra (Contact Community Services)

- I. Transitioning the 24/7 hotline (315-251-0600) to a warm line staffed by volunteers, with a preventative focus.
- II. The organization's annual CNY Youth Mental Health Summit in Syracuse is scheduled for October 22 at the Embassy Suites at Destiny USA.

E. Jessica Hopps

- I. Contact her if you would like Healthy Transitions staff to present.

F. Novelette Pierce (CCSI obo Children's Mental Health)

- I. Children's Mental Health Stakeholder Meeting is scheduled virtually for today at 2:30 pm.

G. Lashae Coleman (Onondaga Co. Adult Mental Health)

- I. Adult Stakeholders Meeting will be on 07/20/2026 from 2:30–4:00 pm at OCM BOCES, 110 Elwood Davis Road, Liverpool.

H. Scott Herron

- I. NAMI partnered with the Syracuse Mets for We Care Wednesday on 06/03/2026 at NBT Bank Stadium (gates at 3:30 pm). They also have
- II. NAMI WALKS at Burnet Park from 11:00 am–1:00 pm; registration at namiwalks.org.
- III. NAMI educational conference scheduled for September.

I. Sarah Easterly (Onondaga Co. DSS-ES)

- I. DSS-ES is implementing H.R. 1 Budget Reconciliation Law changes to its SNAP program. As of March 1st, the benefit holders affected by the new eligibility including changes related to permanent residency requirements have been identified and notification letters have been sent.

- II. Medicaid changes take effect early next year.
- III. Renee Clark joined DSS-ES as the new housing director.
- J. **Mariah Senecal-Reilly (Onondaga County Substance Abuse Initiatives)**
 - I. A Peer Support Specialist is now stationed on the 2nd floor to assist individuals seeking DSS benefits.
- K. **Kirsten Hubel (Peer Coordination)**
 - I. OMH has launched the Trauma-Informed Network and Resource Center (TINRC), a statewide hub for training and networking..
- L. **Henry Brigham (Devin's Rec Room)**

Devin's Rec Room will hold the "Never Walk Alone" 5K fundraiser on Sunday, June 14th from 9:00 am–12:00 pm.
- M. **Shevy Clark (Cuse Center)**
 - I. The Cuse Center is celebrating its 25th anniversary.
 - II. The Reentry Program provides free legal services and advocates in cases of unlawful employment discrimination based on criminal record.

Action Items

- A. Next Meeting will be held on **Monday 09/14/2026 at 12:00 pm** in OCM BOCES Elwood Davis Road.
- B. Election of **Antara Mitra** for Chairperson of the Community Services Board.