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

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Amy Cunningham
Commissioner

Community Services Board
September 14, 2026
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
OCM BOCES
110 Elwood Drive Road
Liverpool, NY 13088

Meeting Minutes

Present:

Community Services Board Members

Paul Joslyn, Lisa Mancini, Sipho Mbuqe, Antara Mitra, Elizabeth Nolan, Mark Rusin

Other Attendees

Lisa Coggi, Karen Fuller, Lauren Giannetti, Tyler Gilyard, Christine Harrington, Scott Herron, Jessica Hopps, Novelette Pierce, Vince Schmidt

Welcome/Introductions

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

Review of minutes from Community Services Board Meeting on 06/01/2026

The meeting minutes from 06/01/2026 were reviewed and approved with no revisions or objections.

Election for President of Community Services Board

Jennifer Parmalee announced that Antara Mitra remained the sole nominee for Community Services Board President. Present voting members, Elizabeth Nolan and Mark Schmidt motioned to bring the nomination to the floor. With no additional nominations presented, a vote was held. Antara Mitra was elected unanimously by all present voting members of the Community Services Board.

New Members of Community Services Board

Jennifer Parmalee announced that the following individuals will be submitted to the Onondaga County Executive's Office for consideration as new members of the Onondaga County Community Services Board.

New Proposed Members

A. Christine Harrington – Deputy Director of Operations, Hutchings Psychiatric Center
B. Carrie Doran - Chief Operating Officer - Project Director, Liberty Resources
C. Lauren Giannetti – Director of Acute Care Behavioral Services, St. Joseph's Hospital
D. Jessica Hopps – Senior Director of Program Management, Coordinated Care Services
E. Karen Fuller – Lead Family Coordinator, Access CNY
F. Scott Herron – Executive Director, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)
G. Shannon Kelley – Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Upstate Medical University

High Priority Vulnerable Populations Meeting Series

Jennifer Parmalee explained an ongoing initiative started by the Onondaga County Executive's Office to address the needs of vulnerable populations in our community. A list of approximately 113 individuals was developed in collaboration with our community partners. From this list, 30 individuals have been identified as the highest concern, and approximately 15 have been addressed thus far.

In this meeting series, Onondaga County and various community based organizations work collaboratively to identify and address the needs of individuals with complex needs who may benefit from cross system coordination.

Jenn, Andrea and Lashae are in the process of developing a scale of acuity with the assistance of the New York State Office of Mental Health. The scale will include 8 domains and is intended to be systems-focused. Future efforts will involve convening a meeting to apply this acuity scale to assess a large portion of individuals on the list.

Racker Contracted for OCM BOCES Adolescent Day Treatment Program

We welcome the Racker Center as they partner with OCM BOCES to assume operations of the Adolescent Day Treatment Program. Effective September 1st, the current day treatment concluded operations and Racker started its new role. Racker brings a longstanding history of providing high-quality children's day treatment services to Onondaga County youth in their Cortland County OCM BOCES location. Onondaga County and its partners have been working closely to maintain continuity of care and ensure a seamless transition.

New Children's SPOA Funding

Onondaga County Division of Mental Health has received additional funding from New York State for its Children's SPOA (Single Point of Access) program. The Office of Mental Health aims to ensure

that each county has a full-time SPOA coordinator dedicated to overseeing children's services and system navigation. Onondaga County has been allocated $400,000 for its Children's System of Care Program.

The Division is currently working to align its contracts and procedures to strengthen cross-system collaboration and enhance coordination across partner agencies, with the goal of improving access, consistency, and continuity of care for children and families.

Dual Recovery

CCSI (Coordinated Care Services, Inc.) has hired Anastasia Stark as the Systems of Care Manager/Dual Recovery Coordinator. In this role, she will work on behalf of the Division of Mental Health for the Dual Recovery program, which supports individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use challenges through a holistic, person-centered system focused approach.

Anastasia is still becoming acclimated with the acuity scale and related processes, and will eventually assume the responsibility of facilitating the high priority meeting. She will also participate in multiple train-the-trainer programs, enabling her to provide training to partner community organizations. She will be responsible for community calls and engaging in significant cross-systems work. She is already trained in the START model—which supports individuals with IDD and co-occurring mental health needs—and has experience assisting individuals involved with multiple systems.

Round Table Updates

A. **Jessica Hopps and Novelette Pierce - CCSI (Coordinated Care Systems, Inc.)**
    I. Hiring of Anastasia Stark as the Systems of Care Manager/ Dual Recovery Coordinator for the Onondaga County Mental Health Program.
B. **Lisa Coggi – Onondaga County School-Based Initiatives**
    I. Monthly School-Based Mental Health Steering Committee meetings. Contact Lisa to present or contribute.
C. **Lisa Mancini – Helio Health**
    I. Helio Health's short-term transitional residence program is now fully funded through a grant of the New York State Office of Mental Health. The program includes 14 beds along with a range of supportive services designed to help individuals reintegrate into the community following the completion of inpatient rehabilitation services. Residents may stay up to 90 days, with the possibility of slightly extended stays when clinically appropriate.
    II. Helio Health also received additional funding to expand youth-appropriate recovery and supportive services.
    III. Helio Health's CR-SRO (Community Residence-Single Occupancy) will be relocated from 518 James Street, in Syracuse, as the Office of Aging has determined that the current building is not accessible. The construction on the new location is expected to be completed early next year.
D. **Paul Joslyn – AccessCNY**

I. AccessCNY has received approval for its transitional residence center, which is anticipated to open sometime next year.

E. **Nicole Wise and Lauren Giannetti – St. Joseph's Health Hospital**
   I. St. Joseph's is currently remodeling its psychiatric inpatient unit. Although the total number of beds will remain the same, the renovation will include the addition of new private rooms.
   II. The New York State Office of Mental Health has awarded a grant to support structural enhancements to CPEP. Planned improvements include sensory murals and games for the pediatric room.

F. **Scott Herron - NAMI**
   I. NAMI's 32nd Annual Educational Conference is scheduled for September 23rd from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Syracuse off Circle. A total of 23 vendors will be participating in the conference.
   II. NAMI will be hosting a Movie Screening for Good Side of Bad on Friday, October 9th at the Palace Theatre on James Street.
   III. NAMI offers a free Middle School Mental Health Literacy Curriculum called FLARE (Flexible Learning for Adolescent Resiliency Education).
   IV. NAMI will be launching a new, more robust website that is integrated with NAMI National. The updated site will include a new resources webpage.

G. **Elizabeth Nolan - Hillside**
   I. A series of meetings has been held with Upstate Medical University to address the ongoing challenge of boarding out-of-county youths. Through these discussions, partners have developed a deeper understanding of the primary issues contributing to the problem.

H. **Sipho Mbuqe**
   I. Upstate Medical University is currently recruiting psychiatry and social work interns, which will be placed in areas where the need is greatest.

I. **Karen Fuller – AccessCNY**
   I. AccessCNY is currently hiring new family peer advocates as well as an intensive case coordinator.

J. **Tyler Gilyard – Onondaga County Substance Abuse Initiatives**
   I. Onondaga County SUI is waiting on the completion of a Memoranda of Understanding with AMR (American Medical Response). Once finalized, two peers will join the emergency medical responders when 911 receives a call regarding an overdose.

<u>Action Items</u>

A. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 7, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. at OCM BOCES on Elwood Davis Road.
B. Planned Items for Next Meeting's Agenda
   - Upstate Children's Hospital Discussion
   - Discussion regarding Onondaga County CSB Children's and Developmental Disabilities Subcommittees
   - Suicide Prevention Coalition Presentation
   - Children's Settlement