

COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

September 17, 2026

Pending Approval

Via Hybrid

Members Present: Shawn Nalepa
Tina Lounsbury
Porshea Moore
Christine Schweitzer
William Standing, III
Bob Williams
Carolyn Galatzan
Keith Nichols, MD
Kristine Maslin

Members Excused: Fran Bialy

Members Absent: Pat Gillule

Guests: Casey O'Reilly, OPWDD

Mental Hygiene Present: Sarah Begeal, Director of Community Services
Susan Graves, Secretary to the Director of Community Services

Meeting called to order at 9:39am

Category: Meeting Minutes

Topic: Review of the August 2026 Minutes – motion to approve –Tina Lounsbury
2nd Bob Williams, approved as written

Topic: Director Report – Sarah Begeal

Discussion: Updates:

- Brief discussion on the Open Meetings Law
 - Board members questioning in-person attendance requirement
- Budget
 - 2026 continues to track well except for Criminal Psych
 - Resolution passed for contingency funds to cover the expense
 - County is responsible for 100% of the expense
 - Discussion regarding criminal psych ensued
 - New legislation on the Governor's desk regarding 730 competency restoration
- Resolutions
 - Board composition resolution passed changing membership from 15 to 9

- Creation of a full-time AOT Coordinator position passed
- Request for contingency funds for criminal psych expense passed
- Staff
 - Riley Lenetsky, CSW starting 9/21/26
 - Brean Schaffer was promoted to Senior and transitioning to the CAC
 - Emily Parsons, CSW starting 10/5/26
 - Janeille Williams, Supervising CSW resigned effective 9/29/26
 - Intern Matthew McDonald withdrew from internship
- “Chalk the Walk” – Suicide Awareness Event
 - Guthrie Pact reached out to Mental Hygiene to host event
 - Friday, September 18th, 2026, from 1:00-4:00pm
 - HHS parking lot
- Subcommittee Change
 - Subcommittees are breaking out into their own individual meetings again
 - OPWDD meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30am
 - MH meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:30am
 - ASA meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:30am
 - All three subcommittees will meet as a whole during Local Service Plan development
 - Looking to have more participation

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Committee Reports

Discussion: Highlights:

- Mental Health Subcommittee
 - Mental Health continues to look for a Peer
 - Hea Hea is closed currently due to issues with insurance and census
 - Mental Health Subcommittee seeking consumers & parents of consumers
- ASA Subcommittee
 - Youth Advisory Council being developed
 - CASA no longer has an office in Owego however they are in the schools
- OPWDD Subcommittee
 - Pod casts on OPWDD website
 - CMS has increased screenings

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Unfinished Business

Discussion: Updates:

- Sarah, Tina & Porshea met to work on By-Laws
- Scheduling a second meeting
- Draft will be sent out to the board

Status: Informational – Complete

Other

Discussion: Certified Recovery Peer Specialist – Porshea Moore

- OD Vigil rescheduled for October 13th, 2026

- Courthouse Gazebo from 5:30 to 8:15pm

EMS – Bob Williams

- TAM meeting – arranging trainings
- Those who took the 3-day training do not need to take it again

Coroner Report – Bob Williams

- Toxicology report back for June overdose death
 - Benadryl - accidental overdose
 - Dr. Nichols explained how toxic Benadryl can be

Rehabilitation Support Services – Kristine Maslin

- All CR beds are full
 - Several AOT clients start at the CR
- OMH asking about the 5 unfilled special beds
 - Kristine explained the struggle to meet the requirements to fill these beds
 - A lot of restrictions and regulations are a huge barrier to getting them filled.

Affordable Housing Coalition

- Liz Myers, Commissioner of DSS, created a group to address the housing issues and develop solutions in Tioga County
- Group continuing to meet

Dr. Nichols

- Discussion ensued regarding Kratom
- Kratom commonly refers to an herbal substance that can produce opioid- and stimulant-like effects
- Porshea explained the labeling, use and easy accessibility
- No age restriction
- Very addictive with severe withdrawal symptoms
- She is seeing a significant of Kratom use in Tioga County

Status: Informational – Complete

Adjournment: There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Tina Lounsbury, Carolyn Galatzan 2nd. The meeting adjourned at 10:28am. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 15th, 2026, at 9:30am.

DRAFT