

STEBEN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES, HEALTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

9:00 a.m.

*Legislative Chambers, 3rd Floor, Annex Building
Bath, New York*

****MINUTES****

- COMMITTEE:** Joseph Tobia, Chair
Nicholas D. Pelham
- Frederick G. Potter, Vice Chair
Debbie Shannon
- Justin Eberlin

- STAFF:** Jack K. Wheeler
Lisa Rodbourn
Gabe Smalt
Lise Reynolds
Nate Alderman
Matt Marmor
- Christopher Brewer
Curtis Warner
Christine Towner
Lynn Gramley
Jennifer DeMonstoy
Bill Caudill
- Tim Rosell
Michele Kuhn
Kathy Muller
Auralee Jefferds
Lindsay Rice

- LEGISLATORS:** Kelly H. Fitzpatrick
Hilda T. Lando
- K. Michael Hanna
Shannon Logsdon
- Jeffrey P. Horton
Scott J. Van Etten

- OTHERS:** Eddie Van Stine, Public Information Specialist
Brian O’Neal (Zoom)
Connie Terry, Steuben Opioid Committee
Caleb Cutler, Steuben Prevention Coalition
Laurie Mault, Steuben Prevention Coalition

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Tobia called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Ms. Shannon to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2025, MEETING MADE BY MR. POTTER. SECONDED BY MR. PELHAM. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Community Services

- 1. **Opioid Funding Program Updates** – Ms. Gramley introduced Caleb Cutler and Connie Terry who are here to present their end of year update regarding the use of opioid funds. Mr. Cutler stated we have worked in collaboration with other agencies to take a more dedicated approach. As of the end of the year, we had 2.2 million media impressions. We ramped up our messaging and we have eight or nine billboards across the County. Our messaging is targeting areas that have more opioid usage, and we have been developing a more cohesive messaging campaign so that the same message is coming from everyone. Mr. Cutler stated next year they will have a dedicated youth coalition that will be more involved in messaging campaigns. During the year our Drug Free Communities Grant had more of a youth focus; specifically dedicated to alcohol. Toward the end of the year, we also addressed marijuana.

Ms. Terry stated in 2025 the Sheriff’s Office collected 1,224 pounds of unwanted medications. She stated she has collaborated with the director of the New York State Poison Control Center, and we would like to focus on senior citizens and work with the Office for the Aging to distribute information to help seniors manage medications in their homes. During the year we trained 664 community members on the use of Narcan. Ms. Terry stated she sent a letter, written in conjunction with the District Attorney, Sheriff, and Public Health, encouraging all school superintendents to go above the minimum requirements for Narcan training. She noted 80 percent of teen drug fatalities involve Fentanyl. We also have offered and provided

training to fire departments, numerous agencies, and businesses in Bath, Corning and Hornell. Ms. Terry stated using OD Mapping software, there were 259 reported overdoses with 10 fatalities in 2025.

Mr. Tobia asked are all the schools trained in the use of Narcan? Ms. Terry stated no and there are a few schools that she is concerned about. All of the school nurses have received training, but not through us. The schools all have Narcan kits and Corning-Painted Post has Narcan boxes. We need help reaching out to Hornell and Arkport. Mr. Tobia stated you all presented very well-done reports, and the Opioid Committee is very well run. In your reports you note that there were 182 Narcan administrations and I want you to know that you are making a difference, a big difference. You are an important force in the County.

B. Public Health

1. **Preschool Contracts** – Mr. Marmor requested approval of new Preschool contracts with Stephanie Brentnall, Occupational Therapist and Choice Physical Therapy, PLLC. The rates are \$70.00 per session and \$35.00 per individual for a group session.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ENTER INTO NEW PRESCHOOL CONTRACTS WITH STEPHANIE BRENTNALL, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST, AND CHOICE PHYSICAL THERAPY, PLLC AT A RATE OF \$70.00 PER SESSION AND \$35.00 PER INDIVIDUAL FOR A GROUP SESSION MADE BY MR. POTTER. SECONDED BY MR. PELHAM. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

C. Social Services

1. **Contract** – Ms. Muller stated she wanted to let the committee know that she is looking to contract with an agency to help out when we need to sit with a child when they are unable to be placed immediately or are in the hospital. Mr. Wheeler explained we would like to partner with the hospitals, so they do not have their ER nurses spending all of their time sitting with a child. We have had caseworkers and staff sitting with children more frequently than we would want, but if we could contract for that service, that would keep our caseworkers and staff in the office and out in the field. In most cases, these are situations where the parent cannot or will not care for the child and the child needs another level of placement other than Foster Care.

Mr. Eberlin asked will you be partnering with the hospitals? Mr. Wheeler stated we are looking at a separate agency such as ProAction or Pathways. Ms. Muller stated there are some residential placements that will contract for a year for a bed, but there are different criteria. We want to review our program and data first. Mr. Wheeler stated we also have this same situation, at times, with adults. We want to develop an interactive process with the hospital. A contract could involve sitting with an adult as well. In these instances, the hospital bears the expense of the individuals who are at the ER. With the closing of numerous facilities in the 1980's and 1990's there are no beds available.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked do other counties have contracts for this service? Ms. Muller stated we are looking into that. We are still in the process of analyzing the data to make sure we get the right contract that fits our needs. Mr. Tobia stated two and a half years ago, the President of Corning Hospital at the time, had informed him that he applied for a \$5 million grant for an extension off of the emergency room that would house those with mental health needs. I thought that was a great idea and that was what the hospital needed, however, I never heard any word on the grant, and he is no longer President, so I assume the grant was denied. I really wish the hospital would step up and add some type of room that when someone comes in with mental health needs, they can get an evaluation and be put in that holding room for a day or two with a caseworker to work on getting proper placement. We have individuals that go to the ER frequently and there is no follow-up. I hope the new administrator takes the lead and helps out with this as we do not have a BSU.

2. **Budget Transfer** – Ms. Muller requested authorization to accept and appropriate additional funds to the 2025 budgets for TANF and Safety Net Assistance due to increased homeless

numbers. This will be a modification to the 2025 budget appropriating \$160,000 to TANF Assistance Payments line, \$20,000 to Emergency Assistant (Families) line, \$1,500,000 to Safety Net Assistance, \$180,000 into Federal Aid TANF revenue line and \$435,000 to State Aid – Safety Net revenue line.

Mr. Hanna asked what is the status of homelessness and the warming center? Ms. Muller stated homeless cases have increased 55 percent in 2025 and that is driving up our costs. The warming center is functioning well and we are talking about increasing numbers. They are not full yet but are running with 12 – 15 individuals per night. This would enable us to move some people who are currently in hotel rooms into the warming center. Mr. Pelham stated did we account for this increase in the 2026 budget? Mr. Wheeler stated we did increase the budget for 2026.

Mr. Pelham stated he has been informed that the warming center is only open at night. Ms. Muller stated the warming center opens at 5 pm and individuals leave at 9 am. We have five or six individuals when they leave, come over to our office. The remaining go and do their thing until 5 pm. Mr. Pelham stated there was an article in the Tribune and the Leader where the police chief in Hornell is quoted saying that he is more than happy to bring everyone to Bath. If they come in from Hornell, do they end up back in Hornell, or are they just released on the streets in Bath? Ms. Muller stated they are given transportation wherever they need to go. Mr. Pelham asked if they do not request to go back to Hornell, then they stay here? Ms. Muller stated they could stay here. Everybody has a right to do what they want to do, but our staff is engaging them and taking them down to the Corning location to the community center and trying to get them engaged in services. Mr. Pelham stated he would like to see a spreadsheet of the number of people per night, where they are coming from and where they go when they leave in the morning. Additionally, the facility is not being maintained as he went up after the ice storm and the parking lot was a sheet of ice. If someone gets injured, I know we have a hold harmless agreement with them, but the County has the deepest pockets and where is the protection for us? Ms. Muller stated she did call about the parking lot and was told that it was addressed. Mr. Pelham stated the paperwork that was submitted to the committee states they are a 501c3 organization and I have not been able to find any 990's. I would like to see their 990 forms for the past three years along with a letter from the IRS showing that they are a 501c3 not-for-profit. Mr. Wheeler stated we can check and get that information for you.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO THE 2025 BUDGETS FOR TANF AND SAFETY NET ASSISTANCE AS FOLLOWS: APPROPRIATE \$160,000 TO TANF ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS, \$20,000 TO EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (FAMILIES), \$1,500,000 TO SAFETY NET ASSISTANCE, \$180,000 TO FEDERAL AID TANF REVENUE LINE AND \$435,000 TO STATE AID – SAFETY NET REVENUE LINE MADE BY MR. POTTER. SECONDED BY MS. SHANNON. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

D. Personnel

1. **Tuition Aid Request(s)**

- *Public Health* – Mr. Alderman requested approval of the tuition aid request for Jennifer Kennan who is taking courses toward her bachelor's in nursing. She is taking 9 credit hours, and we reimburse 50 percent of the cost upon completion. Total reimbursement will be \$1,777.50.

MOTION: APPROVING THE TUITION AID REQUEST FOR JENNIFER KENNAN, NURSE IN PUBLIC HEALTH, TO BE REIMBURSED FOR 9 CREDIT HOURS FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,777.50 UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION MADE BY MR. PELHAM. SECONDED BY MR. EBERLIN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

- *Public Health* – Mr. Alderman requested approval of the tuition aid request for Micayla Decker who is taking courses toward her Associate Degree in nursing. She is taking 3 credit hours, and we reimburse 50 percent of the cost upon completion. Total reimbursement will be \$777.00.

MOTION: APPROVING THE TUITION AID REQUEST FOR MICAYLA DECKER, NURSE IN PUBLIC HEALTH, TO BE REIMBURSED FOR 3 CREDIT HOURS FOR A TOTAL OF \$777.00 UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION MADE BY MR. PELHAM. SECONDED BY MR. POTTER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

E. Youth Bureau

1. **Youth in Government** – Mr. Caudill invited the committee to attend the Youth in Government Simulated Session which will be held on Thursday, January 15th at 10 a.m.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. PELHAM. SECONDED BY MR. POTTER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

****NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, February 6, 2026
9:00 a.m.**

**Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature's Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, February 28, 2025**