

**Tioga County Department of Human Services  
Advisory Board  
August 9, 2024  
12:00 p.m.**

---

**Attendance:** SueAnne Carson, Jenny Farrer, Jennifer Harmon, Mellissa Parsons, Trisha Tanner, Sue Sticklin, Diane Weed, Brett Weiskopff, Mary Wilson

**Remote Attendance:** Kimberly Alfieri

**Call to Order:** Mary called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence. Mary states that we do not have a quorum and will not be able to vote on anything today.

**Secretary's Report:** We will review and vote on the meeting minutes at the next meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** As of the end of June 2024, the Advisory Board balance is \$2,986.30

**Business:**

The Children and Youth Need-Base and Implementation Plan will be presented to the board today. The plan was distributed to the board members.

The executive summary of our plan this year was focused on the transition of our family services staff back to the County from SAM, Inc. We are getting back to the basics that include making decisions regarding work spaces for our workers, Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) trainings, and efforts to strengthen our culture and promote unity. We have implemented professional development events for our leadership and staff. Our challenges that we have are to recruit and retain staff, which seems to be a reoccurring theme each year.

Our intake department has had 185 reports this past year with 29 indicated. Tioga County has seen a slight decrease with children and families served compared to last fiscal year. Our trends show that we have seen an increase of domestic violence cases with some of these incidents resulting in dependency. Domestic violence was the main reason why children were removed for fiscal year 2023-24. Other trends include substance use by caregivers and children, behavioral/mental health concerns for both children and caregivers, homelessness and/or poor physical standards. Intake often has repeated families that have history with children and youth involvement, which is consistent from previous years. Tioga County has had more bodily injury cases compared to other forms of abuse.

Tioga County's on-going department has served 222 children and 115 families for fiscal year 2023-24. This is the lowest we have seen in five years. We have several families with sibling groups, and these families have stayed consistent throughout the year. We continue to utilize Family Finding along with CRR's to help families develop a plan to assist the families that are in crisis. These meetings have eliminated many possible placements, allowing for family members to step in and arrange for their own custody agreements rather than Tioga County taking custody. Drug use continues to be a concern, with Methamphetamine being the drug choice and also an increase in cocaine use. Tioga County continues to engage with multi-generational families with poor living conditions, truancy, and mental health concerns.

Tioga County has utilized kinship homes more than we have in previous years.

Meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Submitted by:

*Holly Lamonski*  
Holly Lamonski  
Secretary

*Sara J. Rice*

Sara J. Rice  
Administrator of TCDHS