

**Tioga County Department of Human Services  
Advisory Board  
March 11, 2026  
12:00 p.m.**

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**Attendance:** Roger Bunn, Lindsey Chambers, Kelly Irwin, Brett Kennedy, Kristopher Kaufman, Holly Lamonski, Nichole Luckovich, Trisha McIlwain, Mellissa Parsons, Sara Rice, April Smith, Kail Thompson

**Call to Order:** Sara called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

“The Tioga County Department of Human Services Advisory Board will facilitate the Public Hearing regarding the 2026/2027 Human Services Plan from 12:00p.m. -1:00pm. The purpose of these hearings is to inform the public and solicit stakeholder input. During the Public Hearings any member of the public is invited to provide testimony, verbally or in writing, regarding the plan.”

**Secretary’s Report:** Holly asked the Advisory Board to review the minutes from the November 2025 meeting. No voiced concerns, questions, or discrepancies. Kail made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Holly seconded. Motion carried.

Anne Anderegg has agreed to a 3-year term on the Advisory Board to fulfill the psychology role. Brett made a motion to appoint Anne Anderegg to the Advisory Board, Kail seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:** As of the end of February 2026, the Advisory Board balance is \$8,437.68. This year we received the largest donations that we have received during our Christmas Appeal. We received a total of \$6,400.00. Which we are grateful for due to our housing problems we have had. Kail made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report, Holly seconded. Motion carried.

Sara thanked everyone for being here and asked providers to attend today’s meeting so that we can get insight into what they are seeing in our communities and what needs there are to be met.

Partners In Progress has seen an increase in transportation needs. The transit bus company has increased their fees which has made things difficult and they are unable to transport during evening and weekend hours. We have had individuals with frozen water pipes and the need for exterminators. Individuals tend to get comfortable with their services which can hinder employment efforts. We do have individuals in need of services that do not necessarily want them. Question- are there lacking supports for your aging population? No. We have had individuals who are in need of outpatient counseling and the waitlist to get those services is long.

Kristopher Kaufman states that mental health has been a concern in the Northern Tioga School District the last five years. We have partnerships with Laurel Health for school-based services. We have had recent communications with the County Commissioners to talk more regarding mental health efforts for our school district. We have seen an increase in special needs students within our school district. Federal and State funding does not keep pace with the increase in numbers. We had to increase the number of special education aids and teachers to meet the needs of the students. Northern Tioga has a grant funded substance use disorder counselor through Harbor Counseling, however I believe there have been staffing issues for that position. There have been vaping concerns as well as THC pens in the district. Shelby Rush implemented a program this past year, intended for a first step consequence, if parents are willing, for the

student to take a cessation class.

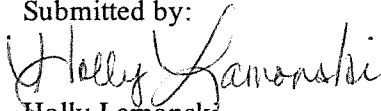
Crossroads Counseling has been trying to get into school districts for substance abuse counseling, starting with Wellsboro Area School District and willing to expand into other school districts. Is this something that Northern Tioga School District would be interested in. Yes, a need is there. Dr. Rebecca Parks developed a curriculum for substance use disorders that the district has reviewed and the district will be moving forward with that.

Southern Tioga School District has had concerns with housing and transportation to necessities such as doctors' appointments and the food pantry. Question- Is Southern Tioga partnered with CHOP? Yes, however, the rules have changed. High School Youth can use the pantry, and then younger students get a bag of food each week.

Brett Kennedy asked for clarity regarding the problems we are facing regarding transportation. The BeST Transit bus only runs during the week and during the daytime hours. Any transportation needs during the evening hours and weekends can be difficult to acquire. Question- does the Partnership for Community Health still have transportation coordinators? Yes, and it is wonderful for long-term planning however is not ideal for when a last-minute transportation need comes up.

Sara made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Roger seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

  
Helly Lamonski  
Secretary