



# Onondaga County Legislature

**JAMIE McNAMARA**  
Clerk

**TIMOTHY T. BURTIS**  
Chairman

**TAMMY BARBER**  
Deputy Clerk

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## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 11, 2024** **CODY M. KELLY, CHAIR**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. McCarron, Mr. Meaker, Ms. Harvey, Mr. Bush**

**ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Burtis, also see attached list**

Chair Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

**1. HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Dr. Kathryn Anderson, Commissioner; Amy Cunningham, Commissioner**  
**a. A Local Law Authorizing a Lease Agreement With the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for Space on the Third Floor of the Bishop Curley Building in Connection With the Onondaga County Health Department's Substance Use Initiatives**

- Purpose is to occupy office space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor
  - Allows Substance Use Initiatives Team to be located together and more accessible to clients
  - Team is growing in areas of Peer Supports, Single Point of Entry into substance use support systems
  - 3 year lease agreement with potential to extend 2 more times – maximum 9 years (cancelable any time)
  - Funded with Opioid Settlement dollars
- Substance Use Initiative is the face of the type of community region integration that the Health Dept. wants to have
  - Regularly out in the community, going to other areas and neighborhoods
  - Services are for people in need who are not able to get to the Curley Building or Civic Center
    - Peer services, syringe services, drug testing, Narcan, etc.

**Questions/Comments from the Committee:**

- What is the exact location of this building?
  - Health
    - 425 South Warren Street
  - Law
    - It is the block on the other side of the galleries; where TCGplayer is, one block over
- Will employees have access to parking?
  - No, it is close to the Civic Center; employee parking will remain where it is
  - As the community is more integrated, can be valuable to have accessible parking for community members
  - Close to bus line; clients are in and around downtown
  - Walking is easy and accessible; parking will be challenging
- Are there other locations outside the city?
  - Not Brick and Mortar
  - There is regularly a vehicle at different locations within and outside the city
- Currently in the Civic Center with 13 employees that cannot fit?
  - A couple reasons why this is necessary
    - Space is currently tight in the Civic Center for Health Dept.
    - Difficult being co-located as a team on the same floor to collaborate and work together

- A major strength of this program is the Peer Support programs
  - Interacting with individuals who are impacted by substance use
  - Providing support from where ever the client is; trying to link to services and treatment
  - Curley Building will provide easier access for peer services in a quiet, focused space
- Will the Curley Building have security?
  - Clients will be buzzed in and led up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor
  - Clients are people known to the peers
    - Do not anticipate increased risk to staff; accustomed to working in de-escalation situations
- Is the Catholic Diocese the owner of the church?
- Can the 3 year lease be cancelled anytime or is it a 30 day notice?
  - Law
    - Yes, the county contract is 30 days terminable at will by either party; will build in 30 day notice
    - Initial 3 year term with optional renewal
- Concerned with the lack of security in the Bishop Curley Building
  - There are security measures; people need to be buzzed in and allowed into the building
  - People would set up appointments or call to set up a meeting for urgent peer support
- The Civic Center has security in the building at all times; no security in the Bishop Curley Building to protect staff
- There are Sheriff's/Deputies ready to do their job in the Civic Center
- Employees are trained and accustomed to different things that could happen working with these populations
- Is this going to be funded by Opioid Settlement money throughout the 9-year term or just in the immediate future?
  - Plan is to be sustainably funded through the Opioid Settlement

*A motion was made by Mr. McCarron, seconded by Ms. Harvey to approve this item. Noes: 1 (Meaker); MOTION CARRIED.*

#### **b. INFORMATIONAL: Update on Opioid Funding**

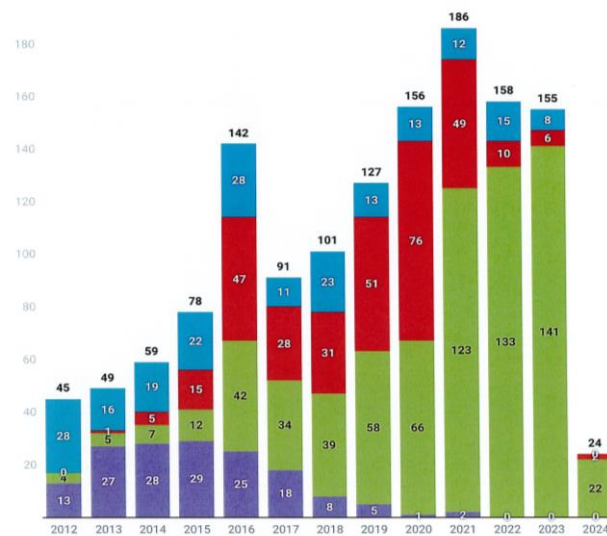
##### **Questions/Comments from the Committee:**

- What services will be housed in this facility?
- What are the updates from the Opioid Settlement Money?
  - The below chart speaks to the challenges Onondaga County is facing
    - The chart is publicly available on the county website
  - Health Dept. gets data about substance use in the community in several different ways:
    - 2 primary ones come through the Medical Examiner's office
      - What is circulating and/or causing death
      - Per the chart below- overdose related deaths are determined by Medical Examiner's office
  - Hoping the work being done through harm reduction activities is having an effect on the rapid rise in deaths
  - Given the number of deaths, an influx in Fentanyl underpins the idea of getting people services/support needed
  - Thousands of doses of Narcan are going out to the community every year
    - Indicates a need for drug testing
    - Health Dept. has test strips to test for Fentanyl in drugs
  - Xylazine (Veterinary Tranquilizer) is a new additive to drugs entering into our community
    - Not responsive to Narcan
    - Can cause extensive wounds
  - Main activities of moving to the Curley Building are community based
    - Harm reduction vehicle circulates to different places
      - Rescue Mission, Samaritan, White Branch Library and other places in the community
      - Individuals in van are educated on how to train to do Narcan and linking people up with peer services
      - Syringe services program

### Unintended Opioid Related Deaths Onondaga County, 2012-2024

Reflects data through March 31, 2024

Heroin-related Fentanyl-related Both fentanyl- and heroin-related Other opioids (not heroin or fentanyl)



Data are provisional. Please note data are updated the first month of each new quarter. Last updated 7/16/2024.

Due to pending cases, data are reported with a one-quarter delay.

Definitions of key terms:

Heroin-related: Heroin alone or in combination with other drugs (non fentanyl)

Fentanyl-related: Fentanyl alone or in combination with other drugs (non heroin)

Both fentanyl- and heroin-related: Both fentanyl and heroin alone or in combination with other drugs

Other opioids: Opioids other than heroin or fentanyl

Chart includes fentanyl analogs.

Chart: Onondaga County Health Department • Source: Onondaga County Medical Examiner's Office • Created with Datalwrapper

- Community does not want the team in one place; the team needs to go where clients are
- Will be expanding the substance use Single Point of Entry program in 2025
  - Program is for people who are ready to receive treatment
  - Can get peer support from established relationships and strengthen ties to people providing services
  - Single Point of Entry has case management services focusing on transitioning
    - Will teach people how to enroll in services and also how to do laundry
- Reintegration is where many people fail in their addiction recovery
- They go back to the same group of friends, same environment, same predators selling drugs
- This is a valuable service to expand on
- Has the Health Dept. compared the numbers on the chart to other counties? (drop from 2023-2024, Q1 data)
  - Data is published in July but only reflects cases through March 31<sup>st</sup>
    - The Quarter delay is due to extra time getting toxicology results back
  - Do not anticipate a drop in 2024, due to number of overdoses
  - Fortunate in Onondaga County to have a Medical Examiner's office to help inform our programs and vice versa
- Is the Health Dept. observing trends of utilization of different harm reduction strategies like test strips, needle exchanges, and are those reaching the people intended for?
  - Yes, the numbers suggest that; as with the decline seen in 2022-2023
  - Do not have data on how often Narcan is utilized
  - Given out over 12,000 Naloxone kits
  - Team is routinely out doing training in community organizations
  - Have seen an increase in confidential requests for test strips from community members that have been mailed out
    - Syringe services clients are more interested in Xylazine test strips
  - Health Dept. receives data about drugs circulating around the community in a couple different ways:
    - Deceased and tied to an overdose
    - DWI (if there is blood testing for drugs and alcohol)
  - Xylazine has been present for a couple years, started to see street level impact the last two years
    - Risk of wounds

- Not responsive to Narcan
- Oxygen is needed if there is an overdose
- Immediately taken to hospital for severe wounds
  
- Can Xylazine be detected by a drug test?
  - Yes, by test strips; not sure if it shows up on urine toxicology
  
- How does the Health Dept. reach out to the population?
  - Mailing Naloxone and test strips
    - Folks requesting a mailing may see an article in the newspaper or on the news about the program
      - May be for themselves or family member
      - Use online platform or text/call a confidential number for supplies
      - Supplies can be mailed or dropped off
      - Staff does not go into people’s homes alone; go in groups of 2
  - Partner with Rescue Mission, Men’s Shelter, Samaritan Center to reach unhoused population for syringe services
    - Hard to reach people who are transient
  - There are other locations where there is a lot of overdose activity
  - Consistency of the program and being available at same place/time every week builds trust
    - Communication happens by word of mouth
    - Being consistent, present, and trusted is critical
  
- Does the Health Dept. do any work with school districts to help them be aware of behavior?
  - Have to be invited into school districts to do training, not consistent across the county
  - Health Dept. has reached out to all the school districts
  - There is training for staff, not students
  - Would like the opportunity to educate students because the information is important to know
  
- How often does the mobile vehicle go to Tully or other locations?
  - Not the most welcoming having the syringe vehicle in front of a house or organization
    - Have partnerships with locations visited
    - There are free NaloxBoxes around the community (widespread - LaFayette and Tully)
  
- Would the Health Dept. have to be invited if the property was county owned within a town?
  - Mostly work with private organizations
  - Health Dept. would be interested if it is a possibility
  
- Festivals are a great opportunity to reach people in their neighborhood
  - It might be considered a stigma if the van were to be at a family friendly event
  - Educational and tabling opportunities are done at events across the community but not with the van
  - Responsive to requests throughout the county, not a downtown only program
  - Health Dept. team does syringe cleanup across the community; recently partnered with 911

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



DEBBIE KAMINSKI, Assistant Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Rebecca Skultz	Health
Katie Anderson	OCHD
Mariah Kelly	OCHD
Larry Vankka	COMPTROLLER
Anne Lough	EXHIBITS
Kristi Smice	Finance
Amy Cunningham	DCFS
Steve Smerl	Fin Ops
Joe Frakschi	Counsel
Jim Beebe	Leg.
John DeSantis	Leg.
Dan Romeo	Leg.
Bert Yaus	Law