



Office of Community Services Facing Staffing Shortage

SCHOHARIE – Schoharie County’s Office of Community Services is facing a critical staffing shortage that will force its Chemical Dependency Clinic to move to a waitlist for new admissions, officials announced at the Public Health Committee June meeting.

Sarah Nies, Director of Community Services, reported that the recent resignation of the Chemical Dependency Coordinator has created a critical situation, as she was one of only two staff members holding a caseload. Nies stated that as a short-term solution, she may have to personally take on the caseload of upwards of 40 clients. The clinic will triage higher acuity cases while referring partners are notified of the change.

The committee discussed potential long-term solutions to address workforce retention, including subcontracting services, sharing staff with SUNY, regionalization with neighboring counties, and exploring telehealth options. The committee also requested salary information for comparable positions in Schenectady and Albany counties.