



# Onondaga County Legislature

401 Montgomery Street • Court House • Room 407 • Syracuse, New York 13202

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**PEGGY CHASE, CHAIR**  
**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

**DEBRA J. CODY, CHAIR**  
**COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

## **JOINT MEETING OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AND COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE** **MINUTES** **JULY 19, 2022**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Kuhn, Ms. Gunnip, Mr. Bush, Mr. Kinne, Dr. Kelly, Mrs. Ervin

**ALSO ATTENDING:** see attached

Chair Cody called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

### **1. ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE:**

a. **INFORMATIONAL:** Meeting the OCC President ~ Dr. Warren Hilton

- Education is one of the best pathways to change the trajectory of a person's life
- Everything at OCC is about helping the community, helping people
- Proposed Capital Project ~ Hospital Simulation Project – A redesign of some space to continue to help the community and region achieve its staffing goals related to elder and health care needs

### **Requesting Support to Ensure a Healthy Future**



**OCC President Dr. Warren Hilton (standing) speaks with members of the Onondaga County Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee and Facilities Committee during a meeting in Ferrante Hall.**

The Central New York workforce needs health care workers in nearly every sector of the industry. Consequently interest has never been greater in the degree and certificate programs offered in Onondaga Community College's School of Health. Many of the related programs require significantly more classroom and laboratory space in which to provide instruction to students prior to placing them in clinical settings in the community.

With all of that in mind, Onondaga County Legislators came to campus Tuesday, July 19 for a joint meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee and the Facilities Committee. It gave college leaders an opportunity to share with legislators current workforce demands in the healthcare sector, and explain in greater detail the

college's capital funding request to make necessary improvements to several learning spaces within the School of Health.

OCC President Dr. Warren Hilton welcomed legislators and thanked them for their support which has made the Onondaga Hill campus one of the most impressive in the nation. OCC Senior Vice President and Provost Anastasia Urtz, J.D. discussed the continuing demand and creation of new degree and certificate programs and the uniqueness of OCC's School of Health offerings. And Karen L. Fabrizio, Ed.D., Dean of Health and Community Services, presented an overview of the [13 degree and certificate programs in the School of Health](#). Following the presentations, County Legislators were given a tour of existing facilities in Ferrante Hall.

You can learn more about health-related career options by contacting OCC's School of Health at [health@sunyocc.edu](mailto:health@sunyocc.edu) or (315) 498-2458.

b. TOUR: Nursing Department



**Onondaga Community College  
School of Health  
Capital Facilities Needs**

**Elder and Health Caregiving Industry Need**

Demand for elder and health care workers in NYS is at critical levels and projected to grow 32% by 2028, outpacing every other sector. Much of this growth is in long-term care – over 150,000 job openings annually (NYSS ACH, 4) --reflecting the aging median age of the population. The supply of workers has fallen so far below demand that facilities are unable to fill existing openings, and attrition due to wage escalation and competition from other states is impacting health, mortality rates, and the statewide economy. Elder and health care organizations are called upon to meet the growing needs of urban, suburban, and rural communities, and this will require innovation to expand capacity across NYS to prepare the elder and health care workforce, develop new techniques to reduce recovery time and improve quality of life, and provide in-service professional development in response to rapid changes in elder and health care delivery methods, e.g., technologies, infection-control strategies, and care team approaches.

NYS has set a goal of increasing its health care workforce by 20% over the next 5 years (Hochul, 2022). NYS further has identified a need to reduce turnover among incumbent workers and dramatically increase the pipeline of individuals with the skills and credentials required to enter and advance in health care career paths through a holistic approach that engages employers, labor organizations, and education and training providers to meet this goal and to build the caregiving system of tomorrow.

Onondaga Community College has established a School of Health, which is devoted to responding to the pervasive need to grow our health and elder caregiving workforce. Over the last two years, the Onondaga Community College School of Health has expanded its existing healthcare programs (i.e., Nursing A.A.S., Surgical Technology A.A.S., Physical Therapy Assistant A.A.S., Health Information Technology A.A.S., Medical Assistant Workforce Certificate, Phlebotomy Workforce Certificate) in response to regional market demand. New programs include: an evening cohort of Nursing A.A.S., Paramedic Certificate and Paramedic A.A.S. (joint program with SUNY Upstate)

Medical University), Health Science A.S., Health Administration A.S., Health Studies Certificate, Certified Nurse Assistant Workforce Certificate, and Home Health Aide Workforce Certificate. The College also is planning to double its capacity in Surgical Technology A.A.S. and Health Information Technology A.A.S. and to add a Licensed Practice Nurse Workforce Certificate, Emergency Medical Technician Workforce Certificate, and Medical Laboratory Assistant A.A.S. within the next 1-2 years, with further expansion anticipated thereafter.

These new programs require significantly more classroom and laboratory space in which to provide instruction to students prior to placing them in clinical settings in the community. Examples of specific needs include:

- Co-location of programs in Ferrante Hall (following relocation of Art programs) to support simulation of the multi-disciplinary care-giving model that is used in contemporary healthcare and to create shared laboratories and storage that can accommodate instruction in multiple programs.
- Outfitted space to accommodate instruction in Certified Nurse Assistant, which requires a laboratory that replicates a long-term care facility setting, including patient beds, mannequins, ceiling-mounted lifts and Hoyer lifts, patient bathroom with shower, access to Physical Therapy Assistant lab and equipment.
- Outfitted space to accommodate instruction in Home Health Aide, which requires a laboratory that replicates a residential home, including kitchen, bathroom, laundry, and bedroom spaces.
- Upgrading of deteriorated equipment and expansion of laboratory space for the Medical Assistant and Phlebotomy programs.
- Expansion of Nursing classrooms and equipment to accommodate program expansion. Introduction of virtual reality lab to expand the range of training that can be offered in preparation for clinical settings.
- Expanded Surgical Technology classroom with contemporary equipment.
- Upgraded Physical Therapy Assistant classroom with access to shared Certified Nurse Assistant and Nursing lab space.
- Two computer classrooms with dual monitors and dedicated lab space with anatomical models and human skeletons to support expansion of the Health Information Technology A.A.S. to an online/hybrid format.

These proposed capital improvements are anticipated to cost \$30M (amount split half – county and state) to implement in space formerly occupied by the College's Art programs, which have been moved to suitable existing space in another campus building. This investment will support our efforts to increase the number of well-qualified candidates for positions in health and elder caregiving roles and will complement and prepare students to take advantage of the advanced training available in the existing, state-of-the-art Hospital Simulation Lab at SUNY Upstate Medical University, a collaboration of SUNY Upstate, OCC, and SUNY Oswego. OCC is proud of its long-standing partnership with SUNY Upstate Medical University which has paved the way for students of all ages to become part of the vital health care field and realize their personal goals to help those in need in our community.

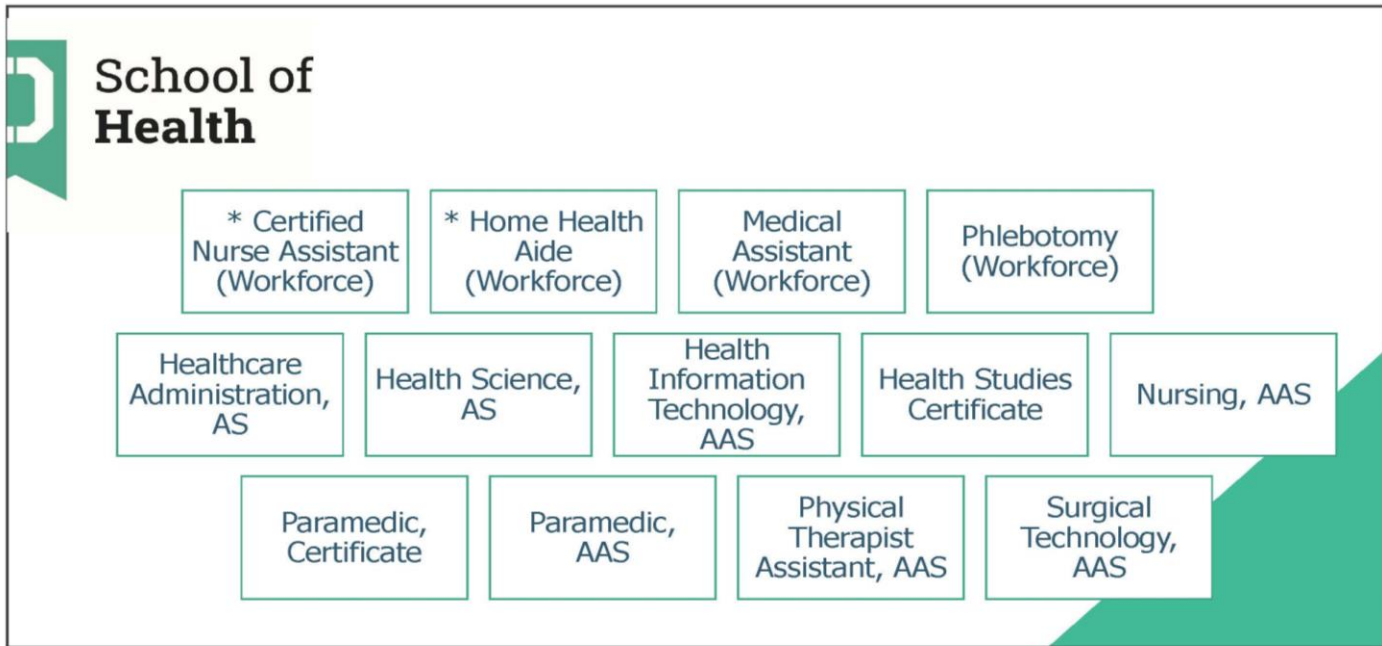
# Onondaga's School of Health

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July 19, 2022

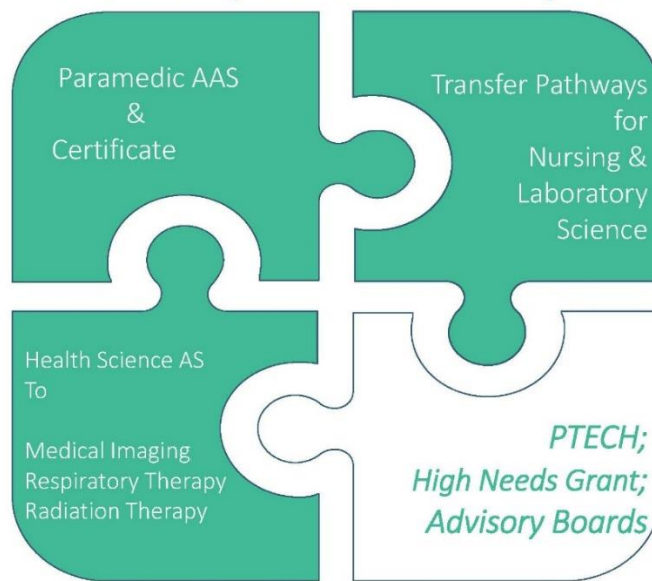


School of Health video can be viewed at:  
<https://youtu.be/M55AQ1MJHIU>





### Partnerships with SUNY Upstate



# Thank you!

Karen L. Fabrizio, EdD, MBA, RHIA, CHTS-CP  
[fabrizik@sunyocc.edu](mailto:fabrizik@sunyocc.edu)

[health@sunyocc.edu](mailto:health@sunyocc.edu)



The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



DEBBIE KAMINSKI, Assistant Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **JOINT HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES & COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

DATE: **JULY 19, 2022**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Linda Ervin	
Reggy Chase	
Sue Torney	OCC
Karen Fabrizio	OCC
Colben Sennip	OCC
Deb Cady	
Bill Kunkle	<del>FF</del>
Sarah Saffrey	OCC
Mark Harris	OCC
Tenasha Murphy	CE office
May Kahn	
<del>Mark Manning</del>	<del>OCC</del>
<del>Sarah Saffrey</del>	<del>OCC</del>
Roger Mirabito	OCC