

Cayuga County Board of Health Meeting
Tuesday, June 27, 2021
In-Person Meeting @ 12:15pm

Members Present: Mr. Keith Batman
Dr. John Cosachov
Dr. Cassandra Archer
Mr. Ralph Battista
Ms. Elane Daly

Members Excused: Dr. Brian Brundage
Mr. Tim Fessenden

Staff Present: Eileen O'Connor, PE
Nancy Purdy, RN, BSN
Kathleen Cuddy, MPH
Janine Clifford
Tania Young, DTR
Deanna Ryan, MCH
Dr. Gioia- Medical Director
Megan Bell

Meeting called to order at 12:18pm.

Minutes of June 22, 2021:

With no questions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Cassandra Archer and seconded by Mr. Ralph Battista the minutes of the June 22, 2021 Board of Health meeting were approved as written.

Director of Administrative Services: Janine Clifford

Janine reviewed the claims with a warrant dates of 06/24/2021 and 07/15/2021 and the credit card statements with a dates of 05/29/2021 and 06/15/2021. Elane asked about the septic replacement program and if this was the first individual to take advantage of the program. Janine shared that other residents have taken advantage of the program as well. Ralph asked who qualifies for the septic replacement program and Eileen shared that anyone with property within 250ft of the lake. The Board did ask if Janine could prepare a brief summary of the number of individuals and total amount reimbursed from this program. With no other questions or concerns, a motion to approve the claims was made by Ms. Elane Daly and seconded by Dr. Cassandra Archer. All other in attendance in favor.

Coordinator for WIC Program: Tania Young, DTR

Tania shared with the Board the current caseload of 1350 participants. WIC program has begun to hold in-person appointments with prenatal clients only. They also continue to promote the

COVID-19 vaccine to clients. New York State WIC Program has extended the waiver for virtual/telephone appointments until November 16, 2021.

Tania also updated the Board regarding the relocation of the WIC Program offices to a new location next to Play Space. Tania is hopeful the office will move in mid-August. Play Space is having a grand opening on Saturday, August 7th.

Elane asked Tania about the possibility of keeping the virtual appointments long-term since it has had a positive impact on the programs show rate and enrollment. Tania shared that she is planning to discuss this with State WIC representatives.

Supervising Public Health Administrator: Deanna Ryan, MCH

Deanna introduced herself and her new role with the Health Department. Currently her role focuses on overseeing the contact tracing portion of the Health Department's COVID-19 response. She shared with the Board the case statistics over the last couple of the months and focused on some of the concerning trends the Department is seeing in recent weeks. She did share a specific cluster that is currently happening at the Stryker Homes in Auburn.

Deanna also shared that there will be several articles coming out regarding various topics connected with COVID-19 including: vaccinations, and the importance of quarantine. Nancy and Dr. Connors have also been going to varying businesses to answer employee questions regarding vaccination.

Public Health Director: Kathleen Cuddy, MPH

Kathleen shared with the Board that we have received word that our Article 28 Diagnostic and Treatment certificate change of address request has been approved regionally. We are just waiting for Albany approval and then we will be all set and that should come in the next month.

New York State Department of Health has developed a Public Health Corps to assist with the current COVID-19 pandemic and any future public health emergencies. Through this Public Health Corps the State is developing a fellowship program. The fellowship program includes funding from the State for a county's allotted number of fellows for up to two years. Kathleen is still learning more about the program but it appears Cayuga County may be awarded 6 fellows at either the graduate or undergraduate level.

Director of Environmental Health: Eileen O'Connor, PE

Eileen reviewed the Consent Orders:

Grisamore Farms- Locke (T)

Hua Mei Chinese Kitchen- Union Springs (V)

Giuseppe's of Moravia- Moravia (V)

Hurdy's Redemption & Beverage Center- Brutus (T)

A motion by Dr. Cassandra Archer and seconded by Mr. Ralph Battista and with all other members in attendance in favor all the consent orders were approved.

Keith asked about the status of the Locust Meadow Mobile Home Park. Megan Bell shared that we received word from the County Attorney's office that the judgement was filed on July 16th and the LLC has until August 16th to respond before moving onto the next step.

Eileen updated the Board regarding harmful algal blooms in Cayuga Lake. The blooms have been consistently seen since July 12th and two public bathing beaches were closed for about two weeks as a result. Eileen noted that this has been a more active July than in recent years for HABs on Cayuga Lake. Owasco Lake is typically more active in August through October and the City of Auburn and Town of Owasco are prepared to begin sampling once the need arises. The Health Department issued a press release regarding HABs, sent out their annual informational postcards to those property owners who draw water directly from the lake, and posted "know it, avoid it, report it" fliers in convenient stores and other locations to help inform vacationers who may not be from the area about the risks of HABs.

Keith said that the City of Auburn recently sent another letter to the State Health Department urging them to approve the draft Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations that had been submitted to them in December. The Board discussed sending a second letter to the State with a similar message. After discussion a motion was made by Mr. Ralph Battista and a second by Ms. Elane Daly to send another letter to the State regarding approval of the Watershed Rules and Regulations; all other members in attendance were approval.

Eileen updated the Board regarding the on-going concerns with the Wells College water treatment plant. For over two days last week, the plant was unable to produce safe drinking water due to the turbid water in the lake following storm events. The College and the Village of Aurora had to rely on stored water during that time. With the increase in strong storms occurring recently, turbid water occurrences may last longer than 2 days in the future, and the water treatment plant might be unable to meet the demand of the community. Solutions to this problem would be to extend their intake out to much deeper water and/or modify their filters so they can produce safe drinking water even when raw water turbidities increase. In addition, there have been pressure complaints by the Inns of Aurora new spa facility. The Village is required to maintain a minimum pressure of 20 psi at all times, but there are times when the pressure in this area of the new spa is less than 20 psi. The pressure issue is exacerbated when the plant is not able to produce water. The Village of Aurora has met with their engineer regarding addressing the issues, however they have been procrastinating making a decision in anticipation of the Water and Sewer Authority's proposal to build a water treatment plant in the area. In a recent meeting, Eileen told the Village that they need to move forward now with addressing these concerns since the Authority's project does not seem to be progressing.

Director of Community Health Services: Nancy Purdy, RN, BSN

Nancy shared with the Board that the Department continues to provide vaccination clinics across the county and will begin to start providing back to school immunizations for school-aged children as well.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Gioia

Dr. Gioia discussed water quality as piece of critical infrastructure.

With nothing further to discuss a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Ralph Battista and seconded by Dr. Cassandra Archer. With all other members in attendance in favor the meeting was adjourned at 1:22pm.