

Cayuga County Board of Health Meeting
Tuesday January 22, 2019

Members Present: Dr. Cosachov
Mr. Tim Fessenden
Ms. Aileen McNabb-Coleman
Dr. Cassandra Archer
Mr. Keith Batman

Members Excused: Dr. Brian Brundage
Mr. Ralph Battista

Staff Present: Kathleen Cuddy, MPH
Eileen O'Connor, PE
Lorie Fischer, BS Ed
Chris Palermo, Esq. - County Attorney
Nancy Purdy, RN, BSN
Janine Clifford
Megan Bell
Dr. Gioia- Medical Director

Meeting began at 12:17pm

Public Health Director: Kathleen Cuddy, MPH

Kathleen updated the Board on the progress of updating the Watershed Rules and Regulations. The Steering Committee is hoping to bring a draft for public comment by end of February.

Tim had brought to Kathleen's attention an article in The Citizen newspaper regarding the disposal of medications. The article alluded to flushing medications as an appropriate means of disposal. Kathleen sent a letter to editor as a means of follow-up to the article to suggest better options for disposal including the several take back locations throughout the County.

Kathleen also brought up the legalization of marijuana and the Governor's plan for New York State. There was some discussion at our October meeting, but we did not have a quorum so we are bringing it back to the Board for further discussion. County Health Officials in the State (NYSACHO) have gone on record opposing the idea. If the Governor plans to move forward the County Health Officials have made it known they would like to be part of the discussion, roll-out and enforcement. The Group feels there needs to be more research on the subject especially regarding the long term effects and effects on the developing/adolescent brain. Kathleen shared that she foresees this being a topic that will be discussing throughout the year.

Coordinator of Programs for Children with Special Needs: Lorie Fischer, BS Ed

Lorie provided the Board with a program update. Currently Early Intervention is serving 154 children, Preschool 180 and Child Find has 63 children enrolled. 2018 was the biggest referral year in recent memory for Lorie. Referral amounts totaling over 200.

Children are being identified earlier and getting the services they need at a sooner age. Early Intervention had a state review in November. Auditors from the state come to review charts, review policy and procedure manuals, confidentiality practices and interview staff. They requested some small wording changes on a single policy, but other than that the review went very well.

Ms. Robin Thurston spoke to the Board. Recently she was summoned to a Board of Health hearing for failure to have her septic system inspected. She requested that the Board reduce the fine that was levied against her by the Hearing Officer. Ms. Thurston had not intended to be non-compliant with the septic requirements but has been experiencing some health issues. She has contacted Don Bowen, a certified inspector, to complete the inspection as soon as the weather permits. She thanked the Board for their time. The Board told her that she would be notified of their decision.

Minutes of November 27, 2018: There being no changes or corrections to the November 27, 2018 meeting minutes, on motion by Dr. Archer and seconded by Mr. Fessenden the minutes of the November 27, 2018 Board of Health meeting were approved as written.

Director of Administrative Services: Janine Clifford

Janine reported on the claims with warrant dates of 12/11/2018 and 12/29/2018. Keith asked if we have always subcontracted out the enforcement of the Board of Health orders. Eileen shared years ago the Department had, but recently our County Attorney's office had been carrying out the actions, however, their office became overwhelmed so the work was subcontracted out. With no further questions a motion to approve the claims was made by Tim Fessenden and seconded by Keith.

Kathleen introduced Chris Palermo. He was recently hired as the new county attorney. The Board introduced themselves. Chris also shared that Mr. Pettigrass, the attorney who had been working on Board of Health hearing judgements, had reached out to return some of the cases that had not yet been resolved. The County Attorney's office and the Health Department are still discussing options on whether Board of Health enforcements will remain in house or will be subcontracted out again.

Eileen updated the Board regarding the Locus Meadow Mobile Home Park in the Town of Fleming. Chris determined that because the Mobile Home Park is owned by an LLC we are able to serve a summons on the State Department of State and it will be viewed as appropriate service to hold the hearing.

Kathleen discussed the email she had sent to Board members regarding Board membership and terms and reviewing of the By Laws. Chris shared that he had reviewed the Bi-Laws and Public Health Law and determined that it would be cleaner to re-set everyone's terms so that we have only one member cycling off at a time. Chris also shared that there is no language in the Public Health Law that requires a one year hiatus before returning. Chris shared may be best to remove this from the Bi-Laws as the Board is required to have 3 physicians and typically it is more difficult to find a physician who is willing to participate.

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

Nancy discussed the premature birth grant that the Department was awarded last fall, a portion of that grant was focusing on reducing smoking rates particularly among pregnant women. Through grant funding the Department brought a smoking cessation specialist to Auburn High School who met with students over the course of two days and also hosted a meeting for parents in the evening. The specialist is coming back to some of the local middle schools and also have a second public meeting in the evening. The grant also hosted an art contest that was open to all Cayuga County students to participate in. The contest received over 50 submissions from various County School Districts. There was a panel of judges and 3 students were awarded first place honors and two honorable mentions. There will be a proclamation at the Legislative meeting and the art will be on display at the Schweinfurth. With the artists consent the grant will be using the artwork in various campaigns to express the dangers of smoking and vaping.

Nancy also highlighted some 2018 quality assessment and performance improvement efforts that were accomplished by CHS staff. Some of the highlights included improvements in our immunization clinic, maternal child health program, STD testing clinic, Cancer Services program and any patient/client complaints that have come in.

Nancy shared that typically the State will survey programs every 3 years. Our programs have not been surveyed in over 5 years so we know they will be coming in early 2019. Staff is currently reviewing and adjusting policies and procedures to ensure their accuracy. The date the Department was given was February 6th, but Nancy is hoping for an extension into March. Kathleen is expecting some findings, not in patient care aspect, but more so in policy and procedures as we have had a significant amount of turnover in our Director of Community Health Services position and in staff positions so we are preparing for that.

Dr. Archer asked about the evening smoking/vaping presentation. Nancy shared that the presentation will be geared towards parents and how smoking has changed over the last couple of decades. Nancy also mentioned that the grant will be bringing in a motivational interviewing expert from Rochester to host a seminar for physicians, other health care providers, school professionals and others who may benefit from the experience.

Director of Environmental Health: Eileen O'Connor, PE

Eileen reviewed the Hearing and Consent Orders:

McDonalds (Grant Ave) - Auburn (C)

Chili's Bar and Grill- Aurelius (T)

Applebee's Neighborhood Grille & Bar- Auburn (C)

King-Fuller Property- Owasco (T)

Mortimer Property- Owasco (T)

Thurston Property- Aurelius (T)

Tumber Property- Owasco (T)

Werner Property- Owasco (T)

Dr. Archer motioned to reduce the fine associated with the Thurston property from \$100 to \$25 if the inspection is completed by April 15, 2019. Dr. Cosachov seconded the motion and all others in attendance were in favor. Dr. Cosachov made a motion to approve the remaining

hearing and consent orders as written, the motion was seconded by Aileen McNabb-Coleman and all others in attendance were in favor.

Eileen discussed the Hydrilla eradication project that took place in 2018. Hydrilla was first found near Wells College in the fall of 2016. The Army Corps applied focused pesticides in 2017 and 2018 with positive results. Funding is in place for treatment to take place next year as well. The Health Department samples the Wells College drinking water after treatment to ensure there are not elevated levels of any of the chemicals used in treatment present in the drinking water. Hydrilla is a very invasive species and this will be on-going issue for Cayuga Lake. The Cayuga Watershed Network is working to educate the public in identifying Hydrilla and reporting it to the appropriate organizations. There was recently a patch discovered at a marina in King Ferry. The owners apparently knew it was Hydrilla, but were not sure who to report it to. This patch will be treated in 2019 as well as the other areas.

Eileen updated the Board regarding the odor complaint that was brought to the Board over the summer. The State Health Department installed air monitoring equipment at the property. The equipment was recently picked up and the State reported that the levels of the chemicals of concern for public health were not excessive. The farmer has been notifying Mr. Duckett when he will be carrying out certain activities on the farm that may increase the odors which reportedly has been helpful. Eileen discussed a document by the National Association of County and City Health Officials published recently that discussed how prolonged exposure to manure odors have been correlated to health responses such as headaches and depression.

Eileen said that every year they have to appoint a new member to the Variance Committee. Jim Beckwith's term expired on 12/31/2018 and Eileen would like to re-appoint him. A motion was made by Aileen McNabb-Coleman to re-appointed Jim Beckwith to the Variance committee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Archer with all others in favor.

Eileen updated the Board on the enforcement of the County Tobacco Law. There were 3 vendors that had violations and therefore administrative hearings were held. The Hearing Officer determined that they would lose their local license to sell tobacco for 24 hours. Staff went to each location during the times they were prohibited from selling and verified that the stores were compliant with the decision.

Dr. Archer asked if you have to be over 18 to purchase vaping supplies. Eileen confirmed that you do have to be 18 or older. There are currently 3 vape shops in Cayuga County.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Gioia

Dr. Gioia mentioned the push to move tobacco purchasing age 21.

With nothing further on the agenda a motion by Keith was made to adjourn the meeting a second from Dr. Archer and all others in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1:23pm.