

Cayuga County Board of Health  
Tuesday, January 25, 2022  
In-person & Virtual @ 12:15pm

Members Present: Mr. Keith Batman  
Ms. Elane Daly  
Dr. Brian Brundage  
Mr. Ralph Battista  
Mr. Tim Fessenden  
Dr. John Cosachov- Virtual  
Dr. Cassandra Archer- Virtual

Guests Present: Ms. Aileen McNabb-Coleman- Virtual  
Mr. Robert Harding- Virtual  
Ms. Emily Bator

Staff Present: Kathleen Cuddy, MPH  
Janine Clifford  
Nancy Purdy, RN, BSN  
Eileen O'Connor, PE- Virtual  
Ani Fish- Virtual  
Dr. Gioia- Medical Director  
David Gould- Chair of Legislature  
Deanna Ryan, MCH  
Megan Bell

Meeting was called to order at 12:16pm.

**Minutes of the December 28, 2021 Meeting and the January 6, 2022 Special Meeting:**

With no questions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Tim Fessenden and seconded by Mr. Ralph Battista with all other members in attendance in favor. The minutes of the December 28, 2021 and the January 6, 2022 special Board of Health meeting were approved as written.

**Director of Administrative Services: Janine Clifford**

Janine reviewed the claims with warrant dates of 12/16/2021 and 12/30/2021 and the credit card statements with dates of 11/30/2021 and 12/15/2021. Dr. Brundage asked about why the Health Department had to pay for hotel rooms for those individuals in isolation. Janine shared that those individuals had no place to safely isolate or may have expressed being homeless. With no further questions or concerns a motion to accept the claims was made by Dr. Brian Brundage and second by Ms. Elane Daly with all other members in attendance in favor.

**Coordinator of WIC Program: Tania Young, DTR**

Tania was not able to attend today's meeting. Nancy Purdy provided a brief update in her absence. Nancy shared that currently a lot of effort is going into submitting the new five year

RFA which is due at the end of this week. The process has changed a bit compared to past RFA's so it has been taking some additional time to adjust to the changes and make sure we are providing the requested information.

Nancy shared that staff are working with staff from the Play Space to start to coordinator activities for program children and families.

**Public Health Director: Kathleen Cuddy, MPH**

Kathleen brought to the Board the re-appointing of officers. Typically officer serve two consecutive one year terms. She shared that it is up to the Board if the officers are willing to serve another year appointment we can re-appoint them or we can bring forward a nominating committee if the Board wishes to change officers. After discussion Mr. Ralph Battista made a motion to retain the current officers in their current roles for a second year. Ms. Elane Daly second that motion and all other members in attendance are in favor. For the year 2022 the Board of Health officers will be as follows:

Mr. Keith Batman President

Dr. John Cosachov- Vice President

Mr. Tim Fessenden- Secretary

**Supervising Public Health Administrator: Deanna Ryan, MCH**

Deanna shared with the Board the recent changes from New York State DOH in regards to isolation and quarantine. The State has shortened isolation and quarantine to 5 days. The Health Department has ceased doing all isolation and quarantine and transitioned that to the State VCC. Deanna shared that the State contact tracers are doing a brief interview with positives and then sending them to our website to obtain isolation and/or quarantine orders.

Deanna provided the Board with some statistics that public health educator, Molly Burke, pulled from Commcare. In the month of December there was a total of 1887 cases and in the month of January up until the 19<sup>th</sup> which is when the Health Department ceased contact tracing there was a total of 2700 cases.

Deanna also shared that we are still providing somewhat daily situational updates which is reporting deaths and hospitalizations which have remained steady. Last Friday's press release had some visual graphs that broke down deaths and some other statistics which are good information for the public and are also helpful for our office to target education and outreach.

Mr. David Gould asked about cases seeming to decrease downstate and if that is telling for what we may see in the coming weeks. Kathleen shared that we typically are a few weeks behind downstate but several other factors go into that as well. Dr. Cassandra Archer shared that Onondaga County cases are going down as well but we have not yet seen that here in Cayuga County yet due to our low vaccination rate.

Mr. David Gould asked about court decision regarding masking. Kathleen read aloud the state she received from NYS DOH and NY Education Department regarding the decision in Nassau County.

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

Nancy shared that beginning next month we will once again be providing the Board with our monthly communicable disease report. In 2021 we were grateful for no active or latent TB cases. Also NYS recently changed the case definition for Lyme disease due to it being very prevalent in the northeast. The CDC and NYSDOH have re-designated that for high incidence areas inclusive of NYS. Communicable disease staff no longer investigate each individual case and State staff will be monitoring and focusing on surveillance. Beginning next month we will return to sharing our communicable disease report

Staff are also preparing a document now that will be sent to local providers regarding STD's comparing numbers from the previous 2 years as well as some updated outreach information to share with patients.

Nancy shared that flu currently remains widespread in New York State.

Mr. Ralph Battista asked about quantifying the impacts of having elective procedures delayed due to constraints at the hospitals. After discussion Kathleen stated she would reach out to a member of the local hospital and see if they are available to attend our next meeting and provide insight into this matter. Dr. Archer shared that she recently read a statistic that stated 1 in 5 healthcare workers have left their positions.

Mr. David Gould asked if that was just overnight surgeries or if that included day surgeries as well and Nancy shared that it included both.

**Director of Environmental Health: Eileen O'Connor, PE**

Eileen reviewed the Hearing and Consent Orders:

Osteria Salinas- Auburn (C)

Skaneateles Inn on 20- Sennett (T)

The Refinery at Hilton Garden Inn- Auburn (C)

Panda Smoke and Vape- Auburn (C)

Grisamore Farms- Locke (T)

Hunters Diner- Auburn (C)

Chateau Dusseau- Locke (T)

Sakura Buffet- Auburn (C)

Mattes Property- Genoa (T)

A motion to approve the hearing and consent orders was made by Dr. Brian Brundage and second by Mr. Tim Fessenden with all members in attendance in favor.

Eileen said that the State Department of Health, the DEC, Syracuse University and SUNY ESF are beginning a statewide surveillance program to determine the presence of coronavirus in wastewater as an indicator of the amount of disease in the community. The goal of the program is to have one wastewater treatment plant in each county in the State participate. There is no cost to the plant to participate other than staff time to collect and ship samples. The City of Auburn wastewater treatment plant will be participating in this program and will start sampling this week. The results are reported online and can be viewed by the public. Mr. Keith Batman asked if the pilot program indicated that it was worth expanding. Eileen said in her opinion the

information obtained from the pilot study was not very useful in terms of directing a public health response since the wastewater collection area is so large.

As part of New York State's program to investigate certain closed landfills that may be impacting or contaminating drinking water supplies, the landfill in the Town of Victory is currently being investigated by the DEC. Residents on properties within a quarter of a mile from the landfill will be offered the opportunity to have their private wells sampled. The landfills in Summerhill and Conquest have also undergone an investigation. Ms. Elane Daly asked if the presence of any harmful chemicals is found will efforts be made for clean-up. Eileen said yes, depending on the level of contamination found.

Mr. Keith Batman asked if when a landfill closes if it has to be tested yearly. Eileen said that she did not believe so, but Keith shared that the Town of Scipio has been testing their landfill each year since its closure.

Eileen reported that the Locust Meadow Mobile Home Park is going to be auctioned off by the County on March 10<sup>th</sup>. She is hopeful that a responsible person will purchase the mobile home park and address the many issues present in the park. One of the most recent issues occurred last weekend when it was very cold and an area of the park no longer had water, presumably due to frozen pipes. The Health Department has reached out to the park owner with no reply. The Health Department has referred residents who contact the office expressing their concern to social services for assistance if they qualify.

#### **Medical Director's Report: Dr. Philip Gioia**

Dr. Gioia shared the importance of preserving the public health infrastructure. He also discussed the importance of mental health and the opioid crisis.

Mr. Tim Fessenden asked the Board could discuss the mask mandate resolution that is being presented at the Legislative meeting this evening. Tim stated the resolution could create a lot of confusion for the community especially given the recent court decision in Nassau County. Tim requested the Board make a statement asking the Board to delay the resolution until after the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline or more information is shared regarding the court decision. After discussion a motion was made by Mr. Tim Fessenden for the Board to issue a formal statement regarding the resolution being presented at this evenings Legislature meeting. A second was made by Mr. Ralph Battista with all other members in favor the following statement was shared with legislative chair, David Gould to present at this evenings legislative meeting:

“The action will not have the force of law and the likely impact will be further confusion in the community so we recommend that you postpone a vote on this resolution until a later date.”

With nothing further to discuss a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Brian Brundage and second by Mr. Tim Fessenden with all other members in attendance in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:18pm.