

Cayuga County Board of Health Meeting  
Tuesday, April 27, 2021  
Digital Meeting @ 12:15pm

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

Members Excused: Mr. Ralph Battista

Staff Present: Kathleen Cuddy, MPH  
Eileen O'Connor, PE  
Ani Zipkin Fish  
Nancy Purdy, RN, BSN  
Lorie Fischer, BS Ed  
Janine Clifford  
Dr. Gioia- Medical Director  
Megan Bell

Meeting called to order at 12:22pm.

**Minutes of April 27, 2021:**

With no questions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. John Cosachov and seconded by Dr. Brian Brundage the minutes of the March 23, 2021 Board of Health meeting were approved as written.

**Director of Administrative Services: Janine Clifford**

Janine reviewed the claims with a warrant dates of 03/11/2021 and 03/25/2021 and the credit card statements with a dates of 03/01/2021 and 03/15/2021. Dr. Brundage asked if the Septic Replacement Grant was funded through the State. Janine shared that it is funded through State funding. With no other questions or concerns, a motion to approve the claims was made by Dr. John Cosachov and seconded by Dr. Cassandra Archer. All other in attendance in favor.

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

Lorie provided the Board with updated program statistics including a record number of referrals for the Early Intervention Program for March 2021.

Lorie also updated the Board on some personnel changes. One of the service coordinators has been promoted to a supervisory role and Lorie is looking to back fill the vacant service coordinator role left by the promotion.

Elane asked if a majority of the children coming in on referrals are qualifying for services. Lorie shared that she did not have the exact number but was confident that more than 75% of the referrals coming forward are qualifying for services.

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

Eileen reviewed the Hearing and Consent Orders:

Warrick Mobile Home Court- Mentz (T)

Willowcrest Mobile Home Park- Mentz (T)

Owen Orchard- Sennett (T)

Dugan's County Grill- Scipio (T)

Drifters on Owasco- Venice (T)

With no further questions or concerns a motion to approve the Hearing and Consent orders was made by Dr. John Cosachov and seconded by Dr. Brian Brundage. All other members in attendance in favor.

Eileen shared the draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Cayuga Lake with the Board. Eileen stated that she was hoping that the TMDL would be more prescriptive, such as specifying in what sub-watershed various best management practices should be installed. Then those projects could be targeted. But the TMDL ends by listing a host of best management practices that are available, and then lists funding sources which typically require a cost share and can be a huge obstacle in getting buy-in on the implementation of these best management practices. Comments on the report are being accepted until mid-May. After discussion the Board voted to send a letter requesting the comment period be extended from 45 days to 90 days. In addition, Tim Fessenden made a motion to also include in the letter that the Board supports a more prescriptive implementation section as mentioned earlier by Eileen. This motion was seconded by Dr. Brian Brundage and passed unanimously. A letter will be drafted and submitted.

Eileen provided some updates regarding the Lead Poisoning Prevention program. The program has always been reactive in that our office does not get involved until after the child is identified as being lead poisoned. The office is now looking to be more proactive and, as staffing allows, we will go out to a home and survey for lead hazards prior to a child being poisoned. Elane asked how people will know that this service is now available and Eileen shared that currently we have a list of families that are interested in having their current home/rental surveyed for lead hazards. Once that list is exhausted, we will develop our notification strategy.

Eileen updated the Board on the Watershed Rules and Regulations update project. The draft of the revised Rules and Regulations were sent to the State at the end of 2020. The State received them in January 2021. Eileen has sent two inquiries regarding status updates. She recently received a notice that the State is currently working to set-up a review of the draft by multiple State agencies and this is more difficult to arrange during the pandemic. No estimated timeline has been provided.

Eileen shared with the Board that after the large manure release last month was reported in the media, the Department received several phone calls regarding the untimeliness of the report. Most callers were concerned that they were not notified in a timely manner when it could have

affected their properties located downstream of the spill. Currently the DEC does not have a system in place that allows for them to make timely notifications of these types of spills.

Eileen shared that our procedure moving forward will be that when a large discharge of material, whether it is manure, fuel oil, or other material, is released, if no other reporting agency is providing information to the media, we will do so. Our intent is to work with the DEC or other first responders and/or responsible parties to obtain factual information. If information is lacking that will also be reported.

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

Kathleen shared with the Board the most recent vaccination rates. The vaccine eligibility is open to everyone eligible by age. We anticipate the pause on J&J will be lifted and we will be offering those clinics again.

Testing numbers at our rapid testing location at Emerson Park has been diminishing significantly. Emergency Management office will continue to provide testing, but will be limiting their hours.

Kathleen expressed frustration with Wellnow Urgent Care and their lack of timely reporting of test results. This is not unique to Cayuga County and other counties in the State have expressed similar frustrations.

The WIC Program is working with ABC Cayuga to coordinate the re-location of the WIC offices to the newly purchased building on North Street.

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

Nancy shared that staff has been canvassed assisted living facilities at both the northern and southern end of the county and most have already been vaccinated from varying agencies that came on site.

The Health Department continues to hold vaccination clinics at the Finger Lakes Mall and is discussing potentially offering walk-in appointments. Elane asked if the Department was considering get the Pfizer vaccination. Nancy shared that they have been discussing potentially offering Pfizer but it would have to be in collaboration with the Upstate Vaccination Hub as the Health Department does not have the capacity to store it. The focus if we did receive the Pfizer vaccination would be on 16-18 year olds. Currently individuals interested in Pfizer have to travel to the State vaccination site at the New York State Fairgrounds.

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

Dr. Gioia discussed phosphorous in the Lake is always a concern.

He also shared that more restrictions appear to be loosening in the coming months as the Governor alters regulations.

With nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 1:20pm.