

Cayuga County Board of Health Meeting  
Tuesday, July 28, 2020  
Digital Meeting @ 12:15pm

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

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

Meeting called to order at 12:15pm.

**Minutes of June 23, 2020:**

With no questions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Elane Daly and seconded by Dr. Cassandra Archer the minutes of the June 23, 2020 Board of Health meeting were approved as written.

**Director of Administrative Services: Janine Clifford**

Janine reviewed the claims with a warrant date of 07/07/2020 and 07/21/2020 and the credit card statements with a date of 06/29/20 and 07/15/2020. With no further questions or concerns, a motion to approve the claims was made by Dr. Cassandra Archer and seconded by Dr. Brian Brundage. All others in attendance in favor.

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

Tania shared with the Board that the program just received approval from USDA and the NYSDOH to continue with remote appointments through the month of September. Once face-to-face appointments are allowed to return, staff would prioritize required appointments first. Tania shared that the show rate for phone appointments has been approximately 95% (656 appointments last month). WIC program has also been issuing farmers markets coupons. They have given out approximately 286 coupon booklets. Participants do have to come to the office to pick-up the booklets, but they have been given appointments and staff bring the coupon books outside to them in their vehicle so there has been very little contact. Staff have also been giving out farmers market bags to assist with nutrition education.

World Breastfeeding week is approaching in August and typically WIC hosts an event at Hoopes Park. This year the event will be a virtual event recognizing breastfeeding. There is a banner that is hanging over Genesee Street in Auburn.

Elane asked Tania how close the current caseload of 1247 is to their targeted caseload. Tania shared that their targeted caseload is 1500 which is 78% and is fairly typical for their program. \*\*Tania reached out after the meeting and wanted to clarify these numbers. She stated that WIC program enrollment for June was 1247, which is 83% of the programs targeted caseload of 1500. Of the 1247 enrolled, 1152 were “participating” in June which means they are current on their benefits and showing for appointments. WIC program is meeting 76% of their caseload when we look at WIC clients who are actively participating in the program and that was what she was referring to originally.

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

Eileen reviewed the Hearing and Consent Orders:

Arby’s- Auburn (C)

Arby’s – Weedsport (V)

Gaetano’s Pizzeria- Auburn (C)

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

Eileen shared with the Board that the wastewater certified inspector class was completed to certify new inspectors. Previous inspectors were re-certified through a review of the protocol. Reminder letters for towns due this year for septic system inspections have gone out and the deadline was extended until December 1, 2020.

Eileen said that we are approaching HABs season. We had our first bloom at the Y-Camp and their bathing beach did have to be closed. Auburn, Owasco and Wells have all started observing the water coming into the plants and when necessary they will begin sampling and turn on their treatment operations. The HABs informational postcards went out to all homes on Cayuga, Skaneateles, and Owasco Lakes that draw lake water for their use and HABs information bookmarks were sent with the septic reminder letters for lake front property owners.

Several water districts are currently in violation regarding their disinfection by-product levels. Last year in August everyone had higher sample results than usual which impact their running annual averages until the next year. Some districts are in their 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of violations. Disinfection by-products are created when the chlorine reacts with organic material in the water found in surface supplies with weeds and algae issues. The highest results are found in a distribution system where the chlorine has the most contact time with the water. Water operators are required to take samples from the worst places in their lines, such as dead ends. One method to reduce the levels of these chemicals is to periodically flush the lines to remove old water. Elane Daly asked what happens if they continue to have violations. Eileen said that the EPA would get involved. The Health Department is required to input sample results into the NYS reporting system which is accessed by the EPA.

In regards to Locust Meadow Mobile Home Park, Eileen updated the Board. There has been an interested buyer, but the County Attorney's office has had difficulty getting in touch with their attorney. The Health Department has asked the County Attorney's office to move forward with the judgement. There have been on-going septic violations and no responsible person at the park to address them.

Eileen shared that due to staff attrition, the Env Health Division is down two staff members, which is a significant percentage. Prior to COVID-19 the legislature approved hiring of two positions, but the approval has since been revoked. We are now getting behind in meeting our work responsibilities. The situation is made worse by added COVID responsibilities. The Department is planning to ask the legislature again for permission to fill those two positions.

Ralph asked Eileen if the Y-Camp is drawing water from the Lake this year as they have in years past. Eileen said that because of all the troubles they have had with their water system in the past, this year they are bringing in bulk water.

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

Kathleen shared with the Board that enforcement of the Governor's executive orders in regards to NYS Pause has been being discussed by local leaders and stakeholders. The Health Department has been fielding complaints from the public and keeping a log of them. The Department is also encouraging the callers to utilize the NYS Pause Enforcement Task Force hotline. The Governor's office has stated that it is the local government's responsibility to enforce these orders. Cayuga County will pursue enforcement through civil processing, which is via the Board of Health hearings. Kathleen and Chris Palermo discussed with the Board the process for determining a violation and serving a consent order. The Board also discussed the initial fine they would like. After significant discussion the Board will likely consider a fine of \$50 for first time offenders signing a consent orders and then would re-evaluate for repeat offenders

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

Nancy shared a patient story with the Board and re-iterated the questions and concerns that patients are expressing upon intake.

She also shared that the Health Department has suspended their Covid-19 testing clinics and will now has to focus on immunization clinics as school get ready to re-open. Keith Batman asked why the Department was no longer doing Covid-19 testing. Nancy shared we do not have enough nursing staff to carry out Covid-19 testing and immunization clinic.

Dr. Archer asked if the Health Department would be issuing any guidance for pediatric and family care officers in regards to when children go back to school. Kathleen shared that they have been in contact with the superintendents and have been working to assist them in any way that we can.

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

Dr. Gioia shared that it appears to be a race between vaccine development and testing capabilities. He also shared that contract tracing is quite difficult in large cities and tends to be more successful in rural small areas.

With nothing further to discuss Keith Batman made a motion to adjourn. Elane Daly seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 1:38pm.