

Cayuga County Board of Health
Tuesday, August 23, 2022
In-Person & Virtual @ 12:15pm

Members Present: Dr. John Cosachov (Virtual)
Dr. Cassandra Archer (Virtual)
Mr. Tim Fessenden (Virtual)
Mr. Keith Batman
Mr. Ralph Battista

Members Excused: Dr. Brian Brundage

Guests Present: Robert Harding, Citizen Newspaper

Staff Present: Dr. Philip Gioia, Medical Director
Kathleen Cuddy, MPH
Janine Clifford
Lorie Fischer, BS Ed (Virtual)
Deanna Ryan, MCH
Nancy Purdy, BSN, ACC, PHC
Eileen O'Connor, PE
Rich Graham, County Attorney's Office
Megan Bell (Virtual)

Meeting was called to order at 12:21pm.

Minutes of the July 26, 2022 Meeting:

With no questions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes from the July 26, 2022 Board of Health meeting was made by Mr. Tim Fessenden and seconded by Dr. John Cosachov with all other members in attendance in favor. The minutes of the July 26, 2022 Board of Health meeting were approved as written.

Director of Administrative Services: Janine Clifford

Janine reviewed the claims with warrant dates of 07/14/2022 and 07/28/2022 and credit card statements with dates of 06/29/2022 and 07/15/2022. With no questions or concerns regarding the claims a motion was made by Mr. Ralph Battista with a second by Dr. Cassandra Archer and all other members in attendance in favor.

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

Lorie shared some program statistics with the Board and that Early Intervention program referrals for each month are higher than previous years. There are still children on waitlists for all services but majority are for speech and special instruction. Preschool Special Education program continues to have a waitlist for students as well with again the majority being for speech and special instruction. The Legislature approved a rate increase for preschool service providers beginning July 1, 2022 in the hopes of attracting new providers as well as retaining current providers.

Early Intervention staff recently conducted an outreach event at the Playspace for families that are "graduating" from Early Intervention. This included families whose children were leaving EI in August 31 as a result of either meeting their developmental goals, or transitioning to the 3-5 program based on

their age. They had approximately 14 families show up to the event and staff received a lot of positive feedback.

Supervising Public Health Administrator: Deanna Ryan, MCH

Deanna updated the Board regarding the Community Health Assessment. The Health Department and Auburn Community Hospital work together to conduct this State required assessment. A consultant has been hired to do a statistical analysis of the local health data from various sources to see how we rank across the State and across the nation. The data is also used to see what the needs of the community are and then used to focus funding efforts towards the greatest need. Health Department staff will be going to several outreach events to help get the survey completed and then they will come back to the office and enter the survey so it can be included in the analysis by the consultant.

Staff have been attending many local outreach events including a Backpack giveaway at Booker T Washington Center, Bike Rodeo and Backpack event at Melone Village and one upcoming at Brogan Manor. Staff will also be attending area school district open houses. We just purchased a pop-up tent with our logo to be used at events.

Keith asked who is eligible to participate in the Community Health Assessment survey and Deanna shared that anyone living in Cayuga County who is 18 or older. Ralph asked how staff is going to ensure we are getting feedback from all members of the community. Deanna shared that the survey will be provided to caseworkers from other county departments as well as community partner organizations to assist their clients in completing the survey either electronically or on paper and then submit them to our office to be entered. Kathleen shared that we are also looking to see if religious organizations, town/village clerks and local libraries would be interested in assisting us in this effort.

Public Health Director: Kathleen Cuddy, MPH

Kathleen updated the Board regarding our annual statistical report that the Health Department compiles and shares each year. We are close to finishing up 2020 and 2021 and Kathleen feels it will be a good way to demonstrate all the regular work that was still being conducted as well as the added duties of the COVID. Once it is finalized then will be shared with both the Board of Health and the Legislature.

New regulations from CDC regarding COVID were just adopted by New York State. NYS Department of Health and NYS Education Department have released update school guidance for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year. Kathleen and staff had a recent phone call with area superintendents and will be reaching back out after the release of this new guidance. Schools will have some decisions to make regarding how they will choose to move forward this school year.

Kathleen shared that the Cayuga Community Health Network's 25th Anniversary celebration is being held this weekend at Falcon Park. The Health Department will receive a partnership award and we will also have an informational table at the event.

Health Department staff have been working on preparing our 2023 budget and that will be due to the Legislature in the Fall.

Keith asked if any changes to the regulations regarding virtual attendance have been made. Kathleen shared that currently it is still allowed as the Governor has extended the State of Emergency. Currently it appears as though she will be evaluating that on a month-to-month basis.

Director of Community Health Services: Nancy Purdy, BSN, ACC, PHC

Nancy shared that WIC has been focusing on the use of Farmer's Market Coupons with their participants and they have been having a great response this year. They have been attending the Farmer's Markets and

meeting participants there to help show them how to use them. They have also been getting positive feedback from the farmers attending the markets as well. WIC is still dealing with staffing issues but are slowly getting new hires in place and up to speed.

Nancy shared that we are currently at a low community level but high in transmission. The Health Department continues to depend on the partnerships that were developed during COVID as issues with individuals still arise. The Health Department is continuing to hold COVID vaccination clinics. East Hill has held some clinics for children under the age of 5 as well as the hospital offering it to their practice patients. The volume has been low, but that was expected.

Nancy updated the Board regarding Monkeypox currently there have been no positive cases in Cayuga County but surrounding counties have. The local Health Department is alerted every time a test is done no matter the result and the alerts do come through 24/7 and the Health Department has two hours to respond to the alert. The State is working to adjust the alert system so that it would only flag positive results not all results. There is a limited supply of vaccine currently and that is being deployed to areas with higher populations of high-risk individuals. Staff are working to stay up date as information is shared.

There has been a lot of discussion surrounding the Polio outbreak downstate. We adjusted our approach to back-to-school vaccination clinics this year in order to try and prevent large numbers of students being excluded following the 14th day. We will continue add clinics as they are needed.

Staff continue to promote lead testing and the dangers of lead poisoning with outreach and education.

Nancy discussed nursing personnel prior to the COVID pandemic. The Health Department had 5.5 full-time nursing staff and after COVID we have dwindled down to 2.8 nurses and in September we will be down to 1.8 due to a maternity leave. The Department continues to search for a Public Health Nurse but have had no luck.

Director of Environmental Health: Eileen O'Connor, PE

Eileen reviewed the Hearing and Consent Orders:

Union Springs Academy- Union Springs (V)

Colonial Lodge- Sempronius (T)

Auchampau Property- Ira (T)

Panda Smoke and Vape- Aurelius (T)

Eileen shared that typically there is language in the Board of Health order regarding payment of fine being due within 5 days of receipt of the order and this was missing on the Panda Smoke and Vape hearing. Rich discussed options with the Board regarding the continual violations from Panda Smoke and Vape. Keith suggested having staff conduct a follow-up visit in the upcoming month and if violations continue discussing options further with the County Attorney's office. A motion to approve the hearing and consent orders with the language addition on the Panda Smoke and Vape hearing was made by Mr. Ralph Battista and seconded by Dr. John Cosachov with all other members in attendance in favor.

Eileen updated the Board regarding the revision of the Watershed Rules and Regulations. A subcommittee made up of multiple state and local representatives has met approximately four times so far going over each section of the draft. They have been making good progress and mainly just adding clarifying language. The most recent meeting was held in person in Auburn and the group plans to meet again in person in October. Eileen is hopeful that the process could be completed by December. Once the subcommittee has finished working through the revisions it will go back to the State for a legal review.

Eileen shared an update with the Board regarding HABs season. Cayuga Lake has had a particularly active year and HABs did impact one of the children's camps on the lake. The camp had to abandon their water supply and bring in bulk water. Owasco Lake has not had quite as severe a season but the City of Auburn is starting to see visual evidence of blooms in their raw water which has prompted them to turn on their treatment systems. Sampling for toxins associated with HABs will begin this week. Owasco is also starting sampling, but they have not seen the visual evidence in their raw water so they have not yet turned on their treatment system.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Philip Gioia

Dr. Gioia shared appropriate seasonal injury prevention activities.

Dr. Gioia also shared that the Health Network was recognizing the City of Auburn and some of their landlords.

Kathleen shared that at tonight's Legislature meeting Dr. Stephen Thomas from Upstate Hospital will be presenting. Dr. Thomas is a nationally recognized infectious disease physician who helped develop the COVID vaccine.

With nothing further to discuss a motion to adjourn was made by Dr. John Cosachov and seconded by Mr. Tim Fessenden. The meeting was adjourned at 1:22pm.