

Cayuga County Board of Health Meeting  
Tuesday, August 25, 2020  
Digital Meeting @ 12:15pm

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

Members Excused: Dr. Brian Brundage

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

Meeting called to order at 12:15pm.

**Minutes of July 28, 2020:**

With no questions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Tim Fessenden and seconded by Dr. Cassandra Archer the minutes of the July 28, 2020 Board of Health meeting were approved as written.

**Director of Administrative Services: Janine Clifford**

Janine reviewed the claims with a warrant date of 8/4/2020 and 8/18/2020 and the credit card statements with a date of 7/29/2020 and 08/17/2020. Keith Batman asked about the charges to Beardsley Architect Firm and Kathleen reminded the Board that in order to finish updating our Certificate of Operation for our Diagnostic and Treatment clinic we had to have our clinic room evaluated before the approved alterations can be performed. With no further questions or concerns, a motion to approve the claims was made by Mr. Keith Batman and seconded by Mr. Ralph Battista. All others in attendance in favor.

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

Lorie shared some updated program numbers with the Board. Elane asked if Lorie had noticed a change in the various programs numbers. Lorie shared that program numbers continue to trend upward and remained high even with the current COVID-19 situation. She shared that when things started to re-open and parents were again scheduling well child visits with their pediatricians she started to see an increase in referrals. She has a backlog of approximately 15 families waiting to get started in program. Some families did choose to participate in teletherapy and were receiving therapies throughout the shutdown. Some providers are beginning to

start offering therapies in person again. Service Coordinators have been doing all the contact with families virtually.

Lorie shared that even with Auburn Enlarged City School District phased-in plan, Gavras Center still plans to return to school in person on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Cosachov asked if Lorie thought she would continue to see a surge through the Fall. Lorie anticipated seeing an increase through the Fall as parents begin to reschedule well child checks.

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

Eileen reviewed the Hearing and Consent Orders:

Namisniaks- Auburn (C)

McDonalds (Grant Ave) - Auburn (C)

BB's Pizza- Auburn (C)

Michelle's Pizzeria- Fair Haven (T)

Dr. Archer asked what the plan is for repeat offenders of the PAUSE guidance. Eileen shared that they will get a consent order first and then on second offense it will go straight to a Board of Health Hearing. Kathleen clarified that those found in violation of the mass gathering order will go straight to a Board of Health hearing since these are one-time events. With no questions or concerns a motion to approve the Hearing and Consent orders was made by Mr. Tim Fessenden and seconded by Ms. Elane Daly. All other members in attendance in favor.

Eileen updated the Board on Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). We received several calls over the weekend about reported blooms on both Owasco and Cayuga lakes. Sampling of the City of Auburn and Town of Owasco drinking water is taking place. People who call the office wondering about locations of blooms are encouraged to check the NYS DEC website which has a map with recent and past blooms this season. Ralph asked Eileen about the turn-around time for sampling results. Eileen shared that bathing beach samples go to the NYS lab and they do not accept samples on Fridays or over the weekends so sometimes there is a couple day turn-around for results. Drinking water samples are being taken to a private lab and they yield same day results.

Eileen shared with the Board that NYS has tasked local Health Departments with gym re-openings in NYS. Currently gyms are not permitted facilities under the Health Department with the exception of those that have pools or those that are covered under a temporary residence permit (i.e. hotel facilities). Several counties shared some of the application forms they had developed and Eileen adjusted one to meet our needs. The application was sent out the gyms in our county and we have started to get some back and they are currently being reviewed. The biggest issue for most of the gyms is the air filtration system that is required under the guidance to re-open. Many of the gyms have purchased the required filters, but because of the high demand the orders are not able to be fulfilled by their supplier. Per NYSDOH directive, Eileen has reached out to the State regional control group asking for guidance on allowing these gyms to open who are unable to get the filters that are required.

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

Kathleen updated the Board on conversations she has had with our legislative oversight committee regarding staffing to help as we move forward.

Kathleen also shared with the Board about a grant opportunity we received from NYSACHO. We are a rural county we qualified for some additional funding through NYS Health Foundation to assist with outreach and education related to COVID-19.

We also received some grant funding from the State for assistance with COVID-19 responsibilities. Kathleen has been discussing with staff and legislative oversight committee, as there are some stipulations that must be met when accepting the funding. The main one being that the Department agrees to utilize the State developed COVID-19 contact tracing software, CommCare.

We are getting several phone calls and emails from school districts as they work to get ready for school to re-open and do their best to interpret the guidance laid out by the State. Kathleen shared that guidance is constantly changing and we are always working to get as much clarity as possible. Staff have been meeting with individual districts to help better address the questions or concerns they may have.

Ralph Battista asked for clarification on the size of gatherings. Kathleen shared that as we understand the guidance it is 50 people or less regardless of whether the event is indoors or outdoors.

Dr. Archer asked about turn-around time for testing results. Kathleen shared that we have noticed a quicker turn-around time when residents have gone to Tompkins or Onondaga County and she believes that is because they are processing the samples in-house at the hospital labs. Dr. Archer asked if processing in-house would be something Auburn Hospital could do. Kathleen thought that they had a limited supply of the testing medium, but thought they were looking into obtaining more and would update the Board at our next meeting.

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

Nancy discussed transitioning from the Health Department's current contact tracing system to the State developed CommCare system. We plan to begin training and learning the system while things appear to have slowed down.

Staff have been reaching out to farms and businesses and continue to offer outreach and education to those places seeking that out from our office.

Ralph asked about various types of testing. Elane asked if we have seen a decrease in the number of results coming in since the Health Department has stopped testing. Nancy does not believe we have. Results are just coming from different places now.

Nancy shared that the Health Department currently has one open nursing position and we are actively trying to fill that position.

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

Dr. Gioia shared that SU will begin to utilize a saliva test on students returning to campus and that it will become more available in the next few weeks.

With nothing further to discuss Keith Batman made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Archer seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 1:17pm.