

Cayuga County Board of Health Meeting
Tuesday, September 22, 2020
Digital Meeting @ 12:15pm

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

Members Excused: Dr. Brian Brundage
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
Megan Bell

Meeting called to order at 12:18pm.

Minutes of August 25, 2020:

With no questions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Cassandra Archer and seconded by Mr. Tim Fessenden the minutes of the August 25, 2020 Board of Health meeting were approved as written.

Director of Administrative Services: Janine Clifford

Janine reviewed the claims with a warrant date of 9/01/2020 and the credit card statements with a date of 8/29/20 and 8/15/2020. With no questions or concerns, a motion to approve the claims was made by Mr. Tim Fessenden and seconded by Ms. Elane Daly. All other in attendance in favor.

Coordinator of WIC Program: Tania Young, DTR

Tania shared with the Board that waivers allowing for virtual visits have been extended through the State WIC program. They have discussed when and how in-person visits will resume and they are leaning towards a phased in approach that may start with the more difficult virtual visits such as those with a new breastfeeding mom.

Tania shared some program numbers with Board focusing on their higher than typical show rate with the virtual appointments. Tania shared that they are working on wrapping up some of their 2020 program goals and focusing on developing their 2021 goals, one being increasing outreach. They have begun using web-based ads and they have seen a positive result since their implementation. In 2021 they intend to focus on breastfeeding more and currently have 2 vacancies in their peer counselor positions.

Dr. Archer asked if since they are seeing such a good show rate with virtual appointments if that is something they will offer post-pandemic. Tania shared that right now NYSDOH does not have a policy on that, but thinks that is something they will work on.

Dr. Archer also asked about the use of the language line. Tania shared that they use it quite frequently especially with some of their migrant families.

Director of Environmental Health: Eileen O'Connor, PE

Eileen reviewed the Hearing and Consent Orders:

Owasco Lake Mennonite School- Fleming (T)

Ed & Jeans Market – Port Byron (V)

Patrick Olmstead Excavation/Snowplowing - Sennett (T)

Art Graf, Inc.- Cato (T)

Giuseppe's Pizzeria- Auburn (C)

Fred D. Maxwell Co, Inc.- Auburn (C)

Jreck Subs- Auburn (C)

Colloca Estate Winery- Sterling (T)

Family Dollar Stores of NY Inc.- Auburn (C)

United Refining Co of PA, Inc.- Auburn (C)

Dickman Farms, LLC- Auburn (C)

Elane asked if we are following the same original protocol if after a first complaint the office does outreach, 2nd complaint a visit is made and if a violation is witnessed then we send a consent order and if a third complaint comes in and they are in violation, they are summoned to a Board of Health hearing. Eileen stated that was the current procedure. She also shared that if it is a facility that the Health Department permits staff will confront the facility operator and if it is a facility that we do not permit staff will not confront the facility operator during the inspection. Elane asked if Dickman Farms had obtained a permit in the past. Eileen said yes, they had obtained a permit previously.

Dr. Archer asked if we have any repeat offenders regarding the failure to wear face coverings that will be going to a Board of Health hearing and Eileen said that we do. Nancy shared that Wegmans had sent a letter with their consent order regarding paying the fine but not admitting guilt. Eileen said that they have a meeting with the County Attorney's office to discuss this letter. The Board asked if they could see the letter and Kathleen shared that she would send it to them.

With no further questions or concerns a motion to approve the Hearing and Consent orders was made by Mr. Ralph Battista and seconded by Dr. Cassandra Archer. All other members in attendance in favor.

Eileen updated the Board in regards to updating the watershed rules and regulations. The Planning Department is scheduling a meeting to have the draft hopefully adopted by the City of Auburn and Town of Owasco. We would then proceed with sending the draft to the State for review. Eileen asked if the Board would consider submitting a resolution supporting the draft. The Board indicated that they would be supportive.

Eileen shared that five of the water systems that were in violation last month because of their disinfection by-product levels are no longer in violation with the exception of one system.

The environmental Health division has been spending a lot of time on COVID related activities and have recently been tasked by the NYSDOH with inspecting and approving the opening of gyms. The department has issued the approval for several gyms to re-open and approximately 30% of them have been inspected. Elane asked about the air handling filtration requirements and Eileen said that about 50% of them were able to obtain the required filters needed in order to open, some facilities do not have the capabilities to meet the filtration requirements set forth in their re-opening guidance and therefore had to meet some other mitigation requirements set out by the NYSDOH regional control group.

Public Health Director: Kathleen Cuddy, MPH

Kathleen asked the Board if they would like to continue with virtual meetings or if they would like to resume in-person meetings. If the Board chose to return to in-person meetings then we could change location to offer more separation for people as Caucus room 1 is tight quarters. After discussion, the Board decided to finish 2020 with virtual meetings and re-assess in early 2021.

Kathleen shared that the Health Department and local school districts have been waiting for months for updated school mandates regarding testing for students. There have been no new edits from the State as of yet and school district personnel and parents are expressing their frustration to our office. Currently the mandates read that any student sent home with symptoms may not return to in-person instruction until they have had a health assessment by a medical professional, a negative COVID-19 test and symptom resolution. There is not currently an option for a 10 quarantine.

Kathleen also shared new guidance regarding nursing home visitation. Nursing homes may begin to allow visitors but those visitors must have an appointment and have proof of a negative COVID-19 within the last 7 days.

Our community currently does not have access to rapid testing or free of charge testing. Currently insurance will not cover a COVID-19 if the person is not symptomatic and the average charge out of pocket is approximately \$100. Kathleen and Aileen have been actively trying to pursue testing for our community. Upstate Hospital may be able to provide free testing maybe once a week, discussions are still on-going with them. Kathleen is also reaching out to local Federally Qualifying Healthcare Facilities to assist with testing and health assessment for those students who do not have insurance and/or a healthcare provider.

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

Nancy shared some of the struggles that staff are dealing with when placing people into mandatory isolation/quarantine. Kathleen is working to get more staff to assist with the contact tracing using some of the COVID funds awarded to the department from the State.

Dr. Archer asked if the Board should put together a letter and send it to local and state officials about the lack of available testing for our community. All in attendance in agreement. Staff will draft a letter and share with the Board before sending to state and local representatives.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Gioia

Dr. Gioia shared that he has been able to send some patients to the testing facility in Tompkins County and has success with timeliness of results. Kathleen shared that they have reached out to Cayuga Medical Center in Tompkins County, but they are unable to provide any kind of mobile testing to our community at this time.

With nothing further to discuss Dr. Cosachov made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Archer seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 1:27pm.