

Cayuga County Board of Health
Tuesday, September 27, 2022
In-person & Virtual at 12:15pm

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

Members Excused: Mr. Keith Batman

Guests Present: Robert Harding, Citizen Newspaper- Virtual

Staff Present: Nancy Purdy, BSN, ACC, PHC
Donna Gilfus
Deanna Ryan, MCH
Dr. Philip Gioia- Medical Director
Kathleen Cuddy, MPH
Tania Young, DTR
Ani Fish, PE- Virtual
Megan Bell
Rich Graham-County Attorney's Office
David Gould- Chairman, County Legislature

Meeting called to order: at 12:18pm

Minutes of the August 23, 2022 Meeting:

With no questions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes from the August 23, 2022 Board of Health meeting was made by Ms. Elane Daly and seconded by Dr. Cassandra Archer with all other members in attendance in favor. The minutes of the August 23, 2022 Board of Health meeting were approved as written.

Director of Administrative Services: Janine Clifford- In her absence Donna Gilfus

Donna reviewed the claims with warrant dates of 08/11/2022 and 08/25/2022 and credit card statements with dates of 7/29/2022 and 8/15/2022. Dr. Brundage asked about the cost associated with Faynor processing. Kathleen explained that the Sheriff's Department Civil Division is no longer able to serve our Board of Health summons and complaints and orders due to an influx in work load so we had to seek an outside processor. With no further questions or concerns a motion to approve the claims was made by Dr. Brian Brundage and seconded by Mr. Ralph Battista and all other members in attendance in favor.

Coordinator of the WIC Program: Tania Young, DTR

Tania shared with the Board that they are slowly working back towards full staff. They have a new staff member Amy Manuel who was formally a breastfeeding peer counselor but has moved into a nutritionist position as well as finished her CLC training and is heading the breastfeeding program.

July caseload has been steady with approximately 1360 participants. They are still currently allowed to offer remote appointments but have also been bringing participants back to the office for in-person appointments. The no-show rate continues to be higher with the in-person appointments versus the remote appointments.

Tania shared that they had a successful Farmers Market season as that begins to wrap up. Staff was able to be present at the Farmer's Market in Auburn to hand out WIC coupons to participants and found it was better attended and the coupons were better utilized when they did it that way.

The WIC 2022 budget year is ending and due to several vacancies throughout the year they have some funds leftover and will be utilizing those to run a social media campaign.

Tania shared that her 2023 program goal is to continue to rebuild towards having a fully staffed program and then ensure that the staff are well trained and feel capable to help retain them.

Elane asked Tania if she thinks the State is going to require the program to return to fully in-person appointments. Tania shared that currently the waiver allowing remote appointments has been extended until April 2023, but Tania is hoping that once that expires they will allow a hybrid version allowing for both remote and in-person appointments depending on the type of appointment the participant is due for.

Ralph asked Tania if they offer anything to those participants residing in the southern and northern ends of the County. Tania shared that WIC has always had satellite sites in Moravia and Cato and that typically those sites are very well attended.

Dr. Archer asked how many more staff Tania needs in order to be fully staffed again. Tania shared that they have two open positions currently. The most difficult one to fill has been the supervising nutritionist due to the specific educational/experience requirements and just a general lack of individuals in that field in the region as well as compensation compared to other employment opportunities. Ralph suggested promoting the fact that because WIC program falls under public service the candidate would be eligible for student loan forgiveness.

Supervising Public Health Administrator: Deanna Ryan, MCH

Deanna shared that the community health survey is still being completed by residents with almost 950 surveys completed to date. There are still a few zip codes within Cayuga County that do not have many responses to the survey, so staff will be targeting those areas hoping to increase the responses. Originally the survey was set to be closed on September 30th, but that has been pushed back to the middle of October to allow for more time to target those zip codes with low responses.

Dr. Cosachov asked once the survey is closed and all data is recorded how long does it take to analyze and compile the data and determine what the needs of the community are. Deanna shared that the Hospital will be presenting the assessment and data to their board in November and the

Community Health Improvement Plan is due to the State by end of the December. Kathleen shared the Improvement Plan will be shared with both the Board of Health and the County Legislature.

Public Health Director: Kathleen Cuddy, MPH

Kathleen reviewed the 2020-2021 Annual Health Department Statistical Report. She highlighted the work that was still being done by the Health Department while also completing required COVID-19 duties. Typically, the report is completed in the first/second quarter of the following year, however with some additional COVID-19 data that we wanted to include wasn't completed until the third quarter. David Gould asked in regards to the Septic System Replacement grant data that Kathleen shared if Duck Lake was included in the lakefront properties that were eligible for funding. Kathleen shared that it is currently not because the State has not identified it as a source of drinking water for individuals. David also asked if we have a difficult time getting parents to allow us in their homes for lead risk assessments. Kathleen shared not typically as most parents want to have the lead mitigated to eliminate the poisoning.

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

Nancy shared that we had a recent survey of our VFC/VFA programs and are anticipating an Article 28 survey in the coming year and we are working towards being fully prepared for that.

We continue to offer COVID vaccines and we have had a recent uptick as many individuals are looking to get the bivalent booster that is now being recommended. We are offering both the Moderna and Pfizer bivalent booster. Moderna was a little slow in the production of the bivalent, so there has been more demand than supply right now. Supply is expected to catch up in the coming weeks.

We are still offering school vaccine clinics as most districts have now passed the 14-day date and have had to start excluding students. We did offer clinics over the summer and those were successful, but we will be making a few tweaks before offering them again next year.

Nancy shared that staff are continuing to implement the newly revised Maternal Child Health program that focuses on working with all community agencies that interact with children, families and pregnant women to ensure consistency in messaging and availability of services.

Director of Environmental Services: Eileen O'Connor, PE- In her absence Ani Fish, PE

Ani reviewed the Hearing and Consent Orders:

Chateau Dusseau- Locke (T)

Town of Locke- Locke (T)

3MCF Inc dba Colonial Lodge- Sempronius (T)

Indian Head Golf Course- Aurelius (T)

Dugan's Country Grill- Scipio (T)

Moravia Estates MHC- Moravia (V)

Brandon's Pub & Grill- Fair Have (V)

Dougherty Property- Niles (T)

Southend Construction

Daphine's Diner- Sterling (T)

Guy Property- Montezuma (T)

With no questions or concerns regarding the hearing and consent orders a motion to approve them was made by Dr. Cassandra Archer with a second from Dr. Brian Brundage and all other members in attendance in favor.

Ani shared with the Board that at the upcoming WQMA monthly meeting a member of the DEC will be there to answer questions in relation to the new CAFO SPDES permit that was issued earlier this year. Tim shared that even though the permit has been issued comments can still be submitted since the DEC can adjust the permit at any time.

Ani shared with the Board an update regarding HABs particularly in Owasco Lake. Twice-weekly monitoring samples are continuously being taken by the City of Auburn and the Town of Owasco. The unprecedented level of toxins found in the raw water at the Auburn plant last week the Environmental Health division reminded all the purchasers of the City of Auburn water to review their emergency plans in the event of a do not drink order and to share those plans with any major entities that they supply (i.e. jails, schools, large manufacturers). Dr. Brundage asked if additional samples were taken when the raw water levels are higher than typical. Ani shared that the Health Department can require more frequent samples if needed but the Auburn and Owasco operators do increased visual sampling and the treatment system had been effective in removing the toxins.

There has been an uptick in rabid fox in the area this year and Ani shared that it is growing increasingly more difficult to reach individuals who have been potentially exposed and begin treatment if necessary.

The Revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations comments are being distributed by the State to current stakeholders.

Dr. Gioia asked if we have reverse 911 capabilities in our area. Deanna shared that yes that is available in our area, landline phones are automatically included but an individual must register their cellphone in order to receive the alerts and there are instructions on how to do that on our website. Deanna also shared that in the Spring our office sends postcards to all lakefront property owners on Cayuga, Owasco and Skaneateles lake regarding the dangers of using surface water straight from the lake for drinking and other household purposes. The postcard also has pictures of HABs and the standard See It, Know It, Report It message the Health Department promotes each year.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Philip Gioia

Dr. Gioia shared that the CDC has adjusted its recommendation for medical facilities in areas of low risk/transmission no longer have to wear masks. Cayuga County remains in high risk so the adjustment does not apply to our medical facilities.

Individuals 12 and up are eligible for the new bivalent booster. Dr. Gioia anticipates that soon the bivalent will be available for children ages 5-12.

The community continues to struggle with typical seasonal injuries and accidents as well as continued mental health crisis and opioid crisis. Poison control center is receiving an increase in calls related to prescribed medication consumption.

Prior to the meeting Keith had sent out an email discussing policies regarding continuation of remote participation for Board members as a result of the emergency orders in relation to COVID-19 expiring earlier this month remote participation is no longer permitted. Rich Graham shared with the Board that they could have his office draft a resolution or set of policies outlining the allowance for Board members to participate remotely. After discussion the Board asked Rich to draft something for their review at the November Board of Health meeting.

With nothing further to discuss a motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Cassandra Archer and seconded by Ms. Elane Daly with all other members in attendance in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40pm.