

Cayuga County Board of Health Meeting
Tuesday, October 20, 2020
Digital Meeting @ 12:15pm

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

Members Excused: Dr. John Cosachov

Staff Present: Kathleen Cuddy, MPH
Eileen O'Connor, PE
Nancy Purdy, RN, BSN
Lorie Fischer, BS Ed
Janine Clifford
Dr. Gioia- Medical Director
Brittany Massi- County Attorney's Office
Karen Vasile
Megan Bell

Meeting called to order at 12:15pm.

Minutes of September 22, 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 September 22, 2020 Board of Health meeting were approved as written.

Director of Administrative Services: Janine Clifford

Janine reviewed the claims with a warrant date of 9/15/2020 and the credit card statement with a date of 9/15/2020. With no questions or concerns, a motion to approve the claims was made by Ms. Elane Daly and seconded by Dr. Cassandra Archer. All other in attendance in favor.

Coordinator of Prgms. for Children with Special Health Care Needs: Lorie Fischer, BS, Ed

Lorie updated the Board on the Early Intervention Program and Preschool Special Education program. She highlighted that for the first time in a while there will be no children on a waiting list for speech therapy services. Most providers are seeking virtual services in the home or in the school setting. Numbers continue to increase and Lorie shared that they have an IPRO review coming up and they will be reviewing charts as well as reviewing program policies.

Public Health Director: Kathleen Cuddy, MPH

Kathleen updated the Board regarding the Watershed Rules and Regulations update project. Steve Lynch has been picking things back up where they left off prior to COVID and a joint public meeting with City of Auburn and Town of Owasco is scheduled for October 29, 2020.

The draft with highlighted changes will be shared with both councils and stakeholder groups. Due to the restrictions on public gatherings the meeting will be live streamed so that people may view and can call in with questions or comments. If both the City and Town of Owasco approve the draft it will be forwarded to the State for review. The Board may be asked to send a resolution supporting the draft to the State.

Kathleen also updated the Board on recent COVID-19 activities. We have seen a significant increase for a county our size of recent. We are seeing exposures occur at worksites, schools and social gatherings. The hospital has also closed visitation at this time with some exceptions being considered. We are working on getting more testing for our community with faster turnaround times and potentially no charge testing. The Health Department is offering a closed pod testing site targeting school children and staff that are symptomatic, and/or were exposed to a positive. Information regarding the testing was distributed through our school nurse and superintendent list-serve. We are hoping to offer more testing on a weekly basis.

Onondaga County is offering school based surveillance sampling, not sure if other counties are offering this as well.

Kathleen also shared some big news from the WIC program. ABC Cayuga the company that oversees Play Space has purchased a building on North Street and have asked the WIC offices to co-locate with them. This will provide better visibility, better space, better parking and better accessibility. More details to follow, the move is planned tentatively for early 2021.

We are currently working with maintenance to complete the updates to the ventilation system required by our Article 28 State site review to update our clinic address to 8 Dill Street.

We had our required preparedness vaccination drill on Friday. Offered flu vaccine to county employees in a drive-thru scenario at Dill Street. Health Department staff ran the drill with help from members of the sheriff's department and emergency management.

Elane asked if we have been able to obtain any additional staffing resources for the Department. Kathleen shared that we have an administrative assistant that has been assisting with various COVID activities. Deb English former Cayuga County Nursing Home director is starting on 10/21 to assist with training and support on newly hired contact tracers. Nick Colas retired from the planning office has been hired on to become our Commcare expert and is working on getting trainings set up for system users. There is also a contract with Community Health Network to hire contact tracers.

Director of Environmental Health: Eileen O'Connor, PE

Eileen reviewed the Hearing and Consent Orders:

Cooks Village Diner- Weedsport (V)

Dunkin Donuts- Weedsport (V)

Cato's New York Pizzeria- Cato (V)

China Wok- Auburn (C)

McDonald's (West)-Auburn (C)

Speedway-Auburn (C)

Dunkin Donuts (Genesee Street)- Auburn (C)

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

Keith asked if we had received anything from the State regarding cracking down on large gatherings. Eileen shared that she has not received any notice.

Eileen shared that we have been receiving more face covering complaints and that because of time constraints we will be adjusting our protocol for dealing with these complaints. Typically we had been offering education to a business/facility when we received a first complaint, then waiting until we received a second complaint before we made a site visit. We will be altering that process to eliminate the education outreach phone call. We will log the complaint and then staff will make a site visit, if a violation is witnessed then we will send them a consent order.

Eileen also shared with the Board that the City of Auburn has been working SUNY ESF in a study testing waste water to potentially determine the presence of COVID-19. The samples are sent to a lab in Syracuse and cost an average of \$200 per sample. The City of Auburn has been covering the cost of the samples and are now asking the Health Department to cover the costs of the next 10 weeks for a total of approximately \$2000. Eileen feels that data can be useful. Ralph asked if we have the money to cover the cost in our budget and Eileen shared that because most bathing beaches were closed this summer due to COVID we have some funds remaining in our sampling budget line that could be used to cover these costs. After some discussion the Board did a vote and all members in attendance were in favor with the exception of Dr. Brundage who was opposed.

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

Nancy shared that we have seen an uptick in cases as people are becoming less vigilant in their practices. Many people are ignoring minor symptoms that while are also symptoms of other illnesses/allergies can also be associated with COVID-19. Nancy thinks most people expect to be seriously ill and often ignore the minor symptoms and continue to go about their typical activities and potentially exposing others.

Staff has been utilizing a message board to assist with managing the many calls that come into the office during the course of a normal workday.

We have a vacant public health nurse position that we have been trying to fill since Dorothy's retirement in July.

Staff conducted a drive-thru flu clinic on Friday and it went well. Staff used a mobile vaccine fridge that had been purchased with some grant funding earlier this year and it proved very useful.

Staff have been having weekly phone calls with school nurses to assist them with questions and concerns they may have as well as routine meetings with Superintendents as well.

Nancy shared that we have suspended our immunization clinics and are going to be starting COVID-19 testing again. We have a small testing pod scheduled for tomorrow targeting schoolchildren who are symptomatic and other that are in quarantine through the Health Department and are showing symptoms.

Dr. Archer asked if we could send out some safe practice documents in regarding to Halloween activities. Kathleen agreed that would be beneficial.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Gioia

Dr. Gioia discussed the reliability of the testing. He also shared that Labcorp has an at-home test that can be ordered through the mail and completed at home.

With nothing further to discuss Mr. Ralph Battista adjourned that meeting at 1:28pm.