

Cayuga County Board of Health Meeting  
Tuesday, January 26, 2021  
Digital Meeting @ 12:15pm

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

Staff Present: Eileen O'Connor, PE  
Nancy Purdy, RN, BSN  
Tania Young, DTR  
Janine Clifford  
Dr. Gioia- Medical Director  
Megan Bell  
Rich Graham- County Attorney's office

Guests Present: Krista Russa, Representative from the Camardo Lawfirm

Meeting called to order at 12:21pm.

**Minutes of December 22, 2020:**

With no questions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Cassandra Archer and seconded by Mr. Ralph Battista the minutes of the December 22, 2020 Board of Health meeting were approved as written.

**Director of Administrative Services: Janine Clifford**

Janine reviewed the claims with a warrant dates of 12/15/2020 and 12/29/2020 and the credit card statements with a dates of 11/28/2020 and 12/15/2020. With no questions or concerns, a motion to approve the claims was made by Dr. Brian Brundage and seconded by Dr. Cassandra Archer. All other in attendance in favor.

**Coordinator of WIC Program: Tania Young, DTR**

Tania shared that USDA approved the waiver to extend the remote appointments through April 2021. She also shared some caseloads statistics with the Board, current caseload is 1350 which 90% of their target caseload and a 42% increase from last year. They continue to have a low no-show rate with the remote appointments.

Tania also shared that the WIC office will be moving to a new location on North Street, they will be renting a space from ABC Cayuga and the building will also house the PlaySpace as well Childcare Solutions. The WIC program is continuing to develop connections with ABC Cayuga

and the Seymour Library and are hoping to begin to collaborate on some virtual events for families.

Tania also shared that one of the grocery stores in the northern end of the county has been sold to new owners and currently is not accepting WIC. She is hoping that the new owners will be willing to participate in the WIC program because without that store the closest grocery store that accepts WIC for the people living in the northern end of the county would be in Baldwinsville.

There are also two new staff members at the WIC program, they recently hired two new breastfeeding peer counselors and are excited to get them on board and continue offering breastfeeding support to new moms in the community.

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

Eileen reviewed the Hearing and Consent Orders:  
Pleasant Valley Mobile Home Park- Moravia (T)  
Cayuga Lake Estates- Locke (T)  
Dollar General- Moravia (V)  
Napa Auto Parts- Sennett (T)  
Five Below, INC. - Auburn (C)

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

Krista from Camardo Law Firm asked about the McDonald's hearing, which her office represents. Rich Graham from the County Attorney's office shared that it was postponed due to lack of personal service. The hearings summons was served to the individual owner/operator and not the LLC

Eileen shared that with the roll out of vaccination clinics all of her staff have been giving additional assignments working at the clinics, inclusive of their typical environmental health duties.

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

Kathleen shared that all Health Department staff have had to push other work aside and assist in the vaccination process. We have been working to get doses out to public while still following the state guidelines.

Kathleen updated the Board regarding COVID-19 testing. Asymptomatic testing clinics have been taking place at Emerson Park with the help of the Emergency Management Office and NYS contracted nurses. The Health Department been staffing a symptomatic drive-through clinic on the weekends at BOCES, but with the roll-out of vaccination clinic that will be transitioning to either Auburn Hospital or the Emergency Management Office.

The State has recently approved the start of high-risk school sports with guidance from the local Health Departments. Kathleen and other staff have been in discussions with the area school districts to develop guidelines/protocol before they can begin.

Elane asked what the current positivity rate is for Cayuga County. Kathleen looked on forwardny.gov and shared our 7 day rolling average is 5.9%.

Dr. Cosachov brought forward a motion offering to send a letter to the State Health Department on behalf of the Board stating the need particularly in our rural county to allow the Health Department to vaccinate all eligible members, not just subparts of the eligible groups. All other members in attendance were in favor of sending such letter.

Kathleen also shared that we have recently had two nurses leave for other employment opportunities and that leaves 3 vacant nursing positions in the Health Department. The legislature did pass an emergency resolutions authorizing salary adjustments to the nursing positions within the Health Department to assist with recruitment and retention.

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

Nancy shared that the office is continuing to contact tracing and while numbers are slowly declining, but hospitalizations remain elevated.

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

Dr. Gioia discussed vaccine supplies and the potential for the emergency authorization of the Johnson & Johnson vaccination to occur soon.

He also discussed the start of high-risk sports.

With nothing further to discuss Dr. Cassandra Archer made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a seconded by Mr. Ralph Battista the meeting was adjourned.