

Cayuga County Board of Health
Tuesday, February 22, 2022
In-person & Virtual @ 12:15pm

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

Members Excused: Mr. Tim Fessenden

Guests Present: Robert Harding- The Citizen Newspaper

Staff Present Kathleen Cuddy, MPH
Lorie Fisher, BS Ed- Virtual
Deanna Ryan, MCH
Nancy Purdy, RN, BSN
Eileen O'Connor, PE
David Gould- Chair of County Legislature
Donna Gilfus
Megan Bell- Virtual

Meeting was called to order at 12:18pm.

Minutes of the January 25, 2022 Meeting:

With no questions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Ralph Battista and seconded by Dr. John Cosachov with all other members in attendance in favor. The minutes of the January 25, 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 12/31/21 and 1/27/2022 and the credit card statements with dates of 12/29/2021 and 1/15/2022. Keith Batman asked if there was any reimbursement available for the legal costs that have been incurred as a result of the on-going issues with Locust Meadow Mobile Home Park. Kathleen shared that because the violations fall under the State Sanitary Code we would be able to put those costs towards our 36% State Aid reimbursement. With no further questions or concerns a motion to accept the claims was made by Ms. Elane Daly and second by Mr. Ralph Battista with all other members in attendance in favor.

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

Lorie presented the Board with a program update. Currently Early Intervention has 161 children enrolled in the program and 21 children in the intake process with pending evaluations. Of the 161 children currently enrolled 5 children are on a waitlist for services as there is not currently a provider available to serve them.

Preschool Special Education program currently has 225 actively enrolled with over 30 children waiting for their initial meeting to take place and of the 225 enrolled children 40 are on a waitlist waiting for various services. There are 16 children waiting for an available speech provider, 17 are waiting for an available special education teacher, 2 are waiting for a physical therapy provider, 3 are waiting for an OT provider and 6 children are waiting for a special education classroom (i.e. Gavras Center). Lorie shared that these children on the waitlist will most likely not get any service before the end of the school year.

Child Find which is the monitoring program for children at risk of developing a delay has currently 106 active children.

Lorie shared that 2021 saw the highest number of referrals in her 16 years with the programs. Early Intervention is also beginning the transition to a new statewide web based reporting system. This transition will include significant training for her staff as well as providers.

Elane asked Lorie if the children on the waitlist would be served in the order they were placed on the list and Lorie shared that unfortunately that is not always the case. Providers have the ability to choose the areas in which they want to serve, so often if a child is outside the area the provider is willing to serve then they will have to wait until there is a provider able to serve the area they are in. Lorie shared that for Early Intervention families the service coordinators try to get creative with getting some type of beneficial service in place for the family and also provide the families with various strategies that they can do on their own.

Public Health Director: Kathleen Cuddy, MPH

Kathleen shared that in regards to COVID we are still working on vaccination clinic and are currently participating in the State's Vax to Kid campaign. Currently testing does not appear to be a significant need in our community. Emergency Management Office is working to get test kits distributed throughout our community. Isolation and Quarantine continues to be done solely by the State contact tracers and the local Health Department focuses mainly on answering questions that may come in from the community. Hospital numbers are beginning to go down but we are still reporting some deaths. Our current situational update will be decreased from daily to three times a week.

We are working on filling some of the vacancies that we have at the Health Department. We are also focusing on getting back to chronic disease programs and focusing our attention on our mandatory programs.

Dr. Archer asked if we know what the percentage of children vaccinated ages 5- 18. Kathleen was not 100% sure but she thought roughly 27% for children aged 5-11 and that ages 12 and up is a bit higher. The Board asked if we have been seeing a good turnout at our clinics. Nancy shared that we are still seeing some people coming in for 1st and 2nd doses and we continue to offer clinics in the southern end of the county and the northern end.

Dr. Archer asked if we have done a survey in conjunction with school districts targeting specifically the unvaccinated population asking what is holding them back. Kathleen shared that we have not done a specific survey in conjunction with the school districts, but we are working

with a marketing company and will be launching a COVID vaccination campaign soon utilizing some funding we received from the State.

Elane asked Vax for Kids campaign was. Kathleen shared that is a statewide campaign being run by the State Health Department and local health departments can choose to partner with the State and it just allows for more cross promotion of upcoming clinics.

Ralph asked about testing availability for those individuals wishing to visit loved ones in nursing homes. Kathleen shared that the Health Department did receive a supply of at-home test kits and they did reach out not only to our senior living facilities but also our regulated facilities such as nursing homes and provided them with test kits if they expressed a need.

Supervising Public Health Administrator: Deanna Ryan, MCH

Deanna provided additional information about the COVID vaccine campaign the Health Department is working on. The strategic campaign is focused on the lowest vaccinated population our community which 20, 30 and 40 year olds. This age group also typically tends to be the parent/guardian of younger children as well. The ad will run in all venues: print, social media, radio and TV.

Deanna shared that prior to COVID the Health Department had completed a grant application for a new five year grant of the Healthy Neighborhoods program. We recently received notification that we were awarded another 5 year grant cycle. Healthy Neighborhoods focuses on injury prevention through home assessments and the Health Department previously worked in partnership with the Community Health Network and Auburn Fire Department. The previous grant cycle focused on homes in the City of Auburn, Town of Locke and the Village and Town of Moravia. This new grant cycles focuses on homes in the City of Auburn, Town of Montezuma and the Town of Mentz which includes the village of Port Byron. The new grant cycle begins April 1, 2022 and we are working on getting the work plan and budget in place.

The Health Department was also awarded a new Lead Poisoning Prevention grant called the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. This is a State grant and the focus in prevention prior to a child be lead poisoned. This grant pays for staff and training and education workshops that homeowners/landlords could participate in and may also allow for assistance with purchasing supplies to help in lead abatement. (i.e. paint, windows) Staff will be going in primarily to units that have a child living in them, but if the landlord is willing the goal would be to remedy all the units to prevention any future hazard should a child come to live in one of the other units as well. Elane shared that cooperation from landlords would be key in this. Kathleen shared that funding such as this is what our lead task force has been working towards for many years and it is exciting to see it come to fruition.

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

Nancy had nothing additional to report on this month.

Director of Environmental Health: Eileen O'Connor, PE

Eileen reviewed the Hearing and Consent Orders:
Mesa Grande Taqueria- Auburn (C)

Kostas Bar and Grill- Auburn (C)
Holiday Inn- Auburn (C)
I.O.O.B. Club- Victory (T)
Ichiban- Auburn (C)
Ontario Orchards Fall Jamboree- Sterling (T)
Village of Moravia Water System- Moravia (T)
Emerson Swimming Pool-Auburn YMCA- Auburn (C)

A motion to approve the hearing and consent orders was made by Dr. Brian Brundage and seconded by Mr. Ralph Battista with all members in attendance in favor.

Eileen requested that the Board re-appoint Mr. Jim Beckwith to the Board's Variance committee. Mr. Jim Beckwith has been on the variance committee for a number of years and is willing to be re-appointed for another 3 year term. He is a very active member of OWLA. A motion by Dr. John Cosachov and second by Dr. Brian Brundage with all other members in attendance in favor.

Eileen updated the Board on some changes the State has made in regards to migrant labor housing. For several years we have only had one migrant labor camp in our county, but in recent years that number increased to 4 facilities. In addition, last year the State made changes to the definition of migrant labor housing. Previously in order to be considered a camp there had to be 5 or more migrant laborers being housed there. Now the definition states that it is considered migrant labor housing if 1 or more migrant laborers are residing there. This adjustment by the State will increase the workload for the environmental health division as we work with these new facilities to come into compliance.

Eileen reminded the Board that the Locust Meadow Mobile Home Park is set to be auctioned off by the County on March 10th at 10:00 am on the steps of the County Court House. Eileen shared that if no one purchases the mobile home park the Health Department will have to take steps to close the park down and individuals residing at the park will need to vacate the park.

Periodically during storm events like the one this past weekend, Wells College is unable to produce water due to the high turbidity of the water entering the plant. This weekend was one of those times. When the raw water turbidity is elevated the plant is not able to treat the water to the level necessary to make it meet standards for drinking water. After two days of not being able to produce water, they were very close to being out of potable water. There has been much discussion over the years about finding a solution to this ongoing problem. The College apparently would like to no longer be a water provider to the village, but the village has been reluctant due to costs to select an alternative. Eileen is hoping to convene a meeting with the necessary interested parties to move forward in finding a solution.

Kathleen shared that she sent the CAFO permit comment letter from the Board to DEC. The Board decided to have a special meeting on Tuesday, March 8th to have a discussion regarding water quality and related projects currently underway in the county. The meeting will be at 12:15 pm. Elane also asked Eileen about the 303(d) list. Eileen explained that this is a list of water bodies that do not meet their intended uses that DEC must provide to the EPA periodically. There had been discussion as to whether Owasco Lake should be on that list as it may result in a

Total Maximum Daily Load analysis and the County is in the process of a 9E plan. Eileen said she felt it is important to document to the EPA that Owasco Lake has water quality issues by requesting that it be included on the 303(d) list. Eileen also said she was told that the State agencies have finished their review of the revision to the Watershed Rules and Regulations and are compiling their comments and we should hear something soon.

No Medical Director's Report this month.

With nothing further discuss at motion to adjourn was made by Elane Daly and second by Ralph Battista with all other members in attendance in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1:19pm.