

Cayuga County Board of Health  
Tuesday, March 28, 2023  
In-person & Virtual @ 12:15pm

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

Guests Present: Dorothy Ainsworth- Virtual  
Robert Harding, Citizen Newspaper- Virtual

Staff Present: Kathleen Cuddy, MPH  
Eileen O'Connor, PE  
Deanna Ryan, MCH  
Janine Cliffcord  
Megan Bell

The meeting was called to order at 12:15pm.

**Minutes of the February 28, 2023 Board of Health Meeting:** With no corrections or questions a motion to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2023 Board of Health meeting was made by Elane Daly and seconded by Dr. John Cosachov with all other members in attendance in favor.

**Director of Administrative Services: Janine Clifford**

Janine reviewed the claims with warrant dates of 02/09/2023 and 02/23/2023 and credit card statements with dates of 01/29/2023 and 02/15/2023. With no questions or further discussion, a motion to approve the claims was made by Ralph Battista and seconded by Elane Daly with others in attendance in favor.

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

Kathleen shared that we are continuing to pursue many avenues in getting the word out to potential candidates about our current vacancies. We have participated in some standard outreach through the Post Standard and online job posting websites such as zip recruiter and indeed. Staff have also attended recent college job fairs and we have been posting on our social media sites. We also recently created a Linkdin page and are working to develop that as well.

We are working with a consulting group called VMC Transportation Group to assist with the rolling out of our preschool transportation bid. The plan is for the bid to be made public next week and hopefully by utilizing VMC we will have some new bidders that have not typically bid in previous years.

We are also in the process of revising our preschool service provider contracts as those are set to expire at the end of June. We are hoping to have the draft at the County Attorney's office early next month so that it can be approved by their office before we send it out to contractors. The new contract will be for five years.

Kathleen shared that the NYSACHO organization assists local Health Departments with many things at the State level. Local Health Departments have been asking the State to revise the regulations associated with Article 36 LHCSA licensure. The level of regulation for the type and quantity of work to be done by local health departments is significant. There is a proposal at the State to allow for a type of "limited licensure" for local health departments that are also Article 36 LHCSA's and NYSACHO has asked the local health departments to show their support for the proposal. Dr. Cosachov made a motion to write a letter on behalf of the Board to show their support for the proposal with all other members in favor. Kathleen shared that a letter will be drafted and shared with Dr. Cosachov for review and signature and then forwarded to local State Assembly members and Senators.

#### **Supervising Public Health Administrator: Deanna Ryan, MCH**

Deanna shared that she has been spending some more time at WIC while we search for a new WIC Program Coordinator. The target caseload set for our WIC program is 1500 participants and Deanna shared that the current caseload is 1301. This has been the closest the program has been to being at target caseload and they feel that allowing for a virtual appointment option for participants is helping to keep the participants engaged. Deanna has been participating in some of the statewide mandatory meetings for program coordinators and they are discussing potentially developing a virtual option that would include both in-person and virtual appointments. Currently the waiver for virtual appointments is set to expire in August and she is hopeful there can be some hybrid style program options before then.

Deanna gave a brief update on the Lead Program. We have been receiving several referrals from the WIC program and we have been having monthly testing clinics at our office. Since January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2023 we have tested approximately 100 children between our monthly clinics at our office as well as our off-site clinics at various CAP-Headstart locations throughout the county. Staff have conducted 21 home visits since the start of the year. We have also been working with area physician offices to ensure they are confident in using their Leadcare II machines and offering any outreach and education we can to help them increase testing rates within their practices.

Deanna shared that her and Libby recently attended job fairs at both Wells College and Syracuse University and were pleasantly surprised at the number of students enrolled in various public health programs. She is excited to see the interest and is hopeful in coming years there will be an increase in the public health workforce.

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

Eileen reviewed the Hearing and Consent Orders with Board:

Dolgencorp of New York, Inc.- Moravia (V)

Cerchia Property- Cato (T)

Bisson Property- Cato (T)

Begley Property- Cato (T)

With no questions or concerns a motion to approve the hearings and consent orders was made by Dr. Brian Brundage and seconded by Mr. Ralph Battista with all other Board members in attendance in favor.

Eileen shared with the Board an update regarding the Watershed Rules and Regulations. The State Health department has set up a meeting for May 2<sup>nd</sup> . We haven't received an agenda yet so it is unclear what part of the regulations will be discussed. This will be the first meeting since November.

Eileen shared with the Board a project that the County has been selected to be a part of in conjunction with SUNY Stonybrook. SUNY Stonybrook has a Center for Clean Water Technology, and they have received funding through DEC to work on removing nitrates from wastewater for many years. Most of the research on that project has taken place in the Long Island area. They recently received additional funding to work towards investigating systems that would remove phosphorus from wastewater. The program reached out to Eileen because of our septic system inspection program. Eileen is sharing data with them from our program files, and they are hoping to potentially test some systems that removes phosphorus from wastewater and could potentially be looking for homeowners on Cayuga Lake in the future that would be willing to participate.

Eileen shared that depending on the effectiveness of these systems, lake front property owners could utilize the septic replacement grant to help them with costs associated with upgrading their system to this newer technology.

Dr. Cosachov asked why they were intending to use Cayuga Lake and not Owasco Lake front properties and Eileen shared that they felt there was a lot happening with Owasco Lake at this point and that Cayuga Lake is working on a TMDL that has a portion that focuses on septic systems.

With nothing further to discuss a motion to adjourn was made by Elane Daly and seconded by Ralph Battista. With all other members in attendance in favor the meeting was adjourned at 12:43pm.