

Cayuga County Board of Health Meeting
Tuesday, May 16, 2023
In-person & Virtual @ 12:15pm

Members Present: Dr. Cassandra Archer
Dr. Dorothy Ainsworth
Dr. John Cosachov
Mr. Ralph Battista

Members Excused: Mr. Tim Fessenden
Ms. Elane Daly

Guests Present: Robert Harding, Citizen Newspaper- Virtual

Staff Present: Dr. Philip Gioia- Medical Director
Kathleen Cuddy, MPH
Deanna Ryan, MCH
Meghan Sedorus, BS Ed
Eileen O'Connor, PE
Janine Clifford

The meeting was called to order at 12:19pm

Minutes of the April 25, 2023 Board of Health Meeting: With no questions or corrections a motion to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2023 Board of Health meeting was made by Dr. Cassandra Archer and seconded by Dr. Dorothy Ainsworth with all other members in attendance in favor.

Director of Administrative Services: Janine reviewed the claims warrant dates of 04/13/2023 and 04/27/2023 and credit card statements with dates of 03/29/2023 and 04/15/2023. Dr. Cosachov asked about membership to the American WaterWorks Association (AWWA). Eileen shared that she is a member, and they offer programs as well as good network to share job vacancies with. With no further questions or discussion, a motion to approve the claims was made by Dr. Cassandra Archer and seconded by Mr. Ralph Battista with all other members in attendance in favor.

Public Health Director: Kathleen Cuddy, MPH

Kathleen introduced Meghan Sedorus to the Board. She is the new coordinator of programs for children with special health care needs. She has been with the department for 12 years and has replaced Lorie Fischer.

Kathleen also shared that at the April meeting the Legislature approved her request to create and fill a Deputy Director position. Deanna Ryan was appointed to that position at the end of April. She has been with the Health Department for almost 15 years. Her previous job was re-titled to Director of Health Education and Public Information. Interviews were conducted and the position was offered to a candidate, and we are just waiting to hear back from them regarding acceptance.

Staff have interviewed and offered the position of Public Health Engineer to a candidate, and they are expected to begin in July. Interviews continue for the WIC Program Coordinator position and hopefully we will have someone appointed in the next few weeks.

The Junior Accountant position in the Accounting Division remains vacant. The County has contracted with a private consultant to provide support for vacant fiscal positions as there exists many countywide while departments look for a permanent employee. We are still looking for either a WIC CPA or Nutritionist. The Director of Community Health Services position also remains vacant. We have adjusted the job qualifications and re-advertised and are hopeful that will bring in some qualified candidates. There is also a vacancy behind Meghan Sedorus' promotion that we are looking to fill as well in the next few months. We still have some vacancies but are moving in the right direction.

Kathleen shared the communicable disease report as well as the immunization clinic statistics. This information provides a nice overview of what is happening in those programs.

A brief update on the Watershed Rules and Regulations revision project. There was originally a meeting scheduled on May 2nd with the State and the local technical work group. The meeting was cancelled on May 1st by the State and has not yet been rescheduled.

Coord. of Programs for Children with Special Needs: Meghan Sedorus, BS Ed

Meghan gave a brief update on the number of children being served in each program. Currently Early Intervention has 188 active children. Preschool Special Education Program has 267 active children and Child Find Program has 93 active children. Both Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education Program have active waitlists for all services. Preschool has 43 students waiting for Speech Therapy, 7 children waiting for Physical Therapy, 26 children waiting for Occupational Therapy and 24 waiting for Special Education Teacher. In the Early Intervention Program 39 children are waiting for Speech Therapy, 11 children are waiting for Occupational Therapy and 8 children are waiting for Special Instruction.

There continues to be a statewide provider shortage. Meghan attended a conference in Albany last week and the State representatives shared with the group that they are aware of the shortage and are working towards addressing it by running some promotional campaigns at various colleges/universities to help encourage individuals to go into these fields.

Locally we are trying to offset the provider shortage by continuing to offer telehealth therapy to parents. Many are reluctant to give it a try, but service coordinators are offering it as an alternative to the waitlist. We are also hosting EI/Preschool nights at the Play Space. Each session focuses on a different therapy area and service coordinators are reaching out to families that are on a waitlist for the particular therapy and encouraging them to attend.

Meghan also shared that the transportation bid has come back and the resolution is going to the legislature to award the bid. She also shared that we have recently purchased additional software through our McGuiness program to help streamline the billing process.

Director of Environmental Health: Eileen O'Connor, PE

Eileen reviewed the Hearing and Consent Orders:
Camp Casowasco- Scipio (T)

Garropy's Mobile Home Park- Aurelius (T)

Goodsell Property- Sennett (T)

Harrington Property- Cato (T)

Hart Property- Cato (T)

Ingersoll Property- Cato (T)

Kennedy Property- Cato (T)

Lamay Property- Cato (T)

With no questions or concerns a motion to appear the hearing and consent orders was made by Dr. Dorothy Ainsworth and seconded by Dr. John Cosachov with all other members in attendance in favor.

Eileen updated the Board on the Septic Replacement Program. The State has awarded more money for the program bringing the total available to county residents up to 1.2 million dollars. The grant funding is set to expire on 12/31/2026. To date we have had 41 property owners accepted into the grant program and spent approximately \$275,000 of the funding. We recently sent out postcards to eligible homeowners letting them know about this funding opportunity and we have had a great response with several homeowners interested. Ralph asked why the State limited it to just Owasco, Cayuga, Skaneateles Lakes and Lake Como. Eileen said that phosphorus loading has been documented as a concern in those waterbodies.

Eileen updated the Board on some outstanding ATUPA items. Staff recently met with County Attorney's office regarding Panda Smoke and Vape. They currently have 4 points against them, but because they do not have a State Tobacco License the ATUPA penalty of suspending their license is moot. The attorney's office is preparing documents to enforce the outstanding Board of Health order for this facility as well as Auburn Express. The Auburn Express Smoke shop recently paid their outstanding fine but they still do not have a State License.

The attorneys have said that they are preparing a modification to our local tobacco law with more strict enforcement options including an enforceable action if the facility has no state license. Dr. Archer asked if we have heard from the State regarding any penalties for operating without a State Tobacco License and Eileen shared that we have not yet heard back from the State regarding this.

Deputy Director of Health Services: Deanna Ryan, MCH

Deanna shared some WIC Program statistics. Currently the WIC Program has 1375 active participants with a program goal of 1500 total participants. The virtual option continues to be a big draw for participants.

Deanna updated the Board on the activities of our Public Health Fellows. The Fellows program is a NYS grant to help rebuild public health infrastructure and staffing. We are about one year into the program and fellows' staff have been helping get caught up on outstanding projects following COVID. We have four fellows allotted to Cayuga County. Currently we have three as one was recently hired as a Senior Public Health Educator. We are hoping to fill that vacant fellow position. The State did recently start canvassing for vacant fellow positions and there is no requirement for public health background.

May is Bike month and our Bike Wheelsport safety grant held Bike and Roll to school events earlier this month at all the Auburn Elementary Schools, Weedsport Elementary and Moravia Elementary. They are also partnering with Sports For All and hosting an instant replay event where families can purchase used sports equipment at reduced cost. They will also be hosting a Kids on Wheels safety rodeo at the Auburn Firehouse on May 20th.

Health Education staff have been busy preparing education and outreach activities for HABs. We continue to utilize the “know it report it avoid it” campaign. We are also going to be doing a campaign encouraging people to sign up for notify me through the County website as well as hyper-reach through the reverse 911 system.

Medical Director: Dr. Philip Gioia

Dr. Gioia discussed several good programs focusing on keeping the lakes clean. He also shared information regarding the typical injury prevention topics for this time of year.

Kathleen also shared with the Board that the Healing Communities project has wrapped up and Monika Salvage would like to present to the Board if they are interested. The Board is interested, and staff will work with Monika to arrange her presentation at our next meeting.

With nothing further to discuss a motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Cassandra Acher and seconded by Mr. Ralph Battista with all other members in attendance in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58pm.