

Cayuga County Board of Health Meeting
Tuesday, May 18, 2021
Digital Meeting @ 12:15pm

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

Members Excused: Mr. Keith Batman

Staff Present: Eileen O'Connor, PE
Ani Zipkin Fish
Nancy Purdy, RN, BSN
Tania Young, DTR
Janine Clifford
Dr. Gioia- Medical Director
Megan Bell

Meeting called to order at 12:18pm.

Minutes of April 27, 2021:

With no questions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Brian Brundage and seconded by Dr. Cassandra Archer the minutes of the April 27, 2021 Board of Health meeting were approved as written.

Director of Administrative Services: Janine Clifford

Janine reviewed the claims with a warrant dates of 04/08/2021 and 04/29/2021 and the credit card statements with a dates of 03/27/2021 and 04/15/2021. With no questions or concerns, a motion to approve the claims was made by Ralph Battista and seconded by Tim Fessenden. All other in attendance in favor.

Janine also brought forward for the Boards approval a revised fee scale. The accounting division of the Health Department received notification that they could increase the administration fee billed to insurance companies for the COVID-19 vaccine. Originally the Board had approved the administration fee of \$18 for the first dose and \$30 for the second dose. As of March 15th they are now able to charge \$40 for the first dose and \$40 for the second dose. Dr. Archer verified that patient's receive no bill and are not charged any out of pocket cost. Janine confirmed that is correct the administration fee is billed to the insurance company and there is no back billing or out-of-pocket cost to the patient. A motion to approve the revised fee scale to reflect the new administration fee associated with the COVID-19 vaccine was made by Dr. John Cosachov and seconded by Dr. Cassandra Archer with all other members in attendance in favor.

Coordinator of WIC Program: Tania Young, DTR

Tania shared the current caseload for the WIC program of 1360 participants with the Board. They have still been seeing a rise in participant enrollment. She also shared with the Board that they received notification from the State WIC Program that they will be allowed to continue holding virtual appointments with participants through mid-August. Tania is currently working with staff to develop a plan for the safe return of participants to in-person appointments.

A major focus for the program for the summer months will be increasing fruit and vegetables consumption for participant through the use of the farmer's markets coupons. The WIC program will be using social media and other marketing avenues to encourage participants to utilize their coupons and ensure they are comfortable in using them. Ralph asked Tania if the participants do not use the farmer's markets coupons if they go to waste and Tania shared yes if the participants do not use the farmer's market they are wasted. Tania also shared that they do a lot of education and outreach with participants letting them know where various local farmer's markets are located and the State focuses a lot of education and outreach on the area farmer's so they are equipped to accept these WIC coupons.

Tania also shared that they continue to work with ABC Cayuga in the relocation process of the WIC offices to the newly purchased ABC Cayuga building on North Street.

Director of Environmental Health: Eileen O'Connor, PE

Eileen introduced new staff member Ani Fish a public health engineer.

Eileen reviewed the Hearing and Consent Orders:

FQSR, LLC (KFC)- Auburn (C)

I.O.O.B. Club- Victory (T)

Fillmore Golf Club- Locke (T)

Auburn Smoke Shop, LLC- 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.

Eileen updated the Board regarding the Variance Committee. The committee is comprised of three individuals who are tasked with reviewing variance requests from property owners. One of the individuals' term is set to expire and Eileen is requesting that the Board re-appoint Mr. Carl Wiezalis for another three year term. A motion was made by Mr. Ralph Battista and seconded by Dr. John Cosachov and with all other members in attendance in favor Mr. Wiezalis was re-appointed for another three year term on the Variance committee.

The Septic Replacement grant program for Cayuga, Owasco and Skaneateles Lakes has been renewed with a second round of funding and now also includes Lake Como. The original round of funding was for \$225,000; the new round of funding is for \$350,000 and is set to expire in 2026. The replacement program pays 50% of the cost of replacing/upgrading a system up to a maximum of \$10,000. The Board asked how people who may qualify would be made aware of

this funding opportunity. Eileen said that the Health Department recently issued a press release announcing the program and will be mailing informational postcards to all eligible property owners.

At last month's Board meeting the Board had discussed and agreed to send a letter requesting an extension to the official comment period for the TMDL report. Eileen reported that the official comment period was extended until July 2021.

In 2016, the Army Corp of Engineers began treating an area in Cayuga Lake near Wells College for hydrilla. After treatment last year, the Army Corps reported that some areas were still seeing some growth and they have decided that this year they will expand the treatment area slightly. The treatment is working, as the concentration of plants have declined since 2016, however the hydrilla plant is persistent. Native plants are not being damaged by the treatment. The Health Department will collect drinking water samples again this year while treatment is on-going during the season. Treatment for the season is set to begin at the end of June and run for 10 weeks.

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

Nancy shared that the Department has been organizing school vaccination clinics for all districts in our BOCES. The Department will holding second dose clinics for the farmer workers that received their first dose at the end of April.

Staff has also been looking at how to effectively get homebound individuals vaccinated and are partnering with local home care agencies to meet this need.

Dr. Archer asked what the interest was from parents wishing to get their children vaccinated while at school. Nancy shared that numbers were moderate at first, but as more information has been coming out and shared with parents/families through the schools the numbers are increasing. Staff have been communicating with school nurses and superintendents to coordinate the details of the clinics. Staff will pick up the Pfizer vaccine from Upstate twice over the course of the week.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Gioia

Dr. Gioia discussed updating the vaccine eligibility age and mask wearing for vaccinated individuals. He also shared that residents should still be vigilant to typical seasonal hazards such as sunburns and motor vehicle accidents.

With nothing further to discuss a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Tim Fessenden and seconded by Dr. Cassandra Archer. With all other members in attendance in favor the meeting was adjourned at 1:01pm.