

Cayuga County Board of Health Meeting
Tuesday, June 23, 2020
Digital Meeting @ 12:15pm

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

Staff Present: Kathleen Cuddy, MPH
Eileen O'Connor, PE
Nancy Purdy, RN, BSN
Lorie Fischer, BS Ed
Janine Clifford
Dr. Gioia- Medical Director
Megan Bell

Meeting called to order at 12:20pm.

Minutes of May 19, 2020:

With no questions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Keith Batman and seconded by Dr. Cassandra Archer the minutes of the May 19, 2020 Board of Health meeting were approved as written.

Director of Administrative Services: Janine Clifford

Janine reviewed the claims with a warrant date of 06/02/2020 and 6/16/2020 and the credit card statements with a date of 5/29/20 and 6/15/2020. Elane Daly asked for clarification regarding bills associated with EI and Preschool Service Providers. Janine explained that these are bills from end of March near when services were transitioned to tele-therapy. With no further questions or concerns, a motion to approve the claims was made by Dr. Brian Brundage and seconded by Ralph Battista. All others in attendance in favor.

Coordinator of Programs for Children with Special Needs: Lorie Fischer, BS Ed

Kathleen presented for Lorie as she was having connection problems. Kathleen shared that visits and therapy are still being conducted via tele-therapy if the family has chosen to continue with services. They are beginning to get some guidance from the State Education & Health Departments about preschool summer school sessions and home visits and what that will look like. The Health Department has continued to pay tuition for preschool services as mandated by the State. Dr. Archer asked if families could be allowed to carryout make up sessions over the course of the summer. Kathleen shared that she was unsure of the procedure as tele-therapy was provided as an option to all families. Elane Daly asked whether or not the Department had still

been required to pay for busing. Kathleen shared that they have not received a bill from the bus company.

Director of Environmental Health: Eileen O'Connor, PE

Eileen reviewed the Hearing and Consent Orders:

Gus's- Unions Springs (V)

Wild's Eats & Sweets- Auburn (C)

Mort's at Tinkers- Auburn (C)

With no 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 shared with the Board some program updates including the opening of pools and bathing beaches. Children's camps are allowed to open up as day camps, no overnight camps will be allowed this summer. Eileen shared that they have two day camps opening in the near future. Campgrounds are operating at normal with some restrictions still in place regarding the public areas. The office has also been getting several septic plans both new construction and modifications.

As we start to get into summer, HABs will most likely make a return. This year, as in the past, we have sent information to lakefront homeowners who draw their household water directly from Cayuga, Owasco and Skaneateles Lakes regarding HABs and what to do if there is a bloom in their area. We will also be sending our FAQ document to the restaurants who use water treated by Auburn or Owasco so they can be prepared if a do not drink order were to be issued. Eileen has been working with the City of Auburn, the Town of Owasco and Wells College and they all have their sampling plans developed for the summer. All purchase water systems potentially impacted by HABs have been asked to update their emergency plans.

Dr. Brundage asked for an update regarding the potential of Wells College closing and the impact on providing water to the Village of Aurora. Eileen said that she and Kathleen met with the Wells College administration recently and they discussed plans for bringing the students back to campus this fall, so closure does not appear to be an absolute at this point. The Village of Aurora had discussions with Wells College about the water treatment plant if Wells is unable to open and the Village if prepared to facilitate the operation of the plant if needed. The Village is also working on securing funds for a new plant.

Public Health Director: Kathleen Cuddy, MPH

Kathleen shared that typically the Board votes to skip one of their summer meetings, however this year Kathleen is asking the Board if it would be willing to meet both in July and August this summer as things with COVID-19 are ever changing. The Board was in agreement.

Kathleen shared that several of our typical programs are beginning to pick back up and staff are having to complete those duties as well as their COVID-19 responsibilities. We are receiving a lot of guidance from the State regarding the phased re-opening of New York State. The office is fielding a lot of questions and complaints regarding various local businesses. Kathleen and other

County and City officials are working to develop a unified enforcement plan. They are looking for a consistent approach across the county and consequences for repeat offenders.

An update from our Certificate of Need in regards to our Article 28 Diagnostic and Treatment clinic, the State did send notice that they received our architects plan for completing the required upgrades and the plan must be reviewed and approved by NYSDOH before we can begin work. The State also noted that the process is taking longer than typical due to COVID-19.

The Board asked if the Department has noticed that the public is getting more relaxed in their compliance, specifically in regards to social distancing and wearing the face covering. Kathleen shared that we have received complaints about those particular issues and that they are doing their best to find new ways to present the reminders, so that the public stays engaged and compliant. Kathleen also shared that the Department will begin to cut back on their daily press releases unless something significant occurs, this will mostly coincide with the start of phase 4.

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

Nancy shared that staff is continuing to provide contact tracing and support to those individuals who are in isolation or quarantine. We have had 1 positive case since Friday and 112 total cases so far. We have had two cases related to the cluster in Oswego County. Nancy has also been in contact with Turek farms who operate a migrant labor camp in August, to develop a plan and offer some ideas that may help keep everyone healthy. The average age of our cases has been 39 years old and our age range runs from 3 months old to 100 years old.

The Health Department collaborated with the Hospital in the development of the Respiratory clinic. They are going to take a pause starting on June 27th and will be referring patients to their urgent care offices. If the need arises, the clinic will begin operations again. We have reduced our swabbing clinics to once a week as the demand for testing has decreased following the Governor's reduction in the requirement of nursing home/adult care facilities staff being tested from twice a week to once a week. The Health Department currently has 6 full time RNs including Nancy, we currently have one nurse on maternity leave and one that will be retiring in July. We have two RNs from long term care office assisting with the COVID-19 nursing duties in our office.

Kevin has been to several area businesses and most county departments offering guidance on how to safely bring workers back to the work place. He has plans to visit the Cayuga Community College administration as well as the Southern Cayuga School District.

With more parents rescheduling well checks, we have seen an increase in our Lead referrals. Since October 2019 when the State lowered the monitoring level to 5Ug/dl we have had 141 cases. Current caseload is at 15 open cases. Elane asked if the Department ever was able to hire the additional lead staff that they requested. Kathleen shared that the Department did hire another sanitarian to assist with the lead program.

Dr. Archer asked if we are doing any local surveillance in regards to COVID-19. Eileen shared some information with Board regarding a wastewater study that is being conducted in Onondaga County in conjunction with SUNY ESF. Seth Jensen from the City of Auburn reached out to

SUNY ESF and has begun the initial stages of the same study here in Auburn and some of the surrounding towns. Elane asked what we would do if based off of this study we were able to pinpoint areas where an infection or outbreak may be occurring. Eileen shared that it would help us to target specified areas and possibly offer testing to a specific area.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Gioia

Dr. Gioia shared the need to remain vigilant to help slow the spread. He also shared that some areas of the State are having trouble with contract tracing.

With nothing further to discuss Elane Daly made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Archer seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 1:09pm.