

Cayuga County Board of Health Meeting
Tuesday, October 19, 2021
In-Person & Virtual @ 12:15pm

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

Staff Present: Aileen McNabb-Coleman
Eileen O'Connor, PE
Janine Clifford
Nancy Purdy, RN, BSN
Kathleen Cuddy, MPH
Deanna Ryan, MCH
Megan Bell
Dr. Philip Gioia-Medical Director

Guests Present: Robert Harding, The Citizen Newspaper

Meeting to order 12:19pm

Minutes of the September 28, 2021:

With no questions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Elane Daly and seconded by Mr. Ralph Battista the minutes of the September 28, 2021 Board of Health Meeting were approved as written.

Director of Administrative Services: Janine Clifford

Janine reviewed the claims with a warrant date 9/23/21 and the credit card statements with dates of 8/29/21 and 9/15/21. With no questions or concerns, 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 shared with the Board her concerns regarding the amount of vacancies the Department currently has just for our typical work. Environmental Health and WIC program both have multiple vacancies currently as well as some nursing vacancies in Community Health Services. We are still doing all our COVID responsibilities plus our normal duties, however we did cut out any non-mandated programs for the time being.

Kathleen participates in a community leader's call weekly and right now the focus is on increasing testing availability. The Emergency Management Office willing to help but still

working on the coordination piece. The Governor did allow for EMT's to again provide vaccinations and administering testing which helps significantly in our community. East Hill as also expressed a desire to assist with testing options in the community. Moravia School District is hoping to be a pilot school for saliva based surveillance testing that is currently being used in Onondaga County Schools.

The Health Department has been having trouble with our vaccine refrigerator since mid-summer, fortunately we have a back-up refrigeration system located in the basement of the county office building. Vaccine refrigerators are not easily available right now so we have to continue having our current refrigerator serviced. We had also ordered approximately a year and half a second portable refrigerator to utilize at mobile clinics or vaccine transport and are still waiting for delivery.

In order to receive FEMA reimbursement both the City of Auburn and the County will have to complete some paperwork and staff pulled together some of the required data regarding number of clinics and total patients served and Kathleen will share that with the Board at our next meeting.

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

Nancy shared that the Health Department is still actively focusing on increasing the vaccination rate in Cayuga County.

Nancy shared that she and staff are working with Moravia School District to get the saliva pool testing up and running with a good policy and procedure in place so that we can expand to other potentially interested districts or even public testing. The saliva testing can be used as surveillance testing as it would be in Moravia or because it is a PCR test could be utilized as an option for public symptomatic testing. There is a lot of front end information that has to be collected before testing can take place which is the hurdle that our office and Moravia are attempting to work through. Another hurdle is physically getting the specimens to Upstate in Syracuse. The Health Department is invested in the process since we will be getting the supplies and providing them to Moravia.

Nancy also shared some information on at-home testing. At home tests are typically antigen tests that are best utilized for asymptomatic individuals. They are a good option for people that have difficulty finding testing options in their community. The Health Department does accept positive at-home test results. We ask people to contact our office during regular business hours and we can provide them with the information they need to submit those positive at-homes tests. Currently we average approximately 4-5 at-home positive tests a day.

The State Health Department did a recent survey of one of our COVID-19 vaccine clinics. The followed staff during set-up and through the actual clinic. They also reviewed our fridge and freezer temperature records.

Supervising Public Health Administrator: Deanna Ryan, MCN

Deanna updated the Board on the Department's contact tracing efforts. There have been lots of school aged children, but our turnaround time has improved and we are typically contacting positive individuals within 24 hours of receipt of the positive result. School aged children are prioritized and then results are filtered based upon specimen collection date. We are still partnering with Department of Social Services to deliver orders to those individuals that are not responding to our attempts to contact them.

Dr. Archer asked about the testing supplies the hospital received. Kathleen shared that the hospital did receive some testing supplies but not as much as they had hoped for, but did think it would cover their emergency room for the time being.

Deanna also shared that the Health Department is having weekly virtual meetings with the school nurses which helpful both to the Department and School Districts as it provides a great opportunity for information sharing.

We are participating in the Vax to School initiative that is being hosted by the State Health Department providing \$25 Amazon gift cards to anyone 12-17 years of age that is getting their 1st or 2nd dose vaccination. This promotion runs through the first week of November. Deanna shared that we have been offering several Saturday clinics to attempt to draw in school-aged children.

Nancy shared that we are still waiting for approval of the Moderna booster and then will begin making plans to offer booster clinics to the public.

Director of Environmental Health: Eileen O'Connor, PE

Eileen reviewed the hearing and consent orders:

Giuseppe's Pizzeria- Auburn (C)

JOC Construction- Venice (T)

Dilaj's Motor Inn- Sennett (T)

Harris Property- Mentz (T)

McBride Property- Mentz (T)

Uhl Property- Genoa (T)

A motion was made by Dr. Brian Brundage and second by Dr. Cassandra Archer with all other members in attendance in favor, the hearing and consent orders were approved as written.

Eileen shared that it appears HABs season may be winding down, the past two results for both Owasco and Auburn have had no hits of toxins in the raw water. Eileen is hopeful that they will be able to stop sampling for the season in the near future.

Keith shared with the Board that Cayuga Lake saw significant bloom activity this year as well.

Eileen also shared with the Board the significant staffing issues that Environmental Health is experiencing. The division of the Health Department has not been fully staffed since December of 2019.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Phillip Gioia

Dr. Gioia discussed the importance of public health and its value towards quality of life for communities. He also shared the importance of including of mental health as well.

Dr. Gioia also discussed the importance of getting your flu shot as flu season approaches and he is expecting the COVID-19 vaccine to be available for children ages 5-11 starting in November.

Kathleen asked the Board to join her in congratulating Dr. Gioia on his recent retirement from his private pediatric practice.

With nothing further to discuss a motion to adjourn the meeting was mad by Dr. Cassandra Archer and second by Mr. Ralph Battista with all other members in attendance in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1:22pm.