

Chautauqua County Board of Health
MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time: Thursday, May 19, 2022 6:00 p.m.

Location: HRC Building, Room B-14, 7 North Erie Street, Mayville, NY 14757

Scribe: Sherri Rater

ATTENDANCE:

BOH Members	P/A	BOH Members	P/A	Others Present	Title
Dr. Erlandson	P	Dr. Ney	P	Christine Schuyler	Public Health Director; Board of Health Secretary
Dr. Khan	E	Elisabeth Rankin	E	Dr. Berke	County Physician, HHS
Dr. Kidder	P	Mark Tarbrake	P	Jessica Wuerstle	Environmental Health Director, HHS
Dr. McConnon	P	Nancy Rosario	E	Gregory Bacon	Jamestown Post Journal

Call to order	The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by President Lillian Ney. Roll call was taken.
Privilege of the Floor	None.
Approval of March 17, 2022 minutes	Tarbrake made a motion to approve the March 17, 2022 meeting minutes, 2 nd by Erlandson, all in favor, motion carried.
New Business: Agreements to Settle	<p>Wuerstle and Schuyler reporting:</p> <p>There were a couple agreements that settled regarding our Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA) program. One violation was for selling vape products to a minor and another for selling tobacco products to a minor. Austin Wellman, our sanitarian who oversees this program, feels there is a lack of staff training and that staff are distracted with their cell phones and not paying attention to their job. Enforcement of this program is through 'sting operations' where a person under the age of 21 tries to make a purchase of a tobacco or vape product and see if the clerk will sell the product to the minor. There are other requirements retailers must adhere to such as displaying signage.</p> <p>Another violation that settled was for smoking in the kitchen of a food service establishment and lastly there was a campground found in violation for opening without a permit to operate. There are a few hearings on other violations set for early June. Those will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>
Old Business: Review of the Bylaws	The bylaws were reviewed again noting one change under Article II Section I Membership, adding the words 'and reappointed' to the second sentence. Erlandson made a motion to approve the bylaws, 2 nd by Tarbrake, all in favor, motion carried.

<p>Old Business:</p> <p>COVID-19</p>	<p>Schuyler report: We continue to report weekly COVID-19 updates on our website chqgov.com. This week’s update was reviewed noting our community transmission level has been increased to medium.</p> <p>Paxlovid is available here in Chautauqua County with a prescription from your doctor; however, there are many interactions with other medications. The federal and state recommendation is to use this medicine to treat those who are most at risk of severe disease.</p> <p>Wastewater analysis is showing that we have low levels of COVID-19 in the City of Dunkirk, City of Jamestown and Village of Falconer. The heavy amount of rainfall that we have received can dilute results and we are mindful of that.</p> <p>The increased availability of home tests is great, however, makes it difficult to truly know our level of transmission. The Government is now giving up to 8 home tests. Test can be ordered online at https://www.covid.gov/tests</p> <p>There is an increase in influenza cases in the area.</p>
<p>Director’s Report</p>	<p>Schuyler report: We held a staff reflect and rebuild retreat on May 6, 2022. The takeaways from this event are huge. We have a long list of feedback including, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, things we did well, things we can improve upon and where do we go from here. The summary of the results through facilitator observation was that the team was engaged, enthusiastic, positive focused, supportive and appreciative for the opportunity to gather, reflect and rebuild together. Part one feedback was compiled for leadership to use for review and potential future response and additional tools and resources may be offered to help leadership expand principles and practices explored in the retreat. Many positives came out of this event.</p> <p><u>Workload sustainability:</u> COVID-19 workload is getting to a sustainable point. We have streamlined isolation and quarantine. What we are seeing coming at us from every angle is tremendous – STD rates, increase in tobacco and vape products, obesity, alcohol, overdoses, child welfare reports are close to pre-pandemic levels. I think just as healthcare providers are seeing patients with complex medical and mental health issues due to interruption in care during the pandemic, child welfare is seeing complex cases of severe abuse and neglect and families that are in real need. We have a lot of work ahead of us. NYS OCFS has released Healthy Families New York request for proposals. It is a home visiting program. We are working with Jamestown Community Learning Counsel and hope to partner with them to use this program to assist pregnant women and new moms. Our own home visiting programs are restarting. We learned that we really need to get back into the offices and in the maternity wards which has increased our referrals tremendously. Our goal is to have every Chautauqua County woman who gives birth will have a visit from a public health nurse. Nurse Family Partnership limits participants to first time moms and you have to register for the program by 24 weeks gestation. We are seeing women later in pregnancy with no prenatal care that don’t qualify for the program and also women who are not first time moms but desperately need help. We are going to continue the Nurse Family Partnership and expand public health nursing home visits so that we can serve every mother in conjunction with our Early Intervention Program, Strong Starts Chautauqua, and the new Healthy Families New York program. Our Maternal Infant Child Health Program funding ends later this year but services will continue through the Healthy Community Alliance</p>

Director's Report
cont'd

who is picking this program up.

Rabies: There is legislation pending regarding financial responsibility and payment for human post-exposure treatment for rabies.

State budget: The state budget passed with approved increased funding in public health. The annual base grant local health departments receive for core public health work was increased from \$650,000 to \$750,000 and then state aid reimbursement will now include fringe benefits up to 50%. Traditionally, public health reimbursement was only up to 36% of a worker's salary with no fringe benefit reimbursement, leaving the burden entirely on the local government to pick up 100% of fringe benefit costs. This sustainable funding is much needed. We apply for grants when we can to help offset the burden. However, it is understandably challenging for others to be fully knowledgeable about the importance of accepting a given grant.

Legislature: Discussion was had regarding the Board of Health's involvement in the resolution process to bring awareness to both the Legislature and the public. Dr. Ney and Dr. Erlandson attended the 3/23/22 Legislature Meeting to support the Tabled Resolution 67-22 – 'Amend Chautauqua County Health & Human Services 2022 Adopted Budget for National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) Wastewater Surveillance Mentorship Pilot Program Funding'. Both spoke during privilege of the floor and were very informative. Legislator Rankin and fellow Board of Health member also spoke in support of the resolution. In the future, as the need arises, the Board is available to attend Legislative meetings to speak on behalf of public health matters.

Herbicides: We were asked to comment on the 2022 Herbicide permit application for Chautauqua Lake in the towns of Busti, Ellery, Ellicott, North Harmony and the villages of Bemus Point, Celeron and Lakewood. This is similar to comments we provided last year with our recommendations and concerns. Towns and villages submit applications to the DEC listing where they would like to apply the herbicide. Before the DEC approves the requests they compare the applications with maps they have of fish habitat and wetland areas. They also go out and survey the proposed areas to make sure that the targeted plant species is in the areas where herbicide application is proposed. The DEC oversees this statewide operation of herbicide application. The limitation of where it is applied in relation to Chautauqua Institution, condominium units are protected by distance. The rationale for applying the herbicide is for weed control for boating and swimming. We do have an aquatic ecosystem in Chautauqua Lake. Climate change may have something to do with the way the weeds are growing.

Ticks:

- There is a new tick that is in our area that used to be only in the south countries and is believed to have moved north with climate change. A bite from this tick can cause a serious meat allergy.
- Deer ticks are no longer just carrying lime, now there are seven or eight different things that can be transmitted from a deer tick bite. (Here is a CDC resource that we may want to include for readers: <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/diseases/index.html>)
- We are hoping to get another shipment of tick awareness kits that includes a removal kit. Doctors note to bring ticks into offices so that they can send it to a lab for analyzation. The Health Department does not analyze ticks, but doctors' offices can send them to a lab for analyzation that may help assess the needs of the human who has been bitten.

<p>Director's Report cont'd</p>	<p><u>Mosquitoes:</u> The state has decreased its mosquito surveillance program so we are working with Cattaraugus County on mosquito surveillance. Last year we did have an EEE horse case on the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus County border.</p> <p><u>Climate Change:</u> Dr. Erlandson spoke at an event on May 1st about climate change. In preparation for his speech, he gathered some information from different organizations. Dr. Erlandson's conclusion was that there are no good data to support significant climate change in Chautauqua County.</p> <p><u>2021 Annual Reports</u> were distributed to members. The report can be viewed on our website here: https://chggov.com/health-and-human-services/Annual-Reports</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p>Dr. Ney recently spoke with Senator George Borrello. Senator Borrello extends his thanks to the Department and the Board of Health for the work that they have been doing these last few years.</p> <p>One of our legislators requested information on Long COVID. Some information was provided to the legislator and information has been added to our website here: https://chggov.com/public-health/long-covid-or-post-covid-conditions. There are a myriad of symptoms that can come up with someone experiencing Long COVID and because it is so new it is hard to find data. The complications can be serious and people need to be aware. We are now seeing people who had a mild case of COVID that are now experiencing Long COVID. Even though we do not have resources locally, there are resources available in Buffalo and other larger cities. Many of the treatments are experimental just because of the newness of the disease. There is a lot of research being done.</p> <p>The question was raised to the Board if, in addition to the meeting minutes, the meetings could be video recorded and available to the public. In accordance with Robert's Rules, we do not have to have a video of the meeting. Meeting minutes are provided in accordance with Robert's Rules.</p> <p><u>Water and Sewer:</u> Wuerstle/Erlandson reporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase one of the public sewer extension project from North Harmony to Stow is coming along as planned and we are hoping to have connections by the end of next summer. Phase two will go from Stow to Prendergast Point is at the design phase. This will provide public sewers for approximately 2/3 of the lake. The area that will not be public sewer includes Camp Mission Meadows and the Lutheran Camp. Both of those camps have extensive lakefronts, are in operation for a few weeks of the summer and so to run a half mile of public sewer for a few weeks out of the summer really doesn't make sense. • Findley Lake will be holding another vote in to see if the residents there are in support of a public sewer system. • The Town of Chautauqua is drilling new wells. Our engineer has been in contact with the engineers on this project. Wuerstle's understanding was that Camp Onyasha is concerned their wells may be compromised and supply of water may be limited with the new wells being drilled so closely. When our engineer said that the engineers working on this new project need to do some tests and monitor surrounding wells. The reason the Town is drilling the wells is in part because of the blue green algae and disinfection byproducts that are being created when the algae blooms are being treated that violate safe drinking water.

Adjournment	Motion to adjourn by Kidder. Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm
Future Meeting Dates	7/21/22, 9/15/22, 11/17/22