

Chautauqua County Board of Health
MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time: Thursday, September 15, 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	P	Elisabeth Rankin	P	Dr. Berke	County Physician, HHS
Dr. Kidder	P	Mark Tarbrake	P	Paul M. Wendel, Jr.	County Executive
Dr. McConnon	P	Nancy Rosario	A	Sherri Rater	Scribe
				Gregory Bacon	Jamestown Post Journal

Call to order	The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Lillian Ney. Roll call was taken.
Special Recognition	<p>County Executive Wendel presented a certificate to Dr. Berke on behalf of the County for his 40 years of service to the County as a physician and contracted agent. Thank you Dr. Berke!</p> <p>Dr. Ney recognized Bree Agett, our epidemiologist, whose last day was September 14th. Bree was an asset to the Health Department and her work does not go unnoticed. Many members also expressed their gratitude for Bree's contribution to the Department over the course of her employment. Members agreed that a letter will be sent to her on behalf of the Board.</p>
Privilege of the Floor	None.
Approval of May 19, 2022 and July 21, 2022 minutes	<p>Tarbrake made a motion to approve the updated minutes for the May 19, 2022 meeting, second by McConnon; all in favor; motion carried.</p> <p>Khan made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 21, 2022 meeting, second by Kidder; all in favor; motion carried.</p>
New Business: Agreements to Settle	Agreements to settle were reviewed. All of the violations are regarding public water suppliers not meeting the requirements. Every month public water suppliers must submit their daily log along with monthly and quarterly samples. Suppliers are given a packet annually reminding them of the requirements. Many of the violators are not new businesses. Repeat offenders are not given any extra penalties.
Old Business:	none

Director's Report

Schuyler Reporting:

COVID-19: We continue to report weekly numbers. We have not seen an increase in vaccination rates. Our office offers vaccinations Mon-Fri 9am-4pm and multiple pharmacies offer the vaccine and they are listed on our website. NYS has adopted CDC's COVID-19 guidance for public and healthcare settings. The mitigation strategies like frequent handwashing, keep your distance and stay home if you are sick are still recommended. The state eliminated the test to stay policy in schools. School guidance is focused on high risk activities and quarantining is needed only in high risk settings. COVID is still very present in the community. A press release on the new Bivalent booster covers the older strains and Omicron which is the variant that is prevalent in our community right now. Now is the time to get your booster.

Polio is not being tested as part of the UB COVID water surveillance; however, the water samples could be tested later for polio. In Rockland County, there was only one confirmed case of polio, however, wastewater has picked up polio virus in Rockland, Orange, Sullivan, Nassau Counties and now also NYC. Those prove evidence that the unvaccinated individual in Rockland County who tested positive contracted the virus through local transmission. It was something that was already circulating. This is a vaccine preventable disease that we thought was eradicated. We have been getting quite a few calls from people wanting a polio vaccine or booster. There are a pocket of communities in the County who are partial vaccinated or not vaccinated and that is where the concern lies. The number is astounding, even outside of the Amish community. The kids that fell behind due to lack of access during COVID are getting in and catching the kids up on their vaccines. There are countries that polio is a huge threat like Afghanistan and Ukraine and we have to have a solid testing policy for people coming in to the US. NYS Department of Health has a webpage that shows polio vaccination rates by county and zip code. It can be viewed here: https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/polio/county_vaccination_rates.htm

Monkeypox: There are currently 3,668 confirmed cases of monkeypox in NYS. Monkeypox spreads through close physical contact with individuals by direct contact with sores and rashes, respiratory droplets, or oral fluids. It can also spread through bedding, fabrics, towels, and other objects used by someone who has monkeypox. It is important that people ask their sexual partners if they have had symptoms and avoid skin-to-skin contact with someone who has symptoms. We strongly encourage anyone who thinks they have symptoms to reach out to their healthcare provider. We are receiving 40 vials of vaccine this week. The CDC is doling out the vaccine. There is a limited supply available to any LHD that wants it. We really don't have a lot of doses currently, so we are only vaccinating those at risk. We are working with our partners at Evergreen, TCC, JCC, and SUNY Fredonia similar to what we have done in the past with Hepatitis A Clinics. We will send out LHD to administer. We don't have enough currently to redistribute, but hopefully we will get there. There is no specific isolation and quarantine guidance. If you have a fever you can be contagious during that period and when the sores erupt. The recommendation is to isolate and stay out of school if you have an active infection.

Director's Report
cont'd

Home visits to new mothers: NYS has given us the clearance to use birth certificate data to do some critical public health outreach. The health department already receives birth certificate data and we use the data for surveillance. Now, every new mom will receive a home visit from a public health nurse and receive information on infant growth and development, safe sleep, nutrition, breastfeeding support, immunization, and lead poisoning prevention. Several of our nurses are certified lactation consultants so that will help with breastfeeding support. This will also provide an increased awareness to our Early Intervention Program as well as other agencies and resources throughout the community.

Rankin asks about adopted babies and how they could be notified or have a visit scheduled. There are also adopted infants who are coming from out of state or international adoption. By the time the adoption goes through the baby is usually not a baby. The service would need to go to the foster home where the baby is at. With out of state or international situations, hopefully the adoptive parent is taking the infant to a pediatrician who can make the referrals. Khan adds that there is a Healthy Steps Program where pediatric centers enrolls many of the kids that come into the practice. Adopted children are one of the groups that are automatically enrolled into the program where a clinical provider or social worker would closely follow the child's development. Healthy Steps Program is in the pilot phase and the goal is to take it to all practices countywide. There are some wonderful things happening and we are very excited about it. Strong Starts Chautauqua is another program that we are involved in.

Employment: We lost two RNs in the last month. Our county pay scale for nurses does not compare with other nurse salaries in the county. A public health nurse has to have a four-year degree. In most settings nurses don't make any more money with a four-year degree so we need to look at our minimum requirements for these positions. Now, we have our epidemiologist, Bree Agett's vacancy and you have no idea how sad I am about that. We are extremely short staffed. On the Social Services side, we currently have seven CPS caseworker vacancies. The caseworker civil service test was given this last week and four people took the test. There is no existing list and so this is really a crisis.

Early Intervention Program (EIP) referrals extremely high. We are seeing a huge increase in preschool programing costs. A few years ago, we started seeing many more infants born with positive drug tox in their systems and this is one of the reasons we are now seeing more and more children being referred to the program. The level of children's needs have increased as well. There is a huge shortage of providers for speech and occupational therapy locally and statewide. EIP providers have complained that they are not receiving payments in a timely manner and this could be reason that we are short providers. The State handles all of the administration aspects of the EIP so our hands are tied. The state really needs to adjust the rates because our budget has seen a large increase in preschool education and transportation costs. Kids are being referred and may not meet the qualifications for EIP because they only have one developmental delay. The child can still receive speech therapy or other services outside of the EIP and we need to make sure we are getting the word out. We can't medicate our way out either. Our Healthy Steps and Strong Starts Chautauqua Programs can help in this area as well. Parents need to know what is going on and what they can do to help as well.

<p>Director's Report cont'd</p>	<p><u>Budget:</u> The county budget legislative hearings are coming up in early October. The main driver of the increase in public health is Preschool Special Education and on the Social Services side there is an increase in our weekly share contribution to Medicaid and the State has a new requirement that counties must pay the maximum daily reimbursement rate for foster care. We have until April 2023 to get to the maximum rate.</p> <p><u>Lyme and Rabies:</u> We are seeing a lot both Lyme and rabies. We do have more ticks in the area. We put out placards, do public outreach and hand out tick kits. For rabies, with the animals that we have sent in for testing, we have had one positive raccoon and a kitten which were both were directly connected. The fish and wildlife commission has someone that randomly scoops up road kill that can be tested. We did have one positive raccoon as a result of that method of collection. We have sent in several bats and none have come back positive. We do still host free rabies clinics throughout the county.</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p><u>Safe Storage of Guns:</u> The Sheriff's Department, Mental Hygiene and Health and Human Services are working collaboratively to provide a press release about safe gun storage. The Sheriff's Department is obtaining safety kits from Project Child Safe to distribute to the public. In 2020, gun suicide among children ages 17 and under reached an all-time high and firearms are now the leading cause of accidental death in children, which was surpassed by motor vehicle accidents. Quite often, the accidental deaths are due to guns not being stored properly in homes.</p> <p><u>Environmental health fees</u> have not been raised since 2016. Wuerstle passed out proposed rate changes that she believed to be fair and equitable. Fees were reviewed. Kidder made a motion to accept the permit fee schedule with increases noted in the document, 2nd by Rankin, all in favor, motion carried.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn by Khan. Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm</p>
<p>Future Meeting Dates</p>	<p>11/17/22</p>