

Chautauqua County Board of Health  
MINUTES

**Meeting Date/Time:** Thursday, January 19, 2023 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** HRC 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, 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   | Dr. Faulk        | Interim Public Health Director; Board of Health Secretary |
| Dr. Khan      | P   | Elisabeth Rankin | P   | Dr. Berke        | County Physician, HHS                                     |
| Dr. Kidder    | P   | Mark Tarbrake    | P   | Jessica Wuerstle | Director of Environmental Health                          |
| Dr. McConnon  | P   | Nancy Rosario    | E   | Wendy Douglas    | Director of Patient Services                              |
|               |     |                  |     | Sherri Rater     | Scribe  |
|               |     |                  |     | Gregory Bacon    | Jamestown Post Journal                                    |

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| <b>Call to order</b>          | The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Lillian Ney.  |
| <b>Introductions</b>          | <p>Ney opened the meeting thanking everyone for staying together in 2022 and managing to come out in 2023 for a new look on things. Dr. Michael Faulk was introduced as the Health Department's interim public health director. Board members introduced themselves to Dr. Faulk. Dr. Faulk comes to us with many accolades; he is boarded by the American Board of Emergency Medicine; he worked at Warren General and was the medical director at the UPMC Chautauqua ER; Dr. Faulk has worked with the Mental Health Association concerning overdoses in the ER and made a big difference for UPMC at that time; he worked at the trauma center at Hamot; served as medical director of Starflight; has worked with WCA Services, currently works with the Sheriff; is a special operation hazmat team member; works as a physician supervising at the Jail; is an advisor for the Health Department; is a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians.</p> <p>Dr. Faulk adds that it is an honor to be here in this capacity. He was born and raised in Jamestown, his family is here, his children go to school here and he has a vested interest in Chautauqua County in every facet of what we do on the medical side. He adds that his county duties have grown over the last five years and now being asked to step up in this interim role as public health director is a big deal for him; it was a good time in his career after spending nearly 20 years in the emergency department and added has worked as a hospitalist within the last year. He has worked in the front lines of every public health crisis that we have dealt with in the last 20 years. He brings that perspective on things and he is thankful to be here.</p> |
| <b>Privilege of the Floor</b> | None  |

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| <b>Approval of 9/15/22 and 11/28/22 minutes</b>        | Rankin made a motion to approve the September 15, 2022 and November 28, 2022 meeting minutes. 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Khan; all in favor; motion carried.  |
| <b>New Business: Election of Officers</b>              | Per the bylaws, an officer can serve up to three consecutive one year terms in a position. Dr. Ney is our current president and Dr. Kidder is our current vice president. They each have served for two years. Rankin nominated Ney as president for a third year. Khan 2 <sup>nd</sup> ; all in favor; motion carried. Ney nominated Kidder as vice president for a third year; Tarbrake 2 <sup>nd</sup> ; all in favor; motion carried. Ney adds that, per the bylaws, the public health director will serve as the Board secretary and so Dr. Faulk will serve in this capacity.   |
| Review of the Bylaws                                   | The bylaws were reviewed and no changes were made.  |
| Membership   | <p>Per the bylaws <i>'Any member who fails to attend fifty percent (50%) of the meetings without being excused by the President shall be deemed to have resigned his or her membership. Excuses for missed meetings shall promptly be filed with the Secretary of the Board.'</i> Our Board member who represents the north county area has been unable to fulfill the attendance obligation. A letter will be sent to the member addressing the issue.</p> <p>Discussion was had whether or not we could have a zoom option for members in lieu of meeting in person, which could potentially avoid cancelation of meetings due to weather and allow members more flexibility with their time while not having to travel to Mayville. This has been pursued in the past and we were told it is not in accordance with Roberts Rules and the open meetings law. The Health Department will inquire to see if anything has changed.</p>                                  |
| Ethics Training/<br>Financial Disclosure<br>Affidavits | Board members must complete the annual ethics training and submit a financial disclosure affidavit by March 31, 2023. Members who completed the ethics training affirmed by signing the training sheet.   |
| Reappointment of Dr. Faulk and Dr. Walters             | Dr. Faulk and Dr. Walters appointments as county physicians expire this month. The reappointment applications and associated credentialing paperwork was forwarded to all members for review prior to this meeting. All information was current and in order. Khan made a motion to reappoint Dr. Walters as county physician for another three-year term; 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Tarbrake; all in favor; motion carried. Kidder made a motion to reappoint Dr. Faulk as county physician for another three-year term; 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Erlandson; all in favor; motion carried.  |
| Agreements to Settle                                   | <p>Wuerstle reporting: Agreements to settle were reviewed. There is one new facility in violation. The facility sold a flavored vape product to a minor.</p> <p>At the last meeting there was mention to require our repeat water violators to come to a hearing so that we can see them in person to discuss the repeated violations. Two of the three violators came to a hearing and fines will be issued, however if they can comply within a certain amount of time a lesser action will be taken. The third violator, who did not appear for the hearing, has closed for business. We did reach out to them and were told that we were not the reason for the business closing. Bringing the repeat offenders in for a hearing seems to be an improved process for compliance.</p> <p>The annual distribution of compliance requirements has been distributed to establishments that we oversee. We provided the documentation in an easier to follow format.</p> |
| Community Health Assessment                            | The Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHA/CHIP;Plan) was complete at the end of 2022. The document is nearly 200 pages with a lot of good information. Ney suggests one way to improve would be streamline the information so that more people will take the time to read through it in its entirety.  |

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|                          | Huge amounts of work that have gone into addressing the problems noted in the assessment.  |
| <b>Director's Report</b> | <p>Faulk reporting: <u>Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHA/CHIP;Plan)</u><br/> As part of the changes in the Department, Wendy Douglas took over the Plan. Faulk thanked Wendy and her staff for their diligent effort to finalize the project by the end of the year. The Plan is based on the prevention agenda set by NYS. The prevention agenda is NYS's Health Improvement Plan and is the blueprint for action to improve the health and wellbeing of all New Yorkers. The Plan lists five priority areas. (1) Prevent chronic disease; (2) promote a healthy and safe environment; (3) promote healthy women, infants and children; (4) promote well-being and prevent mental and substance use disorders; and (5) prevent communicable diseases. While we can't go through the entire packet, there is a lot of relevant information. Faulk adds, this was timely for him because it really gave him an idea of where our priorities as a Health Department need to be. Faulk discussed the opioid burden in the County. The State reports Chautauqua County as the worst per capita for individuals with a reported opioid problem. There are increased amounts of fentanyl on the streets. We are not seeing heroin anymore. Fentanyl is in everything. Fentanyl pills are being produced cheaply and are easily accessible. Deaths involving drugs have increased over the years as well, however we are not the worst in the state, rather in the middle, which is good news. Everyone in the community who has a stake in overdose deaths are doing something right. Steve Kilburn, a contracted staff at the County Mental Hygiene Department, engages a lot of community partners with the Chautauqua Substance Abuse Response Partnership to work on some of these issues. Newborns rates with neonatal withdrawal syndrome and/or affected by maternal use of drugs of addiction is high in the County compared to WNY as a whole and NYS. Strong Starts Chautauqua is a newer program that is helping the community in this area. Obesity is an issue in the County and in NYS. These are the most glaring items that need addressed in the county. Childhood lead poisoning is still a problem. 70.2% of homes in Chautauqua County were built prior to 1970. Because lead paint is more common in older homes, childhood lead poisoning is a concern. We are working on this issue with our Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. There is concern about refugees being placed into homes that need treated for lead. Anna Powell and Lisa Schmidtfrerick-Miller are very passionate about the Lead Program and have been diligent in their efforts.</p> <p>Douglas reporting: <u>Early Intervention/Preschool/Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)</u><br/> Referrals are extremely high and providers remain in short supply. Our transportation costs have increased exponentially. 7/1/22 – 1/17/23 there were 241 preschool referrals (3-5 yrs.), 223 early intervention referrals (0-3yrs.), and 102 at risk referrals. At risk referrals are received from the lead poisoning prevention program, CPS, and strong starts.</p> <p>Faulk reporting: <u>Welcome Home Baby Program</u> is an outreach program targeted to reach new parents. A post card is mailed to new parents with a scheduled appointment time for a public health nurse to provide a home visit to check in on them and provide education on safe sleep, developmental milestones, car seat safety, shaken baby, breastfeeding, immunizations, etc. Since the program's inception on November 24, 2022 49 visits were scheduled and 16 of those were kept. We are now calling the new parents to remind them of the appointment in hopes to increase the number of visits kept. Of the visits kept, many clients were very interested in the information that is being provided so we feel it is a beneficial program.</p> <p>Wuerstle reporting: <u>Environmental Health</u></p> |

Director's Report  
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ATUPA (Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act). The Department recruits individuals under 21 to go into businesses who sell tobacco and vape products and attempt to purchase. Businesses who fail to ID check and sell the product(s) to minors are found in violation and can either pay a fine or come to a hearing.

We have some good municipal water expansions around our lakes. Phase one of the Chautauqua Lake expansion will hopefully start connecting properties in the spring. Phase two is going to expand from the Stow area to Prendergast Creek area. There is a new initiative for a municipal sewer system around Findley Lake. They have not had a public vote yet and are still deciding if it will happen. In February, staff will go to the Town of Mina meeting to discuss the status of septic systems around Findley Lake, express our concerns and why we think a public sewer system would benefit the area.

Faulk reporting:

Communicable Disease

Current COVID numbers were shared. The hospital numbers are low. We have been part of a wastewater surveillance pilot program for some time. The data is consistent with the ebbs and flows of the hospitalization numbers. For example in mid-December there was a spike in wastewater numbers and about three weeks later our COVID hospitalization numbers went up into the double digits. This is exactly what we were seeing when we were getting the positive data from lab confirmed COVID tests. Kidder adds that they follow the wastewater data for their office and agree with the spikes and what they see in the office for COVID related issues. XBB1.5 is the rising variant of the COVID virus, another branch of the omicron virus- even more transmissible than past version. We ordered the new Bivalent COVID vaccine for 6mos-4yrs and will be offering at our clinics.

We continue to offer the Mpox & Polio vaccine here at the HD

Jail Accreditation

The Jail is working towards accreditation with the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC). There are many benefits of accreditation. It signals a constitutionally acceptable level of care for a facility's inmates, which translates into improved health status, fewer grievances and lawsuits, and reduced health risk to the community when incarcerated people are released. Cathy Burgess, our Community Health Manager, has done a phenomenal job spearheading this program.

Jail MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) Program This is a new mandated program that started on 10/7/22. It is funded by opioid settlement funds. While it is a mandated program, it is much needed, as addressed earlier in reviewing the CHA/CHIP. The program requires all individuals entering the Chautauqua County Jail be screened for a Substance Use Disorder (SUD), including alcohol, sedative, or opioid withdrawal. Individuals identified with a SUD are evaluated and, if appropriate, offered the opportunity to participate in the MAT program. Inmates are triaged and evaluated by the medical provider before induction. Medications available include; Buprenorphine Suboxone, Vivitrol and Methadone. From 10/7-12/31/23 80 inmates were evaluated and of those 30 were admitted into the program. We are prioritizing a warm handoff to outpatient services upon release. We estimate 60-70% of incarcerated individuals are dealing with some sort of drug or alcohol disorder. There are a lot of logistics that go into this making it difficult to coordinate. As part of our budget for the program we have added six positions that waiting to be filled. Our current staff have had to take on the additional work and so it is a lot to handle.

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| <p>Director's Report<br/>cont'd</p> | <p><u>Mobile Health Unit</u><br/>The Department purchased a mobile health unit through the ELC Schools grant. It will be a billboard on wheels. We can use it for community outreach at health events, farmer's markets, the county fair, as well as outreach clinics, emergency services and more. We want to work closely with TCC to not provide redundant services.</p>   |
| <p><b>Other</b></p>                 | <p><u>Reorganization of County Departments</u> – Faulk reporting<br/>The County Executive has proposed changes to the County code. The changes were that the Health Department would be its own stand-alone department and Social Services and Mental Hygiene departments would combine. Carmelo Hernandez is proposed to lead Social Services and Mental Hygiene. The changes were filed at the beginning of January and it takes about 30 days for the code to officially change. Faulk states his priority is to not let the shared services and programming between Health and Social Services fall through the cracks.</p> |
| <p><b>Adjournment</b></p>           | <p>Kidder made a motion to adjourn at 7:51pm.</p>   |
| <p><b>Future Meeting Dates</b></p>  | <p>3/16/23, 5/18/23, 7/20/23, 9/21/23, 11/16/23</p>   |

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