

Board of Health
January 8, 2013
12:00 Noon
Rice Conference Room

Present: Will Burbank; Brooke Greenhouse; James Macmillan, MD, President; Patrick McKee; Michael McLaughlin, Jr.; and Patricia Meinhardt, MD

Staff: Liz Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; Sigrid Connors, Director of Patient Services; Brenda Grinnell Crosby, Public Health Administrator; William Klepack, MD, Medical Director; Frank Kruppa, Public Health Director; Jonathan Wood, County Attorney; and Shelley Comisi, Keyboard Specialist

Excused: Amy DiFabio, MD; Janet Morgan, PhD; and Sylvia Allinger, Director of CSCN

Privilege of the Floor: No one was present for Privilege of the Floor.

Dr. Macmillan called the regular meeting of the Board of Health to order at 12:13 p.m.

Mr. Kruppa requested the addition of one item to New Business on the Agenda: Draft High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing (HVHF) Regulations Comments. His request was approved.

Approval of December 11, 2012 Minutes: Dr. Meinhardt moved to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2012 meeting as written; seconded by Dr. Macmillan; and carried unanimously.

Financial Summary: Ms. Grinnell Crosby reported there was no written financial report for December 2012. Staff continues to work on reconciling with the County's financial records.

Dr. Macmillan commented the number of post-exposure rabies treatments to be reimbursed by the State was greater than the previous year. Ms. Connors responded that during the month of August, 119 vaccinations were administered. Discussion centered on rabies issues, particularly exposure to bats since several bat cases were reported.

Administration Report: Mr. Kruppa:

- Stated the Agenda format for future meetings is open to suggestions for change.
- Distributed and reported on the Health Department's 2011 Annual Report. He worked with Theresa Lyczko and her staff in the Health Promotion Program to develop a theme and to condense the amount of data presented. Previous reports had contained 100 pages of data; access to the data is now on the departmental website. A theme focusing on

public health work through the eyes of the public health worker introduced staff members explaining their work in their own words. He added the report exceeded his expectations. The plan is to continue this format through next year with a different theme. Feedback regarding the report is welcome.

- Reported the Department's Bioterrorism Coordinator, Adam Hartwig, resigned in August 2012. Originally the position was created in response to the anthrax concerns after the September 11th attack on this country. The position is now titled Public Health Preparedness Coordinator because it has expanded beyond bioterrorism. Mr. Kruppa was pleased to announce Nina Saeli has accepted the position and will be starting April 15th. She is retired from the military with a background working with military medical facilities in overseas combat zones and was responsible for organizing, deploying and setting up a field hospital during Hurricane Katrina. As part of the Homeland Security education branch, she has trained military personnel in the Incident Command System and National Incident Management System (NIMS). Her main responsibility will be administration of the Bioterrorism and Homeland Security grant that includes working on emergency response plans. At a future meeting, Mr. Kruppa will introduce Ms. Saeli to the Board to discuss her background and role at the Department.
- Referred to the *Resolution Requesting an Extension of Time for Review of the Revised Regulations for High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing* passed by the Board and the Legislature. The Department has received similar resolutions adopted by the Tompkins County Council of Governments and local governments in the Town of Lansing and Town of Enfield. Copies will be kept on file at the Department. If anyone wants to review them, contact Ms. Comisi.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Klepack explained he did not submit a written report as his time has been spent looking at regulations for high volume hydraulic fracturing and drafting comments regarding them. He has spent many hours looking at the fracking process from a health perspective and believes a comprehensive health review is appropriate. His comments are directed to the experts completing the health assessment; a copy of those comments will be forwarded to Mr. Kruppa and Board members by email.

Division for Community Health Report: Ms. Connors had nothing to add to her written report.

Children with Special Care Needs Report: Ms. Allinger was attending a regional meeting so she was not present for the meeting.

County Attorney's Report: Mr. Wood stated he had nothing to report.

Environmental Health Report: Ms. Cameron had nothing to add to her written report.

Following the Division Reports, a brief discussion ensued regarding their usefulness to the Board. It was suggested that spreadsheets may fulfill a requirement to report statistics; however,

a summary of funding, policy or other significant issues pertaining to the programs would be helpful. Mr. Kruppa stated the Department is looking at the information presented in the written reports with the goal of making them relevant to the reader.

Resolution #12.1.30- West Danby Water District, T-Danby, Violation of Subpart 5-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Water): Ms. Cameron reported the West Danby Water District did not collect the lead and copper samples as required by the State Sanitary Code; a representative for the West Danby Water District acknowledged the violation.

Mr. McLaughlin moved to accept the resolution as written, seconded by Mr. Greenhouse.

Dr. Meinhardt asked why the required number of samples to be collected was changed from 30 to 5. Ms. Cameron said it was a typographical error; Danby is a small water district required to collect 5 samples.

Mr. McLaughlin wondered what caused the breakdown in sampling and whether the necessary modifications were made so it would not happen in the future. Ms. Cameron responded the water district had the schedule for collecting samples but there was a change in personnel which may have been a factor; she will follow-up with staff.

Mr. Greenhouse expressed concern about waiting until later in the year to collect lead and copper samples rather than sampling right away. Ms. Cameron answered the State has determined June to September is appropriate and does not accept late sampling. There are different requirements for different sized water systems so the West Danby Water District may not be required to sample for lead and copper every year. Generally the Division does not go beyond what is required in the regulations unless there is some specific concern. Based on data from past sampling, this is not a water system that has had issues with lead and copper levels. She will look into the matter and report back to the Board.

There was discussion about the Division setting up a reminder program for water system operators to ensure the sampling is completed on time; suggestions included email reminders or other software possibilities. Ms. Cameron noted staff does work with water districts to improve their procedures and normally their personnel improve after the first violation.

The vote on the resolution was unanimous.

Draft HVHF Regulations Comments: Mr. Kruppa referred to (1) a letter drafted for Dr. Macmillan's potential signature to be sent to Commissioner Martens at the Department of Environmental Conservation, and (2) draft comments the Tompkins County Water Resources Council (WRC) plans to submit in response to HVHF regulations. The deadline for comments is Friday, January 11, 2013 at 5 p.m. Ms. Cameron is working with the WRC on those comments and also working with the NYS Conference of Environmental Health Directors on their comments. Considering the short time period, the most effective response is to authorize Dr. Macmillan to sign the letter stating the Board supports the WRC comments and include the related Board resolution concerning the inadequate amount of time allowed for review of the regulations. The Department feels comfortable the draft comments cover the main points with the appropriate language.

Mr. Greenhouse moved to approve the letter be sent to Commissioner Martens; seconded by Dr. Meinhardt.

Mr. Greenhouse recommended an addition to the wording in the second paragraph, first sentence of the letter: "...provision of *financial and other* resources to *local government* to adequately respond to the impacts of HVHF activity." He noted it is well-written but the additional wording is specific and clarifies the meaning.

Dr. Meinhardt asked whether the WRC draft comments referred to in the letter would be changed. Ms. Cameron reported the draft is currently being circulated to the Executive Board of the WRC so there may be minor editorial changes, but she did not expect significant changes. Due to the timing and special circumstances, Dr. Meinhardt thought the Board should defer to the judgment of the Department. Dr. Macmillan requested to be notified if there were substantive changes. Mr. Kruppa assured Board members they would be advised and an email of the final version would be sent to them.

The vote on the amended wording of the letter to be signed by Dr. Macmillan and sent to Commissioner Martens was unanimous.

Adjournment: At 12:57 p.m. Dr. Macmillan moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. McKee, and carried unanimously.