

MINUTES
Tompkins County Board of Health
March 22, 2022
12:00 Noon
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Approved 6.28.22

Present: Christina Moylan, Ph.D., President; Edward Koppel, MD; David Evelyn, MD; Shawna Black; Samara Touchton; Susan Merkel; and Ravinder Kingra

Staff: Samantha Hillson, Director of Health Promotion Program; Deb Thomas, Director of Children with Special Care Needs; Claire Espey, Director of Community Health; Liz Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; William Troy, County Attorney; Frank Kruppa, Public Health Director; Harmony Ayers-Friedlander and Karan Palazzo, LGU Administrative Assistant

Excused: Melissa Dhundale, MD; Brenda Grinnell-Crosby, Public Health Administrator; and William Klepack, MD, Medical Director

Guests: None

Call to Order: Dr. Moylan called the regular meeting of the Board of Health (BOH) to order at 12:00 p.m.

Privilege of the Floor: No one was present.

Approval of the December 7, 2021, January 25, 2022 and February 22, 2022 Minutes: Ms. Black moved to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2021 meeting as written; seconded by Mr. Ravinder. The vote to approve the minutes as written: Unanimous approval; motion carried. Ms. Black moved to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2022 meeting as written; seconded by Ms. Merkel. The vote to approve the minutes as written: Unanimous approval; motion carried. Ms. Black moved to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2022 meeting as written; seconded by Dr. Evelyn. The vote to approve the minutes as written: Unanimous approval; motion carried.

Financial Summary: Ms. Grinnell Crosby was not present. Mr. Kruppa was available to respond to any questions of the financial report included in the packet.

Administration Report: Mr. Kruppa reported that TCHD continues to monitor the severity of illness from COVID; no active hospitalizations; monitor variants and their evolutions; BA2 is the majority variant in Tompkins County based on Cornell data.

Mr. Kruppa met with Monalita Smiley, Director of the Community Justice Center and discussed the roles that Public Health and Mental Health will play in conversations.

Health Promotion Program Report: Ms. Hillson had nothing to add to her written report included in the packet. She reported reviewing the wide range of applications received for the community health worker position, which is a collaboration with community partners who are working on similar roles. Community health workers will work across departments.

Ms. Hillson said that the Community Health Assessment Process is in the planning stages and due December of this year. They hope to launch the community health survey in late spring or early summer,

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and they are also in the process of updating the data sources including the assistance from the QAI department at Mental Health.

Medical Director's Report and Discussion: Dr. Klepack was not present. On behalf of Dr. Klepack, Mr. Kruppa was available to answer questions from Dr. Klepack's medical report included in the packet.

Division for Community Health (DCH) Report: Ms. Espey had nothing to add to her written report. She referred to Mr. Kruppa's update on COVID as they continue to monitor the situation. She reported that the NYS virtual call center ends their contract the end of April. DCH is addressing how to move forward to support the community in their absence.

Ms. Espey shared that questions from last month's meeting regarding Syphilis and Lyme disease were addressed in this month's report.

Mr. Kruppa responded to a question regarding PCR testing. Mr. Kruppa reported that PCR testing continues at the mall but there is a lack of funding from the Federal funding for uninsured/underinsured.

Mr. Kruppa responded to a question regarding test collection data with Cornell. He said that there is no way to tell for certain with many self-reporting. He believes many are taking the results of a positive antigen test and acting accordingly.

Children with Special Care Needs Report: Ms. Thomas reported that the waitlist for speech therapy continues with 32 children waiting for therapy and now have a wait list for special instruction teachers for those children. She said that a new Public Health Law requires insurance companies to provide \$40 million to the state fiscal agent to help cover early intervention services which might bring some of the therapists back into the program.

County Attorney's Report: Mr. Kruppa reported that the State Declaration of Emergency suspended in-person until mid-April and the BOH's next meeting in April **may** be held in-person in the Rice Conference room at 55 Brown Road, Ithaca, NY.

Environmental Health Report: Ms. Cameron reported that Dillon Shults, EH Technician was promoted to EH Specialist and they will recruit for his replacement for the technician position.

Ms. Cameron said that EH drafted a memo clarifying that reusable containers are allowed under the New York State Sanitary Code for Food Service Establishments, in response to a request from the Zero Waste Initiative Program. The Zero Waste Initiative Program works with restaurants to promote customers to bring in reusable containers.

Ms. Cameron also said that EH is proposing changes to the temporary food program after reviewing the requirements for religious, charitable and fraternal organizations under food service establishment regulations. Religious, charitable, and fraternal organizations are not required to get permits from EH if they hold food service events less than once a week. Ms. Cameron said that Cornell falls under this provision and; has their own review process in place as they track these events and provide education. EH and Cornell are working together to transfer oversight of these Cornell events to Cornell and for EH to no longer issue temporary food permits for Cornell events. This will allow EH to focus on higher risk issues.

Ms. Cameron reported that EH is working with Grassroots on their festival application and water and site plans but are still dealing with issues as in the past with inconsistent information.

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Ms. Cameron reported that the Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA) Program was deferred during COVID and EH only responded on a complaint basis. NYS issued new regulations during COVID (May 2020) prohibiting the sale of flavored vapor products that contain nicotine. The new rules are complicated as facilities are allowed internet sales of flavored products to out-of-state customers as long as the banned products are not on display for sale to in-person customers.

EH has started full compliance checks with facilities and a number of violations have been issued.

Ms. Cameron answered a question regarding the penalties (ATUPA). She said sales to minors (under age 21) carries a minimum penalty of \$300, a maximum penalty of \$1,500 and a state surcharge of \$250. The penalty for the sale of vapor products/individual package is up to a \$100.

Community Mental Health Services Board (CSB) Report: Ms. Ayers-Friedlander reported:

- CSB's March meeting agenda topic was on fentanyl-laced drugs in the community. A local family shared their story of the untimely death of their 23 y/o son and brother and concerns of the fentanyl-laced drug infiltrating our community. Local providers including CARS, ADC and REACH Medical were in representation.

Mr. Kruppa added that fentanyl was topic of conversation prior to COVID and one can assume that fentanyl will be involved in any street drug purchased (even an opioid). TCHD is working on communication and messaging about fentanyl. Ithaca Police Department recently reported a spade of overdoses related to painted street drugs.

Resolution #EH-ENF-22-0002 – Thai Basil, C-Ithaca, Violations Subpart 14-1 of New York State Sanitary Code: Dr. Evelyn moved to accept the resolutions as written; seconded by Ms. Black.

Ms. Cameron explained that this is a case where food was out of temperature. EH proposes a penalty of \$200. No discussion.

The vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

Resolution #EH-ENF-22-0003 -Super 8 Motel, C-Ithaca, Violations of Subpart 14-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code: Dr. Koppel moved to accept the resolutions as written; seconded by Dr. Evelyn.

Ms. Cameron explained that this is a case where fire and smoke doors were not maintained, and electrical equipment was used incorrectly. EH proposes a penalty of \$200. No discussion.

The vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous

Resolution #EH-ENF-22-0004 – Best Western University Inn, T- Ithaca, Violations of Subpart 14-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code: Ms. Touchton moved to accept the resolutions as written; seconded by Dr. Koppel.

Ms. Cameron explained that this is a case where the level of the violation increased because it was not corrected. They failed to maintain emergency lights and exit signs and failed to maintain required exits. EH proposes a penalty of \$400.

No discussion.

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The vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

Resolution #EH-ENF-22-0005 – C&C/Chucks, C-Ithaca, Violation of Article 13-F of New York State Public Health Law for Underage Sale of Tobacco Products (ATUPA): Ms. Black moved to accept the resolutions as written; seconded by Dr. Evelyn.

Ms. Cameron explained that this is a case of the sale of tobacco products to minors. EH proposes the increased penalties of \$500 plus the \$250 NYS mandatory surcharge totaling \$750.

No discussion.

The vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

Resolution #EH-ENF-22-0006 – Smiley’s Food Mart, T-Newfield, Violation of Article 13-F of New York State Public Health Law for Underage Sale of Tobacco Products (ATUPA): Dr. Evelyn moved to accept the resolutions as written; seconded by Mr. Ravinder.

No discussion.

The vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

Administration: Mr. Kruppa reported that merger updates will be a monthly topic to keep the Board updated and informed in the process, take suggestions and receive feedback.

Merger Update:

- Iron Design, was selected as the company in the branding effort for the new name and logo
- The first discovery meeting will have representatives from both departments and the CSB
- The three-month process will include iterations to understand who we are and what represents us
- The legislature will give final approval of the new name and logo this summer
- A cross-functional team launches around children and youth services
- Introductory conversations with directors around a potential charter for another cross-functional team to research better integration and support for children and youth served across all programs
- Cross-functional team is working on the understanding of each other and the back of the foundation utilizing network surveys and mapping, etc.
- Charter changes and the bylaws in proposed form are due no later than October, for the self-imposed deadline for the end of the year
- Working with the county financial officer in merging the chart of accounts

Mr. Kruppa said the final step in the merger will be the legislature amending the charter. He encouraged Board members to take the opportunity to be part of the branding process.

Dr. Moylan reported that a first edit was done on the bylaws which will be forwarded to Dr. Evelyn and Ms. Merkel for their review before coming to the Board in April.

Dr. Moylan asked the Board members to anticipate an in-person meeting in April, in the Rice Conference Room at 55 Brown Road, Ithaca, NY.

The next meeting is Tuesday, April 26th, 2022 @ Noon.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 12:56 p.m.