

Tompkins County Board of Health
September 27, 2022
12:00 Noon
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Approved 10.25.22

Present: Christina Moylan, Ph.D., President; Susan Merkel; Edward Koppel, MD; Melissa Dhundale, MD; Shawna Black; and Samara Touchton

Staff: Claire Espey, Director of Community Health; Rachel Buckwalter, DCH; William Klepack, MD, Medical Director; William Troy, County Attorney; Frank Kruppa, Public Health Director; Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, Deputy Commissioner; Kristee Morgan, EH; Ted Schiele, HPP; and Karan Palazzo, LGU Administrative Assistant

Excused: David Evelyn, MD; and Ravinder Kingra

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: None.

Approval of the August 23, 2022 Minutes: Dr. Dhundale moved to approve the August 23, 2022 minutes, second by Ms. Black; all were in favor as written.

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

Administration Report: Mr. Kruppa welcomed the everyone back to the first in person meeting in quite some time and gave a reminder that Board meetings will resume meeting in-person. The county policy does allow for remote participation, but those members will not be eligible to maintain quorum.

COVID – COVID is stable but cases increased as students of both higher education and K-12 returned. Hospitalizations remain low. Public messaging continues to go about COVID including the available Bivalent booster for anyone 12 years and up and has at least two months out from their previous vaccine. Local pharmacies and healthcare systems are providing those vaccines.

Monkey Pox - There are no new cases and staff worked diligently on monkey pox vaccine pods. Two successful clinic events supplied over 70 and 60 doses. Second dose clinics are planned for next week and working to get higher education partners vaccines to administer on campus.

Homeless encampment – Mr. Kruppa, at the county administrator’s request, is working with the TIDES Group who is looking at a sanctioned encampment model in Ithaca. The process will make its way thru the Legislature and Common Council for review, input, and feedback. There are significant issues in the encampment, and action is needed, so guidance and direction from the Common Council and Legislature is welcomed.

DRAFT

Health Promotion Program Report: Mr. Kruppa reported that work on the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plans are in progress and a report will be available at the joint November/December meeting for the Board's review. The Board's October meeting will have some data included in the packet. Starting next year, the annual local services plan will move to a four-year plan which will allow it to align easily with the Community Health Improvement Plan. Mental health and substance use disorders are expected to be priority areas of the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Mr. Schiele added that a presentation will be given on the Community Health Assessment Plan and the survey at the November/December joint meeting. Ambra Munlyn was hired for the Health Educator position and her position will be split between the Healthy Neighborhoods and Tobacco programs.

Medical Director's Report and Discussion: Dr. Klepack had nothing to add to his written report included in the packet and was available to answer any questions.

Division for Community Health (DCH) Report: Ms. Espey reported two community health workers were onboarded and recruitment for a supervisor will begin in October. The program will allow the community health workers to support parents and expecting parents to connect to resources they need. There is a need for communicable disease nurse. Ms. Espey announced that she will be stepping down from her position as Community Health Director this November.

Ms. Black requested monthly or quarterly reporting on overdoses in Tompkins County at the BOH meetings. Mr. Kruppa affirmed her request and noted that data/information on overdoses is currently posted on the Health Department's website and will be included in the BOH packets moving forward.

Children with Special Care Needs Report: Ms. Thomas was not present.

County Attorney's Report: Mr. Troy had nothing to report.

Environmental Health Report: Ms. Cameron was not present, and Ms. Kristee Morgan reported on her behalf. An office conference was held with GrassRoots who hired a landscape planning design architect to provide permitting services for their mass gatherings. It is unsure at this time if they will be signing the stipulation agreement or requesting an administrative hearing. Ms. Morgan confirmed that it is to address the current enforcements in process.

Mr. Kruppa added that the conference was also to set up a plan for next year and encouraged the hiring of an architecture firm for clarity, accuracy, and effectiveness with the inclusion of a timeline with the licensed architect signing off on the plan. Once the plan has been implemented and signed by the licensed architect as designed, pre-operation inspections will be done to confirm. A reduction of the significant proposed fines was offered with the ability to earn credit if timeframes are met. He said, "The importance is compliance".

Community Mental Health Services Board (CSB) Report: Ms. Ayers-Friedlander reported that the CSB met on September 12th and guest speaker Denise Vreeland, Vice President of Supports and Services at Mozaic/Challenge spoke about their work in creating an article 16 clinic in our community. An article 16 clinic provides specialized mental health treatment services for people who are in the OPWDD system. The CSB also discussed the bylaws and charter.

Resolution #EH-ENF-22-0028 – Potala Café/Tibetan Momo Bar, C-Ithaca, Violation of Subpart 14-1 of New York State Sanitary Code (Food) Ms. Merkel moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Dr. Dhundale.

DRAFT

No discussion.

The vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

Resolution #EH-ENF-22-0031 – Canopy by Hilton – Strand Café, C-Ithaca, Violations of Subpart 6-1 and of BOH Orders #EH-ENF-21-0014 (Pool) Dr. Koppel moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Ms. Touchton.

Discussion: Ms. Merkel questioned the higher penalty. Ms. Morgan explained that the higher penalty was for equipment not being operated or maintained correctly over a longer period for multiple items resulting in a greater public health hazard thus the higher penalty.

The vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

Administrative Action:

Bylaw and Charter Discussion – Mr. Kruppa reported that the bylaws and charter from both the BOH and CSB went to Health and Human Services (HHS) last month to give them an opportunity to provide feedback before the process. HHS approved them both but in the interim, the Legislature is looking at a new policy related to advisory boards to create term limits and or the length of time of the service. Once the new policy is received, the boards will have an opportunity to respond and make additional necessary adjustments to the bylaws. Nothing is finalized but if there are any concerns about terms limits and length of terms, the legislature should be notified for consideration.

Mr. Kruppa confirmed that the legislature is considering stronger language that would require term limits, consistent across all advisory boards. Ms. Black added that term limits would help the Boards open-up for new people, fresh ideas and a more welcoming community feel.

Mr. Kruppa confirmed the charter is moving forward but the bylaws are put on hold. The county attorney is drafting a local law and a resolution to move forward with the draft charter which will go to government operations on October 6th and to the HHS on October 17th and then to the full legislature where there will be a public hearing and a subsequent vote. The process will be completed at the legislatures' second meeting in November.

Community Health Quality Advisory Committee (CHQAC) – Dr. Moylan referred to the email with the list of names the BOH is to vote and approve for CHQAC. The names are below.

Christina Vann and Lindsay Ward of Cayuga Medical Center; Malinda Rees of Child Development Council; Karen Bishop as a community member (consumer); Serena Ward as a community member (consumer); and Sam Stevenson or Justine Waldman of REACH Medical.

Ms. Espey provided a summary of the CHQAC. She said that the committee meets quarterly and last met in June 2022. The committee establishes and assure standards of care and meet at least quarterly to:

- Review policies pertaining to the delivery of the health care services provided by the Agency and, when revisions are indicated, recommend such policies to the Board of Health for adoption
- Conduct a clinical record review of the safety, adequacy, type, and quality of services provided which includes: a random selection of patients currently receiving services and report the review findings, conclusions, recommendations, and actions to the Board of Health for necessary action, if applicable

DRAFT

- Assist the agency in maintaining liaison with other health care providers in the community

No discussion of applicants.

Ms. Merkel moved to approve the list of applicants to the Community Health Quality Advisory Committee (CHQAC); seconded by Ms. Black.

The vote to approve the list of applicants was unanimous

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 25th, 2022 @ Noon.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 12:45 p.m.