

Tompkins County Board of Health

March 26, 2024

12:00 Noon

Rice Conference Room and via Zoom

Minutes Approved

April 23, 2024

Present: Christina Moylan, Ph.D., President; Melissa Dhundale, MD, Vice-President; Edward Koppel, MD; Shawna Black; Susan Merkel; Samara Touchton; Andreia de Lima, MD; and Ravinder Kingra.

Staff: Frank Kruppa, Commissioner; Brenda Grinnell Crosby, Deputy Public Health Director; Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health Services; Jeremy Porter, Fiscal Administrator; Elizabeth Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; Rachel Buckwalter, Director of Community Health; Samantha Hillson, Director of Health Promotion Program; Jessica Clark Mandeville, Director of Children with Special Care Needs; and Karan Palazzo, LGU Administrative Assistant.

Excused:

Guests: None

Call to Order: Dr. Moylan called the regular meeting of the Board of Health (BOH) to order at noon.

Privilege of the Floor: None

Approval of January 23, 2024, Minutes: Mr. Kingra moved to approve January 23, 2024, minutes; second by Ms. Merkel. The vote to approve the January 23, 2024, meeting minutes as written was unanimously approved; the motion carried.

Financial Summary: Mr. Porter was greeted with a warm welcome of introductions by the Board in his initial financial summary report to the Board. Mr. Porter referred to the written report included in the packet with nothing to add.

Medical Director's Report and Discussion: Dr. Klepack was not present. On behalf of Dr. Klepack, Mr. Kruppa reported that Nassau County has identified a measles case.

Administration Report: Mr. Kruppa reported on the suspension of services at the Alcohol and Drug Council on February 26, 2024. The transitioning of clients to other care is complete and focuses on closing down the organization. Decisions are being made on all their funded services which include prevention, an outpatient clinic, and a detox/stabilization facility. Request for Proposals (RFP) will go out to find alternative providers. The County and OASAS are committed to getting the detox/stabilization facility open and the County envisions it to be a holistic model to include both mental health and substance use.

Dr. Dhundale asked that teens and youths be included in any expanded services for substance use. He will follow if youths 11-12 are included. Mr. Kruppa explained the RFP process.

Mr. Kruppa responded to a question on the 2024 budget noting that the biggest impact will be on early interventions with a proposed increase of 5% and then an additional 4% in *high-need areas*. He is unsure of what high-need areas are identified as but they were looking for an 11% increase vs. 9%.

The Opioid Settlement Funds RFP, through the Local Governing Unit (LGU), to provide wrap-around services for individuals who are active in the crisis system has closed. Catholic Charities was the selected vendor and is going through the legislature for approval.

The Outreach Worker Program RFP, which expanded to include not only the downtown area, but the entire county, has closed. The applications are under review and the program should be operational within a few months.

Release of 5-Year Unintentional Fatal Overdose Data - Data has been posted on the Opioid resource page of the Tompkins County Whole Health webpage [Unintentional Fatal Overdoses \(2019-2023\)](#). The data demonstrates trends and provides relevant demographic information about those who died from drug overdose during the last five years.

The Medical Examiner's data identified demographic data for those who unintentionally fatally overdosed as an immediate cause of death. The data shows yearly totals, the months in which deaths occurred, and include demographics such as age, race and ethnicity, education level, location of death, occupational status, marital status, veteran status, and hospitalizations within 2 months before death.

Mr. Kruppa highlighted the disproportionate number of Black Americans dying from opioid overdoses (18/100) 18% and only 8% of our total population with most having occupations as food service workers. The data allows for outreach and education around that workforce population. He hopes for a larger data project where the data is not controlled by the medical examiner and will include data that does not result in death. Without the resource capacity to take Protector Health Information (PHI), they will partner with Cayuga Health Partners.

Ms. Black voiced her concern about not being informed of unavailable resources to present data on how many people are dying of overdoses in the community. She believes resources can be obtained through the legislature to hire someone to look at the data, present the data, and who will have ideas and ways to reduce overdose deaths. She believes this Board must be more proactive.

Mr. Kruppa acknowledges her concerns and agrees that more needs to be done but notes that they do not have control over outside sources. Publicized information is not always accurate, and they seek to improve communication and messaging around drug-related issues despite a lack of access to data and other challenges. He contacted the State Office of Drug User Health who reported no spikes in their database in our community.

Mr. Kruppa answered a question on the availability of NARCAN which is available at CARS, REACH Medical, STAP, the Mental Health Clinic, and local pharmacies. It is important to use data to make informed decisions about drug use and awareness and also how to effectively use the available data. Everyone is impacted.

Suggestions/Questions from the Board - How will we use more data and what other data is needed/missing; in what ways can the Board be more proactive; should an MHP be hired to handle overdose prevention; create informational/social media platforms; reach out to other counties; and what are the next steps? Ms. Black feels we must also include an educational factor and effective ongoing communication with law enforcement and the health department.

Mr. Kruppa expresses interest in the suggestions in consideration of the development of the budget.

Dr. Moylan suggested agenda topics about overdose data for next month's meeting: A reflection on how Public Health provides information and communication strategies; How can the Board be more proactive and helpful; and how the health department can position itself relative to providing information.

Division for Community Health (DCH) Report: Ms. Buckwalter had nothing to add to her written report included in the packet. The CDC issued new guidance on COVID-19. She confirmed the measles case in Nassau County on an unvaccinated child who was not traveling. She noted that 95% of school-aged children are vaccinated.

DCH internally promoted a nurse to a senior nurse position and is looking to fill that current vacant nurse position. They still have one senior nurse position open.

Health Promotion Program Report: Ms. Hillson was not available.

Children with Special Care Needs (CSCN) Report: Jessica Clarke Manderville, reported they are gathering data from providers regarding retention and recruitment. The New York State Billing System is transitioning to a new system in June 2024 which may cause some challenges.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Enforcement Actions:

Draft Resolution #EH-ENF-23-0027 - Pizza & Bones, Violations of Subpart 14-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Food Service) – Dr. Dhundale moved to accept the friendly amendment; seconded by Dr. Koppel.

Ms. Cameron said this is a friendly amendment to change the date from May 15th to June 15th.

All were in favor of the friendly amendment to change the date from May 15th to June 15; the vote to approve was unanimous.

Draft Resolution #EH-ENF-24-0001 - Argos Inn, Violations of Subpart 7-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Temporary Residence) – Ms. Merkel moved to accept the friendly amendment; seconded by Dr. de Lima.

Ms. Cameron said this is a friendly amendment to change the date from April 15th to May 15th.

All were in favor of the friendly amendment to change the date from April 15th to May 15; the vote to approve was unanimous.

The next meeting is Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024 @ Noon.