

Tompkins County Board of Health
January 23, 2024
12:00 Noon
Rice Conference Room and via Zoom

Minutes Approved
March 26, 2024

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

Staff: Frank Kruppa, Commissioner; Elizabeth Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; Brenda Grinnell Crosby, Deputy Public Health Director; Rachel Buckwalter, Director of Community Health; Dr. Klepack, Medical Director; Samantha Hillson, Director of Health Promotion Program; Jessica Clark Mandeville, Director of Children with Special Care Needs; and Karan Palazzo, LGU Administrative Assistant.

Excused: Andreia de Lima, MD; and Ravinder Kingra

Guests: None

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

Jessica Clarke Manderville, the new Director of Children with Special Care Needs, introduced herself to the Board. She previously worked with Ms. Buckwalter in the Division for Community Health as a Senior Community Health Nurse.

Privilege of the Floor: None

Approval of December 5, 2023, Minutes: Dr. Dhundale moved to approve the December 5, 2023, minutes; second by Ms. Touchton. The vote to approve the December 5, 2023, meeting minutes as written was unanimously approved; the motion carried.

Financial Summary: Mr. Kruppa said that Ms. Brenda Grinnell Crosby has transitioned into the role of Deputy Public Health Director. Fiscal Administrator, Jeremy Porter, will now provide the financial summary reports. Mr. Porter returned from a medical leave today and will be present at future meetings. He said that the staff is currently working to close the books for the 2023 fiscal year and is not aware of any major concerns.

Medical Director's Report and Discussion: Dr. Klepack referred to his report included in the packet with a note to significant changes in Anaplasmosis and Lyme disease from ticks in the region. Syphilis numbers decreased and were much better than in previous years. COVID-19 hospitalizations also decreased. Influenza is consistent in its fluctuation. It is Radon Awareness Week and free radon kits are available on the county website [Radon | Tompkins County NY](#) and the NYS webpage [Radon \(ny.gov\)](#). Testing is recommended.

Ms. Hillson added that a press release is going out about Radon Awareness Week and there will be information on where to find free radon kits. They can also be purchased from local hardware stores.

Administration Report: Mr. Kruppa said that the strategic planning process is well underway and is launching a staff input survey. The BOH members will also receive a survey to provide their feedback. The Winter All-Staff Meeting will be held on January 31, 2024, at the Mental Health Building.

The New York State Budget Hearing on Health is today. There is a proposed 5% rate increase for Early Intervention (EI) services with an additional 4% for rural and underserved areas. It was not clear if it would apply to Tompkins County. The proposed cuts may include \$50,000 from our rabies program. Some other EI services may not be funded but all cuts will have minimal impact on the current services. There were discussions of workforce shortages across the State. They will continue to monitor the State Budget process and provide updates to the Board.

Division for Community Health (DCH) Report: Ms. Buckwalter had nothing to add to her written report included in the packet. There are two open positions for senior community health nurses that have been posted on the website.

Health Promotion Program Report: Ms. Hillson had nothing to add to her written report included in the packet. She said that this is Radon Awareness Week.

Children with Special Care Needs (CSCN) Report: Jessica Clarke Manderville, the new Director of Children with Special Care Needs, is being trained by former Director, Deb Thomas, for a short time. She expects to have a report available at the next meeting.

Environmental Health Report: Ms. Cameron reported that they are investigating an incident where people became ill at a private pool party held at the Holiday Inn in December. The investigation includes EH and NYSDOH.

NEW BUSINESS:

ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Actions – Election of BOH President and Vice President

Mr. Kruppa opened the floor for nominations for the elections for president of the BOH. There were no other nominations from the floor. Dr. Christina Moylan was nominated as the President of the Board of Health for 2024. All were in favor, and it was unanimous.

Mr. Kruppa opened the floor for nominations for the elections for vice president of the BOH. Dr. Dhundale moved to nominate Dr. Dhundale as Vice President of the Board of Health, seconded by Ms. Black. Dr. Dhundale was nominated as Vice President of the Board of Health for 2024. All were in favor, and it was unanimous.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Enforcement Actions:

Resolution #EH-ENF-23-0014 Revision 2 – Cayuga Nature Center, Violations of Subpart 7-2 of New York State Sanitary Code (Children's Camp) – Ms. Touchton moved to accept the motion as written; seconded by Ms. Merkel.

Ms. Cameron explained that this was a violation of previous BOH orders. Cayuga Nature Center is not currently in operation and is experiencing financial difficulties. This order removes the previous

deadlines before making changes to their water system and requires them to make changes 60 days before operation. They are working with a water supply contractor to correct the problem before opening in the summer.

All were in favor; the vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

Resolution #ENF-23-0026 - Holiday Inn Express Pool, Violations of Board of Health Orders and Subpart 6-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Swimming Pool) – Ms. Merkel moved to accept the motion to as written; seconded by Ms. Touchton.

Ms. Cameron explained that this was a violation of previous BOH orders. An inspection in October 2023 found the pool was in operation when it should have closed, hence, violating the code. EH expanded the order and added requirements for designated staff to take the pool operations course as well as to be on-site. They have submitted monthly operating reports, and a designated person is currently taking the pool operation course.

Discussion: Ms. Cameron clarified that the pool is currently open, a clean inspection in January and Holiday Inn Express contracted a person trained in the pool operation to come bi-weekly.

All were in favor; the vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

Executive Session: At 12:25 pm. Dr. Dhundale moved to adjourn to Executive Session, to discuss potential litigation, seconded by Dr. Koppel; the motion carried unanimously.

Out of Executive Session and Adjournment: At 1:05 pm Ms. Merkel moved to adjourn the Executive Session, and Adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Koppel; the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 27th, 2024 @ Noon.