

Tompkins County Board of Health
February 28, 2023
12:00 Noon
Rice Conference Room and via Zoom

APPROVED
3.28.23

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

Staff: Elizabeth Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; Brenda Grinnell Crosby, Public Health Administrator; Rachel Buckwalter, Director of Community Health; Samantha Hillson, Director of Health Promotion Program; Dr. William Klepack, Medical Director; Deb Thomas, Director of Children with Special Care Needs; Frank Kruppa, Whole Health Commissioner; Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health; and Skip Par, Environmental Health; and Karan Palazzo, LGU Administrative Assistant.

Excused: Shawna Black

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 January 24, 2023, Minutes: Ms. Merkel moved to approve January 24, 2023, minutes, second by Mr. Ravinder; all were in favor as written.

Financial Summary: Ms. Grinnell Crosby reported that there was no financial summary included in the package as they transition to the 2023 year. Staff continues to work to close the books for the 2022 fiscal year. The County just released the billable fringe rate for 2023 and will have more to report in March.

Administration Report: Mr. Kruppa had nothing to report but was available to answer questions.

Health Promotion Program Report: Ms. Hillson had nothing to add to her written report.

Medical Director's Report and Discussion: Dr. Klepack had nothing to add to his written report included in the packet. He reported that there has been little change regarding COVID and Influenza B is ramping up, as expected. The efficacy of the Covid vaccine to protect people from hospitalization and death continues to be robust particularly if people receive their boosters. He encouraged people to get their bivalent booster vaccination.

Division for Community Health (DCH) Report: Ms. Buckwalter had nothing to add to her written report included in the packet. She announced that an event to promote the MOM's Plus program will be held on Saturday, March 4th from 10 – 2 pm at the Tompkins County Library where attendees can voice their needs and questions about maternal child health and access to services.

Children with Special Care Needs Report: Ms. Thomas had nothing to add to her written report included in the packet.

County Attorney's Report: Mr. Troy was not available.

Community Mental Health Services Board (CSB) Report: Ms. Ayers-Friedlander reported that the CSB discussed the Local Governing Unit (LGU) Mental Hygiene Law receiving Opioid Settlement funds and how to spend the funds. Jana Thibodeau, QAI presented The Annual Incident Review. The review reported a reduction in deaths compared to the prior year; an increase in suicide attempts; and an increase in violent incidents. Areas of improvement are care coordination/co-occurring disorder treatment and care coordination with community providers, building safety, and improving Naloxone distribution.

Mr. Kruppa clarified the two types of funds. The Opioid Settlement Funds are the CSB's responsibility to administer with a pass-through to the City of Ithaca and a tentative plan must be submitted by March 15th. The Opioid Taskforce Funds are the County's responsibility to administer and are more deliberate.

Environmental Health Report: Ms. Cameron reported staffing vacancies for an Administrative Assistant III, a Senior Account Clerk Typist, and a Sr. Environmental Health Specialist. The two support staff vacancies are more challenging to fill due to Civil Service testing rules which will have an impact on the workload. EH approved GrassRoots to sell campsite tickets and many campsites are already sold out. Their tent sales were limited to 75% until they provide more information on how they will handle overflow.

Revised Resolution #EH-ENF-22-0038 – Benjamin Hill Heights MHP, T-Newfield, Request to Extend Deadline of Original Order (MHP) – Dr. Koppel moved to accept the motion as written; seconded by Ms. Merkel.

Ms. Cameron explained that this is a case where the mobile home park needs a booster pump installed but the owner was concerned about installing the booster pump during the winter season. His plumber supported the timing of the installation and EH proposes extending the deadline until March 31, 2023.

The vote to approve the revised resolution as written was unanimous.

Resolution #EH-ENF-22-0051 – ZaZa's Exotics, C-Ithaca, Violation of BOH Orders, and Article 13-F of New York State Public Health Law for Underage Sale of Prohibited Flavored Vapor Product (ATUPA) – Dr. Dhundale moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Dr. Koppel.

Ms. Cameron reported that this is a case of violation of BOH orders, an observed sale to an individual under the age of twenty-one, and the sale of a flavored vapor product. A hearing was held on January 9, 2023, and ZaZa's Exotic did not appear. The hearing officer supports the fine of \$1,750 for the sale of vapor products to a person under the age of 21, a fine of \$350 for the sale of flavored vapor products, and a fine of \$1,500 for violation of BOH orders.

The vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

Resolution #EH-ENF-22-0053 – Bailey Park, T-Danby, Violation of Part 17 of New York State Sanitary Code – Operating without a Permit (MHP) – Mr. Kingra moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Ms. Touchton.

Ms. Cameron explained that this is a case where the mobile home park was operating without a permit. EH proposes a fine of \$500.

The vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

Resolution #EH-ENF-22-0054 – North Applegate Apartments, T-Enfield, Violations of Subpart 5-1 of New York State Sanitary Code (MHP) – Dr. Dhundale moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Ms. Merkel.

Ms. Cameron explained that North Applegate Apartments are regulated as a public water supply with five service units. The public water system was modified without notifying or getting EH’s approval and failing to submit the required sampling and monthly operating reports. EH proposes a penalty of \$1,600 and the submission of required water samples and monthly operating reports.

The vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

Administration:

Administrative Actions:

Board Vacancy Nomination – Mr. Kruppa stated that with the resignation of Dr. Evelyn in December 2022, there is a vacancy for a physician seat. Dr. Evelyn’s successor, Dr. Andrea De Lima is interested in serving on the BOH and her name is being brought before the Board for consideration. She submitted her application to the legislature and the legislature is waiting for a recommendation from the Board on her appointment. Dr. Dhundale and Dr. Koppel support the recommendation of Dr. De Lima to the BOH.

Dr. Moylan recommends Dr. Andrea De Lima to the legislature as the replacement for Dr. Evelyn on the BOH. Dr. Dhundale moved to support the recommendation of Dr. Andrea De Lima to the BOH; seconded by Ms. Merkel.

The vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 28th, 2023 @ Noon.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 12:28 p.m.