

**Tompkins County Board of Health**  
**MINUTES**  
**April 12, 2011**  
**12:00 Noon**  
**Rice Conference Room**

**Present:** Mr. Will Burbank; Dr. Erin Hall-Rhoades; Dr. James Macmillan, President; Mr. Michael McLaughlin, Jr.; and Ms. Janet Morgan

**Staff:** Mrs. Sylvia Allinger, Director of CSCN; Mrs. Liz Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; Mrs. Sigrid Connors, Director of Patient Services; Mrs. Brenda Grinnell Crosby, Public Health Administrator; Dr. William Klepack, Medical Director; Mr. Frank Kruppa, Public Health Director; Mr. Jonathan Wood, County Attorney; and Mrs. Patty Stamm, Administrative Assistant

**Excused:** Dr. William Tyler and Mr. Brooke Greenhouse

**Absent:** Mr. Patrick McKee

**Guests:** Steven Kern, Sr. Public Health Sanitarian; Janice Koski, Public Health Sanitarian; Chris Laverack, Public Health Sanitarian; and Joe Mareane, County Administrator

**Privilege of the Floor:** No one was present for Privilege of the Floor.

Dr. Macmillan called the regular meeting of the Board of Health to order at 12:06 P.M.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Morgan moved to approve the minutes of the March 08, 2011 Board of Health meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Burbank, and carried unanimously.

**Financial Summary:** Mrs. Grinnell Crosby distributed the Final 2010 Financial Summary. She stated the County Financial Director still has a few small corrections to make, but this is relatively close to where the 2010 fiscal year will end. Mrs. Grinnell Crosby added that surplus/deficits have not been calculated yet; these will be done by the Financial Director in late April/May.

She also distributed the March 2011 Financial Summary, adding it does not include the First Quarter Grant Claims and State Aid because they are not filed until sometime late April/early May, however it shows where the Department is expenditure-wise and cash-wise as far as billings and fees, and things received in-house on a regular basis. She added there is nothing out of the ordinary at this point.

Mrs. Grinnell Crosby stated they are working on deciphering the State budget. She added they don't have any information yet on the impact of the federal budget for the Health Department will be.

**Administration Report:** Mrs. Grinnell Crosby reported:

- It's been a busy month preparing for the arrival of Mr. Kruppa, as well as keeping up with all of the ongoing projects in all of the various units.
- They have been working very hard on the CHHA Study, as well as issues in the Environmental Health Division and Children with Special Care Needs Program.

**Medical Director's Report:** Dr. Klepack reported:

- Influenza is diminishing at this time. He added nationwide there have been 91 pediatric age-group deaths this year; New York State has had five pediatric deaths this year to date. CDC statistics show about 400 deaths nationwide. Dr. Klepack expressed disappointment that the public has been somewhat complacent about getting vaccinated during this flu season. He added currently there do not seem to be any surprises for next year's vaccine season.

**Director of Patient Services Report:** Mrs. Connors reported:

- The Environmental Health Division, as well her herself, participated in the Coalition for Safe Medication Disposal collection event on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. She stated the main collection site at TCAT received over 350 vehicles, bicyclists, or walkers. She added for the first time satellite sites were set up in Newfield and Trumansburg with over 80 participants. She stated they are still compiling all of the data.
- The final results of the CHHA analysis have been received. She stated a preliminary meeting was held with Mr. Venesky, Mrs. Grinnell Crosby, Melissa Gatch, Supervising Community Health Nurse, Mr. Mareane, and herself to review the report. Mrs. Grinnell Crosby, Mr. Kruppa, and Mrs. Connors will be meeting with Home Care staff on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, to give them an overview of the analysis and are planning a meeting for all staff so that everybody gets the same information.
- Mrs. Grinnell Crosby reported on a presentation of the consultants' report that is planned for Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will be held by Health & Human Services in the Rice Conference Room. The invitees are the Board, as well as the full Legislature. Jack Venesky will be here to present the report. She added that Board members have received or will be receiving copies of the confidential financial report prior to the meeting.
- Mrs. Grinnell Crosby also reported they are working on hosting a panel discussion sometime the first week in May. Mrs. Connors added this discussion will be objective review of what they know so far about the CHHA Report, the status of the program, as well as the options for the future of the program. Betty Falcao from the Health Planning Council will serve as the moderator. One of the panelists will be Lynn Shannon, a regional representative from the NYSDOH who oversees Long Term Care. She would be available to speak to any regulatory questions. Liz Norton, a retired member of the Long Term Care Services Program at DSS who has a wealth of knowledge about long term care needs in the community, has been invited to join the panel. Mr. Mareane stated one of the options for the CHHA is divesting so he has reached out to other counties to try to provide some perspective on what it's like in a county where this has occurred. He

- stated he is also looking for a vendor who can speak from the perspective of an agency, but a vendor who doesn't want to compete if the decision is made to sell the CHHA, so there is no sales pitch. Mr. Mareane also stated they are looking for the perspective from a county that considered divesting and then chose not to.
- Mrs. Grinnell Crosby stated the time-line following these discussions is that at the May Board of Health meeting, Board members will be able to make a recommendation that will go to the Health & Human Services Committee. Health and Human Services will likely convene a special meeting and make a recommendation to the Legislature. The decision is made by the full Legislature and that will likely happen at the second meeting in May or the first meeting in June to permit planning for 2012.

**Children with Special Care Needs Report:** Mrs. Allinger reported:

- At one point during the month, two nurses, as well as a support staff member, were out on leave, leaving the remaining service coordinators and community health nurses to cover 100 extra cases. She added they currently are down one nurse, leaving 57 extra cases to be covered for this nurse.
- Referrals are still very brisk. She noted referrals seem to be on an upward climb of children on the autism spectrum. Currently, there are nine children on the *autism* spectrum which is hard in terms of the length of case management and the amount of services provided. Mrs. Allinger added that, in general, the cases this year seem to be very complicated medically and other-wise.
- Franziska Racker Centers is going to be moving out of their buildings on Wilkins Road. They encountered a glitch in their building project when they hit an asbestos abatement challenge. Unfortunately, the air handling system within the building did not allow them to close off the building while continuing on with the abatement. The building project has been stopped and now they have to completely move all of their classrooms, support staff and offices, as well as therapists out of the school building for an entire year in order to finish the building project. They have been scrambling to find classrooms which receive the approval of the Office of Children & Family Services approval, as well as SED approval. This is being finalized this week and next. Mrs. Allinger stated this will create some challenges for her program in terms of transportation starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. She added at the end of April she is meeting with administrative officials from the Racker Center, officials from Birnie Bus Transportation Company, and the Ithaca City School District to plan transportation services for the summer throughout the county since classrooms will be scattered throughout the county instead of in one location.
- They have implemented the NYEIS system through the Early Intervention Program in Tompkins County. She added it is slowing processes down, causing staff to do double the amount of work by doing an entire paper system in addition to implementing this electronic database system that isn't quite working properly.
- Effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, New York State passed a 5% decrease in the service provision rates for the Early Intervention Program. She added three or four years ago, there was a 10% decrease in service provision rates. This definitely has an impact on independent contract and agency service providers. Mrs. Allinger did add that

New York State is also looking at regional rates in terms of the amount of time it takes service providers to drive within a county location. Since Tompkins County is more rural, the rates may not be impacted by the 5% due to the anticipated transportation concerns. Mrs. Allinger also added she was notified last week by the Department of Health Bureau of Early Intervention to notify their service providers that, effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, they will not be able to be paid for at least five weeks while the state figures out what the rates will be. Mrs. Allinger will be notifying service providers this week.

**County Attorney's Report:** Mr. Wood stated he had nothing to report. He did state that they got the results from their hearing, which Mrs. Cameron will cover in her enforcement actions.

**Environmental Health Report:** Mrs. Cameron reported:

- They recently hired a Public Health Sanitarian, Eric Shearer, to work in their Healthy Neighborhoods Program. The position has been funded for six months which will be a good addition since one staff member will be going out on maternity leave.
- They currently have a position posted for an Environmental Health Technician to help with their summer work load.
- There have been a number of gas drilling activities going on as people prepare for the release of the revised Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement, likely this summer or early fall.
- She distributed three articles from The New York Times on gas drilling for everyone's reading pleasure.

**Welcome Frank Kruppa, new Public Health Director:** Mr. Mareane thanked Board members for their patience over the past year while going through the process leading up to today's introduction of Frank Kruppa, the new Public Health Director. He also expressed appreciation to the two Board members who were involved in this selection process.

Mr. Mareane also recognized the work of Mrs. Grinnell Crosby, as well as her management team, for their commitment to the mission of this department during a period of transition which included a lot of stress. He added that he spoke on behalf of the Legislature as well in acknowledging and expressing appreciation for all of the efforts of Mrs. Grinnell Crosby and her management team.

Mr. Mareane introduced Mr. Kruppa, stating that he brings a lot of enthusiasm, energy, and new ideas to the county. Mr. Mareane stated Mr. Kruppa will be faced with tough challenges, but added he will have the support of staff, Board of Health members, members of the Legislature, in addition to his own for whatever help they can offer.

Mr. Kruppa thanked Mr. Mareane for the introduction and added he was very excited to be here. He stated he has 10 years of public health service, starting in Environmental Health issuing septic system permits and working his way up from there. His previous position was as an administrator of a small county health department in Central/South Florida. He stated that in the system that he came from he was a state employee, reporting to the state, as well as the Board of County Commissioners

(essentially the County Legislature), so he is very excited to have a Board of Health. He added one of the things that drew him to the position was seeing all of the community partners that are engaged in what is going on in public health. Mr. Kruppa stated he is a big believer that public health doesn't only happen in this building or by the staff in this building; it's a community effort and it needs to be done together. He stated the opportunity to work with a board of professionals out in the community that cannot only help make decisions, but can also be advocates for the mission of public health is something he was very excited about and looking forward to. Mr. Kruppa stated he would hand out his business cards to Board members and encouraged them to call anytime they had questions or concerns.

Mr. Kruppa echoed Mr. Mareane's recognition of Mrs. Grinnell Crosby and her management team and commended them for their leadership during the difficult challenges they have been facing. He added he was looking forward to being a part of the team and hoped he could help alleviate some of the burdens staff has been facing as they go forward.

**Approval of new memberships for the Professional Advisory Committee: Adrian Lucas, Joe Soto, and Robin Soto:** Mrs. Connors reported that the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) is the committee that has oversight for the CHHA.

Ms. Morgan moved to approve the new memberships of Adrian Lucas, Joe Soto, and Robin Soto to the Professional Advisory Committee, seconded by Dr. Hall-Rhoades, and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**Approval to renew memberships for the Professional Advisory Committee: Sorel Gottfried and David Stoyell:** Mrs. Connors reported she had not received Sorel Gottfried's application for the Professional Advisory Committee, so she needed to temporarily withdraw her application.

Ms. Morgan moved to approve the renewal of David Stoyell's (who is currently the PAC Chairperson) membership in the Professional Advisory Committee, seconded by Dr. Hall-Rhoades, and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**Request for Board of Health support of two proclamations: "April 23-30 as National Infant Immunization Week" and "May is Teen Immunization Awareness Month":** Mrs. Connors distributed the final "Proclamation" for the National Infant Immunization Week April 23 – 30, 2011" which, if approved, will be taken to the Legislature on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Burbank moved support of the proclamation for "National Infant Immunization Week April 23 – 30, 2011," seconded by Dr. Hall-Rhoades, and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Connors stated the local Immunization Coalition created the proclamation of "May is Teen Immunization Awareness Month." She added the local Immunization Coalition felt it was important to focus on the need for teenager vaccinations. This is one of the Immunization Coalition's goals for the year to educate the community. She added that, with the approval of the Board, they plan to take this proclamation to the Legislature in May.

Mrs. Morgan moved support of the proclamation for “May is Teen Immunization Awareness Month,” seconded by Mr. Burbank, and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**Regarding Resolutions #10.1.48 and #10.1.46:** Mrs. Cameron introduced staff involved in both of these cases. She stated both of these facilities have a history of not submitting sample results, not submitting monthly operating reports in 2009 or 2010, as well as having problems with their water supplies so that they were under “boil water” orders or notices and did not take actions to correct those violations. Mrs. Cameron added staff went through the normal enforcement process, giving them a notice of violation, setting up an office conference which both failed to attend or to sign the stipulation agreement. An enforcement hearing in front of a Hearing Officer was held for both of these cases. The results of the Hearing Officer’s reports are attached to the resolution. In both cases, the Hearing Officer supported the findings and recommendation of the Health Department, with the exception that a fine of \$1,000 is being proposed which is higher than the \$750 fine which was suggested by the Health Department.

A question was asked about the recourse of the Board if either of the parties fails to pay the penalty, hire a water treatment operator, install a disinfection system in the allotted time, or submit all test results and monthly operation reports. Mr. Kern stated if either of the parties in question fails to pay the penalty, then after the second notice it goes to the County Attorney’s Office for collection. Further, if they don’t comply by the time period given in the orders, the Health Department will continue to reissue “boil water” notices so that the tenants are covered from a public health perspective. The Health Department will also impose a monetary penalty, and give the facility another time frame to come into compliance. He added that the idea for at least one of these customers may be to get out of the business.

**Resolution #10.1.48: Ferguson Apartments and Mobile Homes, T-Lansing; Violation of Part 5 of the NYS Sanitary Code (Water Supply):** Mr. McLaughlin moved to accept the resolution as written, seconded by Ms. Morgan, and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution #10.1.46: Wittko Apartments, T-Dryden; Violation of Part 5 of the NYS Sanitary Code (Water Supply):** Mr. McLaughlin moved to accept the resolution as written, seconded by Ms. Morgan, and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**Adjournment:** Mr. McLaughlin moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:02 P.M.; carried unanimously.