

MINUTES
Tompkins County Board of Health
August 9, 2011
12:00 Noon
Rice Conference Room

Present: Will Burbank; Brooke Greenhouse; James Macmillan, M.D., President; Patrick McKee; Michael McLaughlin, Jr.; and William Tyler, M.D.

Staff: Sylvia Allinger, Director of CSCN; Brenda Grinnell Crosby, Public Health Administrator; Frank Kruppa, Public Health Director; Jonathan Wood, County Attorney; Shelley Comisi, Keyboard Specialist; Patty Stamm, Administrative Assistant; Theresa Lyczko, Director Health Promotion Program

Guests: Steven Kern, Sr. Public Health Sanitarian

Excused: Janet Morgan; Liz Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; Sigrid Connors, Director of Patient Services; and William Klepack, M.D., Medical Director

Absent: Erin Hall-Rhoades, M.D.

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 12:07 P.M.

Approval of July 12, 2011 Minutes: Mr. McLaughlin moved to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2011 Board of Health meeting as written; seconded by Mr. Greenhouse.

Financial Summary: Ms. Grinnell Crosby distributed and reviewed the July 2011 financial summary, which is at about 58% into the fiscal year.

Ms. Grinnell Crosby reported they are still catching up on a lot of the financial requirements of the department, which includes filing of claims. Due to year-end grants, there is significant purchasing going on right now. She added that grant funding is all within budget, county adjustments may be required. Ms. Grinnell Crosby stated that 2nd Quarter State Aid will likely be filed within the next month.

Ms. Grinnell Crosby noted that State Aid will be lost on Emergency Medical Services as of 7/1/11 and in 2012 the Health Department will no longer be involved in the administration; it will be folded within the budget of the Department of Emergency Response. She further stated State Aid will be lost on other programs, but they are still waiting for State guidance.

Ms. Grinnell Crosby stated County Law requires the County to have the services of a Medical Examiner or a Coroner, however, only Medical Examiner programs are eligible for Article VI reimbursement. Public Health has said that it is no longer a public health Article VI reimbursable service effective 7/1/11. Currently the Medical Examiner

program will stay under the Health Department, but without State Aid. Mr. Kruppa added that there are ongoing discussions regarding the future of this program.

Administration Report: Mr. Kruppa reported that Steven Kern will be filling in for Ms. Cameron at today's meeting and Theresa Lyczko will be filling in for Ms. Connors.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Klepack was not at today's meeting, there was nothing to add to his written report.

Division for Community Health: Ms. Lyczko reported:

- *Regarding Home Care staffing:*

As of August 17th, there will be four nurses on staff out of a possible eight positions. The two Team Leaders will each take on a ½ time case load to help with the shortage of staff. There are only four per-diem nurses, but two are only able to work one or two days per month. Home Care has had to refuse referrals due to the staffing shortage.

- *Communicable Disease:*

Since June, there have been eight cases of Pertussis in children ranging in age from six to 12 years. All, with the exception of one from Lansing, are from the Ithaca City School District. All but one had been vaccinated and all experienced a mild illness.

Recently, eight to 10 cases of Lyme Disease have been reported each day to the Health Department since mid to end of June. Most has been locally acquired. Community Health Services has been trying to keep up with the follow-up investigations, however since there are so many cases, they have been looking to the State Health Department for a waiver on these so that they could do a percentage of follow-up investigations. Mr. Kruppa reminded everyone that as of July 1st, the State is no longer accepting ticks for testing. Area medical providers were notified of the local disease incidence, testing and treatment guidelines, and were provided with an updated list of laboratories that will test ticks for the disease. Press releases have also been issued regarding this. Staff at the Health Department have information regarding private laboratories who can test ticks at the expense of the client. Mr. Kruppa also stated many press releases have been issued to heighten public awareness of the presence of ticks and preventive steps to take to prevent Lyme Disease. This has also been on the radio, as well as a front page story in the Ithaca Journal, and is posted on the Health Department's web page.

Children with Special Care Needs: Ms. Allinger stated one of her nurses will be leaving at the end of the month. She added this is a result of the CHHA divestiture. The Team Leader will be assuming the full case load until the divestiture is complete.

County Attorney's Report: Mr. Wood stated he had no report.

He did state he has heard from several people who have been working on the RFP for the CHHA that the Health Department, Frank, and Sigrid are doing an excellent job.

Mr. Kruppa updated everyone on the status of the RFP for the CHHA. It has been sent to the normal proposal listing sites, has been listed in the Legal section of the Ithaca Journal, as well as being posted on the County's web site under "Departments" ... "Purchasing" ... "RFP's." Several dates are now in place: (1) Questions related to the CHHA are due by August 19th; (2) a week to respond to these questions; (3) two weeks after this, on September 9th, the RFP will close. The RFP Committee will convene shortly after this to review those proposals and hopefully make a recommendation to the HHS Committee who will then make a recommendation to the full Legislature for action. The goal is to have legislative action happen in October, which Mr. Kruppa stated is ambitious, however due to the current staffing situation, the quicker the better for the benefit of staff, clients, and the community.

Mr. Kruppa stated they will be working on draft to be sent to the RFP Committee for their approval/comments regarding a process to rank or choose the proper proposal. At this point there is not a final process on how to choose the RFP. Mr. Kruppa added that it's very clear in the RFP that money is not the only criteria; it's about what is best for Tompkins County.

Environmental Health Report: Mr. Kern reported:

- The DEC has announced the comment period for the preliminary revised SGEIS draft for hydraulic hydrofracking is going to be 60 days. This will not start until the socio-economic portion of it is completed, likely early in September.
- The Water Resources Council has sent a letter of concern regarding the composition of the panel who will be putting together the socio-economic and community impact analysis. Community representation has recently been added to this panel; however there are still no DOH, DEC, or consumer members appointed to this committee. There was a discussion at last month's BOH meeting regarding the possibility of the Board of Health sending a letter similar to the one the Water Resources Council sent to the Governor stating their concerns. If this is the case, Ms. Cameron would be happy to draft a similar letter for the Governor on behalf of BOH members. Board members were agreeable to a draft letter being sent to them for comment and then Dr. Macmillan signing the final draft.

Resolution #11.19.12 – Lawrence & Wendy Lyon, T-Dryden, Violation of Tompkins County Sanitary Code, Article VI (Sewage): Mr. Kern reviewed the history and the current status of the Westview Terrace Subdivision.

Mr. Greenhouse moved to accept the resolution as written, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

County Compliance Program: Mr. Kruppa stated the County Compliance Plan is now complete, adding that Board members were required to have a training on this. The County Compliance Plan was included in this month's BOH packets, along with a copy of the Whistleblower Policy and the Exclusion Screening Policy which he reviewed during the slide presentation. Mr. Kruppa provided everyone with a copy of the slides that he would be covering in today's slide presentation which included:

- County Compliance Policy,
- Commitment to Complying with all Federal, State, and Local Laws, Regulations, and Policies,
- Compliance Oversight,
- Compliance Officer and Compliance Committee (Paula Younger, Deputy County Administrator, is the County Corporate Compliance Officer),
- Expectations,
- Detection and Response,
- Protections for Whistleblowers,
- Exclusion Screening

Mr. Kruppa emphasized that the department's responsibility and part of the process of the training is awareness to staff, as well as BOH members, that there is a compliance plan and of their obligation to report any wrongful course of action that violates federal, state, or local laws, regulations, or policy; as well as an obligation to refuse to participate in any wrongful course of action that violates federal, state, or local laws, regulations or policy and where to respond in the case of detection of non-compliance.

Adjourn to Executive Session: At 1:03 P.M. Mr. McLaughlin moved to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the 2012 draft budget, seconded by Mr. Greenhouse, and carried unanimously.

Out of Executive Session: At 1:43 P.M. Mr. Burbank moved to adjourn from Executive Session with no action taken, seconded by Mr. Greenhouse, and carried unanimously.

Adjournment: At 1:44 P.M. Mr. Burbank moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Greenhouse, and carried unanimously.