

MINUTES
Tompkins County Board of Health
August 14, 2012
12:00 Noon
Rice Conference Room

- Present:** Amy DiFabio, MD; Brooke Greenhouse; James Macmillan, MD, President; Patrick McKee; Michael McLaughlin, Jr.; and Janet Morgan, PhD
- Staff:** Sylvia Allinger, Director of CSCN; Liz Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; Sigrid Connors, Director of Patient Services; Brenda Grinnell Crosby, Public Health Administrator; William Klepack, MD, Medical Director; Frank Kruppa, Public Health Director; and Shelley Comisi, Keyboard Specialist
- Excused:** Will Burbank; Patricia Meinhardt, MD; and Jonathan Wood, County Attorney
- Guests:** Carol Chase, Sr. Public Health Sanitarian; and Steven Kern, Sr. Public Health Sanitarian

Dr. Macmillan called the regular meeting of the Board of Health to order at 12:02 p.m.

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

Approval of July 10, 2012 Minutes: Mr. Greenhouse moved to accept the minutes of the July 10, 2012 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, and carried unanimously.

Financial Summary: Ms. Grinnell Crosby stated there is no financial report since the past month was spent fine tuning and submitting the 2013 budget. Currently, staff is working on the 2nd Quarter State Aid claim and reconciling the July statement. There is nothing out of the ordinary to report.

Administration Report: Mr. Kruppa reported:

- The Health Department is in the process of signing a contract with Dr. Pamela Mischen from Binghamton University to provide guidance for our strategic planning process. Her group has significant government experience with these initiatives and has worked with the Broome County Health Department. The goal is to develop a strategic plan with input from stakeholders, staff, Board of Health members, and County Legislators regarding the future direction of the Department. The intended completion date is the end of the year. As part of the process, Dr. Mischen will meet with the Senior Leadership Team and will attend the meeting on September 7th to outline the process to all departmental staff members. Input will be gathered by surveys distributed to stakeholder groups and by

face-to-face feedback opportunities. The Board should be thinking about providing input either individually or as a group.

- As the State Department of Health moves forward with accreditation, having a strategic plan is one piece of that process. The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) assists local health departments preparing for accreditation. The three prerequisites include an agency strategic plan, a current community health assessment (CHA), and a community health improvement plan (CHIP).
- A copy of the final adopted Bylaws has been distributed. After the Board approved the Bylaws, the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee made some minor edits, and the full Legislature approved both the Charter and the new Bylaws. The Department is now in compliance with the Licensed Home Care Services Agency (LHCSA) licensing requirements. No significant changes were made that impacted the document.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Klepack updated his report by noting the officials of the Village of Haverstraw have decided not to pursue their ban on tobacco marketing. There was concern the Village did not have the resources to defend itself against the lawsuit initiated by the tobacco companies.

Division for Community Health Report: Ms. Connors distributed a copy of the *Tobacco Free Tompkins* monthly newsletter and noted the link at the top of the handout (<http://bit.ly/Tfree-Signup>). The Tobacco Free Tompkins program has been invited to make a presentation on current activities at the October Board of Health meeting.

Highlights from questions/discussion among Board Members regarding reportable diseases:
3 cases of syphilis were reported.

- There was one positive HIV antibody test at the anonymous clinic. When positive, the individual receives another blood test to confirm the result, followed by a meeting with staff to discuss providers, services, and resources available in the community.
- Arnot Ogden Medical Center operates a clinic out of the Ithaca Free Clinic specializing in HIV and AIDS treatment.
- Since HIV is not included on the list of communicable diseases, there is a separate stream for reporting HIV; it is reported to the AIDS Institute. This began decades ago because of the stigma attached to the diagnosis. There has been some pressure to make this a standard reportable STD.
- Currently, HIV testing is being pushed as a routine test by the CDC.
- NYSDOH has regional staff investigating possible HIV positivity incidents.
- Routine hepatitis C screening has recently been added at point of care using a swab technique. This screening is recommended especially for the baby boom cohort.

Discussion on the Maternal Child Services statistics:

- It was noted there was a decrease in the number of antepartum home visits as compared to a year ago. This occurred due to staffing shortages. Those numbers will begin to increase in July as former Home Care nurses are completing their orientation to Community Health Services and are making more home visits.

Children with Special Care Needs Report: Ms. Allinger reported:

- There have been some nursing staff changes. Jared Jones will be retiring next month; permission was granted to fill the position. Additionally, there are two new nurses in the Early Intervention Program. Kim Petrillo is well into her orientation as a Service Coordinator, and Cindy LaLonde has returned to the Department in a new role as an Initial Service Coordinator.
- It has been an interesting few months with support staff. There was a time when there was one support person working out of a staff of four. The staff shortage affected our ability to keep up with business. She acknowledged and thanked staff in Administration: Brenda Grinnell Crosby, Frank Kruppa, Karen Johnson, Margaret Taber, and Shelley Comisi for “stepping up to the plate” with support or by physically helping with the workload. It has made a huge difference.
- The New York Early Intervention System (NYEIS) in the Early Intervention Program has a number of problems. Months ago the Division opted for the moratorium offered by the State. The moratorium has been extended indefinitely and will continue until the State takes over the billing responsibilities with therapists and service providers.
- The past few days have been spent with staff organizing fall transportation which is a significant amount of work. When completed, staff will begin checking the documentation for starting fall services.

County Attorney’s Report: Mr. Wood was not present at the meeting.

Environmental Health Report: Ms. Cameron reported:

- An additional application of the herbicide fluridone is being applied to the Cayuga Inlet to control hydrilla. To maintain the necessary levels of herbicide, fluridone pellets are being added in areas with low levels of the liquid (drip) herbicide.

Bath Salts Resolution – draft for discussion: Mr. Kruppa stated the language for the proposed resolution was received from the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC). Last week, the NYSDOH issued emergency regulations banning the possession of bath salts and synthetic cannabinoids. After the NYSDOH received approval from the Health Planning Council in Albany, there was a conference call with the Department. Staff from Environmental Health identified facilities and served notice to them regarding the emergency regulations. The Department was instructed not to be an investigatory agency on this particular issue.

Mr. Kruppa explained the new regulations have extended civil penalties as well as criminal penalties. As a State Sanitary Code, the Board has the authority to enforce it with fines up to \$2,000. There is an issue with testing the product. The State Police Lab is the only one with the capacity, and that slows the process. Wadsworth Public Health Laboratory is working on creating the capacity themselves, but that will take time. With criminal enforcement, there will be some lag with the testing, but local law enforcement is aware of the situation.

NYSAC is asking local counties to support the effort to get the law passed. It speaks to two pieces of legislation in Albany that will hopefully move forward in the next session.

Mr. Kruppa recommended a change in the 7th paragraph due to the new emergency regulations: “WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Health in New York State issued an Order for Summary Action to Ban the Sale and Distribution of Designer Drugs Commonly Packaged and Marketed as Bath Salts on May 20, 2011, *the New York State Public Health and Health Planning Council enacted emergency regulations to ban the possession and distribution of designer drugs with increased civil and criminal penalties on August 7, 2012*; and”

Dr. Klepack suggested removing “to” in the 10th paragraph so the resolution reads: “WHEREAS, these facts support the assertion that these substances pose a significant...”

Discussion among Board Members regarding the resolution:

- Testing is on the substance rather than the user.
- The new regulation bans possession which includes shop owners and employees. With the penalty at \$250 per packet, the goal is to encourage legitimate business people to end the possession and distribution of these substances.
- Ultimately, this would be a resolution of the Legislature with the support of HHS and the BOH.

Mr. McLaughlin moved to approve the amended resolution, seconded by Dr. Macmillan, and carried unanimously.

Resolution #12.9.13 – CC’s, Jian Wang – Owner/Operator, C-Ithaca, Violation of Part 14-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Food Service): Ms. Cameron noted CC’s is located in Collegetown. The owner changed locations, but did not have the permit in place before opening the new restaurant. Ms. Wang was aware she needed a new permit when she moved the business.

Dr. Morgan moved to accept the resolution as written, seconded by Mr. Greenhouse, and carried unanimously.

Resolution #12.10.19 – Country Club of Ithaca Snack Bar, Thomas Smith – General Manager, T-Ithaca, Violation of Part 14-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Food Service):

Resolution #12.9.18 – Country Club of Ithaca, Thomas Smith – General Manager, T-Ithaca, Violation of Part 14-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Food Service):

Ms. Cameron stated the Country Club of Ithaca was cited for operating both food establishments without permits. These two facilities are located in different buildings.

Mr. Greenhouse moved to accept both resolutions as written, seconded by Dr. Morgan, and carried unanimously.

Resolution #12.17.17 – Meadowbrook Park Mobile Home Park, Ellen Weinstein – Owner/Operator, T-Newfield, Violation of Part 17 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Mobile Home Parks) and Article VI of the Tompkins County Sanitary Code (Sewage):

Ms. Cameron reported the facility is in compliance with the 2nd and 3rd requirements of the resolution by having the septic tank pumped and installing an alarm system.

Mr. McLaughlin moved to accept the resolution as written, seconded by Dr. Morgan, and carried unanimously.

Adjourn to Executive Session: At 12:38 p.m. Mr. McLaughlin moved to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the proposed 2013 budget, seconded by Mr. McKee, and carried unanimously.

Out of Executive Session: At 12:49 p.m. Mr. McLaughlin moved to adjourn from Executive Session, seconded by Mr. McKee, and carried unanimously.

Adjournment: At 12:50 p.m. Mr. Greenhouse moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, and carried unanimously.