

**Tompkins County Board of Health**  
**January 26, 2016**  
**12:00 Noon**  
**Rice Conference Room**

**Present:** Will Burbank; James Macmillan, MD, President; Michael McLaughlin, Jr.; Susan Merkel; and Janet Morgan, PhD

**Staff:** Karen Bishop, Director of Community Health; Liz Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; Brenda Grinnell Crosby, Public Health Administrator; William Klepack, MD, Medical Director; Deb Thomas, Senior Community Health Nurse in CSCN; Jonathan Wood, County Attorney; and Shelley Comisi, Keyboard Specialist

**Excused:** Sylvia Allinger, Director of CSCN; David Evelyn, MD, MPH, Board of Health Member; Brooke Greenhouse, Board of Health Member; Edward Koppel, MD, Board of Health Member; and Frank Kruppa, Public Health Director

**Guests:** Susan Dunlop, Community Health Nurse; Amy Hopkins, Community Health Nurse; Theresa Lyczko, Director of Health Promotion Program; and Ted Schiele, Planner/Evaluator

**Call to Order:** Dr. Macmillan called the regular meeting of the Board of Health (BOH) to order at 12:01 p.m.

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

**Introductions:** Dr. Macmillan asked Tompkins County Health Department (TCHD) staff members who were guests at the meeting to introduce themselves to the Board.

- Amy Hopkins is a nurse and new staff member working in Community Health Services (CHS).
- Ted Schiele is Coordinator of Tobacco Free Tompkins and staff member in the Health Promotion Program (HPP).
- Theresa Lyczko is Director of HPP.
- Susan Dunlop is a nurse in HPP.

**Approval of December 1, 2015 Minutes:** Ms. Merkel moved to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2015 meeting as written; seconded by Mr. McLaughlin. The minutes carried with Dr. Morgan abstaining.

**Financial Summary:** Ms. Grinnell Crosby explained there is no financial summary in the packet due to technical difficulties with the system. Kevin McGuire in County Administration is working on the glitches. With the end of the fiscal year, staff is working to close the 2015 financial records and to file the final State Aid claim by the end of February. In addition, staff is preparing the 2016 State Aid application.

**Administration Report:** Ms. Grinnell Crosby represented Mr. Kruppa who was interviewing candidates for the Deputy Mental Health Commissioner position.

Referring to the third bullet in Mr. Kruppa's report, Dr. Macmillan expressed interest in hearing more about the possibility of collaboration between the Community Services Board (CSB) and the BOH. Board members discussed the purpose and direction of that collaboration. Mr. McLaughlin thought the focus should be on the positives that could come from interaction between Public Health and Mental Health departments. Building on that, Mr. Burbank noted the two boards are key parts of the departments. He pointed out there are areas of commonality but different areas of responsibility. Ms. Merkel felt it would be helpful to start with presentations that provide an overview of each department. She is interested in learning about the Mental Health Department and how it connects with other mental health groups in the county. There will be further discussion at the February meeting.

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

- In the most recent reporting period, influenza cases have ticked upward. The status of influenza has changed from sporadic to localized. This year the viruses circulating are a good match for the vaccine that was administered.
- Area practitioners are seeing a significant number of cases of a respiratory disease associated with another virus type.
- With the Zika virus currently in the news, he thought it was important to read the report he was preparing for next month's Board meeting (Attachment 1). He also handed out a poster from the New York City Health Department that advises pregnant women to consider delaying travel to a country affected by the disease because the Zika virus is a special risk to them (Attachment 2). TCHD has sent information about the disease to area practitioners and colleges. There is no commercial testing available; it can only be done at Wadsworth laboratories. When a practitioner has a suspect case, TCHD determines whether or not the case should be sent to Wadsworth for testing and arranges for specimens to be submitted.

Dr. Klepack responded to questions from Board members regarding the Zika virus:

- The virus is transmitted by mosquitoes so the media's emphasis has been to encourage people to take more precautions against mosquitoes. There are other diseases transmitted by mosquitoes so there are multiple reasons to be cautious about mosquitoes.
- There are different techniques to control mosquitoes, e.g. releasing sterile mosquitoes to stop replication of the mosquito population.

**Division for Community Health Report:** Ms. Bishop reported:

- Community Health Services (CHS) staff has been sharing Zika virus information and flyers received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with area healthcare providers.
- The goals and objectives of our local Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program are reviewed by regional WIC staff. It is exceptional that our program ranks first in 6 out of the 12 objectives. It also ranks second of all WIC programs in New York State for prenatal enrollment in the first trimester. That particular finding is a direct result of ongoing collaboration between our Medicaid Obstetrical Maternal Services (MOMS) program and our WIC program. Dr. Macmillan offered congratulations on behalf of the Board.

**Health Promotion Program Report:** Ms. Grinnell Crosby announced HPP is now a part of Administration and invited Ms. Lyczko to speak about her program. Ms. Lyczko explained her team promotes other programs at TCHD; manages the departmental website; provides public information on behalf of the department; offers the CDC's Diabetes Prevention Program; produces the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan; and coordinates the tobacco control program in Tompkins County. Her monthly report covers some of the details of these program areas. She welcomes questions from the Board anytime.

**Children with Special Care Needs Report:** Ms. Thomas, Senior Community Health Nurse, represented Ms. Allinger at the meeting. She had nothing to add to the report.

**County Attorney's Report:** Mr. Wood had nothing to report.

**Environmental Health Report:** Ms. Cameron directed attention to the letter written by the engineering group on behalf of the Village of Dryden. It is apparent that the Village will not make the next deadline in the current Time Table of Compliance but has been actively working to correct the issues with its public water system. One reason for the delay was a change in the project manager. She will bring a new proposed schedule to the Board in February. The Village's need for an extension is valid. It is a complicated project with numerous agencies involved.

**Resolution ENF-15-0023 – Michael Morris, 2374 Mecklenburg Road, T-Enfield, Violation of Article VI of the Tompkins County Sanitary Code (Sewage):** Ms. Cameron noted this property was before the Board several years ago due to a failed sewage system. When the property changed hands, the new owner did not replace the system. Initially the sewage system did not fail so there was no violation. That is no longer the case. During a field visit, staff observed sewage on the ground surface. Staff has been working with the owner as he needs to arrange financing. The owner is agreeable to the proposed draft resolution requiring him to pump the septic tank and replace the sewage system by April 15, 2016. Staff continues to monitor the site.

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

**Selection of 2016 Officers:** The gavel was passed from Dr. Macmillan to Ms. Grinnell Crosby. The floor was opened for nominations for President and Vice President of the BOH. Mr. Burbank moved to recommend Dr. Macmillan continue serving as President and Mr. McLaughlin continue serving as Vice President; seconded by Ms. Merkel. Both members were agreeable to serving another year as officers of the BOH. The vote was in favor of Dr. Macmillan serving as President and Mr. McLaughlin serving as Vice President of the BOH for 2016. The gavel was passed back to Dr. Macmillan.

**Presentation – Local Licensing of Tobacco Retailers:** Ted Schiele of the Health Promotion Program briefed the Board on Mayor Svante Myrick’s Municipal Drug Policy Committee that was formed for the purpose of establishing broad policies for dealing with drug issues in the City of Ithaca. Four subcommittees referred to as pillars were created to look at prevention, law enforcement, treatment, and harm reduction. The directive to the four subcommittees was to establish a report of recommendations that would be written into the final report for the Municipal Drug Policy Committee. That report is due to come out soon.

Serving on the Prevention Pillar, Mr. Schiele was involved in developing the recommendation calling for local licensing of retailers who sell tobacco products, smoking paraphernalia, and ENDS. The prevention aspect is to limit access to the product through restricting the number and location of outlets. This has been done with alcohol so that concept could be applied to tobacco as well. Data exists that supports these prevention measures. It is unclear whether or not the recommendation will be in the final report.

When asked if the Board should make a statement of support, Mr. Schiele emphasized that his presentation was intended to be educational. There may be an opportunity to discuss this further at another time. Dr. Macmillan thanked him for his presentation.

**Adjournment:** At 1:14 p.m. Dr. Macmillan adjourned the meeting.