

MINUTES

Tompkins County Board of Health

July 26, 2016

12:00 Noon

Rice Conference Room

Present: Will Burbank; David Evelyn, MD, MPH; Brooke Greenhouse; Edward Koppel, MD; James Macmillan, MD, President; and Susan Merkel

Staff: Karen Bishop, Director of Community Health; Liz Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; Brenda Grinnell Crosby, Public Health Administrator; William Klepack, MD, Medical Director; Frank Kruppa, Public Health Director; Jonathan Wood, County Attorney; and Shelley Comisi, Administrative Assistant II

Excused: Michael McLaughlin, Jr., Board of Health Member; Janet Morgan, PhD, Board of Health Member; and Deb Thomas, Senior Community Health Nurse in CSCN

Guests: Skip Parr, Senior Public Health Sanitarian

Call to Order: Dr. Macmillan called the regular meeting of the Board of Health (BOH) to order at 12:00 p.m.

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

Approval of June 28, 2016 Minutes: Mr. Burbank moved to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2016 meeting as written; seconded by Ms. Merkel; and carried unanimously.

Financial Summary: Ms. Grinnell Crosby spent most of the month working on the budget which has been submitted to County Administrator Joe Mareane. There was some tweaking but no fundamental changes to the preliminary draft budget that was presented to the Board last month. Mr. Kruppa reminded Board members there had been a \$15,000 difference that has been reduced to zero to reach the fiscal target. A meeting has been scheduled with Mr. Mareane to review the Public Health budget.

In the current fiscal year budget, the department is holding its own. Expenditures do not seem out of line. Revenues continue to improve in the Community Health Services (CHS) Division.

Administration Report: Mr. Kruppa provided updates:

- In July, he attended the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) conference. The theme, “Cultivating a Culture of Health Equity,” focused on how public health can be a part of that conversation. One topic receiving a fair amount of discussion was mass incarceration and its negative impacts. When he travels to conferences, he realizes how fortunate we are to live in a community that has resources and is open and receptive to these issues. Many of his colleagues do not have that same benefit.
- Nina Saeli and her preparedness team have been implementing our Zika risk communications plan that includes the State requirement to target travelers. A special commendation to Ms. Saeli and her staff and Airport Manager Mike Hall and his staff who have been working together. Airport personnel have been open to working with us around communication on Zika and other public health issues of importance to travelers. They have agreed to put up signage, place flyers throughout the airport, and provide a long-term public health messaging center. On another front, Ms. Saeli’s team has been working with parks and recreation groups to promote Zika signage but only two groups have expressed interest. The effort will continue.

Medical Director’s Report: Dr. Klepack directed attention to the BOH packet where he posted his reflections upon being inducted into the Tompkins County 25 Year Club. It was a pleasant evening. Addresses from Mr. Kruppa and Mr. Mareane were uplifting for county morale.

Division for Community Health Report: Ms. Bishop reported:

- Congratulations to Lori Sibley, Senior Community Health Nurse, who was recognized as *Public Health Works!* Honor Award recipient.
- There are two staff openings in our Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program: the Director and a program nutritionist. Both positions have been posted. In the interim, she will fill the position of WIC Director.
- Another Zika positive case was diagnosed this week. The female was not pregnant and has recovered; transmission occurred from travel to Mexico. All of the cases to date have been related to travel.
- Staff is currently working to identify contacts to a potential meningococcal disease case. All of the lab specimens have not come back conclusive, but there is sufficient information to prompt public health action.

Ms. Bishop answered questions:

- Under Public Health Law, local health departments are charged with tracking and conducting surveillance on more than 60 plus reportable diseases. When preliminary or confirmatory laboratory results are received, the health department is directed to take certain steps to protect the general public health. For meningococcal disease, staff tries to identify those individuals who have been in close proximity (shared a drink or cigarette; kissed or engaged in any activity where saliva was exchanged) going back 10 days prior to the onset of symptoms. When the primary index case is not able to give us that history,

then staff interviews family and household contacts to help piece that information together.

- Children are required to be tested for lead at age one and again at age two during their visits to the doctor. When positive lab results are reported to TCHD, our staff visits the home to conduct an assessment and reports back to the physician.

Children with Special Care Needs Report: Ms. Thomas was not present for the meeting.

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

Environmental Health Report: Ms. Cameron reported on several topics:

Topic 1: The GrassRoots Festival has concluded. This year there was a Culture Camp before the main event which included music workshops and camping. Although staff received late notice about these additional activities, they were able to process the required permits. One problem was the discovery of E. coli in one of the water lines of their public water system. It was cleared up before the festival began on Thursday. There were also food violations that will be brought to the Board at a future meeting.

Topic 2: Hydrilla treatments using fluridone have started in the Cayuga Inlet. Treatment in Fall Creek is expected to begin in August.

Topic 3: The City of Ithaca has been experiencing discolored drinking water issues within its water system. Several factors are combining to affect water quality issues: the City has a new water treatment plant that requires adjustments in chemical feeds; the drought has caused record low flows in Six Mile Creek so groundwater which is higher in iron and manganese than surface water is making up a higher percentage of the flow in the creek; residents are drawing more water for their lawns causing the velocity through the City's hundred-year old pipes to dislodge rust and other deposits; and the hotter water temperature is also dissolving the rust inside the pipes. TCHD staff has been meeting and working with the City. Treatment has been added at the Six Mile dam to knock out the iron and manganese, and corrosion inhibitor that cleans and coats the pipes is being added at the water treatment plant. Water samples have been collected. Staff is waiting for the test results. All indications are that the iron and manganese are the main concerns.

Ms. Cameron answered questions from Board members regarding the discolored water:

- The water is being tested. From a health perspective, there needs to be high concentrations of manganese to be an issue and any lead would be a short term exposure. As for chlorine in the water and any potential for bacteria growth, every place where the City is flushing, the crew has been able to smell the chlorine. A slight discoloration is acceptable.

- Regarding complaints about the taste of the water coming from Bolton Point, the water system has not experienced changes in water quality and she is not aware of any changes in their system.

Topic 4: In response to the severe drought situation, TCHD has been meeting and working with the three large water suppliers: Cornell, City of Ithaca and Bolton Point. She passed around the *Water Conservation Advisory for Tompkins County* (Attachment 1) that was released by TCHD. About two weeks ago, the water flow in Fall Creek, the water source for Cornell, was at record lows. This generated a similar concern about Six Mile Creek, the water source for the City. Cornell issued voluntary conservation measures about two weeks ago and is looking at issuing mandatory water conservation measures. All three water supplies can share water but Bolton Point is already near peak production. If the drought continues as students return in August, the water systems will not be able to meet the increased demand. Consequently, TCHD issued the county-wide water conservation advisory. Additional measures are being considered.

Ms. Cameron passed around a page of graphs: *Flow at Six Mile Creek and Fall Creek – source water for Cornell and the City of Ithaca – July 27, 2016* (Attachment 2). The yellow triangles represent the median daily flow. The rain yesterday pushed Six Mile Creek into the normal range but it is already dropping. The impact on Fall Creek was not noticeable because it is a larger watershed area. Yesterday, the water stopped flowing over the dam, which indicates the City was withdrawing more water than the amount of water that was entering the reservoir.

During the follow-up conversation with Board members, Ms. Cameron explained there are discussions taking place to consider the next steps. Options within the City of Ithaca were discussed during a conference call with the City of Ithaca, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Health, and New York State Parks (the largest water user). The City is looking at the possibility of taking water from the inlet for non-potable irrigation. With hydrilla treatment in progress, TCHD will be closely monitoring the situation in the inlet.

Mr. Kruppa added stakeholders are mindful not to create unnecessary panic but to be clear about the severity of the issue. In addition to Ms. Cameron and her team meeting with key partners, County departments are meeting internally to talk about options. There will be additional public information released to explain the severity of the situation along with a strongly worded advisory. Another level would be to take action from a regulatory standpoint. Our staff will be meeting with County Attorney Jonathan Wood to discuss who has the authority and how it would be implemented. Mr. Kruppa concluded by acknowledging the great job Ms. Cameron and her team have done to keep on top of the situation.

So far, Ms. Cameron noted her staff has not received many calls from the public regarding individual wells running out of water. For individuals bringing water onto their property, there are concerns about maintaining the integrity of the water. Staff has created a drought webpage (the link is in the press release) that has useful information. There is a section that specifically addresses certified water haulers.

Topic 5: Ms. Cameron concluded her report by sharing two letters of appreciation that Environmental Health (EH) has received for the Healthy Neighborhoods Program.

Additional Discussion: Dr. Evelyn requested an update on the John Joseph Inn & Elizabeth Restaurant water situation that was discussed at the previous Board meeting. Mr. Parr has had interaction with the owner who wants to get his system back in compliance. Although the owner missed the BOH deadline to hire a water specialist, he has contacted Lowe's and they are going to set up a monthly schedule to maintain the water system. Mr. Parr also tested one of the wells last week and has not received any notification from the lab that there is a problem.

Resolution ENF-16-0012 – Macarollin Food Truck, C-Ithaca, Repeat Violations of Subpart 14-4 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Food):

Resolution ENF-16-0013 – Taste of Thai Express, C-Ithaca, Repeat Violations of Subpart 14-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Food):

Resolution ENF-16-0014 – Blue Moon Catering Kitchen, C-Ithaca, Repeat Violations of Subpart 14-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Food):

Resolution ENF-16-0015 – Common's Market, C-Ithaca, Violation of Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA):

Ms. Cameron briefed the Board on the four aforementioned resolutions. The first three violations occurred during the Ithaca Festival. Macarollin Food Truck and Blue Moon Catering Kitchen had food out of temperature. Food workers at Taste of Thai Express were observed having bare hand contact with food. Common's Market was in violation of ATUPA.

Dr. Koppel moved to accept the four aforementioned resolutions as written; seconded by Dr. Macmillan.

Dr. Koppel asked for an explanation of the point system used in the ATUPA. Mr. Parr explained the setup in the regulation. With a tobacco sale to a minor, the business is assessed two points. At three or more points, the business loses its license to sell tobacco and its lottery license is suspended for a period of time. The business can reduce the number of points if proof can be provided that the cashier who made the sale was trained. The point reduction would go from two to one. If the business had subsequent sales, then it could potentially have up to three sales as opposed to two before losing its license to sell tobacco or lottery tickets.

Mr. Burbank referred to the Blue Moon Catering case summary that mentioned "potentially hazardous foods were not made using pre-chilled ingredients." He wondered if fresh ingredients were required to be chilled or could some fresh food items be prepared and served without that step. Ms. Cameron replied most food ingredients need to be kept cool or hot to allow time for preparation. Some fresh items like bananas would be the exception.

Adjournment: At 12:44 p.m. Dr. Macmillan moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Greenhouse; and carried unanimously.