

Tompkins County Board of Health
June 25, 2024
12:00 Noon
Rice Conference Room and via Zoom

Minutes Approved
August 27, 2024

Present: Shawna Black; Andreia de Lima, MD; Susan Merkel; Samara Touchton; and Edward Koppel, MD.

Staff: Frank Kruppa, Commissioner; Brenda Grinnell Crosby, Deputy Public Health Director; Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health Services; Dr. William Klepack, Medical Director; Samantha Hillson, Director of Health Promotion Program; Elizabeth Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; Zoe Lincoln, Whole Health Planner; and Karan Palazzo, LGU Administrative Assistant.

Excused: Christina Moylan, Ph.D., President; Melissa Dhundale, MD, Vice-President; and Ravinder Kingra.

Guests: Anthony Pitts, Holiday Inn Express; Tamrie Oliver, TCWH Community Health Worker; Kathryn Gaddie, TCWH Public Health Intern

Call to Order: Ms. Black called the regular meeting of the Board of Health (BOH) to order at noon.

Privilege of the Floor: Anthony Pitts, Assistant General Manager at Holiday Inn Express in Ithaca informed the Board that he is responsible for the operation of the pool in addition to several other responsibilities. He was made aware that he needed to take a test to be a pool-certified operator to continue to maintain the pool. He took the test in May but unfortunately did not pass and is scheduled to retake it on July 12th.

Approval of April 22, 2024, and May 28, 2024, Minutes: Dr. Koppel moved to approve April 22, 2024, and May 28, 2024, minutes; second by Ms. Merkel. All were in favor of approving the April 22, 2024, and May 28, 2024, minutes as written; with 2 members abstaining; and the motion carried.

Financial Summary: Mr. Kruppa reported on behalf of Mr. Porter. He said there was nothing out of the ordinary to report and the financials are on track.

Medical Director's Report and Discussion: In addition to his written report Dr. Klepack reported that no Avian influenza cases have been reported in New York State as of the date of the board meeting.

Regarding our substance use crisis and overdose deaths, he mentioned that he presented at the Ithaca Rotary about harm reduction as a concept in public health strategy. He believes the presentation was well received. He received questions from the audience about the future of the detoxification center on Triphammer Road and CARS's relationship to harm reduction.

Administration Report: Mr. Kruppa reported that they are in the midst of the budget season. The BOH does not have jurisdiction over the budget but policy jurisdiction which influences the budget. The maintenance of effort budget was submitted into the system last week. They are working on a 5%

reduction budget which is due July 8th. The 5% reduction is only the County portion which is \$300,000. The reduction will not affect any existing staff or existing programs. The two vacant Community Health Nurse positions will be included in the 5% reduction with the rest coming from operational lines. The Legislature makes final budget approvals in November. The budget will be public when the County Administrator submits the budget to the legislature early in September and available for all on the website.

Division for Community Health (DCH) Report: Ms. Buckwalter had nothing to add to her written report included in the packet.

Health Promotion Program Report: Ms. Hillson introduced Tamrie Oliver who is a new community health worker and working in HIP (Healthy Infants Partnership)/Perinatal and Infant Community Health Collaborative (PICH) program. She also introduced Kathryn Gaddie who is in her second year of Cornell's MPH program working with TCWH as a summer intern. A mural is being painted downtown commemorating community public health efforts and honoring those we lost to COVID-19.

Children with Special Care Needs (CSCN) Report: Ms. Clark Manderville reported that the Legislature passed their resolution last week for the OTR funds to be used to offer stipends and recruit and retain providers. They are onboarding a new speech pathologist who will start July 22nd.

Environmental Health (EH) Report: Ms. Cameron reported that she approved the City of Ithaca's final work plan (copies provided) in response to the notice of violation in the encampment area. The City has completed phases 1 and 2 of the 3-phase work plan. Phase 3 is planned to be completed in the fall after receiving permits from NYSDOH and when the water levels are low. The final report will be released shortly in response to a FOIL request.

Outreach workers had informed individuals of the notice of violation before it was issued, and no individuals were found in the area when the City began clean-up activities. Ms. Cameron will meet with city officials over the summer to discuss their new policy and conduct an assessment of the situation.

The installation of fences close to the railroad bridge should discourage individuals from bringing large items (e.g., shopping carts) into the area again. The Railroad has a physical presence in the area and is aware if there are any changes on the property. The City and the Railroad worked closely together on this issue. The City will use the Encampment Response Protocol if anyone is found camping in the area.

There was a lengthy conversation about hard-to-house individuals, housing, and shelter situations. It is a significant community concern that is being addressed by many key players in the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Enforcement Actions:

Draft Resolution #EH-ENF-24-0006 - Brew 22 Coffee and Espresso, Violations of Subparts 5-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Public Water) (Postponed from April and May – penalty deadline modified) (5 mins.) – Dr. Koppel moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Dr. de Lima.

Ms. Cameron explained that this was a violation of previous BOH orders and explained that the proposed penalty of \$8,700 is due to several violations including missing samples, failure to notify EH, and submitting falsified laboratory reports.

All were in favor; the vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

Draft Resolution #EH-ENF-24-0003 - Hanshaw Village MHP, Violation of Part 17 & Subpart 5-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Mobile Home Park/Public Water) (Postponed from May – deadlines modified) (5 mins.) – Ms. Touchton moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Dr. Koppel.

Ms. Cameron explained that this was a violation of the NYS Sanitary Code for Water Supply. The current resolution contains various modifications to provide adequate drinking water. A stipulation agreement was signed by Hanshaw Village MHP which included the deadline requirements. The \$1,500 proposed penalty was extended to August 15, 2024, to accommodate approval at today's meeting.

All were in favor; the vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

Draft Resolution #EH-ENF-24-0008 - D.P. Dough Ithaca, Violations of Subparts 14-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Food Service) – Ms. Merkel moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Ms. Touchton.

Ms. Cameron explained that this is a violation of the NYS Food Service Sanitary Code for failing to provide food thermometers to accurately evaluate food temperatures. Environmental Health proposes a penalty of \$400 due August 15, 2024.

All were in favor; the vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

Draft Resolution #EH-ENF-24-0009 - Holiday Inn Express Pool - Violations of Board of Health Orders and Subpart 6-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Swimming Pool) – Ms. Touchton moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Merkel.

Ms. Cameron explained that this was a violation of previous BOH orders. Holiday Inn Express failed to comply with previous requirements to obtain pool operator certification. Environmental Health proposed a penalty of \$250 due August 15, 2024, plus an additional \$250 if the pool certification is not obtained and submitted to EH. She noted that pool inspections indicate that the pool is being operated correctly.

All were in favor; the vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

ADMINISTRATION:

EH Refund Policy (Postponed from May) – Ms. Cameron explained that the \$25 refund processing fee is being removed from the refund policy for administrative efficiency.

Dr. de Lima moved to accept the proposal as written; seconded by Dr. Koppel. All were in favor; the vote to approve the policy as written was unanimous.

EH Division Fees for 2025 (Postponed from May) – Ms. Camerson explained that this is for the Board’s information and will be approved by the County as part of the budget process. No approval is needed but it is an opportunity for the Board to ask questions or provide comments.

She referred to “Revised Recommended Environmental Health Division Fees for 2025” dated June 13, 2024, which addressed the proposed facility operating and plan review fees and other revenue projections for 2025. Minor modifications to the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) fees were proposed.

Onsite Wastewater Treatments System (OWTS) Waiver Request: 175 Williams Glen Road, Ithaca

A waiver from the Tompkins County Sanitary Code (TCSC) is required if someone wants to install an onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) where municipal sewer is available. Ms. Cameron explained that the Town of Ithaca also requires a waiver in order to construct an OWTS where connection to a municipal sewage system is available. 175 Williams Glen Road is located close to a municipal system but due to the complications of the site, it is extremely expensive to connect to it. The owners were granted a waiver from the connection by the Town of Ithaca. EH also supports their request for a waiver from the TCSC.

Ms. Merkel moved to accept the waiver request as written; seconded by Dr. de Lima. All were in favor; the vote to approve the waiver request as written was unanimous.

Mr. Kruppa said we should plan not to have a July meeting when asked by Ms. Cameron in preparation for deadlines.

The next meeting is potentially on Tuesday, July 23rd, 2024 @ noon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm