

**Tompkins County Board of Health**  
**March 28, 2023**  
**12:00 Noon**  
**Rice Conference Room and via Zoom**

**APPROVED**  
**4.25.23**

**Present:** Christina Moylan, Ph.D., President; Melissa Dhundale, MD, Vice-President; Susan Merkel; Shawna Black and Andreia De Lima, MD

**Staff:** Elizabeth Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; Brenda Grinnell Crosby, Public Health Administrator; Rachel Buckwalter, Director of Community Health; Samantha Hillson, Director of Health Promotion Program; Dr. William Klepack, Medical Director; Deb Thomas, Director of Children with Special Care Needs; Frank Kruppa, Whole Health Commissioner; Zoe Lincoln, Whole Health Planner; and Karan Palazzo, LGU Administrative Assistant.

**Excused:** Edward Koppel, MD; Samara Touchton; and Ravinder Kingra

**Guests:** None.

**Call to Order:** Dr. Moylan called the regular meeting of the Board of Health (BOH) to order at noon.

**Privilege of the Floor:** Dr. Andreia De Lima was welcomed to the Board as the newest member replacing Dr. Evelyn. Dr. De Lima, Chief Medical Officer at Cayuga Medical Center introduced herself and was excited to be a member of the Board.

**Approval of February 28, 2023, Minutes:** Ms. Merkel moved to approve February 28, 2023, minutes, second by Dr. Dhundale; all were in favor as written.

**Financial Summary:** Mr. Kruppa reported on Ms. Grinnell Crosby's behalf and shared that staff continues to work to close the books for the 2022 fiscal year.

**Administration Report:** Mr. Kruppa reported that searches and interviews for several county-wide positions in Administration including a director of finance and a homeless housing coordinator are moving forward in the hiring process. Internal outreach and education around Tompkins County Whole Health continue with SharePoint playing a major role in communication.

Mr. Kruppa said that the State lowered the lead levels, and more investigations must be done. No funding is associated with these added costs for investigations, and TCWH calls on local officials to advocate for funding.

**Health Promotion Program Report:** Ms. Hillson had nothing to add to her written report. She reported that training opportunities are available for the Trauma-Informed Care Series and the Perinatal and Infant Community Health Collaborative (PICHC) which was highlighted in her report.

**Medical Director's Report and Discussion:** Dr. Klepack reported that the governor has legislation proposing significant penalties for illegal cannabis sales and pulling licenses for illegal operations. He referenced his report included in the package on COVID about the data of clinical evidence which proves

that vaccination is beneficial. He reported that Influenza is less prevalent and is now regional. Dr. Klepack noted that March is the anniversary of Dr. Robert Koch announcing the discovery of tuberculosis in 1882.

Dr. Klepack's response to illegal marijuana sales when asked how to report illegal marijuana sales was "Reports of illegal marijuana sales can be made to the health department and will be forwarded to the Office of Cannabis Management or directly by the person to the Office of Cannabis Management. "

Mr. Kruppa gave an update on masking. He said he intends to remove the masking requirement at the healthcare facilities if we still are below high after next week's measures.

**Division for Community Health (DCH) Report:** Ms. Buckwalter had nothing to add to her written report included in the packet. She highlighted that a case of malaria and typhoid was reported last month. The case was travel-related and did not spread to the community. Ms. Buckwalter gave a presentation to Ithaca College's Physician Assistant students regarding the role of Public Health in managing TB.

**Children with Special Care Needs Report:** Ms. Thomas had nothing to add to her written report included in the packet. She reported that a speech therapist was hired and the advocacy work regarding the pay increases is currently in the governor's office.

**County Attorney's Report:** Mr. Troy was not available.

**Community Mental Health Services Board (CSB) Report:** Mr. Kruppa reported on Ms. Ayers-Friedlander's behalf. The CSB discussed the \$800,000 opioid settlement funds coming to the Local Governing Unit (LGU) Mental Hygiene Law. Funding allocations target monies for wraparound services related to those who unnecessarily end up in the ER. The plan is to have additional wraparound services quickly available upon discharge. The plan was sent to the State for approval.

**Environmental Health Report:** Ms. Cameron reported that Breanna Walsh was hired provisionally for the Administrative Assistant III position. She noted the press release of a **non-rabid** fox in the community.

Dr. Moylan wanted to discuss the presentation of information to the BOH that is consumable to the BOH and also useful for the health department staff. She provided topics for the staff to consider:

- The most effective way of communicating to the BOH about principal issues
- Guidance moving forward in an integrated way of the integration of TCWH
- What information should the Board be provided and what is the Board's responsibility with the information

Ms. Black suggested monthly overdose data. Mr. Kruppa said the overdose data can be reported monthly, but the deaths are reported every six months due to privacy reasons. Ms. Black accepted verbal reporting.

It was decided that the perspectives from both the Board and Health Department staff will work over the next few months on the presentation of monthly information to the Board.

Dr. Moylan asked for clarification noted in EH's summary report of enforcement actions where Dream Vape is operating under a new LLC. Ms. Cameron explained that it appears that the Dream Vape location had a license issued under a different name from June 2022 to December 2022 during EH's enforcement. Dream Vape's license was revoked because of the violations while another license was in place for the same location. EH was told by NYSDOH not to go by the name of the store on the outside of the building, which

complicates EH's enforcement. Ms. Black believes that the County Attorney, Bill Troy, should be made aware of this.

Mr. Kruppa shared that Tompkins County is not the only County facing this issue and things will probably get worse, especially with the proposed increase in penalties. Ms. Cameron and the EH staff are spending vast amounts of resources to manage and follow it. He will reach out to Bill Troy. Ms. Cameron said it can be complicated since the licenses are issued at the State level. Mr. Kruppa believes that extra enforcement funding is part of the governor's proposal and Tobacco and Firearms will be responsible for enforcement.

**Resolution #EH-ENF-23-0001 – Cayuga Café, C-Ithaca, Violation of Subpart 14-1 of New York State Sanitary Code for Operating without a Permit (Food)** – Ms. Merkel moved to accept the motion as written; seconded by Ms. Black.

Ms. Cameron explained that this was a case where Cayuga Café was operating without a permit. EH proposes a fine of \$500.

The vote to approve the revised resolution as written was unanimous.

**Resolution #EH-ENF-23-0003 – Old Mexico, C-Ithaca, Violations of Board of Health Orders and Subpart 14-1 of New York State Sanitary Code (Food)** – Dr. Dhundale moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Ms. Merkel.

Ms. Cameron confirmed that there were no language barriers and both inspectors spoke Spanish. EH previously provided them with signs in Spanish that were still in view during the inspection. EH proposes a penalty of \$800.

The vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

**Resolution #EH-ENF-23-0004 – U Tea, C-Ithaca, Repeat Critical Violations of Subpart 14-1 of New York State Sanitary Code (Food)** – Ms. Merkel moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Dr. Dhundale.

Ms. Cameron confirmed that there were no language barriers. EH proposes a fine of \$200.

The vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

#### **Administration:**

#### **Administrative Actions:**

**Resolution in Support of New York State Governor's Life-Saving Tobacco Control Measures** – Ms. Black moved to support the resolution of New York State Governor's Life-Saving Tobacco Control Measures; seconded by Dr. Moylan.

Ms. Black stated that she learned that the governor's budget proposed outlawing flavored tobacco products and adding a dollar (\$1) to the sales tax for all cigarette packages this past January. She knows of a program called Reality Check based in Portland, Oregon where they have Public Relations campaigns to reduce and end vaping in public schools. She reached out to NYS Senator, Lea Webb, and NYS Assemblymember Anna Kelles. Ms. Black feels that the detriment to our community and the damage that is happening to our young people outweighs any stigmas and understands the equity side of the argument. She brings forth this resolution with information and data from Tompkins County. Ms. Black asked the Board for their thoughts or edits on the resolution.

Dr. Moylan referenced the consistency of wording for Black and African American. She also noted changing accidents to unintentional injuries and clarification on the 2023/2024 executive budget.

Mr. Kruppa believes it would be more impactful to telephone elected officials, especially those who have a personal relationship with Assemblymember Anna Kelles.

The vote to approve the resolution with friendly amendments was unanimous.

**Public Health Director Reappointment** – Moylan asked for preferences in consideration of the reappointment of the Public Health Director

Ms. Merkel moved to recommend Mr. Frank Kruppa for reappointment as the Public Health Director for an additional six years; seconded by Dr. Dhundale.

All were in favor of the reappointment of Mr. Frank Kruppa; it was unanimous.

The next meeting is Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ Noon.

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 12:48 p.m.