

**Tompkins County Board of Health**  
**August 27, 2024**  
**12:00 Noon**  
**Rice Conference Room and via Zoom**

Minutes Approved  
September 24, 2024

**Present:** Christina Moylan, Ph.D., President; Melissa Dhundale, MD, Vice-President; Susan Merkel; Samara Touchton; Edward Koppel, MD; and Ravinder Kingra.

**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; Rachel Buckwalter, Director of Community Health; Zoe Lincoln, Whole Health Planner; and Karan Palazzo, LGU Administrative Assistant.

**Excused:** Shawna Black; Andreia de Lima, MD. And Ms. Clark Manderville, Director of Children with Special Care Needs

**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:** None

**Approval of June 25, 2024, BOH Minutes:** Ms. Touchton moved to approve June 25, 2024, minutes; second by Dr. Dhundale. All were in favor of approving the June 25, 2024, minutes and the motion carried.

**Financial Summary:** Mr. Kruppa reported on behalf of Mr. Porter. They are preparing the 2025 budget. New implementations of the procurement policy have streamlined the process but initially require more administrative time and effort. Included in the implements are three Requests for Proposals (RFP) that were previously held by ADC and the sexually transmitted infection vendor RFP. Awards should be available in September 2024.

**Medical Director's Report and Discussion:** In addition to his written report Dr. Klepack reported that the newest COVID-19 vaccine will soon be available but primarily through pharmacies. He stressed the importance of vaccinating to avoid serious hospitalization and long-term COVID. He referred to Whole Health's dashboard which shows an uptick in cases and expressed his disappointment in the low vaccination rates, especially among seniors. He stressed that COVID is not a trivial disease and urged all to take prudent steps. Individuals benefit by keeping up to date with COVID vaccines to maintain protection.

Rabies cases have increased due to contact with bats that often come into homes. Sealing off all exits (windows and doors) is advisable to catch the bat safely in the house so it can be tested and potentially avoid rabies post-exposure prophylaxis.

Unused vaccines - Dr. Klepack believes that pharmacies will be the primary venue for COVID vaccines.

**Administration Report:** Mr. Kruppa reported that they are working on the 2025 budget proposal. The County Administrator will present the 2025 budget on September 3, 2024, at the County Legislature meeting. TCWH was instructed to create two budgets, a maintenance of effort budget and a budget that would work under a 2% tax cap (a 5% reduction in county funding) which resulted in the elimination of two unfilled nursing positions with no significant impact on service programming or staffing.

The county's fund balance has less funds than thought which will impact their ability for funding. The 2023 audit of the county's fund balance may result in potential changes in policy or tax rates.

Maury Josephson is the new County Attorney. Deputy County Attorney, Holly Mosher will continue to primarily attend the BOH meeting.

**Division for Community Health (DCH) Report:** Ms. Buckwalter reported hiring three nurses, which includes a nurse manager position. She also noted the increased demand for rabies vaccination and additional clinics were added to accommodate the need.

A discussion of vaccinating school children who have private insurance and whose primary doctor will not/cannot vaccinate them. Ms. Buckwalter responded that although nothing can be done this year, she will look at options for next year to include it in budgeting. A list of vaccination requestees in advance to ensure availability for school-required vaccinations would be helpful.

**Health Promotion Program Report:** Ms. Hillson reported that tomorrow is the start of "International Overdose Awareness Week" and August 31<sup>st</sup> is "International Overdose Awareness Day". HPP has an open community health worker position, applications close this weekend.

**Children with Special Care Needs (CSCN) Report:** Ms. Clark Manderville was not present.

**Environmental Health (EH) Report:** Ms. Cameron stated that an agenda item was added for a waiver request from the Ithaca City School District. EH received a complaint about food service and dormitory conditions at Cornell related to the UAW strike EH found no conditions of concern at Cornell's food service operations. EH does not have direct oversight over Cornell's dormitories; however, Cornell looked into them in response to the complaint and reported no concerning conditions were found Cornell is taking measures to ensure safe food service by providing box lunches and discarding any remaining at the end of the service period.

Dr. Moylan congratulated EH on a successful 2024 GrassRoots Festival.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

### **Enforcement Actions:**

**Draft Revised 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) (5 min) – Ms. Touchton moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Dr. Dhundale.**

Ms. Cameron explained that some revisions were made to the previous resolution at Hanshaw's request. Hanshaw Village is compliant with the order but stated that they could not make the feasibility study due date. They have requested an extension of that date and EH supports the extension.

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

**ADMINISTRATION:**

**Other Administrative Actions:**

**Request to Waive Low-Risk FSE Fee for ICSD After-School Programs** – Dr. Dhundale moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Mr. Kingra.

Ms. Cameron explained that this waiver request was recently brought to EH by way of the Ithaca City School District (ICSD). ICSD food service recently realized that they were assuming liability for the after-school programs' food service in their facilities. The ICSD will continue to allow the after-school programs to use their facilities if they obtain their own food service permit from us.

EH proposes waiving this year's \$210 fee permit for ICSD after-school programs due to this being unexpected expenses right before the school semester begins and to ensure food service for the children in the after-school programs.

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

The next meeting is on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ noon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:28 pm