

MINUTES
Tompkins County Board of Health
March 08, 2011
12:00 Noon
Rice Conference Room

Present: Mr. Will Burbank; Mr. Brooke Greenhouse; Dr. Erin Hall-Rhoades; Dr. James Macmillan, President; Mr. Patrick McKee; Mr. Michael McLaughlin, Jr.; and Ms. Janet Morgan

Staff: Mrs. Sylvia Allinger, Director of CSCN; Mrs. Liz Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; Mrs. Sigrid Connors, Director of Patient Services; Mrs. Brenda Grinnell Crosby, Interim Public Health Director; Dr. William Klepack, Medical Director; Mr. Jonathan Wood, County Attorney; and Mrs. Patty Stamm, Administrative Assistant

Excused: Dr. William Tyler

Guests: Steven Kern, Sr. Public Health Sanitarian; Clayton Maybee, Public Health Sanitarian; Audrey Balander, Sr. Public Health Sanitarian; Anita Fitzpatrick, Commissioner of Personnel; and Joe Mareane, County Administrator

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

Dr. Macmillan called the regular meeting of the Board of Health to order at 12:06 P.M.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Greenhouse moved to approve the minutes of the February 08, 2011 Board of Health meeting as written, seconded by Ms. Morgan.

Ms. Morgan suggested that on page 2, third bullet, the sentence be changed to read as follows: "It is the beginning of the fiscal year, so *w*e are trying to close books..." Minutes, as amended, were carried unanimously.

Financial Summary: Mrs. Grinnell Crosby distributed a Supplemental 2010 Financial Summary, as well as a Financial Summary for January 2011. She stated that the 2010 Financial Summary was not final, adding there are still revenue and expense adjustments to be made since the County has not fully closed their books. Adjustments will also need to be made based on State Aid claims which have been filed. Mrs. Grinnell Crosby stated the "13th Period" is expenses and revenues that happen after December 31st that get posted to 2010.

Mrs. Grinnell Crosby briefly reviewed both reports and answered questions from Board members. She added they are continuing to monitor the State budget and she hopes to have some sort of report next month. The Health Department appears to be losing around \$200,000 to \$300,000; most of this money being from a loss of Public Health Work (Article 6) State Aid for Early Intervention Program Administration and Service Coordination.

Administration Report: Mrs. Grinnell Crosby reported:

- She has been very busy this month with many meetings to attend, adding she attended a County-wide Compliance Meeting this morning. The County will be looking at a County-wide Compliance Plan. The Health Department will be on a short time frame to implement compliance and have training completed by the end of March for new staff. A fully effective plan needs to be in place and operating by the end of June. This compliance has to do with Medicaid and Medicare federal dollars. Mrs. Grinnell Crosby added that Board members will be required to be trained on what compliance means and what the plan and process is for the Health Department.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Klepack reported:

- The meeting with the League of Women Voters went quite well. Dr. Klepack will provide Board members with the comments he made at this meeting in next month's Board of Health packet.
- He had an opportunity to attend the department's "Meet & Greet" for two candidates for the Public Health Director position.
- The influenza season continues at about the same level it has been for the last month; it hasn't shown any decline across the country or within the state. He added approximately four out of 100 people are being seen for influenza-like illnesses. This is divided fairly equally amongst the three sero-types of Influenza virus (last year's H1N1, Influenza A, and Influenza B that is in the vaccine, which still continues to be a good match). Nationwide, there have been 54 deaths in the pediatric age group; in New York State, there have been a total of three pediatric deaths.
- Discussed the New York Times report on hydrofracking and the dumping of wastewater from the fracking process into rivers and streams or taking it to municipal and other wastewater treatment plants that do not have the capacity to deal with whatever is in the wastewater. There was mention about it being dumped into Cayuga Lake. Dr. Klepack checked with Mrs. Cameron who reported that the Cayuga Heights Wastewater Treatment Plant was accepting drilling water from vertical wells back in 2009, however has since stopped. Currently, there are no treatment plants in the county accepting frack water. Mrs. Cameron talked further about the difference between drilling in vertical and horizontal wells and the fact that wastewater treatment plants are regulated by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in terms of what wastewater they can accept.

Director of Patient Services Report: Mrs. Connors reported:

- She was pleased with the number of staff who made it to work on Monday in lieu of the snowstorm and offered "*Kudos*" to these people for helping to keep all of the programs operational.
- She, Mrs. Grinnell Crosby, and Karen Bishop met this past week to plan their flu vaccine order for next year. She added that due to the greater availability of flu vaccine locally, they plan to order less vaccine for next year in addition to looking at the unmet needs of the local population.

- Both radio and print ads are out for Per-Diem Community Health Nurses. So far, Mrs. Connors has not received any per-diem applications; however, she has received two full-time nursing applications and currently has one vacancy in Home Care. She added staff still has concerns regarding the security of their jobs. Ms. Anita Fitzpatrick, Commissioner of Personnel, recently came and met with the Community Health Services team where there was an opportunity to ask questions about “what if?” She extended her appreciation to Anita for listening and responding to staff concerns.

Children with Special Care Needs Report: Mrs. Allinger reported:

- Ms. Fitzpatrick will be speaking with her staff at their staff meeting the coming week.
- Currently, they have two full-time staff members out on leave, placing a great deal of extra work on other staff covering these two full case loads on top of their own caseloads.
- They had a total of 41 additional children for the year 2010 in the Early Intervention Program which is a full caseload. She added that the complexity of the children has been far more evident this past year than in other years.
- Included in the report handed out today is a description regarding the New York State Department of Health Local Indicators. She requested that Board members read this over and come back to the next BOH meeting with any questions they might have regarding this. Briefly, NYS is required to report to the Federal Government, Office of Special Education Programs, regarding specific indicators within the Early Intervention Program in NYS. Every county contributes to the total numbers for the State. There is a rating system with “Meets Expectations” being the highest. She added it has taken a number of years of shifting how they do business within their Division, but this is the first year (July 2008 – June 2009) all requirements were met without having to “tweak” anything at all.

County Attorney’s Report: Mr. Wood reported they recently had two hearings regarding small water systems which were not appropriately chlorinated, in addition to the owners not doing their monthly reports appropriately. He added he felt the hearings went pretty well, although no decision has been reached by the Administrative Law Judge as of yet.

Environmental Health Report: Mrs. Cameron reported:

- Most years there is rarely a hearing; this year there have already been two and there is a potential for another one coming up due to lack of compliance.
- Another medication disposal event has been scheduled for Saturday, April 9th. Ms. Cameron distributed flyers containing information on this event for any interested parties.
- Due to the New York Times articles on gas drilling, there has been a number of inquiries and interest regarding this. Also, with the anticipated potential release of the revised Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement, possibly by June 1st, groups are getting more active. The Water Resources Council is working on a letter to request the public comment period be extended from 30 to 90 days. She is also working with Dr. Klepack on a possible letter that might come before the Board.

Request for Executive Session: Mrs. Grinnell Crosby put forward a request for an Executive Session at the end of the meeting for the purpose of discussing Personnel issues.

Approval of Revised Policy – Meningococcal Vaccine (withdrawn from February BOH meeting): Mr. Greenhouse moved to accept the revised Policy as written, seconded by Ms. Morgan.

Mrs. Connors distributed an updated Revised Meningococcal Vaccine Policy and pointed out two yellow-highlighted areas that have been inserted for clarification for when to give the Menactra vaccine to children ages 2 to 10; these do not change anything in the content of the policy.

Following questions from Board members, which were addressed by staff, the revised Meningococcal Vaccine Policy was unanimously approved.

Revised Rabies Standing Orders – for review and approval: Mr. Greenhouse moved to accept the Revised Rabies Standing Orders as written, seconded by Ms. Morgan.

Following comments and questions from Board members regarding the treatment regime on pg. 2 and the rationalization from staff for the procedures followed, approval of the Revised Rabies Standing Orders was carried unanimously.

Resolution #11-2-3: Frederick J. Gentz, Dryden Veterans Memorial Home, T-Dryden; Violation of Subpart 5-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Water – Nitrate Monitoring): Mr. Greenhouse moved to accept the resolution as written, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution #11-2-2: Monica Todd, T-Groton; Violation of Subpart 5-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Water – Nitrate Monitoring): Mr. Greenhouse moved to accept the resolution as written, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution #11-1-5: Brad Herman, William George Agency, T-Dryden; Violation of Subpart 5-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Water – Nitrate Monitoring): Mr. Greenhouse moved to accept the resolution as written, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Executive Session: At 1:15 P.M., Ms. Morgan moved to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin. Carried unanimously.

Out of Executive Session: At 1:34 P.M., Mr. Greenhouse moved to adjourn from Executive Session, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin. Carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Dr. Macmillan moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:34 P.M., seconded by Mr. Burbank. Carried unanimously.