

MINUTES

Tompkins County Board of Health

January 22, 2019

12:00 Noon

Rice Conference Room

Present: Shawna Black; David Evelyn, MD, MPH; Edward Koppel, MD; Michael McLaughlin, Jr.; Susan Merkel; Janet Morgan, PhD; and Christina Moylan, PhD, President

Staff: Karen Bishop, Director of Community Health; Liz Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; Brenda Grinnell Crosby, Public Health Administrator; Samantha Hillson, Director of Health Promotion Program; William Klepack, MD, Medical Director; Frank Kruppa, Public Health Director; Deb Thomas, Director of Children with Special Care Needs; and Shelley Comisi, Administrative Assistant

Excused: Jonathan Wood, County Attorney

Guests: Brittni Griep, LGU Administrative Assistant; Jason Molino, Tompkins County Administrator; and Skip Parr, Senior Public Health Sanitarian

Call to Order: Dr. Moylan called the regular meeting of the Board of Health (BOH) to order at 12:04 p.m.

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

Approval of December 4, 2018 Minutes: Mr. McLaughlin moved to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2018 meeting as written; seconded by Ms. Merkel. The vote to approve the minutes as written: Ayes – 6; Abstention – 1 (Dr. Morgan).

Introductions: Jason Molino, Tompkins County Administrator, was present to meet Board members and to speak about the process for evaluating the Public Health/Mental Health joint leadership model.

County Administrator's Remarks on the Public Health/Mental Health Joint Leadership Model: As the arrangement enters its fourth year, Mr. Molino explained it is time to evaluate the Public Health Director and Mental Health Commissioner joint leadership model. By the end of the year, County Administration is responsible for reviewing the model and making a recommendation to the Legislature as to whether the model should continue. Currently, he is working with Deputy County Administrators,

Amie Hendrix and Lisa Holmes, to develop an approach for evaluating the process. His staff is collecting information to understand the historical aspects and expectations at the time the decision was made; looking at the metrics put in place and collecting data for the review; and considering a survey to obtain feedback on how the relationship is working. When his staff completes this part of the process, he will be sharing the recommended approach with the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee. Members of the BOH and the Community Services Board (CSB) will be a part of the evaluation process. As he concluded his summary, Mr. Molino welcomed questions or comments from Board members.

Mr. McLaughlin thought it would be helpful for the two boards to have an outline of the process with timelines and specific expectations. At the CSB meeting there was discussion about the two boards creating a joint committee to review the process. To that point, Mr. Molino envisions having participants from both boards coming together in a joint effort to work on the review. He will be meeting with HHS Committee members about the structure, format, expectations, deadlines, timeframe, etc. for the review. After he receives their input, he will be able to provide some direction and ask for participants from the two boards.

As the evaluation process moves forward, Mr. Molino emphasized the importance of creating a structure around the needs of the organization and the departments. There should be flexibility in the positions to be able to recruit and retain people in the future.

Mr. Molino mentioned a report from previous County Administrator Joe Mareane that summarizes options and how the shared leadership model could be rolled out. He will send the report to Mr. Kruppa to circulate to both boards.

As Chair of the HHS Committee, Ms. Black mentioned it is helpful to have information that outlines the pros and cons of the issue being considered. From past experiences, a resolution or a letter from an advisory board is useful for committee members who are making decisions about the issue.

At the end of the discussion, Mr. Molino invited Board members to share any further thoughts by contacting him via phone or email. On behalf of the BOH, Dr. Moylan thanked him for attending the meeting and looks forward to seeing him at a future meeting.

Financial Summary: Ms. Grinnell Crosby referenced the December 2018 financial summary in the packet. It contains a brief narrative explaining end of the year activities. She does not have a lot to report. The books for 2018 remain open to account for adjustments in revenues and expenses that occur when transitioning from one year to the next.

Administration Report: Mr. Kruppa reported on activities related to the Kresge Foundation's Emerging Leaders in Public Health (ELPH) initiative:

- As part of Kresge's ELPH cohort, he and Samantha Hillson traveled to Florida to meet with the other nineteen teams selected from across the country. It was exciting and invigorating to learn about the various projects. Our team is planning to roll out phases of our own project in 2019. There will be more details in the coming months with information about ways the BOH can participate.
- Another piece for evaluating leadership skills was the 360-degree survey. The survey, designed to provide feedback to help leaders understand their strengths and development opportunities, was sent to several colleagues to complete. Mr. Kruppa thanked everyone who participated. He

has met with his coach to go over the results. As team members, he and Ms. Hillson will follow-up with one another about using these results in future coaching efforts.

Question regarding the federal government shutdown:

- Ms. Black asked whether the federal government shutdown is affecting local services. Mr. Kruppa replied there are no direct effects at this time. The main concern is the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. With funding through the end of February, our message is “WIC is open for business.” New York State is monitoring the situation and can backfill if necessary. There are concerns regarding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) running out of money. If there are any changes, he will be contacting Mr. Molino and the Legislature.

Health Promotion Program Report: Ms. Hillson reported:

- The application to renew the grant for the Healthy Neighborhoods Program was submitted to the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). Staff is waiting to hear the status of funding for the program.
- HPP staff is meeting with a consultant for assistance in collecting qualitative data for the Community Health Assessment (CHA). The plan is to conduct focus groups and interview people in the community.

Question regarding e-cigarettes:

- Referring to the information on e-cigarettes included in the BOH packet, Dr. Moylan asked if it was time to pursue some action. According to Mr. Kruppa, Governor Cuomo had several proposals in his executive budget that would target the use of tobacco and e-cigarette products. The local discussion is whether the County Legislature should act or wait for the State to write legislation.

Medical Director’s Report: Dr. Klepack provided updates on some significant topics:

- In this year’s State of the State address, Governor Cuomo spoke about plans to confront the opioid epidemic; however, he did not mention anything specific about Supervised Injection Facilities (SIFs).
- The Governor seems prepared to move forward with legalizing recreational marijuana and THC. Dr. Klepack recommends that public health departments work with the media to educate people about marijuana and THC usage. People should be aware THC is a chemical compound that is commercialized, potent, and fraught with health concerns.
- Seasonal influenza vaccine talking points were included in the packet to assist Board members when responding to questions from people in the community.

Discussion about legalizing recreational marijuana and THC:

- According to Ms. Black, dispensaries in Massachusetts can label the different strains of marijuana with the percentage of THC. New York State could also utilize a labeling system but the State must ensure labeling is accurate so people know what they are using.

- Dr. Klepack commented there will be rules and regulations if marijuana is legalized; however, there could be products from other places where there is less regulation. It will be important to recognize the practicalities of the retail market when considering the best interests of the public.
- Mr. Kruppa informed the Board that the New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) has come out in opposition to the legalization of marijuana. As this process unfolds, NYSACHO is the public health voice at the table. Mr. Kruppa emphasized he is aware of the BOH's general position and concerns about the issue so he will voice that position at the state level when appropriate.

Discussion about opioid overdoses:

- Ms. Black inquired about the number of opioid overdose deaths occurring in Tompkins County in 2018. Ms. Grinnell Crosby answered the last case pending closed last week. After a quick search, she was able to report there were 18 overdose deaths in 2018.
- To provide some comparable numbers, Dr. Klepack mentioned the national average for opioid overdose deaths is 21 per 100,000 people.
- Mr. Kruppa pointed out there are a number of overdoses each year that do not result in death. There needs to be a focus on the overall problem.

Division for Community Health Report: Ms. Bishop had nothing to add to her written report.

Children with Special Care Needs Report: Ms. Thomas was pleased to announce:

- Children with Special Care Needs has opened a Facebook page for families to follow. It provides recent child development information and an opportunity for families to connect with each other.
- For the past year, staff has been creating forms and checklists as part of our software project. The plan is to go-live next week.

County Attorney's Report: Mr. Wood was not present for the meeting. Although he has missed some Board meetings due to other commitments, he expects to return to meetings on a regular basis next month.

Environmental Health Report: Ms. Cameron had nothing to add to her written report.

Report on the Community Services Board (CSB) Meeting: On January 14th, Mr. McLaughlin attended the CSB member training session followed by the regular CSB meeting. During the training session, he was especially interested in learning (1) that mental health impacts physical health in outcomes and cost so an integrated approach is necessary and (2) available housing for individuals with mental health needs is shrinking. He thought those two issues highlight overlapping concerns for the CSB and the BOH. At the regular CSB meeting, he was able to listen to Mr. Molino's presentation on the Public Health/Mental Health joint leadership process that the BOH heard at this meeting.

Ms. Merkel also attended the CSB training session and shared her perspective. In addition to the detailed history of the mental hygiene system in New York State, there were some

predictions for 2019. After hearing those predictions, Ms. Merkel felt there could be an issue for people needing care and being able to pay for that care. It raises concern about providing coverage that is affordable in a changing insurance field.

Mr. Kruppa's updates regarding the CSB/BOH:

- Brittni Griep is the new Administrative Assistant III at the Mental Health Department. She has the responsibility for taking minutes for the CSB and its three subcommittees. In addition, she will be taking over the minutes for the BOH. This will provide another layer of crossover for the two boards.
- The process to fill the physician vacancy on the BOH continues. An application has been submitted to the County Legislature's office. The next step will be to convene the Nominating Committee to meet with the applicant. Hopefully the Committee will be bringing a name forward at the next meeting.

Resolution #EH-ENF-18-0010 – Franzoni Apartments, T-Dryden, Violation of Subpart 5-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Water): Mr. McLaughlin moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Ms. Black.

Ms. Cameron explained Franzoni Apartments did not submit the 2nd and 3rd quarter total coliform sample results for 2018. It was difficult for Environmental Health staff to contact the owner/operator of the apartments due to a change in their office structure. The situation is improving. The owner/operator already has collected the annual nitrate sample.

The vote to accept the resolution as written carried unanimously.

Resolution #EH-ENF-18-0045 – CU Klarman Hall Café, C-Ithaca, Violation of Subpart 14-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Food): Ms. Cameron reported the café was in violation for sliced tomatoes being out of temperature.

Dr. Evelyn moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Dr. Morgan; and carried unanimously.

Resolution #EH-ENF-18-0047 – Sunset Grill, T-Ithaca, Violations of BOH Orders #EH-ENF-17-0045 and Subpart 14-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Food): Ms. Cameron noted the restaurant was previously before the BOH. Due to repeat food out of temperature and storage space violations, the proposed penalty is \$800.

Dr. Koppel moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Dr. Morgan; and carried unanimously.

Adjournment: At 1:02 p.m. Dr. Moylan adjourned the meeting.