

**Tompkins County Board of Health**  
**May 24, 2022**  
**12:00 Noon**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**Approved 6.28.22**

**Present:** Christina Moylan, Ph.D., President; Edward Koppel, MD; Shawna Black; and Samara Touchton

**Staff:** Brenda Grinnell-Crosby, Public Health Administrator; Liz Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; Deb Thomas, Director of Children with Special Care Needs; Claire Espey, Director of Community Health; William Klepack, MD, Medical Director; Frank Kruppa, Public Health Director; Skip Parr, EH; Shannon Alvord, Community Health; Rachel Buckwalter, Community Health; and Karan Palazzo, LGU Administrative Assistant

**Excused:** David Evelyn, MD; Susan Merkel; Melissa Dhundale, MD; and Ravinder Kingra

**Guests:** None

**Call to Order:** Dr. Moylan called the regular meeting of the Board of Health (BOH) to order at 12:00 p.m.

**Privilege of the Floor:** None.

**Approval of the March 22, 2022 and April 26, 2022 Minutes:** The March 22, 2022 and April 26, 2022 minutes could not be approved as a quorum was not met.

**Financial Summary:** Ms. Grinnell Crosby reported that the 13<sup>th</sup> period financial report included in the pack is the final report for 2021 but may need changing as the county is currently going through an audit. Month four of 2022, included in the packet reflects the continued shows inflation and sampling costs and the effects of the pandemic on our revenues related to programs. She submitted a resolution to the committee and legislature to put \$2.1 million of reimbursement on the books to cover the ongoing expense estimate given from finance. They continue to work through grant claims. State aid is nearing completion and work on the 2023 budget is underway.

**Administration Report:** Mr. Kruppa referred to his report included in the package and had nothing to add.

**Merger Update:** Mr. Kruppa reported:

- First list of potential new names for the organization was received from branding consultants and the work group meets tomorrow to discuss and provide feedback for the consultants
- Cross-functional team continues to work on services around children and youth
- Work group completed network surveys of all staff getting to know each other and connections
- The All Staff meeting is June 29, 2022. Both departments will be closed to the public and meet for team building; get to know each other; and use what was learned from the network survey to enhance and broaden connections
- Bylaw and Charter work continues
- The CSB bylaw and charter work group will present their draft to the Community Service Board at their next meeting
- On-going meetings with County about financials in the budget process

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**Health Promotion Program Report:** Ms. Alvord reported on Ms. Hillson's behalf and had nothing new to add to the report included in the package. A project assistant was onboarded for the Healthy Neighborhood Program in May and two community health workers were also onboarded.

**Medical Director's Report and Discussion:**

- Monkey Pox
  - Recent media coverage
  - 25 monkey pox cases identified in the US and 250 identified worldwide
  - Communicability is far less than COVID
  - Transmission requires close contact and is transmitted by respiratory droplets
  - Vaccines and medications are available if needed
  
- Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis have two parts:
  1. Practitioners doing what they do by good medical practice and what is mandated
  2. What the public understands and having the public understand is part of the equation:  
People's sexual behavior changes dynamically over the ages, (sexual maturity to old age), sexual behavior can change during pregnancy and put the unborn child at risk or themselves.

Dr. Klepack said that with the uptick in syphilis cases in the last several years, we now must re-align to address these issues with increased clear, public messaging on various platforms and partner with community partners to convey the reality of syphilis and other STDs. He shared his screen of the next practitioner bulletin, coming out tomorrow, which will reinforce more details on syphilis including timelines, trends, and symptoms.

**Division for Community Health (DCH) Report:** Ms. Espey had nothing new to add to her written report. She asked if there were any questions on the topic of syphilis which was discussed two months ago. She said Ms. Buckwalter convened with relevant stakeholders, the "Peace of Mind Coalition" on the infection prevalence in Tompkins County. Ms. Buckwalter added that the meeting yesterday provided valuable information about a case of concern and the next steps. A meeting is in the plans to meet with CMC, local OB-GYN providers, along with Dr. Klepack and Ms. Alvord. Ms. Buckwalter said the "Peace of Mind Coalition" addresses the rise in sexually transmitted infections, works on educational messaging, the importance of testing, treatment, and prevention. Mr. Kruppa added that it was designed around the increase in STDs (pre-COVID) to get the information out in various forms, which continues today.

Ms. Espey addressed the formula shortage that the WIC program has been working through with outreach opportunities supported by Health Promotions. She said that Mr. Kruppa has been interviewed by a local tv station to clarify the message. Ms. Hall heads the team and responds to an increased volume of calls from participants to navigate them in the right direction. Mr. Kruppa said that under tutelage of Ms. Hall, press releases and participants communicating with their healthcare providers, the county has been able to find alternatives or formula supplies for all of our participants. He said that WIC has been flexible in allowing alternatives and working with vendors. There has not been an increase in mothers choosing to breast feed and works with the parent to meet their needs.

**Children with Special Care Needs Report:** Ms. Thomas had nothing to add to her written report.

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

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**Environmental Health Report:** Mr. Parr had nothing to add to the written report included in the packet.

**Community Mental Health Services Board (CSB) Report:** Mr. Kruppa reported on behalf of Ms. Ayers-Friedlander who was not in attendance. Mr. Kruppa reported on developments from the April meeting where a family discussed losing a family member to a drug overdose that was laced with fentanyl. He said to address their concerns, the below items were initiated.

- Monthly updated county statistics on overdose calls in graphical form can now be found on the Tompkins County Public Health Department website under Opioid Use and Resources
- Fentanyl press releases go out with help from Dr. Klepack
- Working with the legislature on the use of the opioid settlement monies

Dr. Moylan said the March and April minutes and enforcement actions will be moved to next month's meeting as per Ms. Cameron. The administrative actions will also be moved to next month as per Ms. Espey. Dr. Moylan confirmed with present board members for their attendance to next month's June meeting and all confirmed. She will communicate with those not in attendance to confirm their attendance to next month's meeting to ensure a quorum.

The next meeting is Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ Noon.

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 12:45 p.m.