

MINUTES
Tompkins County Board of Health
August 23, 2022
12:00 Noon
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Approved 9.27.22

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

Staff: Brenda Grinnell-Crosby, Public Health Administrator; Liz Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; Claire Espey, Director of Community Health; William Troy, County Attorney; Ted Schiele, Health Promotion Program; Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, DCS; and Karan Palazzo, LGU Administrative Assistant

Excused: David Evelyn, MD; Shawna Black; 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 July 26, 2022 Minutes: Ms. Merkel moved to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2022 meeting as written; seconded by Dr. Dhundale. The vote to approve the July 26, 2022 meeting minutes as written was unanimously approved; motion carried.

Financial Summary: Ms. Grinnell Crosby referred to the July 2022 financial summary included in the packet. She reports nothing to add to her written report, but they are waiting for the finance office to post the COVID testing bills resolutions to the system. Claims are being filed and next month's report should include all adjustments filed.

Administration Report: Mr. Kruppa was not present, and Ms. Grinnell Crosby spoke on his behalf with nothing additional to report.

Health Promotion Program Report: Mr. Schiele reported on Ms. Hillson's behalf and had nothing additional to add to the written report included in the package. The Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plans are moving forward and anticipates providing updates at the September meeting. The survey received 1500 responses on the close of August 1, 2022 and the data is being analyzed.

Medical Director's Report and Discussion: Dr. Klepack was not present and Dr. Moylan referred to his report included in the packet for any questions.

Division for Community Health (DCH) Report: Ms. Espey had nothing new to add to her written report. She said that Tompkins County is in the low CDC community level for COVID 19 and they are monitoring the increasing Monkey POX outbreaks which are currently three (3) cases.

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Ms. Merkel asked about increases in Lyme disease cases. Ms. Espey responded that the case definition expanded and will look further into it for any alarming patterns, as it is the season for upticks in cases and they continue educate the public.

Children with Special Care Needs Report: Ms. Thomas was not present.

County Attorney's Report: Mr. Troy had nothing to report.

Environmental Health Report: Ms. Cameron had nothing to add to the written report included in the packet.

Community Mental Health Services Board (CSB) Report: Ms. Ayers-Friedlander reported that the CSB did not meet in August and had nothing to report.

Resolution #EH-ENF-22-0024 – Econo Lodge, V-Lansing, Violation of Subpart 7-1 of New York State Sanitary Code (Temp. Residence) Dr. Koppel moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Ms. Merkel.

Ms. Cameron explained that Econo Lodge had repeat fire safety violations on the first and second inspections. EH's proposes a penalty of \$400.

Discussion: Ms. Merkel questioned the \$400 penalty. Ms. Cameron explained that EH has an established penalty policy for food service establishments and historically proposes an initial \$400 for other facilities unless there is found obvious intent not to comply.

The vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

Resolution #EH-ENF-22-0026 – Country Inn & Suites, T-Ithaca, Violations of Subpart 6-1 and of BOH Orders #EH-ENF-21-0014 (Pool) Dr. Dhundale moved to accept the resolutions as written; seconded by Ms. Touchton.

Ms. Cameron explained that this is a hotel where both the main pool and spa pool had inadequate bromine disinfection levels during two inspections. The hotel has a history of not maintaining safe pool disinfection. EH has not been successful in previous efforts with them to maintain their disinfection and is requiring additional actions including hiring a certified pool operator to ensure safe operation. EH is proposing a fine of \$1,500.

Discussion: Ms. Cameron confirmed that both Country Inn & Suites and Econo Lodge have the same owner.

The vote to approve the resolution as written was unanimous.

Administrative Action:

1. Bylaw review/update discussion – Dr. Moylan thanked Dr. Evelyn and Ms. Merkel for their support and efforts in reviewing the BOH bylaws as we move forward with the process of integrating the two departments with two separate boards governed by a different set of regulatory laws. She said that both the BOH and CSB bylaws will remain separate but creating some consistency between the two was needed, as well as updating the language reflective of what will become the new nomenclature and the direction of the agency around the integrated agencies consistent within the bylaws. Dr. Moylan referred to the edited draft bylaws for discussion.

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Discussion:

Board meetings, Section 6.0.01 – Reduce the number of consecutively missed meetings from four (4) to three (3) for grounds of dismissal from the BOH while acknowledging that many members are clinicians. All were in approval.

Term limits or no term limits – Current term limits are two, six-year terms that can be extended with a request. Dr. Koppel said that history dictates long-term membership and questions if there is difficulty recruiting people for the BOH but not sure if term limits would be helpful. Ms. Merkel feels it has not been a challenge to find quality members and feels term limits would be good to attract new people. Dr. Koppel agrees with Ms. Merkel on term limits. Dr. Dhundale feels she can go either way with term limits but can agree with term limits. Ms. Touchton can agree with term limits as well. Dr. Moylan can agree to term limits. With some ambivalence, all seemed to agree with term limits but feels that the BOH members that are not in attendance today, need to weigh in on the matter at the next BOH in September.

Dr. Moylan summarized today's discussion on the bylaw edits and term limits:

- Bylaws - No objections with the edits on the bylaws, all attending members approved
 - Term limits – Final decision pending additional information from Mr. Kruppa and absent BOH members
2. Quality Improvement - Dr. Moylan referred to Section 10.0.2, Community Health Quality Advisory Committee (CHQAC) of the bylaws and requirements about interaction with the BOH with appointments on the committee. She met with Ms. Espey prior to the meeting and agreed that a re-educating of this committee is needed.

Ms. Espey provided an update of the CHQAC. She said that the committee is to establish and assure standards of care and meet at least quarterly to:

- Review policies pertaining to the delivery of the health care services provided by the Agency and, when revisions are indicated, recommend such policies to the Board of Health for adoption
- Conduct a clinical record review of the safety, adequacy, type, and quality of services provided which includes: a random selection of patients currently receiving services and report the review findings, conclusions, recommendations, and actions to the Board of Health for necessary action, if applicable
- Assist the agency in maintaining liaison with other health care providers in the community

The CHQAC met on June 14th after a pause due to COVID. The notes from that meeting were approved by Dr. Moylan and noted that the member and staff changes will be shared at September's meeting for approval and updating the existing list appointed by the BOH.

In closing, Dr. Moylan said that the BOH will report back to Mr. Kruppa based on the edits of the bylaws and the BOH finds no concerns if put to an official vote in September. The BOH will finalize term limits but if anyone has any concerns on the language or other edits of the bylaw draft, please contact Dr. Moylan.

The next meeting is Tuesday, September 27th, 2022 @ Noon.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 12:50 p.m.