

Tompkins County Board of Health
October 24, 2023
12:00 Noon
Rice Conference Room and via Zoom

Minutes Approved
December 5, 2023

Present: Christina Moylan, Ph.D., President; Melissa Dhundale, MD, Vice-President; Samara Touchton; Edward Koppel, MD; Susan Merkel; Andreia De Lima, MD (Zoom); and Ravinder Kingra.

Staff: Frank Kruppa, Commissioner; Elizabeth Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; Brenda Grinnell Crosby, Deputy Public Health Director; Rachel Buckwalter, Director of Community Health; Dr. Klepack, Medical Director; Samantha Hillson, Director of Health Promotion Program; Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, Deputy Commissioner of Services; and Zoe Lincoln, Whole Health Planner.

Excused: Shawna Black

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 August 22, 2023, Minutes: Mr. Kingra moved to approve the August 22, 2023, minutes, second by Dr. Koppel. The vote to approve the August 22, 2023, meeting minutes as written was unanimously approved with one abstaining; motion carried.

Financial Summary: Ms. Grinnell Crosby referred to her financial summaries for September and October 2023 included in the packet. The department is processing 3rd quarter claims. Expenses are down due to staff vacancies and the timing of payroll postings.

Medical Director's Report and Discussion: Dr. Klepack referred to his report included in the packet. His report referenced several books that make a comparison between preparing for war and preparing for and dealing with a pandemic using an analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic response as a case study.

Highlighting the relative impact of war versus pandemic is the death rate from each. If one counts up all the deaths of soldiers from all the US wars from the Revolutionary War to the present War on Terror, There have been 1.3 million deaths total. the COVID-19 pandemic has caused nearly that many in just 3 years - 1.14 million deaths. This fact and the similarities involved in being prepared and responding to a pandemic infectious agent highlight the importance of proactive planning, funding, and establishing clear lines of communication and coordination of strategies for future pandemics.

Dr. Klepack discussed the Oral Health Summary Study included in the packet. There continues to be an unmet need regarding oral health problems. These problems affect the population in inequitable ways. Not all individuals are able to access preventative oral health care and are susceptible to more serious health problems. Through the Oral Health Study, Whole Health will identify the number of young people with

dental problems/needs, the current status of accessing dental services, and what opportunities are available to the department to improve the situation.

Dr. Moylan had concerns about the huge need for dental services in schools and potential solutions regarding how the community can contribute. Dr. Klepack said the department plans to meet with School District representatives with the help of Dr. Dhundale to discuss the needs.

Administration Report: Mr. Kruppa referred to the new format of the BOH packet which was developed from conversations with BOH members to include highlighted concerns or updates needing to be addressed at monthly meetings but still user-friendly.

The BOH members appreciated the ability to help focus on important departmental information, clickable links, and the user-friendliness of the newly formatted packet.

Division for Community Health (DCH) Report: Ms. Buckwalter had nothing to add to her written report included in the packet. The DCH staff is busy with school immunizations, administering flu vaccines, and the updated COVID-19 vaccines. They are recruiting for a nurse.

Ms. Buckwalter stated that DCH continues to work with the State on the Legionnaires' outbreak. They have not been able to identify a specific cause. Ms. Cameron added that they are looking into the cooling towers which may be one of the sources.

Health Promotion Program Report: Ms. Hillson had nothing to add to her written report included in the packet. She announced that it is "Lead Poisoning Prevention Week" with students from Cornell and Ithaca College distributing door hangers around the county to promote lead poisoning prevention awareness to reduce childhood exposure to lead. It is also "International Bat Week" to promote bat awareness and conservation efforts.

Children with Special Care Needs (CSCN) Report: Mr. Kruppa referred to the report included in the packet. They are recruiting to fill Ms. Thomas' position, who recently retired. Mr. Kruppa added that the legislature funded \$200,000 in addition to the budget to address the shortage of therapists. They look to employ two speech therapists, one physical therapist, one special instruction teacher, and one shared social worker totaling 4.2 FTEs. He noted that this is a State structural problem in contracting for these positions.

Environmental Health Report: Ms. Cameron reported that EH hired a senior environmental health specialist; Renee Borgella was promoted to the managing position; and Cameron Cowburn was hired for the environmental health specialist position. Both Mr. Borgella and Mr. Cowburn will start on October 30, 2023.

Ms. Cameron shared some EH highlights:

- Cornell University has assigned students to a class project to address vaping issues in Tompkins County
- Exploring a new permit management software

Resolution #EH-ENF-23-0014 – (Revised) Cayuga Nature Center, Violations of Subpart 7-2 of New York State Sanitary Code (Children's Camp) – Ms. Touchton moved to accept the motion as written; seconded by Ms. Merkel.

Ms. Cameron explained that this was a case that came before the Board this year because of the water problems they have been having since June 2022. Efforts were made to correct the problems and EH is granting an extension until December 31, 2023.

No discussion.

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

Resolution #EH-ENF-23-0015 – Cinnamon Shoppe & Deli, Violations of Subpart 14-1 of New York State Sanitary Code (Food) – Dr. Koppel moved to accept the motion as written; seconded by Mr. Kingra.

EH proposes a penalty of \$200.

No discussion.

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

Resolution #EH-ENF-23-0016 – Old Mexico, Violations of Board of Health Orders and Subpart 14-1 of New York State Sanitary Code (Food) – Dr. Dhundale moved to accept the motion as written; seconded by Ms. Touchton.

Ms. Cameron explained that this is a recurring violation of BOH orders issue with Old Mexico for failing to maintain refrigerated storage equipment at 45°F or below. EH added requirements to the current enforcement to submit a management plan to correct the equipment that they have not been able to get into operation before considering reissuing any permits. EH proposes a penalty of \$1600.

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

Resolution #EH-ENF-23-0019 – College town Bagels, East Hills Plaza, Violations of Subpart 14-1 of New York State Sanitary Code (Food) – Ms. Merkel moved to accept the motion as written; seconded by Dr. Koppel.

EH proposes a penalty of \$ 400.

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

Administrative Action:

Establish a Nomination Committee: Mr. Kruppa reported that Dr. Moylan is eligible for reappointment and has confirmed her interest. The Board has two options; to create a nominating committee to consider reappointment and vote next month or make a recommendation for reappointment to the Legislature today.

Dr. Dhundale motioned to recommend Dr. Moylan for reappointment; seconded by Mr. Ravinder.

All were in favor; the vote to recommend Dr. Moylan for reappointment was unanimous.

The next meeting is Tuesday, December 5th, 2023 @ Noon.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 12:45 p.m.