

**MEETING MINUTES** Approved 5-28-19

**Tompkins County Board of Health**  
**April 23, 2019**  
**12:00 Noon**  
**Rice Conference Room**

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

**Staff:** Karen Bishop, Director of Community Health; Liz Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; 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; Jonathan Wood, County Attorney; Shelley Comisi, Administrative Assistant; Brittni Griep, LGU Administrative Assistant

**Excused:** Brenda Grinnell Crosby, Public Health Administrator;

**Guests:** Makensy Jabbour, Community Health Services Intern; Skip Parr, Senior Public Health Sanitarian;

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

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

**Approval of March 26, 2019 Minutes:** Dr. Janet Morgan moved to approve the March 26, 2019 meeting minutes as written. Mr. McLaughlin seconded that motion. Dr. Melissa Dhundale and Ms. Sue Merkel abstained from providing their approval. All others in attendance voted to approve the March 26, 2019 meeting minutes.

**Introductions:** Board members and guests introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their professional history for the newest Board member, Dr. Melissa Dhundale.

**Financial Summary:** Mr. Kruppa provided a summary of the Financial Summary within the packets provided to the BOH, as Ms. Grinnell Crosby was absent today. He stated that we are closing out 2018, which should be concluded by next month's meeting. We are in month three of 2019 and

everything is on track from his perspective. Ms. Crosby included a note, stating that the County is working out the P-Card issue.

**Administration Report:** Mr. Kruppa apologized for not providing a written report this month as he was in Albany as the agenda and packet was being prepared. He stated that he was in Albany because the New York State Department of Health held their first convening of collaborators around the opioid issues. Mr. Kruppa brought Ms. Angela Sullivan from the Alcohol and Drug Council and Mr. Bill Rusen from Cayuga Addiction Recovery Services. They were there to discuss what the DOH sees for the future of trying to address this issue. The drug user Health Group is trying to lead the issue for the DOH because there is not a lot of new information on this. Drug user Health Group focuses on harm reduction in regards to this issue. There was a lot of talk amongst the group in Albany that the current model is broken and treatment for patients is not working. It was agreed upon that harm reduction is an option and things seem to be shifting in that direction. Participants were able to educate DOH on issues within their communities and Mr. Kruppa and other participants are hopeful that there will be more collaborations like this in the future. Ms. Merkel asked about the validity of providers dealing with patients and potential scams to patients. Mr. Kruppa detailed the physician's requirements and stated that most of the physicians doing this work are doing it for the right reasons. Dr. Morgan then asked for an example of the shift in the language surrounding substance abuse issues and the change in terms. Mr. Kruppa stated that it's about putting the person first.

**Health Promotion Program Report:** Ms. Hillson reported:

- The community health survey has closed. It was closed at the beginning of April. There was a good response from that survey. The next steps include the partnering with HORN research, who will do analysis on the results as well as about 30 interviews.
- As part of the Kresge Foundation in Emerging Leaders in Public Health Grant, an RFP was sent out last week on April 15 with the closing date of May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The request is looking for some consultants to come in and help us develop a framework for addressing social determinates of health as well as supporting health equity as a department.
- Ms. Hillson announced that Streets Alive is taking place this weekend on Cayuga and Tompkins Streets in Ithaca.

**Medical Director's Report:** Dr. Klepack stated that influenza is still deemed to be wide-spread. Medical practitioners are still advised to use masks if they are not immunized. Dr. Klepack's report shows decreases in parameters regarding influenza, although the designation is still wide spread. Dr. Koppel stated that they have had the lowest influenza season in sometime, which he attributed possibly due to higher immunization rates. Ms. Merkel stated that she had read something that stated that the second strain was one that was not covered by the vaccine. Dr. Klepack then stated that the panel for the legalization of marijuana is being held on Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Borg Warner Room at the library. He stated that he believes it will be an open, honest discussion regarding the complexities of the issue. There was discussion afterward regarding immunization and vaccines regarding what is currently happening in Rockland County. Mr. Kruppa stated there were a number of things that happened there that have been challenged legally, including excluding people from school. Rockland's Executive declared a state of emergency, which has been overturned. Public Health law gives pretty broad authority and had Rockland used that law to address the emergency,

they would have been more successful. The CDC will be at a conference the first week of May to educate on how to properly use public health law. There was then discussion regarding the Ithaca City School district in regards to their immunization rates, as three schools were cited with less than desirable rates. Dr. Dhundale has been knee-deep in reviewing the exemptions regarding immunizations in that school district. Mr. Kruppa verified that there are ongoing efforts in our community regarding immunization rates. Ms. Bishop stated that there is currently Bill #2371 pending, which would repeal all non-medical exemptions for vaccinations. Dr. Moylan asked if the health department could supply information to the school districts regarding exemptions for vaccinations.

**Division for Community Health Report:** Ms. Bishop discussed a lead prevention video that was produced by Oneida County Cooperative Extension. She stated that she would send this video to Ms. Griep for distribution to the Board. Additionally, Ms. Bishop stated that she had one correction to her written report in the first sentence of her report and that was the change HER to EHR. Ms. Bishop extended kudos to Dr. Klepack regarding his letter to the editor regarding community immunity, laid out in laymen's terms.

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

**County Attorney's Report:** Mr. Wood had nothing to report. Mr. Wood stated that he looked up section 2164 of public health law regarding children and immunizations in schools and he stated that there is not a lot of leeway with that law. It states that if a NYS certified physician states that a child would be harmed by an immunization, it does not need to be given. The religious exemption of that law states that a certificate or proof of religion does not need to be given.

**Environmental Health Report:**

- Ms. Cameron stated that she wanted to mention that Grassroots was coming up. They took enforcement last year, with a deadline of April 1<sup>st</sup>. The facilitators of the festival were sort of on time but they did not submit everything required. They were given a new deadline of Wednesday, to submit other requirements. There has been discussion of having an emergency operations center on site for Grassroots this year.

**Report on the Community Services Board (CSB) Meeting:** Mr. Kruppa provided a brief update on the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Stated that Ms. Amie Hendrix, Deputy County Administrator, was present and provided an update on the dual role for the Public Health and Mental Health role. The committee dual meeting is scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> for the collaboration discussion regarding the dual role for the Public Health and Mental Health commissioner role. Mr. Kruppa stated that there was an update regarding the OMH audit given at the CSB Meeting. Citations that Mental health may receive are very minor and overall it was much better than the previous audit, with a few exemplaries expected from the audit. Mr. McLaughlin stated that he would attend the next Community Services Board meeting, which is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

**Resolution #EH-ENF-19-0006 – TOSA Apartments, T-Dryden, Violation of Subpart 5-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Water):** This was a violation of missing samples. Dr. Koppel moved to accept the revised resolution as written; seconded by Dr. Morgan.

Ms. Cameron provided a revised copy of the case summary to the Board members that provided information on a recent boil water order (Attachment).

The vote to accept the resolution carried unanimously.

**Resolution #EH-ENF-19-0008 – Sushi Osaka, C-Ithaca, Violation of Subpart 14-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code (Food):** This was a temperature violation, no temperature logs (rice was out of temperature). There was also bare hand contact cited.

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

**Adjournment:** At 12:55 p.m. Dr. Moylan adjourned the meeting.