
MEETING MINUTES Approved 5-26-2020

Tompkins County Board of Health

February 25, 2020

12:00 Noon

Rice Conference Room

Present: Shawna Black; Melissa Dhundale, MD; Susan Merkel; Janet Morgan, Ph.D.; and Christina Moylan, Ph.D., President

Staff: Karen Bishop, Director of Community Health; Brenda Grinnell Crosby, Public Health Administrator; Samantha Hillson, Director of Health Promotion Program; William Klepack, MD, Medical Director; Frank Kruppa, Public Health Director; Skip Parr, Senior Public Health Sanitarian; Deb Thomas, Director of Children with Special Care Needs; Jonathan Wood, County Attorney; Shelley Comisi, Administrative Assistant; and Karan Palazzo, Administrative Assistant

Excused: Liz Cameron, Director of Environmental Health; David Evelyn, MD, MPH, Board of Health Member; and Edward Koppel, MD, Board of Health Member

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 January 28, 2020 Minutes: Ms. Black moved to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2020 meeting as written; seconded by Ms. Merkel. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial Summary: Ms. Grinnell Crosby referenced the 2019/13th Period financial summary included in the packet. The 2019 books remain open as Finance continues to work with ITS on the splitting of the final payroll. The fourth quarter state aid claim is filed. Staff is working on the 2020 state aid application.

Administration Report – Coronavirus Update: Mr. Kruppa reported:

- At the end of January, the Federal Government issued a public health emergency declaration that resulted in changes on how to respond to travelers from around the world. The first phase dealt with symptomatic individuals (persons under investigation) with a travel history to the Hubei province in China within the last fourteen days. Some of those individuals were connected to Cornell University. Fortunately, none of the Cornell individuals tested positive and have been

released from isolation. Cornell has partnered with the Health Department on how messaging/information is exchanged, reviewed and coordinated.

- The next phase centered around the need to quarantine individuals traveling from China to the United States. The White House Task Force implemented travel restrictions that required anyone who traveled from the Hubei Province within the last fourteen days to be quarantined at their point of entry and not allowed to travel to their final destination. Anyone who had been in mainland China in the last fourteen days could travel to their final destination and then be quarantined.
- Tompkins County has had a steady flow of two or three individuals everyday being reported to our staff but many of them were outside the travel window and did not have to be quarantined; a few had to be quarantined. When possible, individuals are quarantined in their own house. If not, the County is required to find a location that is not public.
- Currently there are additional countries that have clusters so there may be additional requirements and restrictions related to those other countries. As this situation continues to evolve, there will be adjustments to the protocols.
- Mr. Kruppa complimented Health Department staff for working to keep all informed.

Question from Dr. Moylan about planning for the potential flux in this community with its college student population should the situation worsen:

- Mr. Kruppa responded there will be new concerns for the Health Department to consider as these clusters evolve.

Question from Ms. Merkel regarding the source of guidance to local health departments:

- Mr. Kruppa responded the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is in continuous communication with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Most of the guidance is from the CDC but NYSDOH has also issued supplemental guidance. The CDC holds regular conference calls to keep all informed and has issued written guidance on its website.

Question from Ms. Black regarding flu reporting variances:

- Mr. Kruppa responded most flu goes unreported. Our reporting comes from sentinel physicians (physicians identified in each community around the state by NYSDOH) who test everyone. Those test results show how the flu is evolving over the course of a season and whether it is widespread.

Administration Report – Additional Updates: Mr. Kruppa announced:

- Strategic Planning: The process toward integration is underway with the formation of two groups. One is a staff group with representation from the Public Health and Mental Health departments. They will be doing most of the work of generating ideas and bringing a plan together. The other group is an Advisory Board consisting of BOH members, CSB members and Ms. Black from the Legislature. The Advisory Board will have monthly meetings with the consultants to give input into the process. An additional BOH member is needed to serve with this group. Dr. Morgan, Dr. Koppel and Ms. Merkel are among the members who have volunteered. Information will be forthcoming.
- Board of Health Vacancy: The nominating committee interviewed applicants and made their recommendations. The names of those individuals have gone to Mayor Svante Myrick for his review.

Health Promotion Program Report: Ms. Hillson reported:

- The Community Health Improvement Plan is available on the web site: www.tompkinscountyny.gov/health/cha-chip. It includes the complete reports on focus groups, surveys and interviews.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Klepack discussed the importance of messaging during a public health crisis. Governments play a major role in the messaging; how they choose to report/talk about it and how they handle it, especially when significant measures are being implemented. Politics cannot be involved. Public Health professionals have a crucial role in providing unbiased, credible information.

Division for Community Health Report: Ms. Bishop thanked and complimented Public Health staff for spending countless hours responding to the evolving Coronavirus crisis. She also recognized the WIC division for making significant strides in decreasing the no show rates at the clinics. One WIC clerk has made it her mission to immediately follow up with clients to reschedule missed appointments.

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.

Environmental Health Report: Mr. Parr, reporting on behalf of Ms. Cameron, had nothing to add to the written report.

Report on the Community Services Board (CSB) Meeting: Mr. Kruppa reported CSB members discussed Strategic Planning and the Priority Planning process which will occur over the next few months.

In response to a question regarding BOH attendance at CSB meetings, Mr. Kruppa thought it was a great idea. Dr. Moylan requested CSB meeting dates be emailed to BOH members. She noted integration is important and Board members should attend.

Resolution #EH-ENF-20-0003 – Maru Ramen, C-Ithaca, Violations of Subpart 14-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code: Ms. Merkel moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Ms. Black.

Mr. Parr explained Maru Ramen had three critical violations for hot holding. It is the facility's first time to the BOH. The recommended penalty is \$200 based on the new method for calculating penalties.

The vote to accept the resolution as written carried unanimously.

Resolution #EH-ENF-20-0004 – Comstock Adventure Center TR, T-Ulysses, Violations of Subpart 7-1 of the NYSSC (Temporary Residence): Mr. Parr reported Comstock Adventure's permit expired on December 31, 2019. He pointed out EH staff had sent out applications to the temporary residence two months prior to the expiration of the permit. Since Comstock failed to provide the required NYS workers' compensation and disability insurance, the permit could not be reissued. Additionally, the operator did not submit the annual nitrate sample in 2019. Comstock agreed to pay the penalties for operating without a permit. The updated proof of insurance was received on February 17th so they have been issued a temporary residence permit.

Ms. Black moved to accept the resolution as written; seconded by Dr. Dhundale and carried unanimously.

Resolution #EH-ENF-20-0006 – Easy Wok, V-Lansing, Violations of BOH Orders #EH-ENF-19-0009 and Subpart 14-1 of the NYSSC (Food): Mr. Parr explained Easy Wok violated BOH orders in failing to maintain temperatures. He noted this is the facility’s second time before the Board. The new penalty calculation was used to determine the fine of \$400. In addition, this draft resolution includes training requirements for food service workers.

Ms. Black asked if a certified exterminator goes to the premises. Mr. Parr responded EH staff has followed up on the issue. He mentioned the mall location is challenging; however, staff has not been seeing issues at the other restaurants. The difference may be in their maintenance operations.

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

Resolution #EH-ENF-20-0007 – Moe’s Southwest Grill, C-Ithaca, Violations of BOH Orders #EH-ENF-18-0050 and Subpart 14-1 of the NYSSC (Food): Mr. Parr explained this is Moe’s Southwest Grill’s second time before the BOH for temperature violation and for how they were maintaining their equipment. The penalty is higher due to the nature of the violation.

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

Additional Topics of Discussion:

Political candidates:

- Dr. Dhundale asked whether the Board ever recommends or endorses political candidates. Dr. Moylan and Mr. Kruppa both responded that the BOH does not endorse any candidates.

Medicaid caps:

- Mr. Kruppa reported Tompkins County is concerned about the proposal to cap the State’s contribution toward Medicaid expenses. Governor Cuomo has proposed to eliminate the \$6 billion budget gap at a cost of \$1.5 million to the County. Since the Public Health and Mental Health departments rely on these discretionary funds from the County, there will be some impact.

Medicaid Waiver Application for DSRIPs:

- Mr. Kruppa reported Governor Cuomo announced that the Federal Government denied the State’s Medicaid waiver application to renew the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program. It will impact our health care system.

Recognition and Award:

- Mr. Kruppa reported that Ithaca College’s Office of Environmental Health and Safety will be recognizing and awarding our Preparedness Coordinator Nina Saeli for her work with their public health initiatives program. The event will take place Friday, March 6th at Ithaca College.

Adjournment: At 12:51 p.m. Dr. Moylan adjourned the meeting.