

Chautauqua County Board of Health  
MINUTES

**Meeting Date/Time:** Thursday, July 21, 2022 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** HRC Building, Room B-14, 7 North Erie Street, Mayville, NY 14757

**Scribe:** Sherri Rater

**ATTENDANCE:**

| BOH Members   | P/A | BOH Members      | P/A | Others Present   | Title   |
|---------------|-----|------------------|-----|------------------|---|
| Dr. Erlandson | P   | Dr. Ney          | P   | Wendy Douglas    | Quality Assurance Director, HHS                         |
| Dr. Khan      | P   | Elisabeth Rankin | P   | Jessica Wuerstle | Environmental Health Director, HHS                      |
| Dr. Kidder    | P   | Mark Tarbrake    | P   | Anna Powell      | Childhood Lead & Healthy Homes Program Coordinator, HHS |
| Dr. McConnon  | P   | Nancy Rosario    | E   | Sherri Rater     | Scribe  |
|               |     |                  |     | Gregory Bacon    | Jamestown Post Journal                                  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Call to order</b>                      | The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Lillian Ney. Roll call was taken.   |
| <b>Privilege of the Floor</b>             | None.   |
| <b>Approval of May 19, 2022 minutes</b>   | <p>Discussion was held about rewording part of the second paragraph on page 3, which refers to the application of grants.</p> <p>Legislator Rankin offered to support the Board of Health and Public Health Department at any future Legislature Meetings and requests that we call on her as needed.</p> <p>Kidder adds that Board of Health members are able to provide expert knowledge on many health related subject matters or can recommend others in the community to provide expert knowledge on health related matters. Let us know when there is a need so that we can make ourselves available for the legislature or subcommittees.</p> <p>The second paragraph on page three will be reworded and sent to members for review. Khan made a motion to approve the May 19, 2022 meeting minutes with updates as noted above, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rankin, all in favor, motion carried.</p> |
| <b>New Business: Agreements to Settle</b> | <p><u>Wuerstle reporting:</u> All of the agreements to settle are water violations. The first offense for a water violation is a fine of \$100 or violators can come to a hearing to plead their case.</p> <p><u>Rankin:</u> Are the requirements posted on our website?</p> <p><u>Wuerstle:</u> We have resources on our website. We do send out a packet annually with instructions on what the requirements are.</p>   |
| <b>New Business: Lead Poisoning</b>       | <p><u>Ney:</u> We have high lead levels I want to be sure that people understand the gravity of the situation with lead. I know a very young couple who bought a house that had not been occupied for a long time and their child</p>   |

Prevention Program Update

subsequently had high lead levels. They were very upset and took the appropriate remedial steps needed.

Anna Powell Reporting: Anna took over all of our childhood lead programs in March of 2020. She handed out a lead report card to members (attachment A).

We have been working diligently to restructure our lead programs. Anna manages both the environmental health and nursing programs and has been working to restructure our staffing model and to provide information and outreach to families.

We want kids tested at ages one and two. Children that move frequently have a higher risk of lead poisoning because the new home could have lead paint. I want to work with pediatricians to have kids tested anytime they move until six years of age. We are trying to educate parents on this as well.

Testing is a huge piece of our outreach. As you can see from the data, we are getting the first level test but are still lower than WNY and NYS. We are dropping the ball with testing at age 2 and 3. The data show that there is a lot of room for improvement.

Lead is toxic at any level. NYS's action level to go in to do a home inspection used to be 10 micrograms per deciliter. In October 2019 NYS reduced it to 5. This May the CDC reduced it to 3.5, however NYS has not adopted those guidelines yet. Anytime a child tests at 5 or above we are notified and go into the homes to find the source and help families remediate the source. We work with the families, provide cleaning supplies, nutrition information and ultimately want to make sure they know that we are here as a resource to them. We monitor kids until they have had two tests under the level of 5, six months apart.

Khan: Lead toxicity effects the whole body but most concerning are the neuropsychiatric development, learning disability and behavioral issues. Severe cases show chronic anemia due to iron deficiency, malabsorption issues and failure to thrive. Common issues with levels of 5-8 consistently over a long term are learning disabilities and neuropsychiatric mental health issues due to lead.

Powell: The issues are permanent; however, lead poisoning is 100% preventable.

We have been working hard to realign our staffing model to provide better services to our families. We initiated the Healthy Housing Coalition at the end of 2021. We now have over 20 organizations and 50 individuals who are actively participating and welcome more. If there is an interest, please contact us to be added to the roster.

We are applying for foundation assistance to formalize a coalition structure and have been collaborating with Mental Health Association, the City of Jamestown, City of Dunkirk and Chautauqua Opportunities and have had a lot of success to get people the resources they need for lead issues, housing, mental health or whatever their need is.

Lisa Schmidfrerick-Miller is our Health Homes consultant. She was asked to sit on a panel at the National League of Cities/HUD convening in Phoenix to talk about the lead hazard reduction work that we have been doing along with Onondaga County and Lead Safe Cleveland.

In the past two years we have received \$5M in HUD grant funds. We partnered with Chautauqua Opportunities (COI) for the \$3M HUD grant. CIO has the capacity to do application intake, eligibility and manage our contractors that do the work. We have lead inspectors and resources to do all of the testing and clearance here at the Health Department. There is potential for us to apply for more money in July 2024 when this round of funding is finished. With the housing state in Jamestown and Dunkirk, the need is great. We have at least 85 children that are elevated and referred to us per year. This program is for families with children under age 6 with low to moderate income.

Our newest HUD grant is the \$2M Healthy Homes production grant. We partnered with the City of Jamestown Department of Development. They have a process in place with their CDBG money and we have the capacity to

(Cont'd)  
Lead Poisoning  
Prevention Program  
Update

apply the technical assistance and referrals for this program. This program addresses other healthy housing issues other than lead such as asthma triggers, mold, pests, radon, trip and fall hazards. This program covers children under the age of 18 and adults 62 and older if they need assistance with upkeep of their homes in order to keep them in their homes.

We did just receive a small radon grant through NYS thanks to Shelly Wells. It is a small amount of funding but will allow us to test, educate and refer to our other big HUD programs.

Kidder: How extensive is the lead abatement?

Powell: We focus on replacing and abating friction and impact surfaces such as doors, windows, floors and stairs. If it is just window casing, baseboards can be covered with a fiber locked paint that seals the paint in and creates a better barrier. For years our programs only allowed all surfaces to be repainted, but have you ever tried to repaint a window and then after opening and closing it a few times you are right back to square one so we changed our policy to if it is a friction or impact surface they either have to strip it to bare wood or replace it. Most people would rather just replace the windows but it is costly. This is where the grant writing came in so that we could be awarded these grants. We do relocate families to either a hotel or they can live with family. They get a stipend for food and other supplies for a 10-day period, which is the time allotted for the repair.

Khan: What about rental situations? And what if the property owner can't be contacted?

Powell: The program does apply for rental properties, however the property owner must be current with their taxes in order to qualify. Luckily we can work with the families in the rental properties to teach them ways to mitigate the issues to lessen the lead exposure. For example if a home has lead paint on the porch and we tell families to put a rug over the porch and take their shoes off after they walk across the porch. Now the lead paint is not getting spread throughout the home until the issue can be rectified.

We had a young child with a lead level of 22. The family owned their home and applied for a home equity loan. COVID hit, dad lost his job and the loan fell through. One of our inspectors was able to spend a few hours with them to tell them what can be done in the interim like cleaning, washing hands and toys. He is now down to a 5.

Douglas/Powell: We still have a nurse on staff and all of these kids are referred to our Early Intervention programs and when they are older to our Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs program which can provide services until they are 21.

Ney: Compliments to the LHD for working between silos here trying to get things done. I understand there is money to allow people to take the course and it was free of charge.

Powell: We have been offering the course for years and many people have taken it. As part of our lead hazard control grants they must take the class or have one of our staff go onsite to show them how to do everything in a safe manor. Property owners and contractors are required to be lead certified.

Ney: Thank you for trying to work out ways to help the housing situation. There are so many obstacles The Health Department is trying to work with the landlord association who don't want policies to go through City Counsel because it results in ordinances.

Powell: We have a really great toolbox with grant programs as well as ARPA money that Jamestown is putting into place. The programs are 100% funded but what is disconcerting is that property owners can't qualify because they haven't paid their taxes. So it becomes complicated.

What we really need is a rental registry and inspection process so that property owners have to obtain a certificate of occupancy certifying that the property is healthy for children to live in before it is rented.

Khan: I love the idea of testing the kids when the families move. We can work on that. The other thing we have is the public health nursing program starting soon with nurses visiting moms with newborns. I think as we develop

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>(Cont'd)<br/>Lead Poisoning<br/>Prevention Program<br/>Update</p> | <p>this new program perhaps when the nurse is goes into the home to do the check on the newborn, they can see if there are other children in the home and do a finger prick for lead right there.</p> <p><u>Erlandson:</u> In addition to paint are there plumbing and water supply issues?</p> <p><u>Powell:</u> In the three years that I have been doing lead inspections I have only seen 2 or 3 kids with high lead levels unrelated to lead based paint. Those kids elevated lead levels were due to occupational hazards (not water). Our water systems are regulated and tested every year for lead and copper. We do not have the same problem as Flint, MI. There is a lot of misconception here.</p> <p><u>Wuerstle:</u> There is an initiative with the State to map out and eliminate all of the lead plumbing lines. We are about five years out from any enforcement initiatives.</p> <p><u>Kidder:</u> There is a similar program with asthma trigger abatement with Healthy Homes and the American Lung Association. This program receives referrals from pediatricians and then goes into homes and will rip up carpets, take down drapes and put a lot of money into trigger abatement for asthma. Is there any overlap since both programs are part of Healthy Homes?</p> <p><u>Powell:</u> It is very similar. We know that asthma is a giant issue as well.</p> <p><u>Erlandson:</u> Cockroaches and asthma – was there ever anything to that?</p> <p><u>Powell:</u> We can have the home tested for cockroaches, as that can be a probable source. We are working on an integrated data system between code enforcement and us that would allow us to focus on certain neighborhoods and even to know that code enforcement has been involved.</p> <p><u>Khan:</u> The systemic approach is great. We always look at the glass half empty. What we have here in Chautauqua County shows that we are much farther along than others in the state. Thank you.</p> <p><u>Ney:</u> Going back to the NYS report card, the incidents of confirmed high lead levels in blood are much higher in Chautauqua County compared to the State average. People need to understand that is not a failure of the Health Department. There are many variables, such as property owners not fixing things, etc. It has nothing to do with the Health Department so the employees should not feel that it has anything to do with them not doing their jobs. I thank you for all of the work that you are doing.</p> |
| <p><b>Old Business:</b></p>  | <p>none</p>   |
| <p><b>Director's Report</b></p>                                      | <p><u>Wuerstle:</u><br/><u>Blue Green Algae</u> is present mostly in the south basin of Chautauqua lake. A press release was sent out recently encouraging people to know what they are looking for. We sent symptom guidance to the medical community and veterinarians so that when people or animals are presented in the office, providers can be thinking about it. The risk of Blue Green Algae is the potential toxin production. There is no visual cue to know when that toxin is being produced so when we see a bloom we tell people to stay out of water because there may be toxins. Our office regulates the beaches and will close them based on our observations; however, we can't monitor the entire shoreline so we want the public to know what to look for if they are going into non-designated beach areas of the lakes. Beaches will then be rechecked daily until they are able to reopen.</p> <p><u>Douglas reporting:</u><br/><u>COVID-19:</u> We continue to report weekly with COVID-19 updates on our website chqgov.com. Anecdotally, we're hearing of significant number of positive home tests in the community but cases of severe disease remain low</p>   |

Director's Report  
cont'd

here. New strains continue to emerge and hospitalizations are increasing in some areas. New York State continues in a state of emergency. No guidance has come out yet for schools or universities this fall.

The NYSDOH conducted a "hotwash" on July 19 with local health departments to review public health response to the pandemic at this point. NYSDOH areas for best practices and opportunities for improvement including communications, training and staffing, modification to plans, policies and procedures, equipment, inter-agency coordination, and future planning, training, and response needs. It was stated that the hotwash is not a discussion about the "right answer" because there isn't one. This was new and unprecedented for all of us in Public Health. We have a tremendous amount to rehash, learn from, and plan for the future at the national, state, and county levels. The COVID-19 pandemic response is the latest Performance Incentive Program for local health departments in NYS so we will be continuing to work on this. The Rebuilding Event on May 6<sup>th</sup> gives us a head start on the NYSDOH's deliverables. I'm hoping for a very collaborative process with the NYSDOH.

Health Department first dose Moderna vaccination clinics for anyone 6 months of age and older were held on July 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at JCC and SUNY Fredonia. The JCC clinic had 24 with 19 of them being of 6m-5y age bracket. The SUNY Fredonia clinic had 45 with 23 of them being of 6m-5y age bracket.

Our website has list of pharmacies that have vaccine and who they are administering vaccines to.

"Traditional" public health programs are moving ahead.

Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan: Last week Shelly Wells scheduled a collaborative meeting with The County Health Planning Team to help with the CHA/CHIP process. Shelly shared information from UPMC Chautauqua's and Westfield Memorial Hospital's plans, as well as corresponding support from the 2022 Chautauqua County Health Survey and NYS data (collected and organized by the NYSPHA intern, Elena Saez). Brooks has not provided a written plan, but Tracey Stevens did attend, and she was very helpful with input. UPMC Chautauqua (Toni) provided their assessment and plan, but no one from UPMC attended the meeting. Westfield Memorial (Rodney Buchanan) provided their plan and attended! Other representation included TCC, Roswell Park, CHN, TRC, E2CCB, Healthy Community Alliance, CC Social Services, and CC Mental Hygiene.

NYS Prevention Agenda's five focus areas are to prevent chronic disease, promote a health and safe environment, promote healthy women, infants and children, promote well-being and prevent mental and substance use disorders, and prevent communicable diseases.

A lot of information was collected as a result of the Chautauqua County Health Survey. We collected over 1,500 survey responses. More data will be shared with the Board at a future meeting.

Coroner Program: It's been hard to recruit and retain competent coroners. The coroners have voiced the need for increased compensation and we are analyzing case and program data to determine how to best move forward, especially since we're working on the 2023 budget now. Any changes in the compensation structure will need to be approved by the county executive and legislature.

**Other**

Polio/Covid:

We had our first case of Polio in NYS in about a decade. The case is in Rockland County. This was an individual who was not vaccinated for Polio. When we talk about vaccination it becomes a difficult word because people wonder what it is going to do. When I was a kid, Polio was horrible. I knew someone who had Polio and my parents were terribly concerned. It was a terrible disease that could cause paralysis. This is also where the iron lungs came in. It has been wiped out in the US with the exception of this one case. This leads me to a point that I want to bring up about the water treatment testing that this Health Department is a part of. Water treatment testing has been around for a long time, it was used for things like Polio and so on. The water treatment plan analysis is done by UB and the results are shared weekly. The COVID levels in Dunkirk and Jamestown are now high.

The grant that was for vaccine awareness could have helped the health department tell mothers that we understand you didn't want to bring your infants into the office for routine vaccines during COVID and now we want to encourage you to get those vaccinations such as MMR, etc. The point is we, like other counties and states, fell down in numbers for routine vaccinations in the last two years. We don't want kids getting measles and mumps or other preventable diseases, some causing horrible encephalitis and even death in children. We don't want people on our county to suffer from lack of necessary and lifesaving vaccinations.

Rankin: How are the COVID vaccinations for children going, now that COVID vaccine is now available for children 6 months and older?

Douglas: We held our first COVID vaccination clinics for 6 months and older last week and had 42 children 6 months-4 years receive vaccine.

Khan: Parents are hesitant. Pediatricians and healthcare providers are getting the word out. I expect the uptake of the vaccine will rise in the fall. Parents are sitting on the fence thinking COVID is gone for now.

Kidder: We have been keeping a waiting list for parents who wanted their children under 5 vaccinated. Our office received a couple hundred doses recently and so we were able to take care of those children. We treat the COVID vaccine as we do every other vaccine. We recommend it at every physical for adults. We open a vial every day and I am hoping to do that soon with pediatrics as well.

Khan: Getting the Novavax for COVID will help. Novavax is the traditional vaccine that can be stored in the refrigerator so that it can be on the shelves in many offices and the vaccine will not get wasted like it could now. Smaller practices will be able to offer it without having to worry about wasting it.

Kidder: We've all heard there is a newer booster coming out that will take care of other new strains. I anticipate when this new booster comes out we will have an influx of people wanting these. Will the LHD have a clinic offering both the flu and COVID booster when this occurs?

A: We are not sure at this time.

Erlandson: Are there differences in the requirements for mandatory mask use in assisted living vs. nursing homes?

Ney: We will find out and put in the minutes.

Current masking requirements can be found here:

[https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/03/2.60-determination-5.0\\_3.2.22.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/03/2.60-determination-5.0_3.2.22.pdf)

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Other (cont'd)              | <p><u>Gun Violence:</u><br/> <u>Ney:</u> With the increased gun problems, I thought we could pick one component and provide education. After contacting Christine and the Sheriff we decided the education piece should be on the safe storage of guns. I believe Bree is working on it for us and hopefully we can share the information soon for the board to approve.</p> <p><u>Live Stream Meetings:</u><br/> <u>Ney:</u> A constituent expressed interest in having Board of Health meetings streamed live on Facebook so that people can listen to the meeting without having to drive to the meeting location. Ney requests that we look into that possibility for future meetings.</p> |
| <b>Adjournment</b>          | Motion to adjourn by Kidder. Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm   |
| <b>Future Meeting Dates</b> | 9/15/22, 11/17/22  |

# New York State Community Health Indicator Reports

## 2016-2019 NYS Child Health Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, data as of September 2021

