

Chautauqua County Board of Health
MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time: Thursday, March 16, 2023 6:00 p.m.

Location: HRC 4th Floor Conference Room, 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	Dr. Faulk	Interim Public Health Director; Board of Health Secretary
Dr. Khan	P	Elisabeth Rankin	P	Dr. Berke	County Physician
Dr. Kidder	P	Mark Tarbrake	E	Jessica Wuerstle	Environmental Health Director
Dr. McConnon	A	Nancy Rosario	A	Sherri Rater	Scribe
				Gregory Bacon	Jamestown Post Journal

Call to order	The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Lillian Ney.
Privilege of the Floor	<p>Dr. Ney mentioned she spoke with someone recently who thought the local paper has been lacking some educational materials that used to be in the paper.</p> <p>Discussion: An ad and article published in the Post-Journal in February was shared with the group. The article gave a description of all of the programs the Health Department offers. We wanted to put this out knowing that there are people who don't realize what we are doing. We also plan to run this in the Dunkirk Observer's medical directory later this year. Additionally, it was mentioned that we do post a variety of health related topics on our Facebook and Instagram social media pages. We will look into how we can be more present in the local newspapers.</p>
Approval of 1/19/23 minutes	Khan made a motion to approve the January 19, 2023 meeting minutes. 2 nd by Kidder; all in favor; motion carried.
New Business: Hearing Officer Recommendations	<p>Wuerstle reporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the matter of Mr. Tyler Hess, Alexander's Restaurant, Findley Lake case # 22-87. Respondent was charged with violation of the NYS Sanitary Code, Part 5 Subpart 5-1 in that they failed to timely submit the monthly operation records for June, July, and August 2022. Based on credible evidence presented at the hearing, the Hearing Officer determined that the Respondent was in violation and recommended the Respondent pay a \$300 fine. Wuerstle explained that since then the Restaurant has been compliant and that the owner was not in communication with the operator of the violations. Faulk adds that LHD staff work closely with establishments and provide information needed in order for them to comply with the NYSDOH requirements that the LHD must enforce. Upon further discussion and considering the

<p>Hearing Officer Recommendations Cont'd</p>	<p>Department has incurred additional expenses to hold the hearing, the fine is set at \$300. Khan made a motion to set the penalty to \$300, 2nd by Kidder. All in favor. Motion carried.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the matter of Chloe Pfaffenbach, Chloe's Corner Diner, 2705 Main Road, Sheridan, case # 22-xx. Responded failed to comply with the NYS Sanitary Code, Part 5, Subpart 5-1 in that they failed to timely submit the monthly operation records for February, June, August, September, October and November 2022. In addition, their permit has lapsed and they have often been found to not have the required level of chlorine in their water supply. Based on credible evidence presented at the hearing, the Hearing Officer determined that the respondent was in violation and recommended the Board of Health direct the permit to operate the restaurant be terminated and not reissued and that the Respondent be directed to immediately close the restaurant. Wuerstle explained the business has since closed and have no intention to reopen. No further discussion.
<p>Agreements to Settle</p>	<p>Wuerstle reporting: Agreements to settle were reviewed. Fines for water violations are currently \$100 per offense. In the future we may consider a fine schedule where the fine amount increases for repeat offenders.</p> <p>Tobacco and vape product retailers are monitored by the LHD. Facilities noted sold a vape or tobacco product to a person under 21. When these violations occur, they are charged a fine and points are given against their retail license. If points accrue, due to multiple violations, the retailer must appear for a hearing and could potentially lose their tobacco and vape license for one year. This can affect their lottery as well. One problem when a retailer loses their license, is that all they have to do is change the owner's name and apply for a new license under the new owner.</p>
<p>Event venue policy and procedures</p>	<p>There are a lot of new places popping up to hold weddings and large events. These venues are in a gray area where they are not used enough to be a registered as a water supplier and be required to follow regulations. They are holding large gatherings with hundreds of people every weekend, at least throughout the summer months. We are working on developing a policy and procedure to put some sort of oversight on the water system, make sure they have an appropriate septic, and discuss food service requirements. Many are bringing in licensed caterers so the food is appropriate, but the water and septic is an open-ended situation.</p>
<p>Onsite wastewater treatment systems</p>	<p>We are working under a new engineer license and are want to establish some consistency with wastewater treatment systems to ensure systems are being installed under appropriate guidelines. We may receive some pushback from the Amish population and so we are working with them the best we can to follow the regulations and be respectful of them.</p>
<p>Board of Health Meetings</p>	<p><u>Virtual attendance:</u> At the January meeting the Board wanted information on members being able to appear virtually. Upon consult with Legal we discovered that virtual attendance by is allowed, however, the public must be able to join the meeting at the virtual location. For example, a second meeting location could be in Jamestown or Dunkirk at a location open to the public. The open meetings law recently changed to allow minimal flexibility, but not in a way that is favorable to encourage membership.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A quorum is only made up of those members physically present. (2) The board would need to pass a resolution, following a public hearing, authorizing the use of videoconferencing. (3) The board would need to establish written procedures governing member and public attendance.

Meetings cont'd	<p>(4) Members can only meet virtually (without having to disclose their location) under extraordinary circumstances, defined as disability, illness, caregiving responsibilities, or other significant or unexpected factor or event.</p> <p>(5) Additional procedures for recording and posting minutes.</p> <p><u>Meeting frequency/location:</u> The Board discussed meeting frequency, time, and location. After much discussion, it was agreed to move to quarterly meetings held in January, April, July & October on the third Thursday of the month at 6pm in Mayville. Per the bylaws, the President can call additional meetings as needed.</p>
Old Business: Membership	<p>Nancy Rosario has not met the attendance requirement. We have contacted her via letter of this and have not received a response. Mark McConnon has recently moved to North Carolina. The bylaws state that all Members must be a resident of the health district. Since these members no longer meet the eligibility requirements, they are removed from the board. We appreciate Mark McConnon and Nancy Rosario's contributions. A letter of thanks has been sent to each of them.</p> <p>We now have 6 members on the Board. The bylaws indicate <i>the Board shall be composed of up to 11 members and The Board shall include at least one member from the board of legislators, three physicians licensed to practice in New York, a member from each city in the health district and three members at large.</i> Members were ask to submit potential new member recommendations to the scribe.</p>
Director's Report	<p>Faulk reporting:</p> <p>As you all know the LHD is in the midst of a restructure which gives us the opportunity to evaluate where we are now and where we want to be moving forward. We have met with division directors to review vacancies of individuals who handled a lot of our grants and programing. We are now actively searching to fill a Deputy Public Health Director position. The position was posted last week. We are looking at our Community Health Assessment to see where the needs are and will work to fill in the gaps. We want to address many of the problem areas with a focus on disease prevention. We recognize we can't do this alone. We want to work with community partners to put together some meaning programs. The new Deputy Public Health Director will take the lead on this.</p> <p><u>Retention/Supporting Infrastructure</u> - Health Research Inc. / New York State Department of Health (HRI/NYSDOH) is awarding funding totaling \$43.1M to strengthen public health workforce and foundational capabilities. This funding is supported by a CDC sponsored grant titled <i>Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce and Data Systems</i>. The grant period is 5-Years. The total award for Chautauqua County is \$778,572 (or \$155,714 per year). With this grant we can focus on retention of our staff who may be supported by other grant funds that are running out; provide workplace improvements including ergonomic workstations/desks and upgrades in technology including but not limited to laptops/computers; offer healthy workplace options, including healthy vending machine options, upgrades to breakroom and educational classes; fund staff training including public health conferences outside the county and related travel/hotel costs; and provide some wellness opportunities for our staff, which is must needed after the last few years.</p>

<p>Director's Report cont'd</p>	<p><u>Coroner program restructure</u> – We currently are able to have six county coroners. The County has seen a significant increase in complex coroner cases. Notably, there has been a 120% increase in overdose deaths since 2016. Our coroners do not receive the benefits of regular part time or full time staff. They are currently paid a nominal annual stipend, a case rate and are eligible to receive a single health insurance plan. We would like to develop Director of Coroner Services position. We may be able to repurpose a current vacancy to fund the position. With a director position in place it will allow for essential program oversight and potentially elevate fieldwork of the coroners with the hope to save money by not having to send as many cases to the medical examiner's office.</p> <p><u>Jail Health</u> - The National Commission on Correctional Healthcare conducted their second survey. We had a positive exit interview and stated that we are in a very good position to attain accreditation. Their board will meet and we will receive their final determination in May. The accreditation will allow us to standardize and elevate the care we are providing to incarcerated individuals.</p> <p>The Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program is growing. More than 60 inmates have received treatment with medication for substance abuse and alcohol abuse disorders. It is a work in progress. We've hired two LPNs and an offer has been put out to an RN to help with the program. Once we have a full staff to provide services, we will have a robust program. We are trying to make sure that inmates have links in the community upon their departure. It is challenging as we do not always know when an inmate will be released. We leave survival kits with inmate's belongings to take with them that includes information on how to seek MAT within 12-24 hours of being released.</p> <p><u>COVID</u> Hospitalizations have been in the single digits over the last several months. We had a spike at the end of February where we were in the double digits but certainly nothing like what we experienced the last two winters. Discussion was had that wastewater data is helpful to know COVID is present. The herd immunity is helping. Long COVID may be one of our top five chronic diseases in America very soon. NYS has relaxed their mask mandate for article 28 facilities. There is funding for indoor air filtration for schools. We are working with schools on this.</p> <p><u>Lead</u> – We have grant money available to purchase lead testing equipment and test kits to test children for lead poisoning. The machines are about \$3,500 each. We are working with Jamestown Public Schools to assist with some lead testing during their UPK registration. We would like to be able to do more of that testing in the community.</p> <p>Our <u>Mobile Health Unit</u> is coming soon. We are excited to get in out in the community this summer.</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p><u>Brooks Hospital</u> (Rankin) Last month Rankin put together a motion at the County Legislature about Brooks Hospital asking the Governor to release the funds offered for Brooks a few years ago. We had a great taskforce last year to go through what might be feasible knowing that we need to have some kind of healthcare in the north county and the rural community. Rankin plans to send a letter to the Governor regarding this as a member of the Board of Health. She will work with Ney to draft the letter.</p>

Other cont'd	<p><u>Welcome Home Baby</u> Rankin has heard some mixed reactions on the welcome home baby program. She has heard some positive feedback from new mothers who really appreciated the program and some negative responses from a couple others who felt they had to do it and that it wasn't their choice. The visit is not mandatory. The HD receives birth certificate data from NYSDOH and mails cards to new parents about the program with a scheduled appointment time. A staff member calls to confirm the appointment prior to a nurse going out. The parent also has the ability to contact us to cancel the appointment if they choose to.</p> <p><u>Prenatal Questionnaire</u> (Ney) Strong Starts Chautauqua reports a significant number of local women who attested to using alcohol, tobacco or drugs before they knew they were pregnant. Of the 543 local women that were polled, over 50% responded yes, with the majority reporting using alcohol, then tobacco and the smaller number being drugs.</p> <p><u>Tobacco</u> (Erlandson) Pre-COVID we had a discussion on teenage smoking and Ken Dahlgren with CC Tobacco Free presented. We were specifically looking at the distance between schools and tobacco retailers. The Health Attorney was involved as well. Erlandson would like to revisit this now that COVID has subsided.</p>
Adjournment	Rankin made a motion to adjourn at 8:02pm.
Future Meeting Dates	7/20/23, 10/19/23