

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Monday, January 24, 2022
Madison County Health Department, Wampsville, NY – ZOOM meeting

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT

Wendy Cary – Vice President
Jennifer Meyers, MD
Rachel Elder, MD
Marla Velky-Reger, LCSW-R
Gerry Edwards, MD
Sam Barr, DMD

EXCUSED

John Endres, DVM – President
Alex Stepanski, Board of Supervisors Representative

OTHERS PRESENT

Seelan Newton, MD, Medical Director
Eric Faisst, Public Health Director
Aaron Lazzara, Director of Environmental Health
Shawn Prievo, Director of Administrative Services
Rebecca LaPorte, Director of Community Health
Rosanne Lewis, Director of Children with Special Health Care Needs
Deanna Matt, Confidential Secretary to the Director of Public Health

Public Health Director Eric Faisst called the meeting to order at 6:01pm to conduct election of Officers. Nominations for President of the Board of Health: Wendy Cary nominated Dr. John Endres and Dr. Rachel Elder nominated Wendy Cary – Dr. Endres received 4 votes, Wendy received 1 vote – Dr. John Endres nominated as President. Dr. Elder nominated Wendy Cary for Vice President – unanimous vote for Wendy Cary as Vice President.

Board Vice President Wendy Cary took meeting over. Dr. Edwards made comment regarding Board of Health structure and term rotations, and would like further discussion at a later time. Director Faisst suggested reviewing the by-laws and making changes there. Dr. Elder requested adding to the agenda a review of the by-laws and discussion of modifications, and to take a look at our Strategic Plan. Suggestion made by Dr. Meyers to revisit the discussion when COVID is on a down slide and in-person meeting can take place. Director Faisst will send out the by-laws in the meantime, and further movement on this will be tabled for the time being.

The Board reviewed the December 2021 minutes, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Meyers, seconded by Marla Velkey-Reger, and approved by all.

Audit of Claims

The record of claims will be distributed via email last week for review and discussion:

- January a typical lighter spending month
 - Expenses low. Mostly pre-school, wastewater testing, and software renewals
- Several expenses reflected for prior months of Pre-School, this due to us reminding them to send in their expenses so we can close out the books
- Remaining 2021 expenses should be finished up by February

Motion to approve the audit of claims was made by Dr. Barr, seconded by Dr. Meyers, and approved by all

Situation Update – COVID-19

- Number of new cases are starting to drop off significantly
 - 50 new cases today; 140 over the weekend; 7-day avg. roughly 70 new cases per day (were previously up to over 100 per day)
 - To give an idea of where case numbers are going
 - January 9th we peaked at 727 active cases (Note: these are lab confirmed cases, as we are not including at-home positive tests in our numbers)
 - Last year we peaked on January 8th at 421 active cases – by January 24th down to 249 – a 40% drop
 - Today we are at 239 active cases which is a 67% drop over the same time frame this year
 - Omicron cases are dropping as quickly as they rose – this is consistent with what we are seeing elsewhere
 - 14 hospitalized
 - This has gone down as well, though we do not anticipate seeing the downward trend reflected as quickly in hospitalizations – usually about a 2-3 week lag from actual case number decreases
 - Rate of New Cases in Past Seven Days per 100,000
 - Madison County 913
 - New York State 1,059
 - this continues to go down
 - Percent Positivity 7-Day Average
 - Madison County 13.6%
 - NYS 10.5%
 - Percent of Breakthrough Cases
 - Madison County 5.3%
 - New York State 7.7%
 - Percent of Breakthrough Hospitalizations
 - Madison County 0.15%
 - New York State 0.23%
 - Hospital Capacity – starting to see more availability
 - Available ICU beds 17%
 - Available Inpatient Beds 9%

- Vaccination Rates continue to slowly rise
 - 83.3% of adults over 18 have at least one dose
 - 75% of total population have one dose
 - 70% of total population have completed the series
 - Note: Our goal in 2020 was 75% of total population fully vaccinated – looking like we will reach that goal
 - At this time, the main focus is on booster shots
- Vaccination activities update
 - Booster clinics have been very busy, starting to decrease slightly this week
 - Most interest had been in Moderna, but Pfizer is starting to see some renewed interest
 - Planning more clinic activities through February
 - Were able to do some offsite vaccine clinics – Cazenovia College and Empire Greenhouses
 - February will include opportunities for Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson 1st doses and boosters, as well as pediatric clinics for 5-11 year olds
 - All appointments are listed on the website, and all clinics are at Wampsville Office
 - Nursing Facilities do their own vaccination for staff and residents
 - Discussion occurred regarding vaccine being sent to other countries, and vaccination hesitancy and mis-information
- Testing
 - NYS set up testing site and SUNY Morrisville
 - PCR testing and pool testing
 - Hearing that they are not seeing a lot of people
 - Will be staying there for 3 months
 - NYS DOH does not know how many people are actually being tested at that site – these sites are being run by the Governor’s office
 - MCDOH testing site in Morrisville is ending, and we are working with Oneida Health to help facilitate their testing site
 - We cannot collocate 2 simultaneous sites, but we may be able to help them staff their event
 - We have seen the number of people getting tested here going down
- College came back into session last week, and numerous cases have occurred in all 3 schools
 - Not seeming to be severe cases
 - Mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated
 - SUNY Morrisville asked for our assistance for booster shots
- NYS requirement for healthcare employees to get booster shot
 - We are coordinating our vaccination clinics with that deadline
- Public Schools
 - We have not been conducting contact tracing for them since November

- They are doing test-to-stay, and we have directed them to identify clusters and unique situations and we will meet with them to discuss any isolation and quarantine warranted
 - This is the general trend across the state and most counties and districts
 - Working on schools taking back their communicable disease programs and practices
- Schools have been doing an excellent job at keeping schools safe and they have not been sources of transmission
- NYSDOH may be putting forth guidance related to extra-curricular sports
 - We were asked if the MCBOH guidance on extra-curricular activities are still in place and relevant?
 - CDC guidance on extra-curricular activities supersede the guidance we released – but we will review the document to confirm
- Discussion occurred regarding mask mandates and how they apply to healthcare and other facilities
- Hospital calls showing that they are still busy with COVID patient treatments, as well as testing all inpatient for COVID and treating as needed

Reports

- Director's Report
 - MCDOH was awarded the Healthy Neighborhood Program Grant (HNP)
 - Applied for in 2019, and notified 2 weeks ago that we will receive that award
 - 5-year grant → \$170,000 per year
 - Purpose to address environmental health needs in low-income homes and neighborhoods, with an emphasis on reducing household injuries, childhood lead poison, and hospitalization due to asthma, and exposure to indoor air pollutants
 - First time Madison County has had this program
 - Similar in nature to Individual Water Systems grant program we previously had
 - Staff would go into residents homes and assess water systems and provide testing and guidance on ways to improve
 - Target neighborhoods
 - Working with other agencies and organizations to help residents fix these things
 - Grant starts in April – we are re-familiarizing ourselves with the grant and what we outlined
 - Will require hiring an additional staff person to run the program (100% grant funded)
 - Similar to Chuck and Mike who ran the Individual Water Systems program

- Putting together work plans to submit to the state
 - Received approval from the BOS last year to hire a Health Statistician
 - Erica Bird was our Health Statistician, and she was promoted to Quality Improvement Coordinator
 - In process of interviewing candidates
 - Will help tremendously with work on the Healthy Neighborhood Program as well as the upcoming Community Health Assessment
 - We also have a vacant Office Assistant position in Early Intervention
 - Question posed if there is any room in the Healthy Neighborhood Program to address any of the issues that we have had with some of the mobile home parks in the County
 - Eric points out that the HNP will first address targeted areas, but will include the whole county throughout the length of the grant
 - The deeper dive in step two will have focus areas within targeted communities
 - MCDOH will partner with community organizations to assist with outreach
 - Of note – When Chairman Becker gave the State of the County address he made mention that there is consideration to consolidate services in the County to include, among other things, moving animal control and codes under the Public Health Department
 - This would have a substantial impact on this program
- County Report – Eric reporting on County updates
 - We have a new HHS committee
 - Co-Chair with Alex Stepanski
 - Brandee DuBois, ICU Nurse at Oneida Health
 - Mary Cavanaugh, Nascentia Health
 - John Pinard, Town of Lenox (has been on HHS before)
 - Melissa During Town of Lincoln
- City of Oneida – No Report
- Medical Director’s Report – Dr. Newton
 - QA Meeting scheduled for next week
 - Hoping to get back to some normal activities
 - Note made of the increase in STDs
 - Director Faisst points out that this is not surprising, as it is similar in other areas as well – will hopefully come out in the Community Health Assessment to allow us to address further
- President’s Report – No Report

Old Business

- Mapleview Manor Mobile Home Park
 - Decision made by Board of Health at the last meeting to close this park. MCDOH has been working with the County Attorney to draft a letter – draft forwarded to the board this morning
 - Questions posed will be added to the language in the letter

- No proceeding has taken place on this topic – hearings have occurred prior, which Maplevue representatives paid the fines from. But no other movement noted towards compliance
 - Unsure if another hearing is necessary
 - MCDOH will check on that need
- The Board of Health voted at November 2021 meeting for closure
- The drafted letter was reviewed – answers to above questions will be provided once they are received
 - Any other questions to be sent to MCDOH before letter is finalized
- Final draft of the letter will be sent to the board for approval before it is sent.

New Business

- Nationwide shortage of blood is effecting everyone
 - Madison County has a blood drive scheduled this week

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Elder, seconded by Marla Velkey-Reger, All in Favor – 6:55pm

Next Meeting February 28, 2022
VIA ZOOM – Link to be delivered via email

Respectfully submitted by Deanna Matt