

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Monday, February 24, 2025**  
**Madison County Public Health Department, Wampsville, NY – In-Person**

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT**

Marla Velky-Reger, LCSW-R – President  
Wendy Cary – Vice President  
Gerry Edwards, MD  
Jennifer Meyers, MD  
Kurt Gormley, DDS  
Rachel Elder, MD  
Siubhan Bongiovanni, DVM

**EXCUSED**

Mary Cavanagh, Board of Supervisors Representative

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Eric Faisst, Director of Public Health  
Erica Bird, Deputy Director of Public Health  
Seelan Newton, M.D. – Medical Director (via Zoom)  
Aaron Lazzara, Director of Environmental Health  
Rebecca LaPorte, Director of Community Health Services  
Shelly DeGroat, Director of Children with Special Health Care Needs  
Marisa Campanaro, Director of Administrative Services  
Deanna Matt, Confidential Secretary to the Director of Public Health

VP Wendy Cary called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Voting occurred for Board of Health President

- Motion to nominate Marla Velky-Reger for President was made by Dr. Elder, second by Wendy Cary, all in favor

The Board reviewed the January 2025 minutes. A motion to approve the minutes with corrections was made by Dr. Elder, second by Dr. Gormley, and approved by all.

**Audit of Claims**

The January 2025 record of claims was distributed for review and discussion:

- No major occurrences to report
  - King & King going to bid for construction/renovations
- Rise in expenses for Healthy Neighborhood Program advertising
- Still no headway on the Pcard purchases report

Motion to approve the audit of claims was made by Dr. Elder, second by Dr. Bongiovanni, and approved by all.

**Reports**

- County Report – No report provided

- Director's Report – Eric Faisst
  - JUUL Settlement
    - Received an update from New York State Attorney General that funds will be sent out once the state budget is approved in April
    - We are continuing with the Community Budgeting Process
      - Developing a steering committee consisting of agencies that provide services related to vaping
  - Healthy Housing “Coalition”
    - Holding a pre-meeting in April with support from National Center for Healthy Housing and representatives from relevant organizations, to understand why forming a collaborative is essential and the potential benefits for both individuals and the broader community, and hear experiences from existing coalitions and how they influenced housing initiatives.
      - Invitations will be sent out in March – anticipating approx. 40 people
    - May 14<sup>th</sup> at Delphi Falls will be the first meeting of the group with a goal to develop a 3-year strategic plan to address housing needs.
  - Occupational Health Surveillance
    - Employer Survey
      - Working with Harvard to better understand the needs of Madison County business health productivity and safety management needs
      - Survey will be used to help us understand the needs of businesses, and to inform the Healthy Workforce Conference
    - Occupational Health Indicators
      - Identifying a list of potential occupational indicators for surveillance.
  - Still waiting to hear NYS Local Government Efficiency Grant application regarding codes consolidation feasibility study.
  - Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG)
    - We are meeting with architects this week – the bid went out yesterday
    - Construction set to occur May through October
      - Enclosing 2 spaces into offices
      - Adding an enclosed conference space downstairs
      - Renovation break room area, and
      - Adding a wall between the break room area and work spaces
    - There will also be some re-configuring of cubicles downstairs to provide more space for EI/PreK staff.
  - As of February 18<sup>th</sup> we are fully staffed
  - Emergency Preparedness deliverables for the state are coming up
    - Trainings for staff
    - MOU to share resources among counties
  - Bird Flu
    - A flock of geese in Madison County succumbed to the bird flu – Department of Agriculture and the DEC took dead/infected geese.
    - CCE is advertising that people can reach out to them for more information on the bird flu and how to deal with any associated concerns/questions
    - Department staff available to provide flu vaccinations to those interested
  - Accreditation
    - All documents submitted. Waiting on PHAB for next steps

- Federal Funds: We are not aware of any changes to federal funding that our department receives (e.g. HUD, PHIG, etc.) – so it remains unknown what if any impact there will be.
- City of Oneida – No Report
- President's Report – No Report
- Medical Director's Report – Dr. Newton
  - Continuing to keep an eye on H5N1
  - Flu at the highest we have seen in a decade
  - RSV and COVID on the rise
  - Continuing to see GI cases, and Strep cases increasing as well
- QA/QI in January – all good

### **Old Business**

- Community Health Assessment
  - Have received over 700 responses so far – low response from certain subgroups
    - 24% male, and 13% of the 18-24 year olds
  - Discussing options for focus groups to target these low response groups

### **New Business**

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Elder, second by Dr. Edwards, and approved by all – 7:02pm.

**Next Meeting March 24, 2025 at 7:02pm – IN-PERSON –  
At Madison County Public Health Department, Building 5 – Wampsville**

*Respectfully submitted by Deanna Matt*