

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Monday, April 28, 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  
Jennifer Meyers, MD  
Kurt Gormley, DDS  
Rachel Elder, MD  
Siubhan Bongiovanni, DVM  
Mary Cavanagh, Board of Supervisors Representative

**EXCUSED**

Gerry Edwards, MD

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

Board President Marla Velky-Reger called the meeting to order at 6:29pm.

The Board reviewed the March 2025 minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by VP Cary, second by Supervisor Cavanagh, and approved by all.

**Audit of Claims**

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

- A lot of trainings coming up, so registration and travel costs increased
- Addition of renovations costs – they are slated to begin in May
- Vaccine costs are typical

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

**Presentation**

Dr. Meyers gave a presentation on Measles. Main points included:

- Humans are the only known host – transmission is through direct contact with infected droplets OR by airborne spread, and it is extremely contagious.
- Symptoms include high fever, cough, runny nose, and cold symptoms; white/blue spots on the inside of the mouth; rash starts at day 3-4, beginning on the face and spreading down and out.
- Current outbreak in the US started in Southwest Texas, and has spread into New Mexico and Oklahoma. As of April 17, 2025 there are 800 cases so far in the US in 25

states – likely an understatement as not all cases are reported. 96% were unvaccinated or unknown vaccination status.

- There is an outbreak in Ontario, Canada with more than 1,020 cases in 2025 – mostly unvaccinated, but have been adult breakthrough cases
- No treatment available – PREVENTION IS KEY
- Measles Vaccine currently available in the MMR in the US – routinely given at 12-15mos and again at age 4-6 years. Single does is about 93-95% effective. Second dose raises rate to 97-99% - not technically a booster. No herd immunity unless coverage rates are 95% of the population

## **Reports**

- County Report – Mary Cavanagh
  - Attended the Healthy Housing Collaborative pre-session meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Plan to attend the May Strategic Plan meeting at Delphi Falls on May 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Fundraising Golf Tournaments coming up to support Children's Advocacy Center and Wanderer's Rest
  - Suicide Awareness Walk arranged by the Veteran's Services Agency coming up on May 10<sup>th</sup> – it is a 22K broken up into smaller portions.
  - Office for the Aging Executive Director states that there will be no changes to government funding for county OFA services
    - NYSAC is keeping up to date on possible cuts
- Director's Report – Eric Faisst
  - Healthy Housing Collaborative
    - Pre-session meeting held on 4/15 went well – with 37 participants. Set up the structure for the upcoming Strategic Planning session taking place 5/14 at Delphi Falls
  - JUUL Settlement
    - Waiting on state to put the budget through to get funding
    - We met with BOCES – they will be a part of the community meeting to determine how the funding should be spent
  - Community Health Assessment (CHA)
    - Coming to a conclusion – will be working to determine our department capacity for addressing ACEs
  - Occupational Safety and Health
    - Trying to get county level data from the state on occupational safety and health. Now working with RHIO regarding the social determinants of health z codes
  - Board of Supervisors explored the option of putting a small group together to explore a small molecular reactor, of which Eric was going to be a part of. This effort will not be pursued here, instead Madison County will offer support to Oswego County with their efforts
  - Changes in Federal Funding may effect county laboratory capacity for testing wastewater samples for opioids and other narcotics
  - Oneida City gas flare
    - National Grid has been conducting a controlled burning of natural gas at their Union Street facility. This is a routine federally and state-mandated inspection process to ensure safe operations (occurred in 2018). Hoping to finish by the end of April

- From the health perspective – may see an uptick in respiratory illness reports
- Mary asked that National Grid make further reaching notification of this occurring in the future with information on potential health risks
- City of Oneida – No Report
- President's Report –
  - Madison County Rural Health Council has a doula program (birth and death)
    - Encourage more referrals for families to take advantage of these free services
  - Madison County LOSSTeam
    - Clinicians and community volunteers partnering with BRiDGES, law enforcement, and other partners to respond to completed suicides to support family and loved ones on-site.
- Medical Director's Report – Dr. Newton
  - Rates are down for Flu, RSV, and Covid
  - Moderna flu/covid vaccine data looks good – Pfizer trials are not doing as well
  - STI at-home test kits are becoming available
    - Seeking additional ways to reach non-insured individuals
    - Telehealth and prescriptions being offered for positive tests
    - Hoping to work with school nurses to help offer to younger population

### **Old Business**

- None

### **New Business**

- None

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Elder, second by Supervisor Cavanagh, and approved by all – 7:27pm.

**Next Meeting May 19\*, 2025 at 6:30pm – IN-PERSON –**  
**At Madison County Public Health Department, Building 5 – Wampsville**

**\* ONE WEEK EARLIER DUE TO MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY**

*Respectfully submitted by Deanna Matt*