

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Monday, July 28, 2025
Public Health Building, Wampsville, NY – In-Person

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT

Marla Velky-Reger, LCSW-R – President
Rachel Elder, MD
Jennifer Meyers, MD
Siubhan Bongiovanni, DVM
Seelan Newton, M.D. – Medical Director

EXCUSED

Wendy Cary – Vice President
Mary Cavanagh, Board of Supervisors Representative
Kurt Gormley, DDS
Gerry Edwards, MD

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Faisst, Director of Public Health
Erica Bird, Deputy Director of Public Health
Marisa Campanaro, Director of Administrative Services
Shelly DeGroat, Director of Children with Special Health Care Needs
Rebecca LaPorte, Director of Community Health Services
Aaron Lazzara, Director of Environmental Health
Jennifer McGohan, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Deanna Matt, Confidential Secretary to the Director of Public Health

Board President Marla Velky-Reger called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

The Board reviewed the June 2025 minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Meyers, second by Dr. Elder, and approved by all.

Presentation: Jennifer McGohan, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

- Public Health recently conducted a table-top exercise focused on Environmental Health's response and communication during a simulated flood and water contamination event. Historically, Public Health has played a supportive role in similar emergencies—for example, by providing tetanus vaccinations during flooding in Oneida and offering Mental Health support following the tornado in Smithfield. This exercise is based on Emergency Preparedness deliverables that require an annual drill.

Audit of Claims

The June 2025 audit of claims was distributed for review and discussion:

- It has been a busy month, with a significant volume of UCP Retro billing, Community Health vaccinations, and Rabies post-exposure cases.
- Transportation alternatives are currently being explored:
 - Discussions are underway with school districts to assess their willingness and capacity to handle their own transportation.
 - All districts would need to participate uniformly; partial participation could result in increased costs—potentially doubling expenses.

A 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
- Director's Report – Eric Faisst
 - EI/Preschool Transportation
 - In contact with other counties to gather information on their transportation procedures
 - Herkimer County is currently the only one still using self-transport
 - Research is underway to compare associated costs
 - Housing Coalition
 - Ongoing meetings focused on developing the Recruitment Plan, Charter, and identifying Funding Opportunities
 - Next meeting scheduled for August 13
 - Group-wide survey sent to gather input on naming options
 - Agenda planning meeting with the National Center for Healthy Housing scheduled for tomorrow
 - Electronic Health Records
 - Data is being used to mine Occupational Health trends and insights.
 - Eric is coordinating with local health department directors and HealtheConnections to explore the integration of new Z-codes via the Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO)
 - Building Renovations
 - Load-in began today.
 - Phase 1 includes:
 - Converting two former meeting spaces into offices
 - Adding a new conference room and storage area downstairs
 - Renovating the kitchen and breakroom
 - HVAC system renovation for the downstairs area will follow the completion of the current remodel.
 - Youth Bureau will be joining Public Health in January
 - JUUL Funds
 - We do not have them yet, but we are ready to go when they do arrive
 - Plan to enlist community participatory budgeting for guidance on how to spend the funds
 - Staffing update
 - Our current Health Statistician is moving on from our department and has taken a position in Washington State
- City of Oneida – No Report
- President's Report – Marla Velky-Reger
 - Nothing to report at this time
 - Sincere thanks for coordinating last month's meeting at Delphi Falls
 - The Board donated to the chosen charity in honor of BOH Vice President Wendy Cary's husband, who passed away this month
- Medical Director's Report – Dr. Newton
 - Update on potential Measles case
 - Patient from Vermont visited several urgent care facilities between here and the Albany region

- 23 people exposed - currently past the date of vaccination exposure
- We are awaiting results for possible symptomatic case
- Seeing GI illnesses and some COVID
- No word on the fall vaccines – but believe that what is coming should cover new variants still
 - Moderna came out with a lower dose vaccine for COVID – awaiting FDA approval
- QA Meeting today

Old Business

- Vector-Borne Disease Update
 - Ticks/Lyme Disease:
 - Increase in human cases of anaplasmosis reported
 - Public Health will develop outreach or materials through the Disease Surveillance and Response Committee
- Mosquito Surveillance:
 - Testing continues in Madison County
 - Efforts are ramping up in preparation for expanded surveillance
- Blue-Green Algae present in lakes earlier this season causing some closures – but they have all been re-opened

New Business

- Accreditation Update
 - Received feedback from the accreditation board; 17 of the 149 measures have been re-opened
 - Deadline to resubmit is September 23
 - Site visit can be scheduled after resubmission

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Elder, second by Dr. Bongiovanni, and approved by all – 7:17pm.

**Next Meeting August 25, at 6:30pm IN-PERSON –
At Madison County Public Health Department, Building 5 – Wampsville**

Respectfully submitted by Deanna Matt