

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Monday, August 24, 2020
Madison County Health Department, Wampsville, NY – ZOOM meeting

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT

Alex Stepanski, Board of Supervisors Representative
Wendy Cary – Vice President
Jennifer Meyers, MD
Marla Velky-Reger, LCSW-R
Rachel Elder, MD
John Endres, DVM

ABSENT

Gerry Edwards, MD
Sam Barr, DMD

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Faisst, Director of Public Health
Aaron Lazzara, Director of Environmental Health
Rosanne Lewis, Director of Children with Special Health Care Needs
Katie Mungari, Director of Community Health
Shawn Prievo, Director of Administrative Services
Dr. R. Seelan Newton, Medical Consultant

VP, Wendy Cary called the meeting to order at 6:01pm noting that a quorum had been reached.

The Board reviewed the July 2020 minutes – Motion to approve the minutes with no corrections was made by Marla Velky-Reger, seconded by Dr. Elder, and approved by all.

Audit of Claims

The record of claims were distributed for review and discussion.

- Lowest amount of bills being paid in a month, in a very long time
 - Summer school and preschool is always low in the summer
 - Possibly because the meeting date is a bit earlier
- Environmental Health slightly high due to many post-exposures that came in, and were referred to the hospitals that billed us
 - Recently purchased a large batch of post-exposure vaccines

Motion to approve was made by Supervisor Stepanski, seconded by Dr. Meyers, and approved by all.

Situation Update – COVID-19

- 6 Active cases – no new in the last few days
 - 17 deaths
 - 236 in quarantine (majority associated with travel)
 - .7% rolling 7-day average of positives for the month of August → makes for roughly 99% of Madison County residents test negative

- Averaging 100-250 tests per day – last week we over 1,000 tests, which we believe to be because of the colleges conducting testing upon staff/students return
- Wastewater testing since July 15th
 - Delay in some results, but have caught up
 - Seeing some fluctuations, and we are working with SU to better understand what those fluctuations may mean and how to translate them to a public health response if necessary
 - Received additional \$6,500 in grant funding through the New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) – which we are applying to extend testing through November
 - Should give us a good idea if there are issues in the college towns
- Additional NYS Funding
 - Earmarked to hire contact tracers
 - Putting in for 3 position (2 RN and 1 CHW)
 - Will allow PH staff to focus on other work in the Department and possibly put together a team that can go out and do targeted rapid testing if the need arises
 - Needed to line up testing and a lab for this to happen
 - Wadsworth reached out to us, and other rural counties and has promised to do 100 tests a week for us if needed
 - Working on agreement with Upstate Mobile Unit – partnered with Nascentia – allows a strike team to be deployed for testing
 - AEGIS – national laboratory we can send samples to
- Meeting weekly with Colleges, Hospitals, Superintendents, and started weekly calls last week with School Nurses
- Following up on Enforcement and we have over 250 complaints we are working on in different stages
 - 3 strike process with regulated and non-regulated businesses not meeting requirements for masking, social distancing, and gatherings
 - 1st strike – call from MCDOH
 - 2nd strike – visit from MCDOH
 - 3rd strike – fine from MCDOH
 - We are required to follow-up on complaints
 - Difficult to monitor every businesses practices, as the non-compliance has to be witnessed first-hand by MCDOH
 - We have a couple of businesses on Strike 2 – and a couple that may be getting a fine. Working to finalize and determine the next step
 - It is a very time-consuming process to monitor the complaints
- Spending time on traveler quarantine – may be changing in the next few days with new CDC regulations released. Will depend on what NYS decides to do
- Eric has been participating on Zoom meetings for public school meetings with parents
 - Most questions are focusing on switching between in-person to virtual learning and vice versa
 - It is the sense that people are anxious to get their children back to school, and how it will affect the parent's workweeks

- Schools have done a tremendous job at switching their entire plans around in a short period of time – a lot of work
- Providers seeking guidance on how to conduct day-to-day business with what requirements will be regarding testing and attending school, as well as re-entering school once a student has gone home sick
- Counties received word that flu/COVID plans will need to be made
- In-house contact tracers have been retrained, and will be put into rotation. A master list of outside volunteers who would like to help is maintained, and we will also use the state's contact tracers if needed
 - We use a tech app that Commcare uses – been using that with students
 - Can choose to have monitoring done through text – quarantine only. MCDOH monitors that system daily
 - Colgate is possibly looking into app capability that tells a person when they are near someone who has tested positive for COVID
- Those traveling by plane are required to fill out a form; some individuals fill the form out on their own if they travel by alternative method; some travel is reported by neighbors or others filing complaints
- NYS sent us 1,000 test kits – Upstate mobile unit can use them
- Discussion occurred regarding the process of contact tracing, and the role of MCDOH
- Discussion occurred regarding plans for schools and colleges

Reports

- County Report – No Report
- Director's Report
 - Some work being done on Strategic Plan items – youth survey for alcoholism
 - Grant with the Community Foundation
 - Focus on addressing the Opioid issue
 - Safe needle drop offs in process
 - Applying for grant funding available for disaster relief in Madison County
 - Continuing with Healthy Workforce items
 - Started calls back up with Harvard – They are applying for next round of funding for Partners in Excellence, and have asked to use us to be a part of their project, and develop the TWH model → MCDOH sending a letter of support
 - HWF Conference being planned for October 2021 – committee has reconvened
 - Sent out Save the Date to BOH 9/30 for a post-COVID conference taking place
 - Health Equity training for all staff last week – went well
- City of Oneida – No Report
- Medical Director's Report – Dr. Newton
 - Surveillance meetings and activities have been on hold due to COVID, but are resuming again for the 2020-2021 flu season
 - GI case investigation – patient in VT when contact occurred, but residence listed here
 - QA meeting on July 30th

- President's Report – No Report

Old Business

New Business

- Overview of budget review
 - Tasked by County Administrator to come in with a 0% increase for 2021 due to COVID hardship and potential 20% cut of state funding
 - Fortunately a large purchase in 2020 allowed for a decrease to occur anyway
 - Able to cut in other areas, i.e. travel, supplies, etc. – any areas we were able to make small cuts we did
 - Unfunded the salary for the Assistant Director of EH position
 - CDC individual water grant ending in September
 - Came up with \$100,000 in cuts between CDC grant loss and salaries not needed
 - Tightest area is EI and Pre-School → Transportation contracts end in July 2021 – after which we will be rebidding out the new contracts. Concern with the outcome of rebidding due to increased need of routes to comply with COVID requirements, as well as already anticipated increase with new contract negotiations.
 - If pre-school students don't attend in person there still isn't much of a savings
 - The lead program did have an increase last year, so should be ok
 - Split between programs
 - Hoping state will increase funding/reimbursement for that grant
 - Pharmacies approved to give child vaccinations – MCDOH has not been involved in this, other than identifying the pharmacies who will be doing them
 - MCDOH can send out information packets out to pharmacies to encourage establishing and maintaining communication with providers
 - VFC requires pharmacies to meet all requirements that providers are held to
 - Has been relatively quiet with ticks this year – not known why
 - Mental Health - schools coming back brings concern with children and parents mental health
 - Eric has sent out letters to Mental Health Dept., BRiDGES, and CAP regarding plans for getting ahead of these issues – as well as drug/alcohol issues, and abuse issues that have not been reported through all of this

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Elder, seconded by Supervisor Stepanski, All in Favor – 6:59pm

Next Meeting Monday, September 28, 2020 @ 6:00 pm
VIA ZOOM – Link to be delivered via email

Respectfully submitted by Deanna Matt