

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Monday, August 25, 2025
Public Health Building, Wampsville, NY – In-Person

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Seelan Newton, M.D. – Medical Director
Eric Faisst, 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
Deanna Matt, Confidential Secretary to the Director of Public Health
Guests/Presenter:
Nicole Jusko, Epidemiologist
Hao Zhang, Intern – MPH Student at Syracuse University

Board President Marla Velky-Reger called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

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

Presentation: Hao Zhang, Intern – MPH Student at Syracuse University

- **Substance Use Wastewater Analysis, Madison County, NY**
 - As states In Intern Zhang's report, "[wastewater-based epidemiology] WBE has become an important component of public health surveillance due to its ability to provide near real-time, community-level data. In Madison County, New York, wastewater monitoring is part of an ongoing local effort to apply these principles in practice. Madison County Public Health began wastewater testing in July 2020 as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response." Full report included in packet.

Audit of Claims

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

- Typical expenses for the month
 - Notable expense for reimbursement payment to CAP for contractor services and admin costs for Healthy Homes program

A motion to approve the audit of claims was made by Dr. Elder, second by Dr. Edwards, and approved by all.

Reports

- County Report – Mary Cavanagh
 - HHS Committee meeting tomorrow
 - Entering into budget season
 - Budget Hearings scheduled for September 15-17
- Director's Report – Eric Faisst
 - Housing Collaborative of Madison County
 - Official Name: Selected as Housing Collaborative of Madison County
 - Plans Drafted & Reviewed:
 - Recruitment Plan
 - Funding Plan
 - Collaborative Guidelines
 - Next Full Group Meeting: September 11 at Delphi Falls
 - Goal: Roll out the plans with the full group
 - Grant Applications
 - Community Foundation of CNY – Application due Friday
 - If awarded, funding would support a full-time Coordinator
 - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
 - Planned use: County-level housing needs assessment
 - Local Government Efficiency Grant
 - Grant awarded; County match required: \$41,700
 - Funds intended for a codes feasibility survey, resolution/contracts to be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors at the October meeting
 - End goal: Considering countywide codes enforcement under the County
 - Meeting scheduled with the Department of State this Thursday to discuss award, workplan and contract with state
 - Building Renovations
 - Current Progress
 - Downstairs conference room walls installed, electrical work in progress
 - Wall between lunchroom and offices installed; kitchen work to begin soon
 - New office walled in
 - Upstairs office construction to begin soon
 - Downstairs HVAC
 - Installation expected to start October/November and continue into the new year
 - All downstairs staff will be displaced during work; plan includes a combination of work-from-home schedules and adjustments to upstairs room usage
 - JUUL Funds
 - First allocation received
 - Starting to plan Participatory Budgeting process – in development
 - Staffing update
 - Our current Health Statistician is moving on from our department and has taken a position in Washington State – Her last day is September 2, 2025
- City of Oneida – No Report

- President's Report – Marla Velky-Reger
 - September is Suicide Awareness month
 - Marla will send out information on the Walk for Remembrance on 9/13 at Chapman Park
 - Madison County Loss Team has not had any on-site calls but has been involved in a few after-incident situations.
- Medical Director's Report – Dr. Newton
 - Experiencing a late-summer wave of COVID with new strains detected
 - CDC recommends not vaccinating healthy children and pregnant women for COVID
 - Note: Other organizations continue to recommend these vaccinations
 - Measles scare unfounded; all exposures tested negative
 - High number of gastrointestinal-related illnesses observed
 - QA meeting reviewed charts: all found to be in good order

Old Business

- None

New Business

- None

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Elder, second by Supervisor Cavanagh, and approved by all – 7:29pm.

**Next Meeting September 22, 2025, at 6:30pm IN-PERSON –
At Madison County Public Health Department, Building 5 – Wampsville**

Respectfully submitted by Deanna Matt