

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Monday, September 22, 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
Mary Cavanagh, Board of Supervisors Representative
Kurt Gormley, DDS
Gerry Edwards, MD

EXCUSED

Wendy Cary – Vice President
Seelan Newton, M.D. – Medical Director

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
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 August 2025 minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Edwards, second by Dr. Elder, and approved by all.

Audit of Claims

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

- Big month for August
 - Most notable including mosquito spraying which required a resolution – around 11,000 acres sprayed
- There have been several trainings occurring for staff
- Refund provided for rabies prophylaxis as insurance ended up covering
- Oneida Health – 2024 claims
 - Determining expectations of what is covered versus what is actual required coverage

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

Reports

- County Report – Mary Cavanagh
 - Budget hearings took place last week for all departments
 - HHS tomorrow

- Discussing the Oneida Police Department hiring a county-employed Mental Health Crisis Worker to be on-staff with the OP for the next 3 years
 - Attended NYSAC – Housing Crisis Response event
 - Presentations highlighted the need for more permanent affordable housing, and to combat the high expense, and significant increase in homelessness
 - JUUL Settlement
 - Vaping focus – tiered payment system
 - EVA – AI generated call service starting at DSS
 - Will include 24/7 service and will help reduce staff time on phone handling required information sharing and other screening elements
- Director's Report – Eric Faisst
 - JUUL Settlement
 - Working towards community participatory budgeting
 - Steering committee has met and been helpful in organizing and preparing to begin the PB process
 - Staffing Update
 - Health Statistician interviews have been conducted, and we are in process with one candidate for an offer
 - Continuing to work on the Transportation Report
 - Housing Collaborative
 - Held a full group meeting on 9/11 – had 25 in attendance including representatives from the Land Bank of CNY, both Madison County hospitals, as well as a landlord.
 - Submitted application for CNYCF grant and a pre-application for a CDGB grant
 - Utilized consulting group to assist with proposal
 - Codes Feasibility grant has been approved and starts in November
 - Building Renovations
 - Flooring in breakroom in done – working on ceiling tiles
 - NYS did a walk-through inspection
 - County reps walked through to plan for HVAC project
 - Accreditation
 - Finished documents for reopened measures – waiting on site visit
 - Community Health Assessment
 - Have met 3 times – priorities were determined back in July – and we are moving forward
- City of Oneida – No Report
- President's Report – No Report
- Medical Director's Report – Dr. Newton
 - DSRC met 9/2
 - Mosquito surveillance has collected less pools – but seeing more positives
 - Summer Camps
 - Mostly reported insect bites
 - Respiratory Illness
 - Relatively low, except for COVID
 - ACIP met last week
 - Expanded pharmacists to provide COVID vaccinations

- Still unsure of guidelines, but if approved, we plan to conduct COVID vaccinations here – awaiting standing orders
- GI Illnesses reported
- Hep A case – likely exposed in China
 - 2 household exposure vaccinated
- EEE case confirmed today
 - Onset in early September (9/5) – coordinating with ER visits
 - Patient on ventilator in ICU
 - Interview and investigation are complete
 - Press release issued today

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Continue with follow up on vaccination topic

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Elder, second by Dr. Edwards, and approved by all – 7:09pm.

**Next Meeting October 27, 2025, at 6:30pm IN-PERSON –
At Madison County Public Health Department, Building 5 – Wampsville**

Respectfully submitted by Deanna Matt