

**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 is done – working on ceiling tiles
    - NYS did a walk-trough 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*