

Board of Health

Meeting Minutes for March 08, 2022

Unapproved

The following board members were present: Dr. Leo Cusumano MD, Timothy LaFever, Dr. Zahi Kassas MD., Legislative Representative Janice Burdick, Dr. David Brubaker MD

Others present: Tyler Shaw, April Worth, Jami D'Arcy, Charles White, Breeyan Barnes, County Administrator Carissa Knapp, County Attorney Allison Carrow, Kermit "Casey" Jones

Members absent: Dr. Joseph Felsen MD, Dr. Willard Simons DDS

Medical Director absent: Dr. Christopher Depner

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Zahi Kassas at 7:01 pm.

A motion was made by Tim LaFever to approve the December 14, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Dr. Kassas. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

Dr. Kassas asked to welcome the new members to the meeting. Tyler Shaw introduced Jan Burdick, newly appointed Legislative Chair; Allison Carrow, County Attorney; Charles White, Environmental Health Director.

Tyler Shaw, Public Health Director reported COVID-19 updates as follows:

- 49.8% of Allegany County residents have received at least 1 dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- 58% of the 18 and over population have received at least 1 dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- 46.35% of Allegany County residents have a completed series of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Allegany County remains the NYS County with the lowest number of vaccinated residents. Since February of 2022, the vaccination rate has increased by .7%.
- Allegany County DOH is still holding vaccination clinics, weekly.
- The Federal Government has rolled out the "Test to Treat" program, which encourages individuals to test soon and treat early to improve COVID-19 outcomes. Currently Jones Memorial Hospital is the only site to offer treatment options.
- New masking guidance has been released for schools.
- Allegany County DOH has an At Home Testing Portal, located on the County website. This portal allows county residents to self-report positive COVID test results. These results are then reported by ACDOH to the NYS tracing system. Affirmation of Isolation and Quarantine forms are also located on Allegany County website on the main page in the red box titled "COVID-19 Information."
- ACDOH rapid test clinics are now being held on Monday and Friday, every week, from 8:30am to 10:30am. ACDOH uses the rapid molecular tests to perform COVID tests.
- ACDOH will distribute rapid molecular test kits to all school districts in Allegany County with machines. This does not include Colleges in the county, as there is currently no funding for this at this time.

Mr. Shaw presented updated Board of Health By-Laws to the Board members for review. Dr. Brubaker motioned to approve updates made to the BOH By-Laws. Motion seconded by Tim LaFever. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

Mr. Shaw reported personnel changes, as follows: a full-time Account Clerk Typist was hired; this individual will help with ongoing COVID-related duties.

Program updates: Reproductive and Sexual Health and Immunization clinics are back up and running. Outreach is being done in support of these programs and events are being scheduled to occur during Spring and Summer.

Penny Chudy, Corporate Compliance Officer, completed the annual review of the Allegany County Corporate Compliance Plan with all present BOH members. BOH members completed and submitted to the Corporate Compliance Officer a brief questionnaire after the review. Board of Health members were able to ask questions regarding Corporate Compliance.

Mr. Shaw reported that there were no instances of fraud, waste, or abuse, in the last quarter.

April Worth, Director of Patient Services, reported that there are currently no individuals being monitored under the LHCSA Program.

Ms. Worth thanked Dr. Kassas for providing immunization training to new members of the Clinic staff.

The Immunization Program provided 58 immunizations and there has been a total of 1,242 COVID vaccines (2nd & booster doses) provided through the Health Department, in the last quarter. There are 3 immunization clinics scheduled for March.

Ms. Worth presented an updated Immunization/COVID Sliding Fee Scale for 2022; the cost of COVID immunization has increased by approximately \$10.00 since 2021. A motion to approve the 2022 Immunization/COVID Sliding Fee Scale was made by Dr. Kassas. Motion seconded by Dr. Brubaker. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

Reproductive and Sexual Health Clinics have continued to be held throughout the pandemic. A total of 7 clinics were held last quarter, 57 patients were seen and 30 STI investigations were conducted through the Health Department. R&SH pamphlets have been updated and are distributed during clinics. Social media has also been updated and the Health Department is currently looking at new ways to engage through social media and to draw new patients.

Ms. Worth presented an updated Reproductive and Sexual Health Sliding Fee Scale for 2022. A motion to approve the 2022 R&SH scale was made by Dr. Kassas. Motion seconded by Dr. Cusumano. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

TB – The Policy and Procedure Manual has been updated, the majority of the updates pertain to the section regarding testing for healthcare workers. Manual is present and available for review. A motion to approve the TB Policy and Procedure Manual was made by Dr. Brubaker. Motion seconded by Dr. Kassas. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program nursing staff is currently monitoring 46 children. Ms. Worth stated that reminder mailings for 1-year and 2-year lead testing continue to be mailed out; 68 letters were mailed for 1-year-old children and 74 lead testing reminder letters for 2-year-old children, last quarter. Physician letters were also sent out.

Ms. Worth reported that in the last quarter there was a total of 124 communicable disease reports conducted, to include Hep B & C, Giardia, Campylobacter, and Legionella.

Accidents/Incidents/Complaints – There have been no accidents, incidents, or complaints in the last quarter.

Charles White, Environmental Health Director, reported that, for the year 2021, there were 163 rabies investigations, 25 animals were sent in for testing, 757 animals were immunized, and 16 people have received post exposure treatments were provided. To date in 2022, 22 rabies investigations have occurred, 1 animal has been sent out for testing (results were negative), and 3 people have received post exposure treatment.

There will be a Free Rabies Clinic held on 04/30/22 at Genesee Valley Central School – Bus Garage, from 9:00am – 12:00pm.

Mr. White reported that, in 2021, 12 dwellings were assessed for Lead Hazards, 10 of these had at least 1 lead hazard recognized. Lead level referrals are as follows: lead level 15-20: 1 referral, lead level 10-15: 2 referrals, lead level 5-10: 4 referrals

To date, 3 Environmental Health staff have completed the BEHP training program (Basic Environmental Health Program), 3 additional staff members are currently enrolled and should have the training complete in the Spring of 2022.

Old Business – Nothing to report.

New Business – Dr. Steven Collins has accepted appointment of Medical Consultant, he will be assuming this roll in Dr. Depner's place beginning on April 1, 2022.

General Discussion – Dr. Kassas inquired if Dr. Collins will be attending the next BOH meeting to which Mr. Shaw replied that he will certainly be invited, and we are hopeful that he will be available to attend.

Dr. Brubaker asked how the ACDOH staff members are doing and expressed his gratitude for all their hard work during the pandemic. Mr. Shaw responded that weekend work has been cut down and staff have been able to return their focus to their pre-COVID work. The BOH asked that their thanks be extended to the ACDOH staff. Mr. Shaw thanked the BOH and Carissa Knapp, County Administrator, and her team for the support that they have provided through the pandemic.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Tim LaFever, motion seconded by Dr. Brubaker. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Breeyan Barnes
Confidential Secretary to the Public Health Director