

Board of Health

Meeting Minutes for June 08, 2021

Approved

The following board members were present: Dr. Leo Cusumano MD, Dr. Zahi Kassas MD., Dr. Joseph Felsen, Legislative Representative Judy Hopkins, Timothy LaFever

Others present: Tyler Shaw, Brittney Schuld, Breeyan Barnes, County Administrator Carissa Knapp, Jami D'Arcy, Keith Hooker, Casey Jones, Jon Chaffee, Ken Dahlgren, Ann Weaver

Members absent: Dr. Willard Simons DDS, Dr. David Brubaker

Medical Director absent: Dr. Christopher Depner

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Cusumano at 7:03pm.

A motion was made by Dr. Kassas to approve the March 09, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Judy Hopkins. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

COVID-19 Updates are as follows:

- As of June 8, 2021, at 8:00am, percentage of population vaccinated is broken down by the NYS Dash Board as follows:
 - 15+ age group – NYS: 66.3% Allegany County: 42.1%
 - 65+ age group – NYS: 80.5% Allegany County: 65.2%
- Since May 20, to date, 3 community clinics for Moderna vaccine were held in the towns of Friendship, Belfast, and Bolivar. Resulting percentage of vaccinated population is as follows: Friendship 33%, Belfast 31%, Bolivar 37%. Three additional clinics are being planned and will be held in the towns of Fillmore, New Hudson, and Whitesville.
- There will be Pfizer clinics held on June 10, 2021 & June 18, 2021.
- All school districts were visited and all individuals that chose to receive vaccine were vaccinated. Approximately 500 students over the age of 12 were vaccinated. There are clinics currently being held onsite at the Clinic in the County Building for any individuals wanting to receive the vaccine that were unable to do so during the school visits. Preparations to return to the various school districts for the 2nd dose clinics are being made.
- ACDOH received an award letter from the New York State Health Department for \$1.4 million dollars to be used for COVID testing in the schools and contact tracing.

Dr. Cusumano inquired if there had been any adverse reactions to the vaccine. Brittney Schuld, Director of Patient Services, stated that there were 2 instances of individuals fainting due to anxiety about receiving the vaccine but there had been no adverse reactions to the vaccine.

Mr. Shaw extended thanks to Jones Memorial Hospital for assisting with vaccine storage.

Personnel changes were reported, as follows: 1 Public Health Sanitarian retired in April, that position has been filled with a department promotion, this leaves an open position for a Public Health Technician. Another Public Health Sanitarian will be retiring on 06/11/2021. The Environmental Health Director position is still open. 2 Office Aide positions have been approved, these positions are temporary contingent on funding.

Judy Hopkins, Legislative Representative, questioned if Office Aide duties have been expanded beyond contact tracing. Mr. Shaw stated that Office Aide duties have been expanded to include outreach and vaccine efforts.

Corporate Compliance – There have been no compliance issues, complaints, billing errors, or reports of fraud, waste, or abuse for the county, in the last quarter.

Mr. Shaw introduced Jon Chaffee, Ken Dahlgren, and Ann Weaver and granted them privilege of the floor. Information was presented and discussed regarding MRTA (Marihuana Regulation and Taxation Act) and the Clean Indoor Air Act. Mr. Chaffee explained that MRTA allows for a “Municipal Opt-Out”, which allows cities, towns, and villages opt-out of allowing adult-use cannabis retail dispensaries or on-site consumption licenses by passing a local law by December 31, 2021. Information regarding the opt-out and adding cannabis to the Clean Indoor Air Act will be compiled and sent to all municipalities.

A motion for the Board of Health to support signing on to the informative letter being sent to municipalities regarding MRTA was made by Dr. Felsen. Motion seconded by Dr. Kassas. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

A motion for the Board of Health to support signing on to the informative letter being sent to municipalities regarding the Clean Indoor Air Act was made by Judy Hopkins. Motion seconded by Dr. Felsen. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

A motion to approve thank-you letters addressed to local organizations that assisted with COVID testing/vaccination efforts was made by Dr. Kassas. Motion seconded by Dr. Cusumano. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

Brittney Schuld, Director of Patient Services, reported that there are currently no patients being monitored under the LHCSA Program.

The Immunization Program provided 93 immunizations last quarter (January through March). There has been a total of 6,562 COVID vaccines (1st & 2nd doses) provided through the Health Department.

Ms. Schuld presented updates to the Immunization Program Perinatal Hepatitis B Policy and Procedure Manual. A motion to approve revisions to the Immunization Program Perinatal Hepatitis B P&P Manual was made by Dr. Kassas. Motion seconded by Dr. Cusumano. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

Reproductive and Sexual Health Clinics have continued to be held throughout the pandemic. A total of 5 clinics were held last quarter, 58 patients were seen and 34 STI investigations were conducted through the Health Department. Recent surveys of clinic patients reflected excellent ratings and positive comments.

There are currently no TB cases being monitored.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program nursing staff is currently monitoring 45 children. Ms. Schuld stated that at this time last year the number of children monitored was 17. This number has increased since last year because of the lower lead level monitoring requirements and shut-downs/requirements to stay at home due to COVID-19 restrictions. Ms. Schuld presented updates made to the Lead Policy and Procedure Manual. Motion to approve revisions to the P&P Manual was made by Judy Hopkins. Motion seconded by Dr. Cusumano. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

Ms. Schuld reported that there was a total of 622 communicable disease reports conducted, last quarter. This number does not include COVID-19 reports. To date, Allegany County has had 14 Influenza positive individuals, the majority of these were Influenza A. Flu season ended on May 22, 2021. There have been no pediatric deaths in NYS.

Accidents/Incidents/Complaints – Occurrence screens - 2 individuals experienced adverse reactions at COVID Vaccine PODs. Both individuals fainted after receiving the vaccine (1-Moderna, 1-Pfizer). Both individuals had a history of anxiety when receiving vaccine. In both occurrences, reports were completed, and the individuals were monitored. Additionally, a clean needle stick occurred at one of the COVID Vaccine PODs, reports were completed.

Jami D’Arcy, Deputy Public Health Director, reported that through the NYS PAUSE Hotline the ACDOH has received a total of 93 COVID-19 complaints, to date.

Ms. D'Arcy stated that there has been a total of 69 animal bites in 2021, 8 have been sent out for testing and 0 have come back positive for rabies. Three individuals have been sent for post-exposure vaccine. Due to a noted increase in bat activity, the "Catch the Bat" campaign and other educational information has been released via the ACDOH website/social media pages and press releases. The April rabies clinic, located at GVCS, resulted in 242 vaccines administered. Environmental staff are currently working with the DCO Officer to schedule a rabies clinic for the month of July, in Caneadea. There is a Rabies Clinic scheduled for August 7th, in the town of Willing.

Environmental Health staff is currently investigating 36 active lead cases. There was a total of 27 cases in 2020.

Old Business – Nothing to report

General Discussion – Nothing to report

A motion to move into Executive Session was made by Judy Hopkins to discuss the appointment of 2 particular persons for the appointment of Board of Health officers at 8:25pm. Motion seconded by Dr. Kassas. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

A motion to move out of Executive Session was made by Judy Hopkins at 8:41pm. Motion seconded by Dr. Felsen. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

A motion to nominate Tim LaFever as President and appoint Dr. Cusumano as Vice President of the Board of Health was made by Dr. Kassas. Motion seconded by Dr. Felsen. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Judy Hopkins, motion seconded by Dr. Kassas. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Breeyan Barnes

Confidential Secretary to the Public Health Director