

Board of Health

Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2021

Unapproved

The following board members were present: Dr. Leo Cusumano MD, Dr. Willard Simons DDS, Dr. Joseph Felsen MD, Dr. David Brubaker MD, Timothy LaFever

Others present: Tyler Shaw, Brittney Schuld, Jami D'Arcy, Breeyan Barnes, County Attorney Tom Miner, Keith Hooker, Casey Jones, Mark Klingensmith, WGRZ-TV

Members absent: Dr. Zahi Kassas MD., Legislative Representative Judy Hopkins

Medical Director absent: Dr. Christopher Depner

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Cusumano at 7:18pm.

A motion was made by Dr. Simons to approve the June 08, 2021 meeting minutes with amendment to include the purpose of motioning for an executive session. Motion seconded by Dr. Felsen. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

COVID-19 Updates are as follows:

- As of September 14, 2021, NYS Dashboard reported as follows:
 - 41.1% of Allegany County residents have received at least 1 dose of COVID-19
 - 48.6% of the 18 and over population have received at least 1 dose
 - Completed series of COVID-19 vaccine, by gender:
 - Female: 42.4%
 - Male: 33.4%
 - Completed series of COVID-19 vaccine, by age group:
 - 12yr – 15yr: 24.6%
 - 16yr – 25yr: 24.5%
 - 26yr – 34yr: 31%
 - 35yr – 44yr: 40.3%
 - 45yr – 54yr: 45.2%
 - 55yr – 64yr: 52.7%
 - 65yr – 74yr: 67.9%
 - 75yr and over: 68.4%
 - Average rate of SNF residents that have received completed series vaccination is 90.1%
 - Average rate of SNF staff that have received completed series vaccination is 63.87%
- As of September 12, 2021, the Allegany County Dashboard reports that there have been 42 breakthrough cases. Breakthrough cases are individuals that are fully vaccinated yet have tested positive for COVID-19. Breakdown of breakthrough cases per vaccination are as follows:
 - Pfizer – 8 cases
 - Moderna – 24 cases
 - Johnson & Johnson – 10 cases
- From 09/13/2021 to 09/14/2021 there have been 57 individuals quarantined or isolated, including 24 new COVID positive cases. There are currently 265 individuals isolated and quarantined.

General discussion took place regarding COVID-19 vaccine mandates, breakthrough cases, and what steps are being taken to promote increased vaccination rates within the community.

Mr. Shaw reported that there are several Flu and COVID vaccination clinics being scheduled.

Personnel changes were reported, as follows: ACDOH received \$1.4 million dollars from the Federal Government for school reopening. These funds will be used to hire the following temporary positions: 2 full-time nurses to assist with testing and vaccination efforts, a full-time Health Coordinator to coordinate with all the school districts regarding COVID testing, protocols, policies and procedures, etc., and a full-time clerical person to assist with grant deliverables and filing of all paperwork. The Environmental Health Director position is still open.

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.

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

The Immunization Program provided 101 immunizations last quarter (April - June). There has been a total of 5,646 COVID vaccines (1st & 2nd doses) provided through the Health Department.

Ms. Schuld presented a new sliding fee scale for the Influenza Vaccine. Ms. Schuld stated that there was a slight increase in fees. A motion to approve the new sliding fee scale was made by Dr. Felsen. Motion seconded by Dr. Simons. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

Reproductive and Sexual Health Clinics have continued to be held throughout the pandemic. A total of 4.5 clinics were held last quarter, 49 patients were seen and 30 STI investigations were conducted through the Health Department. Recent surveys of clinic patients reflected excellent ratings and positive comments.

Ms. Schuld presented an updated sliding fee scale for Reproductive and Sexual Health. Ms. Schuld noted that the only change to the scale was that a medication was added. A motion to approve the new sliding fee scale was made by Dr. Brubaker. Motion seconded by Dr. Felsen. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

There are currently no TB cases being monitored.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program nursing staff is currently monitoring 44 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 reports that they have brought back the reminder mailings for 1-year and 2-year lead testing and they have partnered with organizations such as WIC, DSS, and a new program titled Every Bottom Covered to distribute lead information. ACDOH was able to mail 35 lead testing reminder letters for 1-year-old children and 42 lead testing reminder letters for 2-year-old children, in the month of August.

Ms. Schuld reported that in the last quarter there was a total of 180 communicable disease reports conducted, to include Lyme Disease, Hep B & C, Giardia, Campylobacter, and Legionella. This number does not include COVID-19 positive cases.

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

Jami D’Arcy, Deputy Public Health Director, reported that the 09/11/21 rabies clinic, held in Belfast, resulted in 151 vaccines administered. A total of 592 rabies vaccinations have been administered, to date. There is a Rabies Clinic scheduled for October 16th, at Genesee Valley Central School in Belmont. Ms. D’Arcy stated that there has been a total of 113 animal bites in 2021, 19 have been sent out for testing and 0 have come back positive for rabies.

Environmental Health staff is currently investigating 42 active lead cases, 24 of these are cases that are still open from 2020.

Old Business – Officer nominations were discussed during the June 8, 2021 meeting. Mr. Shaw asks all Board members to continue to consider this as Officers will need to be appointed during the December 2021 meeting.

New Business – Nothing to report

General Discussion – Dr. Brubaker inquired if there has been an update on the timing of availability and strategy regarding flu vaccine. Ms. Schuld stated that there will be several flu clinics held on site at the Belmont Clinic and 6 offsite clinics are scheduled. Ms. Schuld explained that they are still waiting on a large portion of flu vaccine to be shipped and they are unable to plan any further clinics until the vaccine is received.

Mr. Shaw reports that the Federal definition of close contact is now within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes. Schools are slightly different as the CDC allows students to be within 3 feet of each other as long as they are masked.

Mr. Shaw reported that COVID-19 contact tracing is still taking place 7 days a week.

A motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of two (2) particular persons was made by Tim LaFever at 8:02pm. Motion seconded by Dr. Simons. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

A motion to move out of Executive Session was made by Dr. Felsen at 8:14pm. Motion seconded by Tim LaFever. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

Casey Jones was granted privilege of the floor.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

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