



MINUTES

Committee/Project/Meeting:		Genesee-Orleans Board of Health (BOH)	
Date:	October 1, 2024	Recorder:	Samantha Weber, Senior Account Clerk
Time:	4:30 p.m.		
Location:	Genesee County Health Department/Zoom		
Attendance:			
Paul Pettit, Public Health Director			
Brenden Bedard, Director of Community Health Services - Deputy Public Health Director			
Darren Brodie, Environmental Health Director			
Kimberly Castricone, Administrative Officer			
Scott Senf, Administrative/Budget Officer			
Paul Grout, BOH President			
Deanna Page, BOH Vice President			
Kelly Rose Nichols, DO, BOH Member			
Fred Miller, BOH Member/Orleans County Legislator			
Deborah Krenzer-Lewter, Director of Health Promotion			
ZOOM:			

AGENDA/TOPIC

ACTION/NEXT STEP

BOH Minutes August 6, 2024.

Motion: Kelly Rose Nichols
Second: Deanna Page
Approved: 10/1/2024

DISCUSSION:

PUBLIC CONCERNS/DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

Paul Pettit – Public Health Director (GO Health)

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY): We will talk about 2 – but I wouldn't really say they are public concerns. People are calling in regarding H5, it's in the news – not so much in NYS now but the dairy farms are currently keeping an eye out for it. The State has come up with an initiative for the Flu vaccine for farm workers with the general idea of avoiding a variant strain that may develop if exposed at the same time to H5 and the Flu essentially to keep them healthier and prevent or minimize outbreak. The strategy is to roll out about 10,000 vaccines to the 10 highest farm laden counties by number of workers and head of cattle. Genesee ranks #4 in that list Orleans County isn't, they are below the top ten for dairy. It's not currently mandated. We will collaborate a list and send out a letter advising if they are interested, we would be happy to come out to the

farm late October early November and provide vaccinations to your workers and family that are eligible. Like covid it would be free, and we are working on that now.

Kelly Rose Nichols, DO: We are still seeing vaccine fatigue.

Paul Pettit: yes, we are still seeing that, if we need to, we can offer it in the County office too. So that is H-5, and the Second one is West Nile virus. You probably saw that we have had our first west Nile virus case since 2023... we are unclear if it was picked up locally or from the persons travels. It seems like there is something around because we are getting wind of a second case. It's been about 20 years since we have had a confirmed case; we are not doing too much with that.

DIVISIONAL REPORTS

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT:

Brenden Bedard – Director of Community Health Services/Deputy Public Health Director

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Immunizations: Our clinics have been busy with back-to-school students and schools clamping down on students not being up to date on their vaccines... We currently have two community Flu clinics coming up in Orleans County one in Holley tomorrow (10/2/2024) and another next week in Kendall. We do these each year and make them open to the communities through the schools. We will see if there is big demand for the Flu shot... last year's our numbers were significantly lower; we are curious to see if that will be the case this year as well...

Communicable Diseases: Nothing to mention, as Paul covered the West Nile Virus case... We have a respiratory illness dashboard on our website, and we have been keeping track of it there – which has been live now for a couple of months. We are starting to see an increase in respiratory illnesses so it's good that we have that available.

Tuberculosis: In Orleans County we are following two latten cases in and two more that are in processed and evaluated through Monroe County as latten TB as well.

Maternal Child Health: Remains slow, we are getting referrals but not many families are interested in using coming out for services.

LEAD: Since the last BOH, Genesee County has had eight new elevations and seven new elevations in Orleans County.

Wastewater: We participated in a study with a manufacturer that makes the kind of chemical assate that we use for wastewater, and they sent us a measles – that they are trying to make for commercial use. We participated in that study... we did not find any in the study. It's nice to be included in the study since we have the lab.

Kelly Rose Nichols DO: what is the turnaround time? From the time someone used the restroom with measles to you knowing it...

Brendan Bedard: That's a great question, because I do not know. Like a lot of times with Covid in the past we would start picking it up prior to showing up in the community – like a week prior.

Kelly Rose Nichols DO: so, it wouldn't be helpful if it's showing up two weeks prior...

Brendan Bedard: right

Paul Pettit: It is nice, that is why we continue to do it as a surveillance tool.

Kelly Rose Nichols DO: so, you do almost get the data in really time when it does start showing up?!

Brendan Bedard: yes.

Staffing: We have a new Nursing starting In Orleans County. She starts on Monday (10/7/2024).

Paul Grout: What is her name?

Brendan Bedard: Her name is Jennifer Radigan. She is coming to us from Oak Orchard Health where she worked for a long time.

Fatality Review Board: We had our second meeting that we have conducted so far with the new initiative. We have reviewed two additional drug, overdose fatalities. We were able to identify some additional commonalties and recommendations to hopefully move forward to the plan for prevention side of things for the future. Our overdose dashboard has gone live on our website too, which has been a lot of work.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT:

Darren Brodie – Environmental Health Director

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Staffing: We have a new employee as well. Amy is coming to us from Wyoming County Health Department. She has worked in the Lead Program down there, so she is heading our newest grant program, which again is through HUD. It's the Healthy Homes Program, so were we had Lead poisoning prevention and Healthy homes, this is including that but it's not just all about the lead; it about other issues like things that could create slips, falls, mold... you name it, it has become very broad. We are happy to have her, she is trained in a lot of Environmental programs, she should be a great asset to us.

We did lose one our Part time environmental staff to full retirement. He was covering our weekend and after-hours temp-food inspections in Orleans County.

*****Brief Interjection from Katline Pettine – with a tutorial of the Wastewater dashboard for the Board. *****

ATUPA: Orleans County has two sales of flavored vapes the month of August. One was in Medina and the other in Albion. They were sales to underage people (under 21) and they were flavored vape products which are prohibited products in NYS. No one is supposed to be able to go to the store and pick it up, let alone, someone under the age of 21. We have known that they were there, but they are very sneaky about where they keep them... they are not on the shelves. If they are on the shelves, they get a one-time warning per the state guidance, we let them know "get that stuff out of here"; it "disappears" ...

Kelly Rose Nichols DO: but you can still ask for it?

Darren Brodie: yes, you can still ask for it... so we are trying to get our buyers to go in and ask for those products – otherwise there is no way to know if it's still there... There is a chance we could have some of our staff ask because they are prohibited products.

Paul Grout: they last longer too, don't they?

Kelly Rose Nichols DO: it was a different place.

Daren Brodie: those were for Orleans County, but most recently on September 10, 2024 Genesee had another

sold cigarettes to an underage persons, one of our fine Batavia Establishments (which will be posted on our website quarterly) was the South Side Deli – has accrued enough points (4 points in 3 yrs) based on the parameters (the number needed for this is 3pts) of the sale that The department of taxation and Finance will be pulling their certificate to sell and also their lotto – which is huge for them financially. We certainly do not want this to be the case; I mean, we have seen places go out of business when this happens...

Deanna Page: But they do have choice...

Darren Brodie: even with our State Minimum fines we give these people, it's still a hefty blow to them. We give them all the avenues of success and education for the next time around – to educate their own staff to reduce points next time, and none of the happened here. I did get a call from the owner, but never actually was able to speak with him directly. I think he had questions on whether he could get out of it somehow, or if there's anything he could do through the state. Ultimately, he ended up signing the slip, paying the fine. So, it's final.

Enforcements/Notice of Violations: You all get copies of theses. We have several that go out at a time usually per month. A lot of these are failure to renew a permit which is the same as operating without a permit. If you don't renew it and you're still open, you're operating without a permit.; so, we are sticking to the letter with that.

Rabies: We have had on ongoing rabies QI project (Quality Improvement) which is part of the general good practice at the Health Department or any organization, but also part of our PHAB process as well. We have ended on that with our storyboard – which is to go from beginning to end on the entire process of analyzing what the issue is, what our goal to correct is and how we are going to get there, what we did and what we found at the end of it. We realized that there was a very inconsistent outreach and education from our office to the public. We are trying to be more proactive about Rabies in general, educating about vaccinating your pets, lease laws (we have had a lot of unattended pets bite people this year) and people being afraid for their pets, - we don't want them – we just want to know that the pet was healthy when it bit someone... so we can avoid costly treatments if they are not needed. The goal is to reduce the referrals. We are averaging between the two counties 21 referrals each yearly at about \$3,000 per referral if they are being treated. We want to bring that amount down by 10% (that's only 2 people) which certainly is statistical. That was the goal... in Genesee County we are expected to meet or exceed our numbers this year, so it didn't work out in our favor for Genesee County, but in Orleans County last noted was 14. So, we are well below the numbers from last year! Now to pinpoint our efforts that contributed to that decrease... it's hard to say and its not to say the efforts were not well spent. With this we found a lack (on our end) of upfront education with people.

Kelly Rose Nichols DO: I'd like to see if it was human error or animal error...

Darien Brodie: We do have those reports, but for PHAB and the QI process, it needs to be a simple display that you could draw a logical conclusion from... We have data; with people reviewing cases all the way back to 2018; pulling out the story behind why there was a referral. For example, if you pull into your driveway and upon getting out of your car a random racoon comes up and bites you on the ankle, there really is not much that can be done in the way of education. However, if you woke up to a bat and caught it bit your finger, then let it go... then that should be assessed with some additional education to the those involved.

Paul Grout: Is this something that a high schools could add to their curriculum?

Darren Brodie: Yes, this has shown us that there maybe other places where we could address these issues. A

high school would be good. It's a matter of how we would do that since we do not currently have the capacity to host an assembly or something of that nature. So, a question to you the board, is have you seen any of our press releases of regarding general information – education to the public about rabies?

Kelly Rose Nichols DO: I have seen information when you are looking for a loose dog that has bitten someone but nothing about general education...

Darren Brodie: we have posted it on social media, the Hub, and the Batavian.

Kaitline Pettine: We have had it on the local station.

Deanna Page: You are going to want to do it on something like WBEE... they have like 4 or 5 different call letters to run it under.

Darren Brodie: This is an ongoing matter.

Notice of Violations: You might be seeing more of those. Most likely for operating without a permit, because they haven't renewed, as of today 10/1 we have 9 (FSE's) food service establishments just in Genesee County that have not renewed. We do send them renewal reminder at least one full month ahead of time before their permits expire... we do not have to do that it's done as a courtesy because it makes it easier. If its their first time I will give them a one-time grace period of one week; but that is it. Eventually you are just operating without a permit. They are required yearly and most or auto populated so it's not labor-some to submit the renewal. So, when you see these, I am not being hard on them, but we are holding them to a higher standard. Otherwise, we are chasing them down for weeks...

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Kimberly Castricone – Administrative Officer, Orleans County

Scott Senf – Administrative/Budget Officer, Genesee County

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Scott Senf: I have provided our Quarter 2 summary of all our budget items. Everything looks good. The only thing you may have noticed on here that was high is preschool. We have a lot of Kids receiving services. Batavia is doing a Center Based program and those services are pretty high, we are paying those expenses, but we receive back 59.5% back of those expenses back for preschool form the State.

We have also submitted our budget to the County, and they are looking over it right now and are hopeful they will approve it, and we will be set to go.

Kim Castricone: I don't have one report, because I submitted the last one and the quarter ended yesterday. So, there isn't one today. But we also have had a budget meeting this morning, and everything seems to be going fine. So, we will see where that ends up soon.

CORPORATE COMPLIANCE REPORT:

Kimberly Castricone – Administrative Officer, Orleans County

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Kim Castricone: So, Gregg and Dr. Obear are the ones with outstanding paperwork, other than that everyone has been trained. Paul went to the meeting for the County, I did not go, so if he wants to report on that...

Paul Pettit: it was pretty standard; some things that they keep monitoring and audits.

Kim Castricone: So, otherwise there have not been hotline calls

Public Health Education:

Kaitlin Pettine – Director of Health Promotion

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

You have your reports, I am not going to go through each of the items on there, just going to highlight some main things. We have a new Public Health Fellow Laken Ricker. She started at the beginning of August, working on developing social media posts, press releases for outreach events, essentially serving as another Health Educator, its great having her on board. Cora attended a public information officer training in Alabama at the end of July; it was an intensive four-day course, that really helped us with confidence – in the event of any type of natural disaster/emergency/or pandemic. It helped us hone in on developing good press releases and developing messaging. New York State has released the updated 2025 to 2030 prevention agenda with an emphasis on social determinants of health with new priorities. We will be starting that community health assessment and community health improvement process in January. The one significant change is we will only have to do cycles every six years instead of every three. It will be a three-year update with the community services plan with the local hospitals, and then that full update every six years. That will be helpful and give us a little more time to address our goals. It will also save staff time developing the CHA and CHIP, then implementing that. Our steering committee has started to meet to go through the survey. Our goal is to have the survey ready to go in January or sooner for review and approval. With our CHIP I want to give one update. In Orleans County we have two classes going for the National Diabetes prevention program and one in Genesee County. Each of those classes have 6-7 people in attendance. We started off with about 20 but with it being a yearlong program some attendance falls off... but it seems like people are interested, they appear to be excited about it and we have been getting feedback for improvements. It's an evidence-based program so the changes will be minimal; but we are looking at incorporating some new ideas related to physical activities, sharing recipes. The participants are actually bringing in food to share with their fellow classmates, which is helping build camaraderie among the participants while building their newfound support system, which is what the program is all about.

Leave behind kits: These kits have Narcan in them and resources that we have been providing to various agencies to deploy in the community, to increase outreach and reduce overdoses. It has picked up speed in the past couple of months. In Genesee County we have the City of Batavia Fire, Elba fire, LeRoy Ambulance, and Alabama fire, all leaving behind kits at scenes to provide to anyone that they think might being using or with a family member, significant other or caregivers that is worried about the loved one.

Medina fire is doing the Orleans County department of social services, spectrum health and human service, which is an agency that does outreach in Orleans and Genesee Counties and Orleans County probation. There are four to five additional fire departments that are interested in this, we are now trying to reach out them as well. So, this is good news for Orleans County and Genesee County Department of Social Services is another that is also interested in this program as well.

Trauma informed care: We had six members go through this training held through Allegheny County. We now also have three additional staff members taking this year long training, helping us become a trauma informed organization that will be able to help our community also become trauma informed.

Our website: Lastly, we had some issues come up with our website. We have a third-party company “NewBird” managing it. Some areas of concern were identified, so with help from The Orleans County IT team; we discussed our options with both County IT teams and it has been determined that we will be taking our website back and moving it into Genesee County for management, our domain will stay the same; so if someone types in GOHealthny.org you will be directed to our site within Genesee County. I think it will help with security, and we now have that one-on-one connection verses a third party all the way in NY City. We feel that our Counties will take managing our government agency more seriously. So, we are in the process of moving that over in the next couple of months. We will keep you updated on the progress.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Paul Pettit – Public Health Director (GO Health)

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

We have our “GO Health 10.0” coming up later this month. A couple of times a year we bring our staff from both counties together for trainings on varies topics. For this one we are doing “Workplace Safety”. We had a group come through our different buildings to look at how to make things safer in case of an incident within the building along with field safety since we have a lot of staff that are going into people’s homes, restaurants and establishments or even people that maybe coming to us that simply are not happy with somethings that are going on. So, this training will help with strategies and how to deal with de-escalation and how to hold yourself from potentially bad situations and things like that.

Fellows 2.0: Kaitlin had mentioned the Fellows program. Just as a remind, the new round started around our last meeting, so we have four new fellows. We have had one resign already. So, we are now down to three at the moment. We are currently looking to fill that now and hoping to have a list of candidates within the next weeks and start interviewing. It is a two-year program, so it ends in July of 2026. Three of the candidates are working with in the health department and the fourth is overseeing the GOW cares alliance – working across three counties with the new branding to include suicide and other drugs besides opioids and overdose prevention.

Pre-K: In Orleans County we have a lot of kids still on a wait list for center-based programing; with no place to send them. Unfortunately, the with in county and the out-of-town locations are pretty much full, so we have a lot of kiddos not receiving services again. We are continuing to work on this. We did have meetings with Roy-Heart schools, there are partnerships between the legislature and Niagara County, Orleans and Genesee Counties to see if we can get or create a region hub/center since they have a lot of kids on wait lists too on their East side in the rural areas. No answers at the moment. Roy-Heart is open to it, they may have some space... due to their reduction in enrollment. They have three buildings available; they will be moving some classrooms around and consolidating. Once they can do this, they should have a wing or two open that could potentially be used for the center-based program. Its actually not a bad location; it’s a lot closer than Rochester or Buffalo. The issue they do not really want to run the program. So, we are now talking with some non-profit organizations with the thought that the space is provided would you be willing to run the program... we are probably a couple years out if that does work out. It does take a while to move the classrooms around along with getting approval from the state, a lot of logistics with all of that. So, we are continuing to look at it. In the meantime, we have some service provision problems. I guess it’s helpful form a budget end because we

are not spending the money because the kids are not getting services but that's not helping the kids. It's a double edge sword.

There is a new EI (Early Intervention) system launching October 15th for service coordinators to use. It's a state database system where they put all their information. They launched a new system about 8 years ago that turned out to be a total disaster... So, I am not expecting this one to go much better. So, we will see.

PHAB Update: We have had a bit of time to talk about the one project we are working on. So, October 31st is the target date to have everything uploaded, we know that the PHAB Review committee is meeting Early November, so technically we should be in that group. We should know fairly quickly how we fared in the ACAR process. In general, we have all our different measures already for packaging and have been uploaded into the system. We talked about one project and the other one is the shared drive, the administrative project for QI that is underway right now. Essentially, we are trying to create a common drive across both counties for staff to access and not have redundant drives in each county. Kevin, our new IT director, in Orleans County has been very helpful with this and setting up a Sharepoint drive for us. It is up and running and we can access it from both counties, and it seems to be working well. So hopefully at our next meeting in December we will be celebrating Accreditation.

NYSACHO: We are still waiting on the Governor to sign the Board of Health Bill that has been approved by the Senate and Assembly. It is our understanding that she is going to sign it we just do not know when. This will broaden the eligibility for service on the board to include the advanced practice practitioners

Opioid settlement funds: Continue to roll out, whether by Mental Health or Community services or the County; we continue to tap into some of the funding for the wastewater analysis that Brendan was talking about, the lock boxes and potentially Medical Examiner cost to the County if they are eligible expenses to be covered by the funds. The other is the Jewel settlement. So, the agencies put out a website with the amount of money that is available through lawsuits that were taken on our behalf around Jewel (the electronic cigarettes). There is about \$275,00.00 for Orleans and \$350,000 (ish) for Genesee that we have coming to us that can be used towards education enforcement, for those types of things, that we will be meeting to discuss how to use the funds. There is still some logistics on how it will be coming and how long we have to spend it for those types of things. Our understanding is that it's fairly broad, as long as it's within those categories. I see it being used mainly on education, different public service announcements and billboards and things like that. The money is out there, we are just trying to allocate it out in the next six months so more to come on that.

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion:
Second:
Approved:

NEW BUSINESS:

Appendix A Lead Testing Results Form (with GO Health Inclusion)
Final LHD Guidance on LPPP
LCII Policy 5/8/2024
Updated Vaccine Storage Handling 5/28/2024
Narcans Admin Policy revised

Motion: Fred Miller
Second: Kelly Rose Nichlos
Approved: 10/1/2024

Non-Patient Specific Prescription Naloxone revised
Opioid Prevention Program Policy Revised

OTHER:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: Kelly Rose Nichols

Second: Deanna Page

Approved: 10/1/2024

NEXT MEETING:

Orleans County/ZOOM

December 3, 2024 @ 4:30PM
