



MINUTES

Committee/Project/Meeting:		Genesee-Orleans Board of Health (BOH)	
Date:	April 2, 2024	Recorder:	Samantha Weber, Senior Account Clerk
Time:	4:30 p.m.		
Location:	Orleans 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			
Scott Senf, Administrative/Budget Officer			
Deanna Page, Board of Health (BOH) Vice President			
Fred Miller, BOH Member/Orleans County Legislator			
Kaitlin Pettine, Director of Health Promotion			
Samantha Weber, Senior Account Clerk			
ZOOM:			
Mary Obear, MD, BOH Member			

AGENDA/TOPIC

ACTION/NEXT STEP

No quorum for voting

MOTION:
SECOND:
APPROVED:

DISCUSSION:

Deanna Page, BOH Vice President: Called the meeting to order – all motions will have to be made at the June meeting since there isn't a quorum.

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 6, 2024,

MOTION:
SECOND:
APPROVED:

DISCUSSION:

Deanna Page: Hopefully everyone was able to read the minutes. We will vote on these at our June meeting.

PUBLIC CONCERNS/DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

Paul Pettit – Public Health Director (GO Health)

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Paul Pettit: One thing coming up is the eclipse on Monday 4/8/2024 and planning for that event that is occurring. The weather for the event looks favorable. Our role as public health has been more with participation at the meetings; EMO has been spearheading the meetings and plans. We have been working on some emergency sheltering in Orleans County in case a need arises, but we do not foresee this happening, but we will be ready if needed. Genesee County has not

made the same request. Orleans County is one of two counties in the line of totality that isn't closing early.
Deanna Page: It's rumored that Genesee County is closing early so staff don't have to be on the roads during this event.

DIVISIONAL REPORTS

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT:

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

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Immunization: Things are a little bit slower this time of year for immunizations clinics in both counties. One new thing is we have been in contact with the new Genesee County Jail. They have a new medical provider group and once they open, we would like to connect with them to see if our nurses can provide immunizations for the inmates. This has been done in the past and we would like to reestablish this partnership.

Deanna Page: When is it set to open?

Brendan Bedard: Not sure yet.

Paul Pettit: They are set to do a soft launch – Genesee Justice is set to move sometime in May.

Brendan Bedard: It's coming along nicely. We have gone out to the Orleans County Jail in February and March to provide immunizations for the inmates there as well.

Tuberculosis: We have been following up on cases in both counties. In Orleans County, we have two latent cases and one in Genesee County. Follow up consists of making sure they are compliant with taking their medication along with coordinating their care with our medical provider through the Monroe County Health Department.

Travel/Training: We have been fortunate to get some good training and conferences for some of the nursing staff and epidemiologists in my division. All the travel has been covered through scholarships or grants. These training courses focus on continued education in their specific programs.

LEAD: We have started planning on how to provide testing for lead. We are looking more at a point source testing method. We have a grant in Genesee County that would be able to cover this limited form of testing for individuals that may have difficulty getting to a PCP for testing. The idea is to go to public events and offer lead testing for children. We just completed the training with this equipment through the manufacturer. The staff in Genesee County has started sending out letters to families that have children with elevated levels of 3.5 to 4.9. This isn't something we routinely follow up with, but the CDC has lowered the level to 3.5 so this is something we will have to implement in the near future when NYS adopts the CDC recommendation of 3.5. It's in good practice currently and allows for the families to obtain additional education on how to help reduce those blood lead levels.

Migrant Outreach: We have not done too much with that so far this year. However, we will be meeting with Oak Orchard in Orleans County next week to discuss the upcoming season. We will be providing Tuberculosis testing and immunizations as well.

Waste Water: We were notified by the NYSDOH yesterday that they will be conducting a special study called the Eclipse Special Study. Since we already do our own wastewater analysis NYSDOH has requested that we send a sample to them weekly so they can run some additional disease tests for the next few weeks. They would like to see if there are any adjustments with the influx of people in town.

Paul Pettit: Wastewater is only tested with in the municipality, anything in the county is not going to a municipal sewer shed isn't captured since they run on private septic's. But it may be interesting to see the chemical side, drugs side of the test. We do that too; it will be a couple of weeks but when we get the tests back, we may see some spikes.

Deanna Page: I would almost expect that.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT:

Darren Brodie – Environmental Health Director

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Staffing: You know I like to give an update when we are fully staffed and I will not be doing that today, we have lost an

Environmental Health Specialist in Orleans County. Noah was one of our newer hires, we wish him well with his new adventures. We do have a few applicants; some we have interviewed previously. We will be backfilling this position as soon as we can with the proper candidates. On another note, tomorrow is the last day for our intern from SUNY. He shadowed our Environmental Team on fieldwork and helped wherever he could, he was very helpful to our team.

Rabies: We are currently partnering with our Health Education team to run some campaigns to help get awareness out there and educate the public on signs and know how to deal with wild animals and unfamiliar pets to deduce the number of incidents.

Deanne Page: Did we ever find the one from Bergen?

Darren Brodie: We never found the one in Bergen and today is the tenth day, so we have gone ahead and recommended treatment for that case.

Paul Pettit: So, this is the second dog we have not found in Bergen?

Darren Brodie: Second dog but this appears to be a different dog.

Paul Pettit: There was a well-groomed one earlier.

Darren Brodie: This one has a different description from the first. But the same railroad tracks. We are trying to make the public more aware through various modes; these seem to be from unleashed pets.

Deanna Page: Now this is just a dog that came up to someone. Or did they reach out to the dog?

Darren Brodie: We can only go by what we are told. This was with a child; the dog took off and the child is not clear as to which direction the dog went in. This happens every now and then but seems to be happening more frequently. We feel like there is more activity this year.

Paul Pettit: It has been a bit warmer, which can cause more animal activity.

Kaitlin Pettine: We are going to be push more out on our social media, send out more press releases with the focus on not touching wild animals and bat awareness, and leaching your dogs. A lot of the events we are going to will have a focus on rabies prevention. But if anyone has any other ideas that would be helpful too.

Deanna Page: Is there any education for the schools?

Kaitlin Pettine: Any of the events we attend that include younger children; we take the stuffed animals and discuss the importance of not touching or approaching them. Orleans County Conservation Field Days will be coming up where we will have discussion on rabies prevention there too.

Deanna Page: I was just wondering if there is a way to get into the schools and get education out to all ages. If we could even get the information on the radio like WBEE radio station.

Mary Obear: If we could even get information out to the Doctors' offices because kids are going to be having their school physicals again and this might be a way to get some information out to the families.

LEAD: We have 4 EBLLs (elevated blood lead levels) in Genesee County, 2 in Orleans County, and 2 in Livingston County. We are currently finalizing our contract negotiations for Wyoming County, as well as the Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming (GLOW) region. Our staff will be covering the entire GLOW Region or at least assisting. We will be helping handle these EBLLs investigations including transfers at this point.

Healthy Homes Grant: He has completed units through the HUD Grant, which is the one you are familiar with, and everything is going as it should so that is good.

Total Solar Eclipse – April 8, 2024: As far as Environmental goes we are still answering any questions people might have about any events that might be going on. There is a great list on the Chambers website – its live, they are changing and updating it every day. We have been referring to that list for all the known events throughout Genesee County and relying on inquiries from calls regarding campgrounds and other events within Orleans County for Monday the 8th.

Deanna Page: Sounds like a lot of it is starting up Saturday.

Darren Brodie: We have seen that trend too. But nothing sticks out as a concern on our end. Everyone has been very cooperative.

Enforcements/Notice of Violations: I just want to keep you guys up to date on these ones.

Update: Administrative hearing conducted in December for Batavia landlord's reoccupying of a dwelling with lead

hazards. The Board order was mailed on March 5, 2024; the landlord had not yet paid the \$2,000 +\$250 cost of hearing when I initially prepared for this meeting, but we did receive the payment yesterday afternoon (April 1, 2024). The positive result now is that the apartment, and the adjacent unit, in the same building are now under the umbrella of the HUD Lead Hazard control grant to get them fixed. This is good for us, we want to maintain relationship with this landlord, as he owns so many units. We will bring him into a hearing every single time – I do not care, but we will help fix these places up!

Deanna Page: Well, that is good!

Update: Regarding the hotel, pool, and spa in Batavia. That has not been fixed yet but the positive result here is that it is still closed, and they have gone through a company to get all their equipment revamped and have remote testing capabilities on their cell phones so if he is out of town, he can tell what the disinfectant is on the pool and spa. So, this is good, we have plans for him and another person to get trained and be certified for operating that.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Kimberly Castricone – Administrative Officer, Orleans County

Scott Senf – Administrative/Budget Officer, Genesee County

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Scott Senf: Reporting for both counties. Both counties have submitted their state aid applications for 2024 and we are just waiting for the final approval for those. We have also sent out our end of year 2023 stats for everyone to go over. A few things to note; the COVID grants are coming to an end, one will end in June and another ending in July of this year. Also, as Darren has mentioned in the Healthy Homes Grant, that one is under the HUD umbrella and will be starting in May.

CORPORATE COMPLIANCE REPORT:

Kimberly Castricone – Administrative Officer, Orleans County

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Paul Pettit: The only thing I was going to say on her behalf is they are revamping some things on the Orleans County side, and she is currently working with the County Corporate Compliance Office on that. On April 30th during GO Health 9.0 we will be training all staff and later we will move onto training the BOH. I know it seems like you just did it.

Deanna Page: Is it going to be available online again? That is what we were discussing before but wasn't sure if that was going to happen.

Paul Pettit: That is the hope, we will let you know. We will get all the staff out of the way and then that give us six months to get you all to complete it.

Deanna Page: You usually like it by the end of May.

Scott Senf: We had our Corporate Compliance meeting in Genesee County last month. We had one HIPAA breach. We were moving cabinets around and sent one to probation but there were still a couple of immunization files in the cabinet. Probation locked the cabinet and we got everything back. There really was no breach but we had to write it up as a breach through all the proper processes and submit it to our Corporate Compliance Officer. We got attestations from everyone involved, stating that did not see any information. That was completed this past month.

Paul Pettit: Some may argue that it wasn't a breach.

Scott Senf: Yes, it was on the edge of being a breach.

Darren Brodie: It could have been a breach, but it wasn't.

Scott Senf: We followed the process.

Paul Pettit: The system worked and now we have a corrective action plan – where two people check the cabinet. We were very fortunate in the fact that we did not find out a year later that it was sold in a county auction. Probation was secure and knew how to handle the documents and situation. It really was a non-event but was treated as such.

PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION:

Kaitlin Pettine – Health Promotions Director

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Alright you should have two sets of documents in front of you the report is the long and then the County Health Rankings which I have up on the screen here for you. I have just a few things I want to touch on regarding the report and then we will go through the County Health Rankings.

Intern: Our spring intern is Mary Trout, and she came to us from SUNY Brockport. She has been with us at the Orleans County office. She has been helping us a lot with rabies education, awareness messaging, Strategic Planning, and going out with the environmental staff in the field, as well as working with our Trauma Informed Committee. She will be with us until May 10th.

Health Education Overview: This year we have developed a work plan so that we have some specific goals that we will focus on throughout the year. They are listed in your report.

Community Health Assessment (CHA): We are in our last year of the CHA and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). So, our Steering Committee and Community Workgroup meet quarterly. This year we are focused on specific issues that they want more information on. We are bringing together our Community Workgroups and providing information on Mental Health, Transportation, Harm Reduction, and Health Equity. We are bringing speakers and community agencies together to talk with them on those issues, what resources are available in the community, barriers our communities are facing, and discuss how community partners can assist them with the work they are doing.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP): In Orleans County, Nola has started a National Diabetes Prevention Program class. She is holding a class in Medina at the library, she had 19 people register for the class. She had 16 show up along with some walk-ins. There has been a great deal of interest from the residents. She may start another class for County employees in the next few weeks, she is still working out the details. She has been encouraged by the participation by the current class members. Sherri in Genesee County is hoping to start a class in Batavia. We are also trying to get a class started at the Tonawanda Seneca Nation. The details are still being worked out. The hope is to start at the end of May or June.

Press Releases: We appreciate you reading all the press releases and getting those messages out. We have been updating the website weekly with respiratory illness (Flu and COVID) data. We have also been on the radio (WBTA). Since October we had Lead Poisoning Prevention week, January was National Radon Action Month, and March was National Diabetes Prevention, and in July we will be talking about rabies. So, we have been trying different forms of communication.

Training: At the end of July - first part of August, I (Kaitlin), Sherri, and Cora will be attending a weeklong PIO training "Managing Public Information for All Hazard Incidents" in Alabama. This training will provide hands-on training in the event of an emergency. We are excited to be going as a team.

Outreach: Outreach has been kind of slow over the winter which is typical. Things are starting to pick up now. Our staff will be at the Genesee County Home Show in a few weeks. We are starting to get those types of questions for events and activities within the community.

Performance Incentive Funds: We conducted and did assessment modules with the City of Batavia and the Village of Holley, and we will be working with them to develop some action plans as part of our Performance Incentive Funds grant.

Leave Behind Kits: This is a kit that has Narcan in it. We provide them to first responders, and they leave them at the scene of a suspected overdose. Sherri has been working with the Elba Fire Department, LeRoy Ambulance and Alabama Fire Departments to help with the expansion of that program. So not only are we working with the City of Batavia but now those three organizations are also on board, and we are getting Narcan into the community.

County Health Ranking: So, the County Health Rankings were released March 20th, and you may notice that it looks a little different from the previous years. They used to have it ranking by county. But they have changed that now to show

a spectrum for least healthy to healthiest for counties within that state and national average with an indicator to show where we fall within the spectrum. We do not have the specific numbers anymore to use. As this shows we still have a lot of work to do. In terms of health outcomes there are some specific measures to look at that show us where we stand. Keep in mind these numbers are based on the BRFSS and data from 2011-2022 so, it's not current and these numbers are from people reporting that they have been diagnosed. We feel that these numbers may be a bit low for us, we think they should be higher, but this gives you an idea of the things that our residents are facing and reports that we can work on. Looking at health factors – these are things that we can work on and change. Things like health behaviors and access to care, our environment, social and economic factors that we talk about. According to these numbers Genesee and Orleans County are faring worse than the average in NYS for health factors. So, there is some work we can do here. Our smoking rates are a lot higher than the NYS average so that is something we can look at and focus on for our next CHIP meeting. We are focusing on vaping among youth but maybe we need to revisit this for our CHIP. We are also seeing trends with obesity being higher in our area than the NYS average, along with drug overdose deaths. I just want to mention that these rates are based on 2021 and 2022 rates. We have much more current data than this. Our Epi's do a great job with that. But as stated, these are a few years old. In terms of primary care physicians and mental health providers there is a lot of work we need to do in Orleans County. I think we mention this every year. This is a huge issue. We have been having discussions around this but again it's not an easy thing to fix.

Paul Pettit: I would like to say that anywhere in the county (Orleans) you are potentially anywhere from 30 to 40 minutes from world renowned healthcare that is in Rochester and Buffalo. Although this data is worse than third world countries based on the doctor to population ratio - We literally have world class healthcare on both sides of us. That brings into account another concern like access and transportation. I also think medicine has changed as we are seeing more mid-level practitioners. They are seeing more patients/clients on a day-to-day basis, which is not accounted for in this assessment. So, it doesn't necessarily paint an accurate picture of what is available to our residents in both counties.

Dr. Mary Obear: I would argue that access to specialty care is difficult. It takes forever to get an appointment. For example, for a dermatology appointment in Batavia it takes six months. So, conditions could worsen in that time or clear up by the time your appointment comes around.

Paul Pettit: You are correct, this only accounts for Primary Care, it does not account for specialties or anything else. It's clearly not a great data point.

Kaitlin Pettine: Just a couple of other things... screenings, cancer screenings, flu vaccinations - we've seen a trend over the last few years slowly trending down and anticipate that they will continue to go down because of the result of the pandemic, so we will see. One of the focuses of the CHIP is trying to get people access to screenings and talking about it more. We will be at the home show with a blow-up colon that will hopefully provide an opportunity for people to walk through and see the polyps. The cancer services program will also be there to provide educational information to people.

Paul Pettit: I voted on the Radon home.

Kaitlin Pettine: We will have the radon home/doll house set up as well. That will show the importance of radon and what people need to know. I think these two things will be great educational topics for people at the home show that is not lecture based but more hands-on. At the bottom of your sheet there is a list of initiatives we have been working on that address some of the health factors and health outcomes. We are attempting to get these numbers to change and moving in the right direction.

Paul Pettit: Any questions? They are doing a lot of great work in the education realm.

Kaitlin Pettine: We have a great team and with the added grants that we have had we now have a lead educator that goes out into the community; making a great reach. You will be able to see that in our annual report that is going to be coming out, we are able to get out there a bit more which makes a big difference.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Paul Pettit – Public Health Director (GO Health)

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Just a few things on my end, it is Public Health Week! You may have seen the article yesterday. We have proclamations – Thank you Fred and Gregg at the legislative level for recognizing the week and all that Public Health does for our residents daily and highlighting the work of the workforce – who you know are the work boots on the ground and keep things moving along. We are doing social media awareness by highlighting our different teams this month. So, if you are

following us on Facebook/etc. you will see those. Today was the Environmental staff.

Staffing: Vacancies we have talked about a little. We still need to fill our public health nurse and senior public health nurse in Orleans County. Also, as Darren mentioned, we will have an opening in Orleans County for another environmental health specialist and a new vacancy coming up with the healthy homes grant. As Scott mentioned the grant will facilitate a new employee so a position will be created that will cover the four-county region managed by Genesee County.

Grants: Just a quick update about the Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming (GOW) Opioid Task Force. We have begun regular meetings again now that we have our new taskforce coordinator in place. We are looking at rebranding/broadening the scope a bit. The focus is still the opioid crisis, but we are seeing other avenues within the scope of other overdose issues and suicide mortality. We noticed that the same teams/staff addressing all these issues in several different meetings. So now we are trying to come up with some strategic ways to align/ reduce the multiple meetings around these issues. We will be working on that over the next month or two by rebranding and focusing. We are also looking at the settlement funds in both countries. We will be continuing with the wastewater analysis for the chemical drug side of things, that's part of that. Brendan also mentioned the Fatality Review Board; we are in the process of conducting the next-of-kin interviews and we will be launching that here shortly.

PHAB Update: The ACAR process continues; we are moving along with that. Kristine, Carie and folks have really been making progress. We believe that we are in really good shape with where we need to be, especially with our core plans. Making sure they're all on the line with the requirements of PHAB. We expect to have them completed by August. I feel we are moving along well, but we will keep you all informed if anything goes sideways. I think we are in pretty good shape.

Quality Improvement: We are working on a few QI projects, one being Rabies, trying to reduce the amount of post exposure treatments. Another is related to our shared network. We are trying to mainstream and clean up the files. Everyone has a different view on how they like things stored in the E files, and we are trying to it a bit more intuitive for people to be able to find items.

New York State Public Health Corps: 2.0 starts in August and 1.0 will end in June. We will be getting four fellows, two in Genesee County and two in Orleans County. They will be with us for two years. This has been a great program for us and in the end, it will be five years of free assistance. We are planning to have two fellows embedded with us and operations, and the other two will be our partner organizations. One will be the GOW Opioid Taskforce Coordinator and the other will be a liaison with our Genesee and Orleans County Mental Health Departments. We will share more on that as it comes.

State Budget: It is late, it was supposed to be passed yesterday (4/1/2024). My understanding is that the rabies funding (which was initially cut) is going to be restored. Both the senate and assembly have put that back into the Governor's office. It is not a lot of money but why would you cut rabies when it's a mandated program? Hopefully the state budget gets passed soon!

Pre-K & Early Intervention: To keep you informed where we are with this and to recap what Debbie Krenzer-Lewter mentioned at the last meeting. We still have waiting lists in both Genesee and Orleans County for children to receive needed services. It's a bit more dire situation in Orleans County where we have no center-based program. Last week Fred and the Legislature participated in a meeting with our school superintendents to brainstorm some ideas and ways we can address this issue. We currently have 20+ children on a waiting list for center-based care and over 35+ for related services in Orleans County. We now have children starting preschool where they did not receive services in EI, Preschool, and now heading into kindergarten not having received needed services. This is 2-3 plus years of children not received PT, OT, Speech, and other needed services. This is a problem that is going to hit us all down the road and cost a lot more money because now the schools are having to deal with them as they get older verse us getting them when they are younger in their formative years. We are mandated by the state to be involved as we are the fiscal agent, so we are working with the schools to try and address the services shortage. We know what the problems are but there are now clear answers.

Fred Miller: Where there is a will there is a way.

Paul Pettit: We will be working on some PSA's and releases to educate the public on the reality of the situation to be transparent and factual. I feel there is a lot of misinformation to lack of understanding of what the early intervention program is verses the preschool program. We will keep meeting and discussing – it's a significant problem in both countries but more so in Orleans.

Grants: We are in the second year of the CDC infrastructure grant. We have our first round of payments going out to staff in May and the second round will be in November. We also have funds set aside for training, professional development, attending conferences and meetings which you have heard a little about. These are great and no cost to the counties and local taxpayers. We are giving our staff the opportunity to attend different conferences, and get certifications that are valued to them, but also to us as an operation too.

Annual Report: As Kaitlin had mentioned previously, that is done. They are just finalizing the 2023 report and it will be sent out to all of you and released onto our website.

2025-2027 Strategic Plan: It was mentioned a little with PHAB, that we are wrapping that up hopefully in the next month or so. It has been an integrated/involved process with multiple layers of staff from both counties. Paul Grout has been with us as the board representative. It has been included through surveys sent to the staff, the BOH and the public. There has been an opportunity for some back and forth. We have a working draft we will be sharing again that will go out to the BOH and the staff, and then hopefully back out to you (BOH) in June for adoption. The plan is to have it in place and implement it by January first, so that we can take the fall to build out the reporting mechanism and get everything ready. We are on the right track so this should be good.

OLD BUSINESS:

None to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

None to report

OTHER:

Next meeting will be June 4, 2024, at 4:30pm in Genesee County

Hopefully we will have the quorum so that we can vote on/ and pass the meet minutes from the last meeting and this one along with the Strategic Plan.

ADJOURNMENT:

No quorum for voting

MOTION:

SECOND:

APPROVED:

NEXT MEETING:

Genesee County/ZOOM

June 4, 2024
