



MINUTES

Committee/Project/Meeting:		Genesee-Orleans Board of Health (BOH)	
Date:	August 6, 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			
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 Children with Special Needs			
Samantha Weber, Senior Account Clerk			
ZOOM:			
Mary Obear, MD, BOH Member			
Gregg Torrey, BOH Member/Genesee County Legislator			

AGENDA/TOPIC

ACTION/NEXT STEP

BOH Minutes June 4, 2024.

Motion: Deanne Page
Second: Kelly Rose Nichols
Approved: 8/6/2024

DISCUSSION:

Paul Grout was missed in the attendance record for the meeting. With adding him back in he is okay with moving forward with the approval of the minutes.

PUBLIC CONCERNS/DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

Paul Pettit – Public Health Director (GO Health)

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY): Bird flu and H5N1 continue to be topics of conversation – more on a national level currently. We do not have any activity in NYS currently. We have had some conversation with the state department and locally to determine how we would handle any cases that might come our way. We will continue to monitor for any risk.

DIVISIONAL REPORTS

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT:

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

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

LEAD: We have started using our mobile clinic van to conduct rapid lead testing at outreach events. We were able to test 6 children in Orleans County at an event in June. We attended another event in Genesee County but unfortunately due to the weather we had to leave early. Our CDC grant allows for this outreach to our communities.

Dr. Nichols, DO: How is this documented and reported?

Benden Bedard: All tests are submitted to the state.

Tuberculosis: We are only following one Latent TB case in each county currently and are monitoring the treatment.

Immunizations: August is National Immunization Awareness Month. We are starting to see an uptick in clinical appointments with the back-to-school rush.

Communicable Diseases: Typically, we tend to see more enteric illnesses throughout the summertime. We have been seeing salmonella, campylobacter, cryptosporidium and giardia.

Wastewater: As Paul has previously mentioned, we have been monitoring for the H5N1. We have just recently started testing for this in Batavia and LeRoy (about 2 weeks now). We are also participating in a pilot program with another company that makes different assay kits for wastewater analysis. They just sent us some measles assay kits today (8/6/2024) to try. We will start testing but it has not been determined as to which site to test but likely Batavia.

Fatality Review Board: We are seeing a slight uptick in Orleans County with opioid use and fatal drug overdoses compared to 2023. We have had 3 confirmed cases and 3 suspected so far this year and are continuing to monitor.

Paul Grout: Is that fentanyl?

Benden Bedard: Yes, fentanyl, and a lot of times it's mixed with cocaine. Unfortunately, everything seems to have fentanyl in it now.

Health Department Website(s): We developed an overdose dashboard for our website that should be live within a few weeks. The goal is to provide more context to the data that we are collecting based on the information we receive with the overdoses.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT:

Darren Brodie – Environmental Health Director

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Staffing: We have filled the vacant position in Orleans County. Rachael Vanelli started on 7/29/2024. Clark Stritzel's last day with the Orleans County will be 8/30/2024. Our full-time staff will be absorbing his tasks that he covered over the weekends.

ATUPA: There have been some changes in state guidance (not a change to the actual law) regarding the enforcement of ATUPA violations. Upon 4 violations we are to recommend that the Department of Taxation and Finance revoke their certification to sell tobacco, vape, and lotto.

We did have our Orleans County team out for compliance checks today (8/6/2024). There were two separate sales of flavored vapes.

Kelly Rose Nichols, DO: Which is illegal to sell no matter what in NYS! So, they were underage and able to purchase an illegal item.

Darren Brodie: Yes, and they had to ask for the product which was brought out to them from the back. We do our own compliance checks and clearly, they are not going to have them out when we are there – everything looks right. We are currently navigating how to handle these types of violations with our limited resources.

Paul Grout: Who sets the rates for the fines?

Darren Brodie: The state and we generally enforce the minimum.

QI Projects: We are still working on the food program, to satisfy PHAB and working to align the two counties. You will be seeing some changes regarding the Fee Schedule and trying to align with neighboring areas regarding the cost of services.

Rabies: We had a positive bat in Basom resulting in a family of 6 being treated in July. Despite our best efforts we have had a busy rabies pre-season, current season, and likely post season. We have also had staff observe rabid racoons in two separate occasions there was no exposure for these instances.

Radon: We have more test kits coming for distribution. We have distributed 190 test kits from 2023 through 2024. Due to price increases, we will have 165 kits available for 2024-2025.

Enforcements/Notice of Violations: Best Western Pool – remains closed as of 7/26/2024. Owner paid fine but did not sign offer of stipulation. The most recent closure began on June 11th. -not to reopen until they have 2 certified pool operators on staff. Next step is a formal hearing.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Kimberly Castricone – Administrative Officer, Orleans County

Scott Senf – Administrative/Budget Officer, Genesee County

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Kim Castricone: The second quarter has been submitted and the budget for 2025 will be started shortly.

CORPORATE COMPLIANCE REPORT:

Kimberly Castricone – Administrative Officer, Orleans County

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Kim Castricone: A corporate compliance training has been emailed to each board member and documents as well. Be sure to complete this as soon as possible please. Each county has its own plan that is required. We are hoping to be able to onboard an online option in the near future. There are also no submissions to the hotline to report.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS REPORT:

Deborah Krenzer-Lewter – Director of Children with Special Needs

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Early Intervention Program (EI): Currently the Early Intervention Program (EI) has 115 children enrolled in Genesee County and 96 enrolled in Orleans County. We will be seeing a transition from Early Intervention to Preschool for the children that have turned 3 from January through August (if they qualify for continued services). The 2023-2024 preschool year proved to be one of the highest for Genesee County at 296 children enrolled and 146 enrolled in Orleans County. Genesee County had 68 children enrolled and attending center-based programs while Orleans County had 17 enrolled and 13 on a wait list. We have seen an increase (cost wise) in Genesee County regarding bussing and center-based tuition due to the number of children enrolled this last year. With the start of the new school year in September we are currently working on and making plans for bussing and determining those needs. We do still anticipate carrying a wait list, since the provider shortage is not improving. We did advocate for a rate increase in April for Early Intervention. They were asking for an 11% increase, but a 5% increase was approved. New York State has also stated that they have approved an additional 4% for “rural areas” but we have yet to hear if Genesee and Orleans Counties fall under this definition. The rates were expected to go into effect on April 1st, that still has not happened, but we are told that once they are in effect the rates will be prorated back to that date. Our goal is to keep the providers we do have and hopefully add some more to the area.

There is a new Early Intervention computer system coming. We are currently training with the new system (EI Hub) and anticipate it being utilized in October of this year. It seems a bit more cumbersome than its current counterpart, our concern is that we want to make sure our providers get paid!

Preschool:

Preschool rates are set by the counties. In both counties we raised those rates in January and will be raising them again in September for 2024-2025 school year to remain competitive. Throughout 2024, Orleans County school superintendents (5 schools), County legislatures, Paul Pettit and I have been meeting to discuss the need for a preschool special education program with center-based classrooms to be in Orleans County. Children aren't receiving the services they need in Early Intervention or through the Preschool Special Education Program and the results are being seen as children enter kindergarten. More schools are having to open special education classrooms at the primary level and/or hire more therapists at the school level to service these children. Presently, we are reaching out to any already established preschool special education programs that in one of the surrounding counties and seeing if they would like to begin to discuss having a satellite location in Orleans County to service Orleans and Genesee County children. We are currently in the discussions stages with a group called “Happiness House.” We are encouraged to know they would be interested in helping with the venture and have hopes for 2025, more details to come as we work through this.

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN):

Both counties continue to contract out the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs grant. The grant is contracted out to Independent Living Center of the Genesee Region, they now have a full-time person working in the CYSHCN program. We have had several referrals in Genesee County and Orleans County. The program has held workshops for families of children with special needs and currently has a youth support group they are facilitating for older youth with special needs.

Paul Grout: You mentioned we have 17 children in Orleans County receiving center-based services. Are they going out of county for services?

Deborah Krenzer-Lewter: Yes, they are. If the county is not bussing, then they are being transported by their parents or guardians to those services. We pay parents/guardians mileage for this. We actually encourage the families to transport the children over the county bussing them simply because it is more cost effective for us to pay the parents with a stipend.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Paul Pettit – Public Health Director (GO Health)

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Staffing: We are still looking for nurses in Orleans County. We are looking at adjusting the salary to entice new applicants. Currently we have been able to meet the needs because of our cross jurisdiction with the Genesee County nurses filling in as needed.

Fellows 2.0: The fellowship program has officially started Monday (8/5/24) under the new iteration. We have had fellows through this program for the last 3+ years. We will have 4 fellows between both counties through the 2.0 version of the program. One will be working with Emergency Preparedness, the second will be working with education and epidemiology, the third will be working a hybrid program with the Mental Health Department in both counties, and the fourth will be working with the community through UConnect Care – they will be overseeing our GOW Opioid Task Force. They will be with us for two years. This is a program run by the state but hosted locally.

Healthy Homes Grant: Has officially started. We are waiting for our Environmental Health Specialist – who will be starting with us in September. So once that gets underway it will be implemented for the G.L.O.W. region – this has really expanded from the HUD Grant that solely focused on Lead. This grant supports any “healthy home” issue lead or otherwise. It is like the Healthy Neighborhoods grant but this will cover all 4 counties.

4-H Fair week: We just wrapped up 4-H Fair week with our presence at both county fairs. We set some educational booths and practical skill trainings. Our goal is to make the public more aware of rabies safety, Narcan training, compressions only CPR, and a cooling center just to name a few.

PHEP: We just got our deliverables for 2024-2025 year. We anticipate David to touch on this a bit more the next time he is here. It seems to be the standard fare from what the state wants from us this year – general planning and making sure we are up to speed and able to respond as needed.

Fatality Review Board: Our next meeting is scheduled for September in Genesee County. We have reviewed a few more cases, and the next-of-kin interviews have been conducted in Genesee County. However, we are still waiting for them to be done in Orleans County, which is spearheaded by the Mental Health Director there. They are working on getting those done with hopes that we can have our 1st meeting in Orleans County in October. The idea is to have a meeting every quarter in both counties.

1115 waiver: There is currently no update to report at this time.

Board of Health Bill: That has been passed. It has gone through both the Assembly and the Senate! We are just waiting for the Governor to sign it. Once it's signed it will allow for a different mix of Board Members, allowing for practitioners that work in our communities but may not live here to still serve on the Board!

PHAB Update: We are getting close to having things wrapped up with the ACAR process. Kristine and Carie have been working diligently to get the needed items and uploading them to the PHAB system. Some of the items have been presented to this board for approval today (8/6/2024). We are also wrapping up two of our QI projects; one focused on reducing rabies treatment referrals through education and the other focused organizing administrative documents used by staff.

OLD BUSINESS:

PHAB ACAR Purpose (Amendments to the following)

*Amend 2023 BOH Meeting Minutes from 2/7, 6/6, 8/1, 10/3, 12/5.

Motion: Fred Miller

*Amend 2024 BOH Meeting Minutes from 2/6, 4/2

Second: Deanna Page

Approved: 8/6/2024

NEW BUSINESS:

*Environmental Management of Childhood

Motion: Kelly R. Nichols

Lead Poisoning Prevention program Policy & Procedure

Second: Fred Miller

Approved: 8/6/2024

*Surrendering the LHCSA Licenses.

Motion: Deanna Page

Second: Fred Miller

Approved: 8/6/2024

OTHER:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: Deanna Page

Second: Kelly R. Nichols

Approved: 8/6/2024

NEXT MEETING:

Genesee County/ZOOM

October 1, 2024 @ 4:30PM
