



DELAWARE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

99 MAIN STREET, DELHI, NEW YORK 13753

Amanda Walsh, MPH Public Health Director

607-832-5200 Fax 607-832-6021

Early Intervention & Preschool Fax: 607-832-6022

Health Services Advisory Board Minutes

Meeting Date/Time:	September 10, 2020 10:07am	
Attendees/Title:		
Eugene Pigford, Town of Sidney Supervisor	Arthur Merrill, Town of Colchester Supervisor	
Joseph Cetta, Town of Walton Supervisor	Wayne Marshfield, Town of Hamden Supervisor	
Dr. Rohan Jayasena, Medical Director	Edward Bartos, District Office	
Terry Whitney, Office of the Aging	Tasha Amadon, DSS	
Amanda Walsh, Public Health Director	Christina Gardner, Accounting Supervisor	
Heather Warner, PH Programs Manager		

Topic:	Discussion:	Action:
Approval of Minutes	The June 18, 2020 and August 12, 2020 minutes were approved as written.	
Rabies Update	The busy season for Rabies is beginning to wrap up. There was an increase in bat exposures this year. This includes bat to animal exposures. No animals required quarantine as they had rabies vaccinations. There has been an increase in people requiring PEP treatment due to bat exposures. Many of these resulted from a bat exposure where the bat was not captured and available for testing. We have seen an increase in 2 nd home owners and occupants of AirBNB's having bat exposures. Next year we will focus some outreach to these populations so they will know what to do when they encounter a bat and how to safely capture a bat. Possibly information to our AirBNB owners to leave in residences. Otsego county has tested some positive bats this year and we have received calls regarding this but all of our bats available for testing have been negative. The highest number of exposures are located in the most populated towns; Sidney, Walton, Delhi, Franklin.	



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	<p>We have not had our traditional rabies clinics this year due to the pandemic. We typically try to hold a clinic near each town. Our grant requires us to hold 4 clinics each year. For safety reasons and the Governor's Executive orders related to COVID, we are trying to avoid gathering large groups of people together for a rabies clinic. We are planning to host a few clinics at the Heart of the Catskills Humane Society by appointment only. Our first clinic date is already full.</p>	
Public Health Emergency Preparedness	<p>Our PHEP grant moved some deliverables that were not completed last year into this years grant. This year we are required to do a full scale POD. This will need to be by appointment and we will need to ensure that social distancing, COVID safety guidelines are maintained and all CDC guidelines are followed. Our PHEP grant can be used for COVID activities.</p>	
COVID	<p>We continue with case investigation and contact tracing. We have been working on gym inspections. All plans are reviewed by Public Health and Planning is assisting and performing the actual site inspections. All questions received by planning go through public health for answers. This is a health and safety inspection not a code inspection. Local health departments cannot single-handedly take on every single new role instituted by NYS related to COVID. Planning has been really great to work with. We have started with gyms requesting to open who have submitted plans to us. A common issue we have encountered is gyms having enough staff present to ensure guidelines are followed. Many gyms have a 24/7 key card system which does not meet guidelines. Staff are needed to ensure capacity limits, mask wearing and cleaning guidance are followed.</p>	
Grant Programs	<p>Many of our grant programs have been bumped or put aside. Many of our workplans include outreach and education activities that cannot occur during a pandemic. Deadlines have been relaxed.</p> <p>Some activities were completed such as staff speaking to Franklin town board regarding lead poisoning prevention. We currently have 23 active lead cases 25% of which are located in Franklin and 25% are located in Walton. Joe inquired if these cases were in the town or village of Walton. Mandy said that we would be happy to send this information to the committee and any town who would like it.</p>	



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CD Update	CD has been seeing the usual diseases such as chlamydia, gonorrhea and GI illness. Lyme disease & tick borne diseases remain steady.	
Early Intervention	Early Intervention will have a municipal review October 19, 2020. This review will be done remotely with Delaware County Public Health sending documentation for review and NYSDOH conducting staff interviews virtually. We are in the process of gathering information for submission, currently.	
COVID funding	The funding sources for COVID activities are: COVID response grant, COVID enhanced detection grant, State Aide, FEMA response and admin reimbursement.	
Staffing	<p>One of our per diem Public Health Nurses has left our employment. We have hired and additional per diem Nurse to assist and two more nurses have applied to work per diem. We will have 2 nurses retire in October – one full time nurse and one per diem nurse. Our full time Public Health Nurse we hired in February plays a primary role in our COVID response.</p> <p>Probation and Planning Departments have been a great help to us as needed.</p>	
COVID	<p>One of the biggest challenges, currently is working with schools and colleges as they reopen. We have had weekly calls with our schools where we have reviewed possible scenarios and try to answer their questions. School administrators are doing the best they can with little guidance. Public Health (local health department) is not provided with advanced knowledge of activities or announcements that occur within NYS. This information is delivered by the Governor, publicly via press conference. We are receiving the information at the same time as all members of the public and then must try to assist public, schools, businesses, etc. with questions. We are continually awaiting guidance from the State. New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) must have approval from the Governor prior to releasing information, even to local health departments. Communication is strained between local health departments and NYSDOH. NYSDOH Deputy Commissioner has resigned to pursue national career opportunities. Local health departments, including Delaware County Public Health are very frustrated by the strain in communication from NYS and “surprise” announcements from the Governor.</p>	



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	<p>Schools will need to report positive cases in their school district. Individual information will not be released but positives will be reported within Staff/Teacher/Student groups. This data may not match our data as staff may work in one school district but live in another county.</p> <p>School Boards make the decision regarding in-person, remote, or hybrid learning models. We do not shut down schools, this would be done by the Governor. Public Health can give recommendations to colleges. Wayne inquired if Mandy has made any recommendations to SUNY Delhi. We have been working closely with SUNY Delhi and they are working well with Public Health. We have provided guidance and recommendations and so far, they have been followed. If we feel SUNY Delhi is not following recommendations, there are measures of reporting to NYS. SUNY's state guidance them to work with and follow local health department recommendations. There is no State standard that was set for colleges and they are all operating slightly different. We anticipate that we will see some additional positive cases at SUNY Delhi throughout the semester.</p> <p>Wayne asked if the testing result turn around has improved. This depends on when/where a test is done and what lab it is sent to. There is more rapid testing coming into play and required laboratory reporting into the NYS ECLRS system has improved.</p>	
District Office Update	Ed reported that Oneonta District Office staff have been busy working with camps and unregulated children's camps that have popped up. They have served cease and desist orders but there remains a lot of enforcement still to be done. They have put a stop to 3 camps who had children overnight. District Office staff have also been assisting with rapid testing sites in Oneonta.	
Quality Assurance/ Incident Reports	Mandy reviewed 2020 1 st quarter quality assurance and incident reports.	
Policies	Policy approval will be done via email approval.	
Equipment Authorization	One equipment authorization was approved.	
Meeting Adjourned at: 11:39am		



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Respectfully Submitted By,

Amanda C. Walsh