



MINUTES

Committee/Project/Meeting:		Genesee-Orleans Board of Health (BOH)	
Date:	February 4, 2025	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			
Deborah Krenzer-Lewter, Director of Children with Special Needs			
Paul Grout, BOH President			
Deanna Page, BOH Vice President			
Mary O’Bear, MD, BOH Member			
Cheryl Kast, P.A. BOH Member			
Fred Miller, BOH Member/Orleans County Legislator			
Gregg Torrey, BOH Member/Genesee County Legislator			
ZOOM: Kelly Rose Nichols, DO, BOH Member			

AGENDA/TOPIC

ACTION/NEXT STEP

Election of Officers

Motion: Gregg T.
 Second: Fred M.
 Approved: 2/4/2025

Discussion:

Paul Pettit, I think we should start with introductions for the new members.
 Each individual around the room separately introduced themselves and their role with BOH.
 Paul Grout: Entertained a motion for the election of officers.
 Gregg Torrey: Nominated to keep the officers currently in place.
 Fred Miller: Seconded the motion.

Setting of the 2025 Meeting Date/Times.

Motion: Deanna P.
 Second: Dr. Mary O.
 Approved: 2/4/2025

Discussion:

Paul Grout: Last year (2024) we moved to the later time from 4:00 to 4:30, that seemed to work really well,

does anyone have an issue with this time frame? Cheryl, does this time frame work for you?

Cheryl Kast: 4:30 is a good time frame for me.

BOH Minutes from December 3, 2024,

Motion: Fred M.

Second: Deanna P.

Approved: 2/4/2025

Discussion:

PUBLIC CONCERNS/DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

Paul Pettit – Public Health Director (GO Health)

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Government Black out:

We are not sure how long that will take with the new transition of presidential power. The CDC and NYSDOH are not currently hearing anything as of yet. We are currently in the wait and see window regarding Federal funding and grants.

Paul Grout: I know in the past you had mentioned bird flu and new news on that?

Paul Pettit: Since the last meeting there were a couple of cases in NYS. One was on Long Island at a Poultry farm and another at a petting zoo/farm. They have been working down there to get that under control. On the economic side it is driving up the price of eggs and other things too. We have not had any cow or human cases in our area.

Brendan Bedard: There have been 64 cases nationally with one human death in Indiana.

DIVISIONAL REPORTS

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT:

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

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Things have been fairly light the last few months.

Immunization: We are still fielding some school vaccinations for attendance requirements – which have been the majority of our clinic appointments recently.

Communicable disease: Flu, RSV, and Covid are here. We have been able to track this through the wastewater surveillance currently. However, since our last meeting; NYS is no longer paying us for the surveillance. We used to be paid for every sample by NYS but now we will run our laboratory till the funds run out and then we will need to get some additional funding from another source to continue our testing.

Paul Grout: Are you seeing an uptick with RSV?

Brendan Bedard: We have seen a lot more RSV. But they are testing for it a little more. It's easier now to test for it, they are able to test for three different pathogens; Flu, RSV, and Covid. RSV is reportable now too where in the past it wasn't. So, we are able to get a better picture of what is really happening.

Rabies: We have not had any post exposure cases currently. Which has been nice.

Maternal child Health: We have had some referrals from UMMC and Unity for breast feeding support. Kayla has also been working with the “Baby Café” once a month helping with some of the new moms. We have also been able to introduce some of our other programs through this like Lead and Radon. This has proven to be a nice partnership.

TB: We currently have four laten cases in Orleans County and currently none in Genesee County. We were also recently contacted by Monroe County regarding an active case that had some spill over into Orleans County with contact; we are currently following up with that to ensure they did not become infected.

Fatality review board: Has been a bit slow regarding the next of kin interviews, that has been a pause by both Mental Health Department over the Holiday and the plan to resume will be in mid- February.

Wastewater Surveillance: We are still doing wastewater surveillance for curtain chemical substances for our contract through Bio Bot. We are still looking for certain substances like fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, and xylazine. So, we get data back on that

Grants: We recently applied for a grant through Canal ways. This grant will be used in Holley for new playground equipment to replace the old set on that site.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT:

Darren Brodie – Environmental Health Director

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Rabies: As Brendan had mentioned there nothing to report currently. We do have clinics set up for both Counties We have all of the vet techs lined up for Genesee County and a few are still needed in Orleans County. In 2024 we worked on Rabies through our Quality Improvement project to improve numbers and educate the public on prevention and exposure.

Paul Grout: what is the update on the quarantines have they cleared it yet?

Darren Brodie: They are still on quarantine. We do drive byes out that way. They are still alive and well. There is no longer a cat colony.

Paul Grout: Is there an update on the human/dog bite? Did he ever come forward for the shots?

Darren Brodie: No! I do not believe so. The man refused treatment. A letter was sent advising that rabies is fatal, and treatment is recommended.

ATUPA: We are still working with the Sheriff offices to get into the facilities that are selling flavored vapes. We know that they are still on the shelves in the back but it’s illegal to sell them in NYS.

Staffing: We did lose Nancy to retirement. So, we now have an opening in Orleans County. We have just received a few applications for the position.

Enforcements: Notices of Violation, fines for operating without a permit. I will say we did get a call about a notice that was not received till after the due date... I did yield this one time but advised that it’s a courtesy we provide, we are not required to sent them a notice that there permit is coming due...

With Regards to the Best Western Pool... It is still closed, and they have expressed a desire to fill the pool area in.

Smoking waiver:

Motion: Gregg T.

Second: Deanna P.

Approved: 2/4/2025

It's that time... every three years. You will notice that we are down one, Pavilion Clover Leaf – has declared to us that they will not be renewing. Once they are done, they are done they cannot get another waiver. I believe there is another facility that is not going to be renewing, I am not sure off the top of my head. So, I am bringing it to you all to determine if we want to continue with the waivers. NYS has also been talking about getting rid of the waiver too...

Dr. Mary O'Bear: let the State be the bad guy.

Paul Grout: So that leaves four on the list? Have they all gotten into compliance?

Darren Brodie: I am not sure if they have all gotten that established yet. But we will not issue the waiver till they have.

Gregg Torrey: The main concern is Batavia Downs. Because it brings a lot of money in for them.

Deanna Page: I know that the last time I was in there, there was some smoke in the non-smoking area near the doors as it comes out with the people.

Darren Brodie: But it's not suppose to... I did get an engineered inspection, and one of theirs was below the threshold... They have been told it has to be corrected before the waiver is re-issued.

Paul Grout: call for a motion.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Kimberly Castricone – Administrative Officer, Orleans County

Scott Senf – Administrative/Budget Officer, Genesee County

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Kim Castricone: There isn't a report currently, but I am finishing up with 2024 and working on 2025 State Aid application.

Scott Sent: Same I am working on clearing out 2024 and working on the NY S Aid too.

CORPORATE COMPLIANCE REPORT:

Kimberly Castricone – Administrative Officer, Orleans County

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Kim Castricone: There is nothing new, we are considering what we will be doing with the training this year. I would like to see us get that online, but we will see how that goes. There have not been any hotline calls or issues in Orleans County.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS REPORT:

Deborah Krenzer-Lewter, Director of Children with Special Needs.

DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

Staffing: We do have an open position for a full time Case Manager in Orleans County. We have not had any applicants apply as of yet, So I (Deborah) have been helping with the case load.

Early Intervention Enrollment: We currently have around one hundred and five children in enrolled in Genesee County and around eighty enrolled in Orleans County.

Preschool Supportive Health Services Program Enrollment: For the 2024-2025 school year we two hundred and three children enrolled in Genesee County and One hundred and thirty nine enrolled in Orleans County. Center Based Programing: There are forty one children attending our center based programs in Genesee County and fourteen children attending in Orleans County; with fourteen children on the wait list in Orleans County as well...

Transportation: Last year our transportation cost have increased dramatically as more children were attending. But this year we have seen a decrease as Batavia no longer has as many classrooms as it has in the past. They also agreed to bus the children in their district at a reduced rate compared to what we pay our other contracted companies.

Provider shortage: We continue to see a shortage across both Counties in both programs. We do have several families that have taken to transporting their children to out of county programs to ensure their children receive the services they need.

Early intervention Service Rates: The rates are set by New York State, and we have not increase in the rates in many years. In 2024 the budget there was a 5% increase approved, with an additional 4% increase on top of that for certain rural and underserved areas in NYS. But we have yet to see this go into effect... it was originally set to be retroactive to April of 2024 and now we are hearing they are now considering it for the last quarter of 2024. There has also been a State Plan amendment proposed to decrease telehealth services by 10% Statewide. We still have some children receiving those services due to the provider shortage.

Launch of New System: On October 15,2024 there was a launch of a new computer system called The EI Hub. This launch was unsuccessful and has led to extra work and delays in provider payments, which in turn has caused delays in services for the children. We have had weekly meetings and webinars with the State, municipalities, and The EI Hub consulting group (PCG). Some improvements have been made with many more anticipated...

Preschool Special Education Program: Throughout 2024 Orleans County school superintendents, County Legislators, Paul Pettit and I (Deb) have attended meetings and discussions to address the need for a Preschool Special Education Program with Center Based Classrooms to be located in Orleans County. There was some interest from a group called Happiness House. They did initially come out and tour some space in the old Arnold Gregory building in Albion as a possible location but felt it would not be an adequate space for their needs. We then began speaking with Niagara County for the possibility of a site on their east side that Happiness House could utilize. Roy-Hart School district is currently undergoing a capital project, and they suggested in a couple of years that one of the wings in their school will have access to classroom space that could be leased out. A few weeks ago, Happiness house did take a tour. They really liked the space, however, after speaking with Roy-Hart it was suggested that it would be available in three years for rent. Happiness House doesn't want to wait three years to get this project going so we are still looking for a location within Orleans County that they could utilize.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Paul Pettit – Public Health Director (GO Health)

Budget: The Executive State budget has been released, there was nothing remarkable to discuss; in the past we were looking at things like Rabies being cut or lead. But there is nothing in the executive budget that we need to fight for this year, which is good. We are not expecting any significant cuts on the State side, but as mentioned earlier we are not sure what will be coming down the pike Federally...

Community Health Assessment: This process is underway, and new surveys are out for this year. It is required by Public Health law that we conduct this process. We will use that data to develop our Community Health Improvement plan.

Grant: We received the NYSACHO mini grant for about \$5,000.00; the other day which we will use to buy kits to support our cooling and warming centers within the counties. We were just notified of the funding, so we anticipate purchasing those kits. Soon.

Annual reports for 2024: They are in process and should have them pulled together for you by April.

GOW Task force: Has been rebranded to the GOW Care Alliance. The reason for rebranding is to broaden the scope for services provided throughout the three countries' region. With the rebranding from a "Task force" with one specific focus it's now an Alliance, allowing for more than one focus.

PHAB: Public Health Accreditation -- we are in the home stretch. We have received correspondence regarding our ACAR with 15 of 19 are fully demonstrated! We are optimistic that we will soon be accredited per the National standards. The accreditation board meets late this February. So, we should be hearing after that.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- Branding & Communications plan
- Trauma Informed Care Protocol
- TIC Resources Flyer
- Weights & Measure New Pricing

Motion: Deanna P.

Second: Dr. Mary O.

Approved: 2/4/2025

OTHER:

- New By-Laws

Paul Pettit: So quick background on this, we will not be taking any action on this tonight because we have to give you 30 days' notice (per the By—Laws) of changes before they can be voted on. The changes were needed to accommodate all of the new changes that have been adopted by the State under Public Health law.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: Deanna P.

Second: Fred M.

Approved: 2/4/2025

NEXT MEETING:

Orleans County/ZOOM April 1, 2025 @ 4:30PM
