



**MINUTES**

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| <b>Committee/Project/Meeting:</b>  |                                       | Genesee-Orleans Board of Health (BOH) |                                      |
| <b>Date:</b>   | <b>April 1, 2025</b>                  | <b>Recorder:</b>                      | Samantha Weber, Senior Account Clerk |
| <b>Time:</b>   | 4:30 p.m.                             |                                       |                                      |
| <b>Location:</b>   | Orleans County Health Department/Zoom |                                       |                                      |
| <b>Attendance:</b><br>Paul Pettit, Public Health Director<br>Brenden Bedard, Director of Community Health Services - Deputy Public Health Director<br>Darren Brodie, Environmental Health Director<br>Kimberly Castricone, Administrative Officer<br>Scott Senf, Administrative/Budget Officer<br>Kaitlin Pettine, MPH, MCHES, Director of Health Promotions<br>Deanna Page, BOH Vice President<br>Mary O’Bear, MD, BOH Member<br>Cheryl Kast, P.A. BOH Member<br>Kelly Rose Nichols, DO, BOH Member |                                       |                                       |                                      |
| <b>ZOOM:</b> Gregg Torrey, BOH Member/Genesee County Legislator  |                                       |                                       |                                      |

**AGENDA/TOPIC**

**ACTION/NEXT STEP**

**BOH Minutes from February 4, 2025**

Motion: Kelly  
Second: Cheryl  
Approved: 4/1/2025

**PUBLIC CONCERNS/DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS:**

**Paul Pettit** – Public Health Director (GO Health)

**DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):**

**Fluoride:**

The Village of Albion intends to discontinue the addition of fluoride in the public water supply. Per section 1100-A of the Public Health Law, a robust plan of action must be submitted to OCHD along with supporting activities before ceasing fluoridation. These critical steps still need to be met before the Village can discontinue the use of fluoride. The Village is also required to provide the public results of the consultations at the time of their determination.

The board expressed the need of fluoride for the underprivileged families that do not have access to care, and the need for a plan that would bridge this gap in their healthcare needs if adopted.

## DIVISIONAL REPORTS

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### COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT:

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

#### DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

**Immunization:** Our staff have attended some trainings and conferences over the last few months with a focus on hard-to-reach populations like the Amish, Mennonite or migrant farmworkers to establish working relationships and importance of vaccinations.

**Measles:** There is a current influx of cases. The cases in NY have been contained to the areas surrounding New York City; as a result of travel outside of the US.

**TB:** We are currently following up on the Orleans County contacts from the Monroe County case and they should be undergoing their second round of testing.

Genesee County was notified of an active case in the detention facility. The person is undergoing treatment, and a case investigation has determined the point of contact occurred out of state before the person was detained.

**Lead:** There are two new cases in Orleans County and none in Genesee County.

**Maternal Child Health:** One of the PH nurses (Kayla) is working at the YMCA running a baby café for moms and there will be a new café in Orleans County at the Hoag Library in Albion on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. We are also working with the United Memorial Medical Center to establish a breast-feeding coalition between the two counties to bring awareness and encouragement of breast feeding to the community.

The board expressed concerns for the recent rise in Syphilis, as well as Flu, Covid-19 and RSV in the area.

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### ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT:

**Darren Brodie** – Environmental Health Director

#### DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):

**Fluoride:** Discussed under Public Concerns.

**Rabies:** Spring means increased interactions between humans and animals. Education and outreach for the year has begun. The 2025 free clinics have been set

Genesee: February 6<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, August 7<sup>th</sup>, October 9<sup>th</sup>

Orleans: April 26<sup>th</sup>, June 18<sup>th</sup>, August 20<sup>th</sup>, October 25<sup>th</sup>

**ATUPA:** We are now able to send out enforcement notices to facilities that are selling flavored vapes (which are illegal in NYS). When flavored vapes are discovered during compliance checks, facilities are notified via certified mail outlining the NYS Law. This process creates the necessary paper trail for enforcements.

The board expressed concern that the sale of these illegal items does not incur points like selling tobacco to underage patrons. Darren stated the points are applied at the time of an illegal sale.

We are currently not able to involve law enforcement due to the nature of the process. When businesses sell items to our underage agents it's a violation of the code, but law enforcement can only be involved when it becomes a misdemeanor.

We are hoping to develop a GO Health version of the Erie County Article XXIII, which requires permits from the Health Department for all tobacco and vapor retail dealers. This would allow the local health department access to all facilities that sell these products.

**Staffing:** We have offered the vacant EH Specialist position in Orleans County to a gentleman from Holley.

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**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**Kimberly Castricone** – Administrative Officer, Orleans County

**Scott Senf** – Administrative/Budget Officer, Genesee County

**DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):**

Kim Castricone: The 2024 year end summary was submitted.

Scott Sent: The 2024 year end summary was submitted. 2025 State aid applications were submitted by both counties as well.

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**CORPORATE COMPLIANCE REPORT:**

**Kimberly Castricone** – Administrative Officer, Orleans County

**DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):**

Kim Castricone: There are no new regulations to report, and corporate compliance training is coming due for 2025.

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**DIVISIONAL REPORT:**

**Kaitlin Pettine, MPH, MCHES, Health Promotions Director**

**DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):**

**Yearly County Health Ranking (2025):** We have been informed that the funding for this has been eliminated so this may be the last time we will be able to utilize this data source; which we have used in our community health assessment in providing real time data. We will be working closely with our Epidemiology team to explore other options going forward. The info-graphic outlines areas of concern in both counties.

**Community Health Assessment:** We are actively collecting data from the community with a goal to close the survey by the end of April. With regards to our community health conversations: 12 have been completed in Genesee County and 11 in Orleans County. We are also looking to complete three key informant interviews in each county.

**National Diabetes Prevention Program:** 2024 presented with three classes of graduates through the program and anticipate starting two classes in Orleans for 2025 and one in Genesee.

**Tobacco Use and Prevention:** This April the educators and community health service staff will be training on how to distribute NRT (Nicotine Replacement Therapy). This is a partnership with Roswell Park Cancer institute. In May one educator, Sherri, will be attending a Tobacco Specialist Training.

**Trauma Informed Care (TIC) initiatives:** In April our NYS Public Health Fellow Emily Nojeim will be presenting on our TIC work at the NYS Public Health Partnership Conference.

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**DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**Paul Pettit** – Public Health Director (GO Health)

**DISCUSSION (CONCISE SUMMARY):**

**PHAB:** We are now accredited and have received the official plaque from the Accreditation Board. Our next step is to set up for reaccreditation which is a five-year process.

**NYS Budget:** The NYS budget is late and looking at extensions to get it passed. A lot of the delay is stemming around policies rather than budget matters. We should see a minimal impact.

**GOW:** We had a relaunch of the GOW Care Alliance -- previously the Opioid Task force. We had our first quarterly meeting in several years; there has been some regrouping and branding of what this task force will focus on. We had about 100 people from all three counties in attendance (Genesee, Orleans, & Wyoming).

**Fatality Review board:** We are scheduling the next meetings. We have a couple of cases that we hope to set up next of kin interviews by the end of May.

**Federal Government:** 20,000 federal employees have been cut from the Public Health sector. There is a reduction of 11 billion dollars of Covid funds being cancelled. These cuts affect a lot of nonprofit agencies that were utilizing the funding. There shouldn't be much of an impact locally. We have not utilized COVID funding for over a year. However, we will be seeing an impact in wastewater analysis that was supported through the funding; it also covered other pathogens like flu, RSV and respiratory illnesses.

The president is creating a new administration for "A Healthy America". They are rolling several other programs into this new administration (HRSA, SAMHSA, NIOSH to name a few). The concept of excessive and nonefficient uses could be true if looking at it objectively. There will be 15 divisions instead of the current 28. The new focus will be on safe wholesome food, clean water, and the eliminations of environmental toxins. With the cut of 11 billion dollars NYS is being hit with 27 layoffs from the Department of Health and cancelled 130 community-based contracts across the state. We are assessing the local impact and how these changes may affect some of the programs we rely on.

**Public Health Week:** Is the first full week of April each year, we have received a proclamation from the legislature.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

- April Vote New Bylaws

Motion: Kelly

Second: Cheryl

Approved: 4/1/2025

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**OTHER:**

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion: Kelly

Second: Cheryl

Approved: 4/1/2025

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**NEXT MEETING:**

Genesee County/ZOOM June 3, 2025 @ 4:30PM

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