

Public Health Committee Minutes
August 7, 2017 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Phil Barrett, Art Johnson, Dick Lucia, Peter Martin, Tom Richardson, Tim Szczepaniak and Chairman of the Board Ed Kinowski; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Michael Prezioso, Mental Health & Addiction Services; Cathi Duncan, Public Health; Heather LaSalvia, Kara Holmes, Glens Falls Hospital – Living Tobacco Free.

Vice Chairman Richardson called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Martin, the minutes of the June 12, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Szczepaniak, to authorize amendments to Mental Health contracts authorized by Resolution 37-2017 to accept additional state funds and amending the 2017 County budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Mr. Prezioso said that the budget amendments are related to cost of living increases that were awarded to the contract agencies through the NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to authorize the acceptance of \$2,328 in state aid from the NYS Department of Health for Children with Special Health Care Needs COLA for the period from 4/1/17 to 3/31/18 and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Mrs. Duncan said that the increase will help cover the cost of programs, supplies, material and services to cover education and outreach for the Children with Special Health Care Needs program. Items such as pdf writer software to help development educational brochures, and stipends for participation and focus groups and website design.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Lucia, to authorize the acceptance of \$3,103 in state aid from the NYS Department of Health for Lead Poisoning Prevention COLA for the period from 4/1/17 to 3/31/18 and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Mrs. Duncan said that these funds will be spent on educational outreach materials, equipment and printing.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Martin, to authorize the acceptance of \$2,778 in state aid from the NYS Department of Health for Rabies Prevention COLA for the period from 4/1/17 to 3/31/18 and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Mrs. Duncan said that these funds will be spent on educational outreach materials and the printing of rabies related materials.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Martin, to authorize the acceptance of \$9,048 in state aid from the NYS Department of Health for Lead the Immunization Action Plan Program COLA for the period from 4/1/17 to 3/31/18 and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Mrs. Duncan said that these funds will be spent on the purchase of a new refrigerator freezer for vaccine storage, a refrigerator freezer transport cart for vaccines administered off site in case of emergencies, additional vaccine data loggers, a bluetooth sound speaker for the smartboard, outreach printed materials and a folding machine for brochures. They are also looking at a stand-alone dedicated phone line for emergency situations.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Barrett, to authorize the acceptance of \$19,000 in state aid from the NYS Department of Health for the 2017 Local Health Department Performance Incentive and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Mr. Duncan said that this award is due to the high standards of the Saratoga County communicable disease outreach in 2016. Funds will be used towards purchases for all of the state aid programs, STD, TB, Lead, Family Health and Disease Control & Immunizations. Items purchased will include laptop bags, computer software, document scanners, vaccine refrigerator and touchscreen laptop.

Mrs. Duncan distributed brochures and factsheets regarding blue-green algae blooms. Mrs. Duncan said that blue-green algae has been around for a long time however blooms are just starting to show up in Saratoga County. Mrs. Duncan said they contain a microscopic bacterial organism that naturally occurs in lakes and streams however blooms can form that discolor the water and form floating mats or scums on the water surface. Exposure to blue-green algae blooms can cause health effects in people and animals when water with blooms is touched or swallowed. Exposure to high levels can cause diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, skin, eye or throat irritation; allergic reactions or breathing difficulties. Mrs. Duncan said that not all blooms produce toxins. Mrs. Duncan said people should never drink untreated surface water.

Mrs. Duncan said that they were notified by the EPA about three lakes in the county that reported blooms, Round Lake, Ballston Lake and Saratoga Lake. Mrs. Duncan said that a meeting was held with the DOH, DEC, SLIPID, Saratoga County Public Health, Saratoga County Soil and Water District, Supervisors Kinowski and DeLucia to discuss the different blooms that were occurring and how to provide information to the public. The NYS DOH are the regulators for any public beaches and will provide necessary guidance toward any lake water quality hazards, they develop and disseminate educational materials concerning lake water quality hazards and can be contacted with any questions regarding these materials. Mrs. Duncan said that information can be disseminated through Lake Association newsletters and websites, town websites and local newspapers. Mr. Szczepaniak said that for Ballston Lake, they worked with the Lake Association to communicate with lake residents, and also put posters and notices

up on the town website. Mr. Martin said that he would like to make sure that information is posted on the bulletin boards of the City of Saratoga Springs lake front park and the two kayak launches. Mrs. Duncan said that a one-page informational poster can be downloaded from the DEC website. It was decided that Mrs. Duncan report to the committee next spring as a reminder to have awareness prior to the beginning of boating and swimming season.

Mr. Szczepaniak asked Mrs. Duncan to give a brief report on the tick borne Powassan illnesses. Mrs. Duncan said that Powassan is a virus and is considered in the same class as West Nile or dengue fever. Powassan can be carried by deer and woodchuck ticks. There have been 3 cases of Powassan virus in Saratoga County in 2017. One person passed away however this person did have many illnesses. Mrs. Duncan said that it's a very rare virus, she said that the State did extra surveillance and collected and tested additional ticks but did not find any ticks positive for Powassan. Mrs. Duncan said that prevention is key, use products that repel ticks if you plan to be in tall grass or on trails. She also said that tick checks are also very important and to consult your doctor if you have tick bite symptoms.

Copies of the proposed local law to raise the legal age for the purchase of tobacco products were distributed. Mr. Dorsey previously distributed the document via email to the committee members. Mrs. Duncan said that this topic was initially brought before the committee a few months ago. Mr. Dorsey drafted the proposed local law and includes the prohibition the sale of tobacco products to those under the age of 21, prohibited products would not be sold in vending machines, no sale of prohibited products within 1000 feet of a school. Certain signage requirements, enforcement, violations and penalties are also covered under the proposed local law. Mr. Dorsey said that the proposed local law is based on a compilation of five local laws from Schenectady, Albany, Orange, Sullivan and Chautauqua Counties. Mr. Dorsey said that the County enforcement officer would be the Director of Public Health or their designee and enforcement includes a provision for a public hearing. Mr. Dorsey included a paragraph on the identification provision for making a sale, currently State law says that if the purchaser looks to be at least 25 years of age, photo ID is not required, the proposed local law has raised this to 30 years, however such appearance shall not constitute a defense in any proceeding alleging the sale of prohibited products to a person under 21 years of age.

Mr. Szczepaniak said that enforcement is a very important part of this law and commended Mr. Dorsey on his drafting of the local law.

Mr. Johnson said that he agrees with the intent however he feels that the law would be a lot more effective if it was a state law rather than individual counties passing their laws which puts a large burden on each of the counties and vendors to comply with the law. Mr. Szczepaniak said that the state has delayed on this issue and the more counties that sign on, the closer it will get to being a state law. Ms. LaSalvia said that the first town to participate in Tobacco 21 was Needham, MA. She said that many thought that 18-21 year olds that wanted to purchase tobacco products would just go to the next town over, however according to a survey conducted, their youth smoking rate decreased by half and the neighboring towns only decreased by 2%.

Mr. Johnson inquired about the loss of revenue to business owners and sales tax revenue. Ms. Holmes said that they would take a look into the data and report back to the committee, according to the American Journal of Public Health, tobacco sales to 18-20 year olds is 2% of retail tobacco sales.

Ms. LaSalvia said that the health care cost savings would be \$16B annually state wide. Mr. Martin asked if there were currently any stores within the 1000ft distance from schools, Ms. LaSalvia said that the majority of tobacco retailers are within 1500ft of schools and they have 3 times the advertising and marketing in those stores. Mr. Dorsey said that any store already within the 1000ft radius will not be affected, only new stores or new business owners after January 1, 2018.

Mr. Johnson suggested that NYSAC be contacted to encourage State Legislatures to enact a state wide effort. Mrs. Duncan said that it has passed the Assembly and that the New York State Association of County Officials is supportive. Ms. LaSalvia said it was in the Health Committee for the Senate and did not have time to move forward.

Ms. LaSalvia said that they are in the process of organizing a luncheon learning seminar whereby the American Cancer Society, American Heart and Lung, The Prevention Council and Saratoga County Supervisors can attend. Ms. LaSalvia said that they can also meet one on one with any Supervisor that has additional questions.

Mr. Martin said that he personally supports this item at the County level however he is concerned about the 1000ft boundary for existing businesses such as Stewarts and other business owners, and how that will affect new owners of a business within the boundary. Mr. Barrett suggested and Mr. Martin agreed to reach out to local business owners such as Stewarts to get their perspective. Mr. Martin also agreed to reach out to the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Szczepaniak said that the main initiative is raising the age, other details in proposed local law can be tweaked and changed. It was decided that Mr. Dorsey send the draft local law out to the full board for their review.

Mr. Barrett said that he sent an informational email from the to be distributed to the committee regarding the history of blue green algae.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Are blue-green algae blooms a new problem?

No. Fossil evidence suggests that blue-green algae have been around for millions of years. Scientists have recorded blue-green algae blooms dating back to the 12th century and they have documented the toxic effects to livestock for more than 100 years. However, it is possible that the frequency and duration of blooms are increasing in some Wisconsin waters as a result of increased nutrient concentrations. Nutrients, particularly phosphorus and nitrogen, can be carried into water bodies as a result of many human activities, including agriculture, discharge of untreated sewage, and use of phosphorus-based fertilizers and detergents.

On a motion made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Lucia, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board