

Health & Social Services Committee Minutes
May 8, 2019 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Dick Lucia; Committee Members Tara Gaston, Darren O'Connor, Dan Pemrick, Sandra Winney, Tom Wood; Chairman of the Board Kevin Tollisen; Spencer Hellwig, Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Cathi Duncan, Public Health; Barbara Thomas, League of Women Voters.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Ms. Gaston, the minutes of the April 3, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Duncan distributed a copy of the 2018 Public Health Services Annual Report and gave an overview of activities during the year. The report will be available on the County website.

Mrs. Duncan said that one hot topic is the measles outbreak downstate. They continue to participate in a weekly epi. call and are carefully monitoring the situation. The State Commissioner has sent out a lot of directives to hospitals and urgent cares. Mrs. Duncan said that they have reached out to the Temple in Saratoga Springs before the Jewish holiday to be attuned as to who would be traveling up to Saratoga. Ms. Gaston suggested that Mrs. Duncan also reach out to Chabad if they have not already done so. Mrs. Duncan said that the public school districts in Saratoga County are very strict requiring that all students are vaccinated.

Mr. Lucia said that the tick season has already kicked in. Mrs. Duncan said that people need to be proactive and preventative. Tick kits were handed out to Supervisors last month and the department will also be handing out kits at the County Fair and a lot of health fairs. The only correct way to remove ticks is with tweezers and pull them out by the head.

Mrs. Duncan said that the flu is no longer widespread. That declaration has been removed, however there are still people getting sick with the flu.

Ms. Gaston noted that there is still a problem with no maternal health nurse. Mrs. Duncan said that they are still advertising for the position. There was a salary increase this year however the nurses in the hospital still make more money and therefore don't consider coming to Public Health. Mrs. Duncan said that training is being done with one of the current nurses to be able to touch on this. Ms. Gaston asked about the N.A.S. numbers, the numbers are not in the annual report but will be provided by Mrs. Duncan to anyone who is interested. Ms. Gaston thanked Mrs. Duncan and their office for the great job they have done with their social media outreach.

Ms. Gaston said that she has had some constituents reach out to her with concerns regarding nursing home facilities in the area, especially the former Maplewood which is now has a new name. Ms. Gaston said that they have been censured by the State Department of Health on their higher use for psychotropic drugs. She said that if anyone hears of any concerns, she would like to personally keep track of them to make sure it is monitored.

Ms. Gaston said that NACo is working on an initiative called “Stepping Up” which is regarding the treatment of mental health in jails. Ms. Gaston distributed a sample resolution and said that the Saratoga County Jail and Mental Health Department already do fantastic work in making sure that people are connected to things that they need, but NACo is encouraging Counties to join in the initiative by passing their own resolution. Additional information regarding the stepping up initiative is on the NACo website.

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Ms. Gaston, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board