

Health & Human Services Committee Minutes
May 4, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Phil Barrett; Committee Members C. Eric Butler, Eric Connolly, Diana Edwards, John Lant, Jonathan Schopf, Tom Wood; Chairman of the Board Theodore Kusnierz; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Matt Rose, Christine Rush, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, County Attorney; Daniel Kuhles, Public Health; Michael Prezioso, Mental Health & Addiction.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Butler, the minutes of the April 6, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, to authorize acceptance of additional funding in the amount of \$26,560 from NYSDOH through Health Research Inc. for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program. Unanimous.

Dr. Kuhles said that the State has received additional funding from the CDC that has passed the funding along to Local Health Departments.

A motion was made by Mr. Butler, seconded by Mr. Wood, to authorize the acceptance of the Medical Reserve Corps COVID-19, Respond, Innovate, Sustain and Equip (RISE) award in the amount of \$75,000. Unanimous.

Dr. Kuhles said that this funding will help to bolster the Medical Reserve Corps. These are doctors, nurses and other health care professionals that were very valuable during the vaccination campaign. Funding will be spent on walkie talkies, training etc. Dr. Kuhles thanked Lori Proc for soliciting the grant.

Dr. Kuhles gave a brief update on COVID cases. Cases are increased across the State due to sub variants of Omicron that is 25% more transmissible than what they already were. Hospitalizations are up slightly, and importantly deaths are not rising. A lot of emphasis is being put on access to treatment. Oral antivirals can be very powerful when initiated after the onset of symptoms within 5 days. A lot of outreach has been done to providers. Tools that are known about vaccination, masking, oral antivirals, people can take action to protect themselves and loved ones. Mr. Barrett said that if masks or test kits are needed, people can contact their local Supervisor or Mayor. Testing and vaccines are available every week.

Dr. Kuhles said that national and international public health leaders are beginning discussions about reformulated vaccine for the fall and who should get that. One common expectation is that the approach may resemble how influenza vaccines are handled. It's likely that there will be another vaccination campaign in the fall right alongside influenza and the team is gearing up for that. The team has also been ready and is awaiting approval for vaccine for young children.

Mr. Barrett said that it is important to note that the expiration dates on test kits are being extended and to make sure you check before they are thrown away. Dr. Kuhles said that a link is being put on the website that links to the FDA page where residents can check if date extensions have occurred for their particular test kit.

Mr. Barrett said that Dr. Prezioso is still working on items discussed at the last meeting. Working on incorporating a drug addiction treatment element to the Peer to Peer program for Veterans and the Sheriff's Second Chance Program.

On a motion made by Mrs. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Lant, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Clerk of the Board