



COUNTY OF DUTCHESS
BOARD OF HEALTH

DUTCHESS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 16, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Dutchess County Board of Health was held virtually on Microsoft Teams and at the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH), 85 Civic Center Plaza – Suite 106, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 on the above date.

PRESENT: Alexander Cohen, MD
John Fallon, NP
Melissa Nelson-Perron, MD (Virtual)
Doug McHoul, Legislative Rep.
David McNary, Vice President
Maria Muller, RN
Marc Nelson, MPA, Secretary

ABSENT: Lobsang T. Lhungay, MD, (Excused)
Laura Fil, DO (Excused)

VISITORS: Marie Brule, Director, Environmental Health Services
Lee Felshin, Supervising Public Health Engineer
Demba Keita, Public Health Fellow II
Annuja Shah, Public Health Fellow II
Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD FACEP, DC DBCH Commissioner
Debbie Thomas, MHA, DC, Director of Performance Management & Data Analytics

CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Lhungay called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM – A quorum was called.

MINUTES – The minutes for February 16, 2023, were approved with no corrections. Motion was made by Melissa Nelson-Perron, seconded by Dr. Alexander Cohen, and approved unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: No report at this time.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Dr. Santiago gave a brief update on the NYS Budget Proposal from Governor Kathy Hochul. The budget is still making its way through the process and the Senate is currently reviewing proposals.

There is an expectation that there will be some legislation to strengthen Smoking Cessation regulations. The senate voted down the proposal to include menthol in the ban for flavored products. There is still some discussion around that as well as increasing the taxes for tobacco products. There is a fair amount of literature showing that taxation is one of the most effective ways to decrease smoking rates.

There appears to be some movement in terms of integration with mental health aspects discussed in previous meetings. There is the attempt to further integrate a lot of the health care deliveries from both the physical health and the mental health side. The proposal in the budget is to expand the ability for integrated licenses where a primary care practice can provide more mental health care and bill for it. The hope is that we will see more care delivery models where there would be primary care in addition to mental health supports and/or treatments available within the same space.

The Commissioner also discussed that there has been some increase in terms of the Medicaid redesign to cover expanded dental health access as well as specifically for individuals who may have developmental disabilities and/or other disabilities. There is a proposed increase in the rates of up to 20%. A lot of the individuals with disabilities are not able to access dental care. Even though care may be covered, the anesthesia services that are oftentimes needed to go along with the dental care for this population may not be covered. There is some promising movement, and it is also detailed in the Governor's budget.

The LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) program just went live February 1st. The Department of Behavioral & Community Health is partnering with law enforcement, particularly in the city of Poughkeepsie and Town of Poughkeepsie in terms of engaging and having trained individuals engage with the most vulnerable people (i.e.: individuals most difficult to reach, unhoused individuals, individuals well known in the community as being particularly resistant to engagement, individuals having a lot of encounters with law enforcement but not necessarily having issues with breaking the law). This program seeks to bring services to those individuals at the street level (street outreach). The whole idea is to try to engage with these individuals, have a conversation, and establish a sense of trust with the ultimate goal of potentially referring some of the individuals for treatment. In the first month, three individuals have been referred for treatment with one of them entering treatment. LEAD personnel would be activated when law enforcement is engaged and if it is deemed to be primarily a mental health issue.

As mentioned last month, vaccination numbers for the schools did look a lot better. Most of the numbers are in the high 90% range. There are a couple of schools that are below that and have received direct communications from the Commissioner. Data was received from the medical practices as well. There are some specific medical practices in Dutchess County that have been singled out and has received communication from the Commissioner regarding their data and the number of individual patients who are not compliant with vaccinations. There are some practices in the community whose rate of non-compliant individuals are over 60%. DBCH will continue to follow up.

The Health Fair is scheduled for April 29, 2023, from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at Dutchess Community College's Falco Hall Gym. There are 60+ potential exhibitors signed up. The core team meets tomorrow to do the final selections of all the potential exhibitors and will make sure that we have a good representation from all over the county as much as possible. Looking to ensure that exhibitors are agencies or businesses involved in health positive activities. David McNary mentioned printing the "Know Your Numbers" card created by Ozie Williams for the Health Fair.

The Health RV is in the process of being registered. It will be on site at the Health Fair. Starting in the month of May, DBCH will be partnering with Dutchess Outreach to bring the RV and table at their farm stand events.

Melissa Nelson-Perron registered the BOH to be at the Health Fair. Melissa mentioned that attending the Health Fair would be a really great opportunity for the Board of Health to meet the community and start talking to people about who the Board of Health is and what they do. Also discussed having promotional items with the BOH name/logo for future events (i.e.: Health Fair). The Health Disparities sub-committee talked about having dental health promotional items for the Health Fair and possibly having someone from the dental field to do a presentation. Wendy Cady may have a representative for that as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HEALTH DISPARITIES – The last meeting was great. The committee decided on the following two areas of focus:

- *Dental Health Awareness* – The month of February is Children's Dental Health Awareness month. Mayor Nelson attended the last meeting and was very supportive of the idea to try and push for a Dutchess County-wide Awareness for the month of February within the schools, dental offices, etc. (American Dental Association's initiative). The committee would like to focus on children's dental health first. Discussed ways to get the word out (i.e.: local radio stations etc.) and then possibly plan for a dental health fair for next February.
- *Housing Crisis/Food Insecurities* - Several advocates from various organizations in the community have been reporting the work that they are doing with Hudson River Housing, various food pantries in the area as well as one of the Dutchess County Farms being funded by Dutchess Outreach. The committee is building a lot more information and will go from there.

Marc Nelson was present at the last Health Disparities meeting and thought the Slack Workspace that the Health Disparities committee uses would be good for BOH member to enter ideas in as well. It is a virtual meeting space and is a free program. An email is needed to sign up. There is a premium version at a yearly cost.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT – Doug McHoul reported that last year the Legislature voted to approve the purchase of a building located at 26 Oakley Street in the City of Poughkeepsie, for a homeless shelter.

Due to budgeting and inflation, the cost has gone up and the plans to purchase is on pause. The County is revisiting a location and currently exploring a part of the Justice and Transitioning Center. The Legislature has some concerns about location. The Department of Public Works is working on a way to improve its appearance and creating a buffer between this facility and the Justice and Transition Center (jail).

Doug also inquired if there is a way to offer a program (maybe an exhibitor) as part of the Health Fair where undocumented immigrants in the area would be able come and learn what their rights/entitlements are. Dr. Santiago mentioned that there are organizations where this issue may be addressed as well as the Health Disparities subcommittee. There are migrant communities, particularly in more of the rural areas of the County where there are migrant populations that are affiliated with a farm or a number of farms in the area. There are community-based organizations, one being Sun River Health, that do outreach through those known entities. Dr. Santiago suggested having a representative from Sun River Health who is engaged in that work to come and do a presentation to the Board of Health and maybe bring some ideas on how the Board of Health can get further involved with that.

NEW BUSINESS:

Environmental Health presentation - "Rabies Updates and Aggressive Coyotes" presented by Anna Shah, JD, Senior Public Health Fellow and Demba Keita, MD, Senior Public Health Fellow (see attached power point)

Joint Meeting w/Mental Hygiene Board – Still working on getting representation from Mental Hygiene Board.

Public Health Partnership Awards – The committee reviewed three Annual Recognition Award nomination forms and voted to have Christina Goebel from Council on addiction Prevention and Education of Dutchess County, Inc. Motion was made by David McNary to select Christina Goebel as the recipient of the 2023 Public Health Partnership Award. The motion was seconded by John Fallon and passed unanimously. Doug McHoul to look into presenting at the May Legislative meeting.

David McNary attended the following webinar, "The County Health Status Program" from the University of Wisconsin. They have been measuring the health status of Counties in the country. The new measurement comes out at the end of the month. Will forward some information on this. Suggested having Ally Smith look at it too.

Board of Health Website – The Board of Health website went live this afternoon. www.Dutchessny.gov/boardofhealth

Board Member List – The Board of Health Member list has been updated to reflect the new executive positions as of 2023.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 4 pm

2023 EXECUTIVE POSITIONS FOR THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Dr. Melissa Nelson-Perron – President
David McNary – Vice President
Marc Nelson – Secretary

Meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.

Minutes signed by:



Marc Nelson
Board Secretary



Jenean M. Williams-Green
Recording Secretary

