



Meeting Minutes Thursday, November 21, 2024

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

PRESENT: Amy Cocina, MD
Alexander Cohen, MD
John Fallon, NP (virtual)
David McNary, Vice President
Melissa Nelson-Perron, MD
Rachana Tyagi, MD

DBCH STAFF: Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD FACEP, DOH Commissioner (virtual)

ABSENT: Laura Fil, DO
Doug McHoul, Legislative Rep

PUBLIC: Jeanean Aming, Psych. NP

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Melissa Nelson-Perron called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM – A quorum was declared.

MINUTES: The minutes for October 17, 2024, were approved with no corrections. The motion was made by David McNary, seconded by Dr. Rachana Tyagi, and approved unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Mobile Health Unit: The Certificate of Need for the Mobile Health Unit (MHU) has been preliminarily approved, with final approval pending a state survey. This certificate is important because it allows the department to bill for services, as required by New York State law. The Pawling Mini Health Fair will kick off on December 6th, followed by one in Dover on December 7th. These events, held in partnership with Sun River Health, will take place monthly from December through March, with a progress review after three months. Also partnered with other departments, including Mental Health and Family Services, to address important social determinants that impact the community.

Juul Settlement Update: The county is developing a plan for spending funds from the Juul settlement, aiming to collaborate with BOCES for a unified approach. The proposal has three main parts:

1. **Primary Prevention for Young Children:** Focused on 3rd to 5th graders, it includes life skills training to prevent vaping early.
2. **Support for Middle and High Schools:** Providing mini grants to schools interested in purchasing vaping detectors.

3. **Policy Development:** Exploring measures like restricting tobacco and nicotine product sales within 1,500 feet of schools by phasing out permits over time, modeled after similar efforts in other counties.

These plans are still being finalized and discussed with key stakeholders.

School Superintendent Calls: The monthly Superintendent calls will be shifted to School Nurse calls. There has been low attendance from superintendents. There was a successful three-hour in-person training for 35 school nurses on Election Day at DC BOCES. The training sparked strong enthusiasm and interest, with many school nurses eager to collaborate and participate in future projects.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Nelson-Perron discussed hospitals in the area facing challenges like shortages of IV fluids and blood culture bottles after the recent hurricanes. There are also concerns about food recalls and E. coli outbreaks, but local impacts remain unclear.

The Health Disparities Committee is shifting to "as-needed" meetings. For February, they plan to focus on Pediatric Dental Health during National Children's Dental Health Month. Last year's efforts in Poughkeepsie included presentations and activities in schools, and there's interest in expanding countywide. Ideas include sharing free resources from the ADA, distributing flyers with appointment QR codes, and possibly bringing a mobile dental unit for checkups.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: No report...

OLD BUSINESS: Briefly discussed the replacement for Maria Muller's vacancy. Dr. Cocina still intends to reach out to the school superintends to see if there may be anyone interested in joining the board.

Primary Care in Dutchess County: No discussion.

NEW BUSINESS: Dr. Tyagi asked if the committee should be thinking about changes that might be coming with regard to new administration. Dr. Santiago mentioned that at a recent meeting, the New York State Health Commissioner spoke about upcoming changes at the federal level and reassured everyone that New York's Department of Health is ready to adapt. He has also been in conversations with the Governor.

There was a discussion around ongoing concerns about trust in healthcare and vaccine hesitancy, especially in certain communities. These issues put extra pressure on primary care doctors, and pharmacies are now playing a bigger role in giving vaccines. Talked about the need for better community education about vaccines and possibly through events like health fairs. In New York, schools require vaccines for diseases like MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), polio, meningitis, and Tdap to prevent outbreaks. However, some groups, like Amish and Hasidic Jewish communities, are often exempt, which can lead to local outbreaks.

The 4th Annual DC Health Fair: Will be held on April 12, 2025, from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, at Dutchess Community College.

Kwanzaa Event: The Newburgh and Poughkeepsie Healthy Black and Latinx Coalition will host a Kwanzaa event on December 4th from 9:15 am – 12:00 pm at the Family Partnership Center (29 North Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie, NY,12601).

Also touched on the rising concerns about future pandemics, particularly with bird flu cases emerging on the West Coast. Although current human cases remain mild and are not spreading between people, there was discussion about the potential risk of the virus mutating if someone contracts both bird flu and seasonal flu simultaneously, potentially resulting in a more dangerous and contagious strain.

Dr. Tyagi mentioned an app from Abilities First called **abilibee** designed to help families of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) navigate the system.

Finally, welcome to Jeanean Aming, Psych. NP. Dr. Nelson-Perron briefly spoke with her and there may be an interest in joining the Board.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Thursday, December 21, 2024, at 4:00 pm

The motion was made by David McNary to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Cohen, and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 pm. Happy Thanksgiving to Everyone!

Minutes signed by:



President/Vice president Signature



Jenean M. Williams-Green
Recording Secretary Signature

2024 EXECUTIVE POSITIONS FOR THE BOARD OF HEALTH

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