



# Onondaga County Legislature

**JAMIE McNAMARA**  
Clerk

**JAMES J. ROWLEY**  
Chairman

**TAMMY BARBER**  
Deputy Clerk

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## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES – APRIL 18, 2023 COLLEEN GUNNIP, CHAIR

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Chase, Ms. Kuhn, Dr. Kelly, Mr. Bush  
**ALSO ATTENDING:** Mrs. Ervin; also see attached

Chair Gunnip called the meeting to order at 10:28 a.m. *The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed, and there were no objections to waiving the reading. There were no corrections to the minutes, and the minutes were approved.*

Dr. Anderson took the agenda items out of order.

### 1. **HEALTH DEPARTMENT:** Dr. Kathryn Anderson, Commissioner b. **Personnel Resolution**

- Requesting to create 2 new Community Health Counselor positions:
  - Opioid position to support harm reduction efforts
  - Lead position to staff mobile lead testing unit
- Currently have lead testing vehicle
- Using existing funds within the County for Health Department; no budget impact

#### **Questions/Comments from Committee:**

- What was the funding?
  - Lead funding is from money provided through the County Executive
  - Money was released from contingency and now available
- What is the timeframe for getting lead vehicle up and running?
  - Hoping within the next couple of months
  - Still need: 1) Employee, 2) Vehicle wrapped and ready for community, 3) Title to vehicle
- What employment qualifications are you looking for? (*the following job description is from County website*)
  - (A) Four (4) years of paraprofessional or professional human services, work experience, or its part time equivalent, in a public or private human service agency providing services to clients from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds; or,
  - (B) Three (3) years of outreach work in a public or private human service agency, providing services to clients from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds groups, which must have included home visits, referrals for support services and educating participants concerning program policies and goals
- Will the employee be a driver or technician?
  - Employee will be a driver and peer educator, community outreach person; will not be a technician
- Will they be able to do lead testing?
  - Yes, will also be part of a team
  - Will be able to do point of care lead testing inside the vehicle
  - More than one person will go out

- What level is this?
  - Grade 9 (\$51,700 - \$57,200)
- Would like to see more education, experience and community engagement with medical background; LPN, health education, etc.
- Would like to see Deb Lewis (Community Health Division) in the van
  - One of the goals for the van is to use a variety of different ways to deploy it
    - Engaging with community health fairs
    - Perform directed outreach for families who may have transportation issues
- Ms. Lewis' department has always been very good at engaging in community events
  - On 5/2/2023 there will be a vote to choose 1 out of 4 community groups for a total of \$150k with the goal being to partner with the Health Department in supporting the lead effort

**Request: Dr. Anderson to report back to Legislature on what the Field Teams will look like**

- Where will samples be taken?
  - Testing will take place in the van with a finger prick; if levels are elevated blood will need to be drawn
  - Still need to sort out if blood can be drawn in the van
- One position for the Opioid grant and one for Lead?
  - Yes
- Will lead houses be identified in the future as being a lead hazard?
  - Currently a link exists between 2 different divisions of the Health Department
    - Community Health – Tests and identifies children who need ongoing management
    - Environmental Health – Healthy Neighborhoods is a group that does testing in homes
- How will outlying areas be reached to educate on lead awareness?
  - Welcome to suggestions on how outreach can be improved
  - Not aware of schools doing lead testing
- The van would be a great opportunity to reach those outlying areas
- Libraries, festivals might be a place to raise awareness
  - Very eager to get into community
  - Vision for lead vehicle is tied to testing, outreach, and education

**Request: Requesting Dr. Anderson provide resources on programs that work outside of Syracuse**

- Do you currently have a Counselor position on your roster?
  - Yes, but no vacant Counselor positions
- Opioid position is from a settlement
- Lead position and van is from contingency money
- Cannot develop a program then take it away because grant money is no longer available
- Need to think about how to make the position long term as opposed to short term through a Grant
  - Both positions would be long term
- Great opportunity to look back and reflect on progress made with contingent and settlement funded positions

***A motion was made by Ms. Kuhn, seconded by Dr. Chase to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

**a. Authorizing Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the State Air National Guard 174<sup>th</sup> Attack Wing for Stockpiling Strategic National Supplies in a Public Health Emergency**

**PURPOSE:**

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Entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the 174<sup>th</sup> Attack Wing Air National Guard to participate with the Onondaga County Health Department (OCHD) as a closed Point of Distribution site to distribute pharmaceutical from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) due to a public health emergency response.

**BACKGROUND:**

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The Public Health Preparedness (PHP) program of OCHD is tasked with planning and preparing for public health events, natural, biological or manmade, that could affect the health of the community.

The OCHD Medical Countermeasures (MCM) Plan provides guidance on planning and setting up Points of Distribution (PODS). OCHD is responsible for planning, organizing, and operationalizing PODS to provide the public with medications or treatment, such as vaccines, antiviral drugs, antibiotics, antitoxins and chemical antidotes, during a public health event requiring mass distribution of pharmaceuticals.

A “closed POD” is a site that is staffed and managed by an organization or agency to dispense MCMs only to “their” specific population. An “open POD” is available to the general public. Closed points of distribution make it far more effective and efficient to provide necessary medical countermeasures to an entire population as it reduces the overall number of County residents OCHD must ultimately serve.

In the event that the Strategic National Stockpile needs to be utilized, a share (befitting the population that is designated to be served) of the County’s allotment of medications and supplies would be provided to closed POD partners to dispense. All closed POD partners and OCHD agree to the number of residents and/or courses each will receive. A closed POD MOU is non-binding in the event that a partner is unable to conduct a POD.

Current closed POD partners with OCHD include: Syracuse University, Lemoyne College, Wegmans (Onondaga County locations only), SYSCO, and previously Bristol Myers Squibb.

**Questions/Comments from Committee:**

- Will stock piling be on Electronics Parkway or Molloy Road?
  - Molloy Road
  - Would engage with Electronics Parkway if there were an emergency
  - Will establish a relationship with each other
- What is the anticipated need?
  - Could be an advantageous, strategic site being that it is located adjacent to the airport
  - 174<sup>th</sup> Attack Wing National Guard is interested in developing emergency preparedness strategies with County
  - There are PODS with other organizations that already exist within the community
- Would rather have emergency preparedness in place before it is needed
  - 174<sup>th</sup> Attack Wing National Guard is a federal military organization

***A motion was made by Dr. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Chase to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

**Request: Dr. Anderson to provide a June or July date of return to Legislature for update on annual report**

**Additional Comments from Committee:**

- Dr. Anderson did a great overview of the health department at Thursday morning roundtable
- Many people did not realize the depth of the Health Department’s responsibility

***A motion was made by Ms. Gunnip to adjourn the meeting.***

**Additional Comments from Committee to Chair:**

- Is there value in having Adam Seth Levine talk with Health Committee?
  - That is Children and Family Services, not Health
  - Mr. Levine should talk to the Commissioner of Child and Family Services

**Ms. Kuhn seconded the motion. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



TAMMY BARBER, Deputy Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

DATE: **APRIL 18, 2023**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
M. Mignano	OCHD
K. Anderson	OCHD
Karl Felice	Law
John DeSantis	Leg.
Jim Beebe	Leg.
Darwin Lesniak	Leg.
Tim Frateschi	Legal Counsel