



# Onondaga County Legislature

**JAMIE McNAMARA**  
Clerk

**TIMOTHY T. BURTIS**  
Chairman

**TAMMY BARBER**  
Deputy Clerk

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## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES – JUNE 20, 2024 CODY M. KELLY, CHAIR

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. McCarron, Mr. Meaker, Ms. Harvey, Mr. Bush

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Chairman Burtis, also see attached list

Chair Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and the previous meeting’s minutes were approved.

Chair Kelly took the agenda items out of order.

1. **HEALTH DEPARTMENT:** James Alexander, Medical Director
  - b. **A Local Law Relating to Certain Fees Collected by the Onondaga County Health Department Bureau of Disease Control**

**PURPOSE:**

*The Bureau of Disease Control is requesting to update the fee schedule to include the cost of private-stock vaccine.*

**BACKGROUND:**

*To increase efficiencies, all Article 28 operations (public health care facilities that are governed by state law) have been centralized under the Bureau of Disease Control. The BDC now oversees and operates the department’s immunization clinics.*

*The Immunization Clinic is mandated to provide immunizations to students (including certain post-secondary students) who cannot pay for or receive their NYS required vaccinations from a health practitioner in the prescribed timeframe. Those vaccines are provided through the NYS Vaccine for Children (VFC) program.*

*New American (NA) arrivals are provided medical-assistance through the Refugee Medical Assistance program. Children with Medicaid qualify for VFC, however, adults with Medicaid (including NA) do not meet the State’s guidelines for the Vaccine for Adults (VFA) program.*

*The BDC also provides select vaccines to patients in the Bureau of Disease Control / Sexual Wellness Clinic that is covered by grant programs serving our clients.*

*We propose to follow best practice and establish a fee schedule for private stock vaccine. The expectation is not to become a vaccine provider, but rather as a safety net, be able to recover insurance payments when private stock is needed. The intention of the fee schedule is not to transfer the provision of immunization services costs to patients; this would enable the County to bill insurances (where eligible).*

*A list of vaccines and the current range of fees the County pays for them is attached.*

**FUNDING / BUDGET IMPACT:**

*None. We are proposing to bill insurances when we provide private stock vaccines.*

- OCHD is mandated to vaccinate children who are excluded from school due to lack of immunization
- Currently do not have a mechanism to recover the product cost for those who are insured
  - If passed, OCHD will bill insurance company for insured children

**Questions/Comments from the Committee:**

- Will OCHD bill parents for uninsured children?
  - Uninsured and underinsured children are eligible for free vaccinations under the federal program
- Students have 14 days to receive their vaccination in order to stay in school
- What are the logistics for receiving vaccinations?
  - Schools are mandated to provide the OCHD with a list of students that are excluded
  - OCHD actively engages families to get children vaccinated in the downtown vaccination clinic
- Children can no longer go to the pharmacy for a vaccine?
  - Children can still get a flu vaccine but cannot get tetanus or measles from pharmacy
- Has the OCHD been able to keep pace with the influx of kids who previously received vaccinations in a pharmacy?
  - Has been a challenge, but no child is unvaccinated
  - Upstate Pediatrics has been willing to take kids on short notice
- Is there any type of door to door service or solution for insured children who do not have transportation?
  - OCHD can now hold clinics in schools
  - Once approved by the State, the OCHD mobile vehicle will also be able to provide vaccines
- Mobile mechanism takes away Well Child visits to a doctor
  - Intension is to close the gap between identification for exclusion and exclusion
  - OCHD communicates the need for care to be established with a Pediatrician

***A motion was made by Mr. McCarron to approve this item.***

- Is there a reason no dollar amount is provided on this local law?
  - The cost can change depending on the supplier, inventory etc.

***Mr. Meaker seconded the motion. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*****a. Authorizing the Onondaga County Health Department to Accept a Gift of Consulting Services (\$53,000)****PURPOSE:**


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*Receiving a gift in kind of consulting services from ZS Consulting to advance planning for sustainable and maximally effective community health worker (CHW) models to support priority Health Department initiatives.*

**BACKGROUND:**


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*Onondaga County Health Department recognizes the critical need to enhance its community healthcare services and better serve its diverse population. To address this need, the county is seeking sustainable ways to expand their engagement of community health workers (CHWs), with a particular emphasis on supporting maternal/infant health and the health of refugees and immigrants.*

*As part of this initiative, the county seeks to systematically explore CHW models that have proven successful and sustainable in communities across the county. In doing so, OCHD will develop a CHW model/s that is tailored to the needs of our community and informed by national best practices. This will result in more effective CHW models that will support OCHD's mission of improving access to healthcare, health education, and health equity for all residents.*

*ZS consulting is a management consulting firm that provides strategy, operations and technology services for leading healthcare organizations. They are offering their services to conduct a six week intensive engagement with OCHD to perform: 1) an internal review of local stakeholder perspectives on desired features of CHW models, 2) external reviews and comparisons of CHW models used by other cities, counties, and states, and 3) summative workshops with key local stakeholders to select the optimal model framework/s and next steps. The estimated value of this in-kind professional service is \$53,000.*

BUDGET IMPACT: \$0

- CHWs are individuals who are peers from the community rather than a nurse or doctor
- Due to language barriers, LanguageLine is used to communicate through interpreter, however dialect can be a challenge
- OCHD has experience with CHWs through Peace and other groups
- Health Departments across the country have had success using CHWs
- ZS Consulting has ability on how to best roll out a program
- Onondaga County and Erie County are tied for the most number of refugees coming in to NYS

**Questions/Comments from the Committee:**

- What is the timeline as far as receiving results from the study and potential rollout?
  - There will be motivation on both ends to expedite the process
- Is ZS Consulting doing this in hopes of getting a contract post consultation?
  - No
- Why would ZS Consulting want to do this program?
  - Motivation may be that they are grant funded to help roll out programs across the country
- At a minimum OCHD would get knowledge of what to look for and how to move forward

*A motion was made by Mr. Meaker, seconded by Ms. Harvey to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



TAMMY BARBER, Deputy Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

## ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

DATE: **JUNE 20, 2024**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Steve Smoral	Fin Ops
James Alexander	DCI/ID
Joe Frateschi	Leg Counsel
John DeSantis	Leg.
Jim Bube	Leg.
Kate Felice	Law Dept.