

ULSTER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

October 18, 2021

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

- **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Approval of September 13, 2021 Minutes
 - b. Board Meetings held Virtually until January 2022
 - c. Board Vacancy Update

- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Commissioner's Report (Dr. Smith)
 - COVID Update
 - a. Up-to-date Stats
 - b. School Testing Update
 - c. POD Update
 - Flu Season 2021-2022
 - ME Meeting on October 5, 2021
 - Dept of Health and Mental Health
 - a. 2022 Budget
 - b. Behavior Health/ Westchester Medical Update
 - Personnel Update
 - a. Patient Services
 - b. Environmental Health
 - c. Fiscal
 - d. Mental Health
 - e. Support Staff

MEETING CONCLUSION

Ulster County Board of Health
October 18, 2021
6:30 p.m.
Held Virtually

PRESENT: Naomi Stevens, Dr. Walter Woodley, Kathleen Rogan, Stephanie Turco

EXCUSED: Dr. Gina Carena

ABSENT:

UCDOH: Dr. Carol Smith- Commissioner of Health

GUEST:

1. Old Business

- a. **Approval of Minutes:** Approval of the September 2021 meeting was approved by Ms. Turco, seconded by Ms. Rogan and unanimously approved.
- b. **Board Meetings held Virtually until January 2022:** Dr Woodley explained to the Board that the decision was made to hold Board meetings virtually verses in-person. A hybrid meeting was determined not to work for the Board according to the Open Meeting Law. To reduce the possible exposure to COVID, meetings will be held via Zoom.
- c. **Board Vacancy Update:** Dr. Woodley will speak to a potential candidate to fill a vacancy on the Board and will circle back to the Board within 1-2 weeks. Dr. Woodley asked the Board if they had any suggestions of outreach to recruit for vacancies. Ms. Turco mentioned reaching out to the Schools such as SUNY New Paltz and Ulster to see if there is interest. She would be willing to contact schools but would need contact info of who she should speak with. She also suggested reaching out to hospitality agencies. Dr, Smith will speak to Marc Rider, Deputy County Executive, about reaching out to the Department of Tourism. Ms. Rogan expressed concern about obtaining new members due to the timing, Holiday Season and COVID, etc. Ms. Turco and Ms. Stevens said the Board should seek to expand their outreach efforts to other venues.

3. Commissioner's Update: Dr. Smith reported on the following:

- **COVID Overview:**
 - Reviewed the most recent COVID numbers (see attached). Ms Rogan inquired as to why the positive cases are so high in Shawangunk.

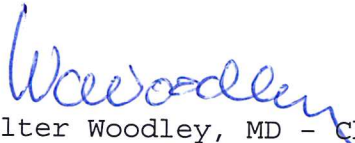
Dr. Smith explained that there was no concrete explanation for the elevated numbers. COVID is pervasive and showing no signs of ending. Individuals often go to surrounding county hospitals and we are not always getting those numbers. Therefore, the picture is not always the big picture.

- DOH is still conducting weekly testing for County employees on Tuesdays and Thursdays. DOH has identified 4 positive staff cases and has also found that about 1 unvaccinated individual is choosing to get vaccinated each week.
 - PODs for the community continue to be held on Friday. Highly encouraging guardians to go to their Primary Care Physician (PCP) to have their younger children vaccinated versus attending the POD. The PCP setting is a more anxiety reducing place for children.
 - Merck, an antiviral medication for treating COVID is on the horizon. This drug acts much like Tamiflu in that it reduces symptoms and like Tamiflu it must be started at onset of symptoms.
 - There has been a lot of media attention brought to the death of Colin Powell, retired former Secretary of State. His death was a result of complications due to COVID. Although he was vaccinated, he had a compromised immune system which was unable to fight off the effects of COVID.
- **Medical Examiner (ME):** The entire ME team met on October 5th. The current Forensic Pathologist, Dr. Charles Catanese, is talking about retiring and there has been mention of the ME's retiring. The ME's office has been a continual rollercoaster. DOH has an outstanding contract with Westchester Medical Center for morgue use and pathology services. Dr. Sikirica, Rensselaer County ME has resigned and Rensselaer is currently contracting services with Dutchess County DOH.
 - **STD Clinic Update:** Offering STD testing and treatment is one of DOH's core health requirements. In the process of determining if the Department will continue to offer these services or contract with a medical agency to facilitate.
 - **Department Personnel Update:**
 - DOH has hired 2 new nurses and currently speaking with 1 to potentially fill a

vacant Supervising Public Health Nurse position.

- A Public Health Engineer Trainee is coming on Board as of November 1st. After one year he will meet the qualifications to be moved to an Assistant Public Health Engineer. Still needing to hire a Senior Public Health Engineer.
 - **Budget:** This year's budget includes the separation of the Department of Health and Mental Health into 2 departments, each with their own Commissioner. Dr. Smith will remain the Commissioner of DOH. The County was granted 34.4 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan. On 10/20 there will be a meeting with the County's External Budget Analysts. Final budget still needs to be approved by the Legislature.
 - **Flu Clinic Update:** We will be scheduling times for staff to receive the vaccination. However, there will be no other clinic venues. Over the years the clinics have had poor attendance and with COVID PODS occurring, staff and time are extremely limited. Individuals will receive vaccinations from their PCP or local pharmacy.
 - **POD Update:** PODs continue to occur on Fridays at the Best Buy Site in the Hudson Valley Mall. By appointment or walk-in. 1st and 2nd dose of Pfizer and Moderna and 3rd dose of Pfizer are being administered.
 - **School Update:** DOH continues to help schools with the testing of students. Dr. Woodley says that schools receiving the CLEA should happen quickly which will allow the schools to facilitate their own testing. As soon as the CLEA is issued, DOH can retreat from their presence in the schools.
6. **Adjournment:** Ms. Rogan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Stevens and unanimously approved.
7. **Next Meeting:** Scheduled for Monday, November 8, 2021 at 6:30 PM, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by:


Walter Woodley, MD - Chair

Ulster County Department of Health

Medical Examiner's Office - Autopsy Cases

Date of Death between 1/1/2021 and 9/30/2021

Total Number of Cases: 146

<i>Cases by Gender</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
F	4	8	4	0	4	5	4	4	2	0	0	0	35
M	14	13	11	13	9	7	9	7	26	0	0	0	109
Grand Total	18	22	15	13	13	12	13	11	29	0	0	0	146

<i>Cases by Manner</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
Accidental	10	11	6	9	7	6	7	6	6	0	0	0	68
Homicide	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Natural	4	8	4	3	4	2	5	1	6	0	0	0	37
Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	14	0	0	0	18
Suicide	4	3	3	1	2	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	18
Undetermined	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Grand Total	18	22	15	13	13	12	13	11	29	0	0	0	146

<i>Cases by Category</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
Alcohol	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Blunt Force Trauma - non-MVA	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	6
Carbon Monoxide	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cardiovascular	1	5	1	2	3	2	4	0	5	0	0	0	23
Cardiovascular and Diabetes	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cardiovascular and Obesity	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Diabetes	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Drowning	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Fall	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Gunshot Wound	1	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	10
Hanging	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Motor Vehicle Accident	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	7
Non-Opioid Substance	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
Non-Opioid Substance w/ Other Substances	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Opioid	4	4	3	2	1	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	21
Opioid w/ Alcohol	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Opioid w/ Other Substances	4	5	1	3	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	21
Opioid w/ Other Substances and Alcohol	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
Pending	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	11
Pending - Suspected Opioid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	9
Pneumonia	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

Ulster County Department of Health

Medical Examiner's Office - Autopsy Cases

Date of Death between 1/1/2021 and 9/30/2021

Total Number of Cases: 146

Sharp Force Trauma	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Smoke Inhalation	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Undetermined	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Grand Total	18	22	15	13	13	12	13	11	29	0	0	0	0	146

TODAY			
Official Counts For		10/18/2021	
Data As Of		10/17/2021	
Total Tests	504035	+716	<i>Since Yesterday</i>
Confirmed Cases	18878	+27	<i>Since Yesterday</i>
Transferred	-159	0	<i>No Change Since Yesterday</i>
Recovered	18337	+38	<i>Since Yesterday</i>
Fatalities	281	0	<i>No Change Since Yesterday</i>
Active	260	-11	<i>Since Yesterday</i>

Sunday			
Official Counts For		10/17/2021	
Data As Of		10/16/2021	
Total Tests	503319	+1067	<i>Since Prior Day</i>
Confirmed Cases	18851	+36	<i>Since Prior Day</i>
Transferred	-159	-2	<i>Since Prior Day</i>
Recovered	18299	+56	<i>Since Prior Day</i>
Fatalities	281	0	<i>No Change</i>
Active	271	-22	<i>Since Prior Day</i>

Saturday			
Official Counts For		10/16/2021	
Data As Of		10/15/2021	
Total Tests	502252	+1394	<i>Since Prior Day</i>
Confirmed Cases	18817	+45	<i>Since Prior Day</i>
Transferred	-159	-1	<i>Since Prior Day</i>
Recovered	18243	+30	<i>Since Prior Day</i>
Fatalities	281	0	<i>No Change</i>
Active	293	+14	<i>Since Prior Day</i>

ResTown	Town	Active	Recovered	Deceased	Total Confirmed
City of Kingston	City of Kingston	40	2740	50	2830
Wawarsing	Town of Wawarsing	27	1257	10	1294
Hurley	Town of Hurley	8	421	8	437
Lloyd	Town of Lloyd	17	1606	61	1684
Ulster	Town of Ulster	5	1379	56	1440
Marlborough	Town of Marlborough	14	1203	8	1225
Saugerties	Town of Saugerties	23	1699	14	1736
Shawangunk	Town of Shawangunk	27	1214	7	1248
New Paltz	Town of New Paltz	13	1330	18	1361
Esopus	Town of Esopus	18	697	5	720
Plattekill	Town of Plattekill	17	1162	13	1192
Rochester	Town of Rochester	12	476	6	494
Rosendale	Town of Rosendale	7	344	3	354
Marbletown	Town of Marbletown	1	337	1	339
Gardiner	Town of Gardiner	7	375	3	385
Unknown	Unknown	12	1149	9	1170
Woodstock	Town of Woodstock	6	300	2	308
Olive	Town of Olive	4	248	0	252
Shandaken	Town of Shandaken	1	132	0	133
Denning	Town of Denning	1	16	0	17
Hardenburg	Town of Hardenburg	0	3	0	3
Out of County	Out of County	0	210	5	215
Town of Kingston	Town of Kingston	0	39	2	41
Total		260	18337	281	18878