

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN ROOM #318
OF THE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**

Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Addonizio & Nacerino

Wednesday

July 21, 2021

(Immediately Following the Protective Meeting at 6PM)

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 P.M. by Chairwoman Sayegh who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Committee Legislators Nacerino, Addonizio and Chairwoman Sayegh were present.

Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – April 20, 2021 & May 18, 2021 Meetings

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she would proceed through the agenda out of order, starting with Items #6 & #8.

Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael Nesheiwat indicated that both items would be discussed jointly.

Item #6 - Approval/Budgetary Amendment 21A065/Health Department/Additional Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity COVID-19 Grant Funding

Item #8 - Approval/Budgetary Amendment 21A067/Health Department/Additional Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity COVID-19 Grant Funding

Commissioner Nesheiwat introduced Shanna Siegel, Supervising Public Health Nurse, who has been instrumental in coordinating with the schools. He stated Item #8 is a \$2.1 million grant and Item #6 is a \$418,000 grant. He stated Item #8 is designated solely for testing students for school. He stated the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) is determining its guidelines and recommendation. He stated, unfortunately, the NYSDOH (New York State Department of Health) has not given any guidelines for using the funding. He stated it may be mandatory for schools to conduct the testing, or it may be optional. He stated the schools are also concerned and want to see the guidelines before committing to administering the tests. He stated it could potentially result in the PCDOH (Putnam County Department of Health) administering the testing for school students. He stated this is not feasible. He stated there is an option to hire a third party to handle the testing.

Supervising Public Health Nurse Siegel provided the attached PowerPoint. She stated the PCDOH is asking the schools to begin preparing for all scenarios. She stated the hope is that we are not caught unprepared. She stated various contractors have reached out to potentially handle the testing. She gave an overview of the CDC's indicators for testing. She stated it is unknown what is recommended or required as of now.

Commissioner Nesheiwat stated Item #6 is funding that is a continuation of what has already been received and is used to offset the expenses for equipment, overtime, etc. due to the pandemic.

Chairwoman Sayegh clarified that Item #8 is specifically only for testing for the purpose of reopening the schools.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if it is up to each school district.

Commissioner Nesheiwat stated yes, it could lead to multiple different outcomes.

Supervising Public Health Nurse Siegel stated the plans could vary from school to school.

Legislator Nacerino questioned why there could potentially be opposition to the testing.

Supervising Public Health Nurse Siegel stated she does not see a downside, especially considering the vaccines have not been approved for children under 12 years old. She stated it is known that most people prefer in person learning.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if rising case numbers could result in vaccines becoming mandatory in the schools.

Commissioner Nesheiwat stated that is a topic for a later date. He stated right now they are just waiting for the guidance from the State.

Supervising Public Health Nurse Siegel stated authorization for vaccinating those younger than 12 years of age is not expected until 2022.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if she has an idea for what the school districts are considering.

Supervising Public Health Nurse Siegel stated there are a variety of possibilities.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to Approve Item #6, Budgetary Amendment 21A065; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to Approve Item #8, Budgetary Amendment 21A067; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #4 - Approval/Budgetary Amendment 21A062/Youth Bureau/NYS Highway Safety Program Grant Award/Establish the Putnam County Teen and Young Adult Safe Driving Program

Youth Services Specialist Pamela Phillips-Zeller stated this is a one (1) year grant that will assist teens become safe drivers and reduce the number of drunk driving arrests in Putnam County. She provided the Committee with an informational brochure.

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Chairwoman Sayegh. All in favor.

Specialist Phillips-Zeller stated there is also a Parents as Driving Partners Program which has the parent sign an agreement when their child goes to get their driving permit. She stated there has been 569 agreements signed this year. She stated that this grant will allow them to add a Teen Driving Court to the current Youth Court. She stated currently the cases only come from Probation, but they are now talking to the Town Courts for potential case referrals. She stated they are also developing a program, similar to Driver's Education, for young adults aged 18-24. She stated this program could potentially be part of sentences for young adults with traffic offenses.

Chairwoman Sayegh thanked Specialist Philips-Zeller. She stated this is a very competitive grant that was difficult to receive.

Legislator Addonizio stated these are wonderful programs.

Legislator Nacerino expressed her gratitude for these programs.

Legislator Montgomery questioned how this works with the Town Courts.

Specialist Phillips-Zeller stated it is going to be piloted in one (1) Town Court before being brought to others. She stated there are a lot of policies and procedures that must be in place. She stated there also needs to be training completed. She explained the process. She stated this promotes positive youth interactions with police.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 21A062; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she would address Item #7 next.

Item #7 - Approval/Budgetary Amendment 21A066/Office for Senior Resources/Additional ACL Federal Grant Empowering Communities to Reduce Falls & Fall Risks

Office for Senior Resources (OSR) Director Michael Cunningham stated OSR is very pleased to be awarded this competitive grant. He stated an important aspect of the grant application was the fact that Putnam is partnering with neighboring counties for a regional program of fall prevention. He stated the costs for the aging baby boomer demographic will be high. He stated this is a great opportunity for working with the surrounding counties. He stated this helps with partnering with insurance companies and hospitals. He noted that this is a three-year grant is for \$273,000.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned if there is a county match.

OSR Director Cunningham stated there is not.

Legislator Addonizio stated statistics show that one (1) in three (3) older adults fall. She requested information on the programs that are provided to prevent falls.

OSR Director Cunningham stated the programs are evidence-based programs. He stated two (2) that are currently offered are “A Matter of Balance” and “Tai-Chi for Arthritis.” He stated these programs can now be done virtually.

Legislator Nacerino stated this is a great initiative.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 21A066; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #5 - Approval/Budgetary Amendment 21A064/Health Department/Fund an Additional Household Hazardous Waste Day

Director of Environmental Health Services Shawn Rogan stated the Health Department usually holds two (2) of these events per year. He stated the event held in May 2021 was very successful. He stated it is important to keep toxic materials out of the environment and, in turn, the drinking water.

Fiscal Manager William Orr stated the expected cost is expected to be similar to the first event. He noted that it is 50% reimbursable.

Director Rogan stated the registration is normally capped at around 300 people. He stated the May 2021 and October 2020 events were both very well attended.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated these are fantastic events.

Director Rogan clarified that the cost is based on the volume collected, not the number of people who attend.

Legislator Nacerino questioned when the event will be and when registration opens.

Director Rogan stated the next event is October 9th and registration typically opens a couple weeks beforehand.

Legislator Montgomery questioned which vendor is used.

Director Rogan stated it is Radiac, who is based out of New Jersey and has been a very responsible vendor.

Legislator Albano stated these are great events. He questioned how organizations are qualified to handle these materials.

Director Rogan stated there are necessary certifications. He noted that there are chemists on site during these events.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated this is a great investment and she believes this is what our residents want to see.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 21A064; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #9 - Approval/Fund Transfer 21T133/Health Department/Environmental Health Aides/Temporary

Director Rogan stated this relates to two (2) specific staff members in temporary positions; one (1) of which has worked in the Health Department for over 20 years and the other has been there three (3) years. He stated this request is to fund the positions through the end of the year. He stated these employees have been pulled to do a multitude of tasks during the pandemic. He stated much of the staff has been pulled to help work at the vaccination clinics. He stated this is cost effective.

Fiscal Manager Orr noted that there is no fiscal impact.

Legislator Nacerino stated these are valuable employees.

Legislator Montgomery stated she fully supports this and wants the Health Department to have the necessary staffing.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 21T133; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #10 - Other Business - None

Item #11 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 9:15 P.M. Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.



Putnam County Department of Health

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
7.21.21**

	ELC Enhanced Detection (21A065)	ELC Reopening Schools (21A067)
Purpose	General COVID-19 Response	Specific for School Testing ONLY
Focus	Expands reimbursable activities	Limited scope; currently excludes vaccination activities
Period	Retro from 2/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	6/1/2021 - 7/30/2022

Return to In-Person Learning for K-12 Schools 2021-2022

American Academy of Pediatrics

The AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for school plans should start with the goal of keeping students safe and physically present in school. Focus on vaccination and universal mask use, and reducing absenteeism. References CDC guidance for additional mitigation information.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The CDC focuses on a layered mitigation approach:

- Promoting vaccination
- Mask use
- Physical Distancing
- Screening testing
- Ventilation

New York State Department of Health


NSYDOH is reviewing CDC guidance and has not yet released any State guidance for the upcoming school year.

	Low Transmission ¹ Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Students	Do not need to screen students.	Offer screening testing for students who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week.		
Teachers and staff	Offer screening testing for teachers and staff who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week.			
High risk sports and activities	Recommend screening testing for high-risk sports ² and extracurricular activities ³ at least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.	Recommend screening testing for high-risk sports and extracurricular activities twice per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.	Cancel or hold high-risk sports and extracurricular activities virtually to protect in-person learning, unless all participants are fully vaccinated.	
Low- and intermediate-risk sports	Do not need to screen students participating in low- and intermediate-risk sports. ²	Recommend screening testing for low- and intermediate-risk sports at least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.		

CDC Screening Testing Recommendations for K-12 Schools by Level of Community Transmission

¹ [Levels of community transmission](#) defined as total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days (low, 0-9; moderate 10-49; substantial, 50-99, high, ≥100) and percentage of positive tests in the past 7 days (low, <5%; moderate, 5-7.9%; substantial, 8-9.9%; high, ≥10%.)

² The NCAA has developed a risk stratification for sports.

See https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/ssi/COVID/SSI_ResocializationDevelopingStandardsSecondEdition.pdf . Examples of low-risk sports are diving and golf; intermediate-risk sport examples are baseball and cross country; high-risk sport examples are football and wrestling.

³ High-risk extracurricular activities are those in which increased exhalation occurs, such as activities that involve singing, shouting, band, or exercise, especially when conducted indoors.

REFERENCES

CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

CDC ELC Reopening Schools

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dpei/pdf/guidance-elc-reopening-schools-508.pdf>

COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools, American Academy of Pediatrics

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>