

. Westchester County

**893rd Board of Health Meeting  
July 21, 2022  
10 County Center Road, White Plains/Remote Meeting via Webex  
8:30 a.m.**

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Robert Baker, MD  
Ed Brancati  
Ruth Merkatz  
Mary Ellen McGurty  
Cynthia Chazotte, MD  
Jewel Williams Johnson  
Anthony Maddalena  
Nok Siriphonlai

**ABSENT:**

Peter Liebert, MD  
Douglas Aspros, DVM  
William Davis  
Melinda Abrams  
Jamie Sirkin

**PUBLIC:**

Dr. Baker opened the 893rd meeting of the Westchester County Board of Health at 8:35 a.m. The Board met in person and remotely via Webex due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Baker officially introduced Nok Siriphonlai, a new Board of Health member. Ms. Siriphonlai is a professional engineer who serves as the deputy commissioner for the Department of Public Works in White Plains. She previously worked as an engineer in the Westchester County Department of Health.

Dr. Baker asked for a motion to approve the June 2022 minutes. Mr. Brancati made the motion; Mrs. Merkatz seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CASES:**

Mr. Maddalena introduced Cases 1-25 and asked if there were any questions. Mr. Maddalena asked a question to clarify one of the violations.

Mr. Maddalena made a motion to accept the hearing officers' recommendations for Cases 1-25; Dr. Chazotte seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**DOH STAFF:**

Sherlita Amler, MD  
John Hopper  
Peter DeLucia  
Caren Halbfinger  
Delroy Taylor  
Natasha Court  
Kathy Torrisi

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE:**

Aviva Meyer

Mr. Maddalena introduced Cases 26-30, which were reconsiderations by hearing officers. After a brief discussion, he asked for a motion to accept the reconsiderations for Cases 26-30; Mr. Brancati made the motion; Ms. Siriphonlai seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. DeLucia said that the proposed changes to the Westchester County Sanitary Code were being reviewed by the Law Department and then would be sent to the Department of Planning to seek a negative declaration for the SEQRA process. He said the changes had already been shared with New York State.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Dr. Amler informed the Board that Sanitarian Mark Grazioli, who was conducting training at a camp had collapsed and passed away, and that the Department had grief counselors for staff. Dr. Baker said he would like to express the Board's condolences.

Dr. Amler told the Board about the Department's successful picnic and meeting at Tibbets Park in Yonkers. She informed the Board about the increasing cases of Monkeypox in Westchester and the vaccine clinics that are held Mondays and Wednesdays, with second doses of the vaccine given after 28 days. She described the symptoms, which include fever, chills, a bad headache, muscle aches, fatigue, and then, four days after exposure, a rash. Dr. Amler said Monkeypox is spread from skin to skin contact or close face to face prolonged contact. She said the vaccine was currently coming from the national stockpile for smallpox, but that new supplies were being manufactured and should be available within the next two months.

Dr. Amler said the Department would not be conducting Covid testing in schools for the coming school year.

The Board discussed the need for additional staffing and to reclassify job titles to increase pay so that positions, particularly for engineers and physicians, are more competitive. Ms. Williams Johnson said the Department should submit its wish list to the Board of Legislators.

Dr. Baker asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Brancati so moved; Dr. Chazotte seconded the motion; all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Caren Halbfinger