



**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**

December 5, 2023.

**Essex County Health Department Public Health Directors report
Professional Advisory Council (PAC) - Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC)**

ECHO Update - The focus of ECHD's Community Opioid Overdose Prevention (COOP) Program is to train community members to recognize and respond to an overdose and increase access to give naloxone (Narcan) to prevent fatalities.

*First, to increase naloxone distribution around the County – we continue to do outreach and mail kits. It has been well received with request to mail and be trained coming steadily in.

*Second, create a comprehensive anti-stigma campaign for those with substance misuse disorder. We have secured a billboard between Ticonderoga and Port Henry – we will begin our “North Country Campaign” using the FrameWorks model, which is a think tank that helps mission-driven organizations communicate about social issues in ways that build public will to support progressive change. <https://www.frameworksinstitute.org/about/>



This is part one of three messages strategically seeking to reshape the overall narrative, moving from a story about the scope of the problem to society's responsibility to address it. Public transportation including county busses and Medicaid taxis will soon have window clings with harm reduction messaging.

*Third, decrease barriers for submitting information to OD Map. Our program has been successful we are receiving OD submissions from EMS and putting them in OD Map. We are working with our EMS to “leave behind” Narcan whenever prudent. Cassidy continues to look at multiply data points to assure we are capturing all the data.

*Fourth, the ECHD had scheduled four ECHO Coalition meetings for 2024. The spring meeting May 16th will be in person at a venue in Lake Placid. We are working with partner to make this a multi-county event to highlight best practices of the region and have dynamic guest speakers to cover harm reduction messaging, OD Fatality review and topics TBD.

Children Services:

We currently have 31 children enrolled in the Early Intervention program. We are currently experiencing a waitlist for evaluations. This evaluation called a Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE). “Multidisciplinary” means that a team of qualified professionals from different disciplines or Professions will take part in your child’s evaluation.

PO Box 217, 132 Water Street; Elizabethtown, NY 12932; Phone 518-873-3500 Fax 518-873-3507
www.co.essex.ny.us/Health/

After hours number to report communicable disease and rabies exposures 1-888-270-7249



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Children with certain diagnosed conditions are automatically eligible for the EIP. For these children, the purpose of the MDE is to assess your child's strengths, needs, and current level of functioning in all areas of development. The five areas of development that will be looked at to assist in developing the IFSP are cognitive (learning and thinking), physical (growth, vision and hearing, gross and fine motor abilities), communication (understanding and using words), social-emotional (relating to others), and adaptive (self-help skills, such as feeding)

The delay in MDE is due to Mountain Lake Services being the only team to offer in home evaluations and the only county-based organizations. We have three other evaluation teams located outside the County, that have resorted to doing them at the office only due to provider shortages and not all families can travel. Two of those agencies are in Clinton County and the other is in Warren County. There are 16 children currently waiting for their MDE evaluation to establish if they are eligible for Early Intervention Services. Of those evaluated children, we currently have a waitlist for Physical Therapy (3), Speech (8) Special Instruction (6) and Occupational Therapy (4).

Preschool: 3 to 5 year olds

We currently have 86 children enrolled in the Preschool program and 27 in the referral process. These referrals are for children that completed evaluations and are determined they qualify for services. Essex County is without a center based special education classroom. As an alternative to this placement, we are having all of our special needs children attend school based PreK and Head Start classrooms. These students require more supports in this setting and we have hired one on one aids to provide this. The one on one rate has been increased to support the recruitment of this crucial staff.

All of our Children's Service Staff recently attended a training in Mental Health First Aid USA. This will provide initial help to families we work with that may be experiencing a mental health or substance abuse challenge.

Birth to Three Steering Committee

As a member of the steering Committee of the Birth to three Coalition, I have been actively working with Raise NY and the establishment of the Pritzker Grant. I worked with Bob Frawley create report that was sent to NYS DOH BEI to address the early intervention needs of children living in rural counties. This work is ongoing and very rewarding. The Baby Steps top Bright Futures along with the ECMH b-3 mental health referrals will be instrumental in getting data needed for the Pritzker grant.

The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program seeks to improve the system of care for children and youth with special health care needs from birth and up to 21 years of age and their families. The Program helps to shape public policy so families can get the best health care for their children. As we develop this role to address children awaiting for services, children in "child find" and children referred to the program by schools and physicians. We have a highbred program that will address the needs of Children Services as well as Baby Steps to Bright Futures.



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Women Infant and Children (WIC)

Our WIC department continues to go beyond for the residents of our county. The Monday before Thanksgiving, WIC staff in collaboration with the Lake Placid Ecumenical Food Pantry was able to give 87 WIC families Thanksgiving dinner. Also, the Hub on the Hill and Rolling Hills Farm donated close to 900 pounds of frozen, vacuum-packed cuts of beef to WIC; an estimated value of close to \$9,000. Therefore, along with the turkeys, each family received close to 10 pounds of locally raised beef. We are certainly grateful to live in an area where our partners' areas as concerned about food security as we are. The WIC team continues to go out to our community sites to meet people where they are.

NYSACHO 2023-2024 Legislative Platform

NYSACHO acts as an advocate for LHDs in the legislative and regulatory arenas, by supporting data driven, evidence-supported legislative and regulatory public health policy and solutions and requesting direct state funding to LHDs for implemented and pending public health policy. The legislative agenda for NYSACHO encompasses five key public health principles as well as working on specific priorities in seven public health areas: (1) Disease Control, (2) Environmental Health, (3) Family Health, (4) Rural Health, (5) Workforce Development/Funding, (6) Emerging Public Health Threats, and (7) Substance Use/Cannabis Policy. Below is a summary of our main issues in each of these categories. (Call out supporting funding for public health).

All NYSACHO's committee policy priorities align with five overarching key principles, as follows:

Key Principle: Promoting Health Equity NYSACHO supports public policy that addresses systemic and structural barriers to assuring fair and just access to good health for all people.

Key Principle: Full Funding for Policy Implementation NYSACHO opposes the enactment of state public health policy changes that fail to anticipate and fully fund local public health workforce, enforcement, and other needs necessary to ensure successful implementation of new or expanded public health policies and programs.

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Key Principle: Protecting Local Public Health Authority NYSACHO opposes the preemption of home rule and local public health authority necessary to respond to community-level public health needs.

Key Principle: Assuring equitable policies for all Local Health Departments NYSACHO supports that public policy proposals assess for statewide applicability for all local health departments prior to enacting any legislation that would statutorily include or exclude a single or limited group of local health departments; in regard to new or expanded responsibilities, authorities and/or access to funding, data or other resources

Key Principle: Modernizing and Improving Data Systems and Access • NYSACHO supports public policy that improves and modernizes public health data surveillance systems and ensures bidirectional flow of data to strengthen local access to real-time data to inform public health interventions.



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I have been appointed by the BOS to the Board of Trustee for North Country Community College:

Article I: Responsibilities and Duties of the Board of Trustees .The College is governed by a ten-member Board of Trustees, five appointed by our local sponsors (Essex County and Franklin County respectively) for seven-year terms; four by the Governor, also for seven-year terms; and one student representative elected by the North Country Community College Student Association annually, for a one-year term. Board of Trustees' terms begin on July 1st and end on June 30th. In the case of the county appointees, one is a rotating appointment, wherein each county appoints a representative every seven years (e.g., Essex County in 2019, Franklin County in 2026, Essex County in 2033, and so on). The Board of Trustees is charged with administration of the College, consistent with applicable New York State law including New York State Education Law, Article 126, Section 6306, 8 NYCRR part 604, and New York Public Officers Law, Sections 30-43 and 100-110. It is a seven-year term.

Respectfully
Linda L. Beers