

ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

AUGUST 2023

MONTHLY REPORT

DIRECTOR - LINDA BEERS, MPH



PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

Director's Message

July was a busy month for public health policy work and advocacy at the state and national levels.



NYSACCHO – participated in development of the following resolutions:

- Increasing adult vaccine entry through NYSIIS
- Making chickenpox (varicella) a reportable vaccine-preventable disease
- Establishing an 11% rate increase for Early Intervention (EI) providers
- Expand capacity of Speech Language Pathologist Assistants and Aides to improve access to services
- Move administration responsibilities for Preschool and EI transportation services to local school districts.



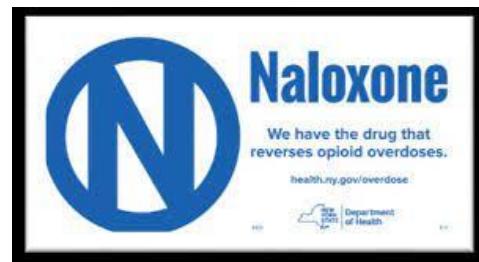
NYSAC – as Chair of Public Health & Mental Health Subcommittee and member of EI/Preschool subcommittee, present resolutions developed above for consideration at upcoming NYSAC Conference.



NACCHO – attended the 2023 NACCHO 360 national conference. Three major themes dominated the discussions: work-life balance for employees; data driven outcomes; and harm reduction strategies to reduce opioid misuse and increase medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) for people who use drugs (PWUD).

ECHD Now Registered as an Opioid Overdose Prevention Program!

In the last report, we noted that ECHD had applied to become an Opioid Overdose Prevention Program (OOPP). We found out in July that we were approved as a registered program. This designation allows ECHD to order and distribute life-saving opioid overdose reversal medication to individuals, groups, businesses, and community organizations that request it.



What is Trending at ECHD?

Many things are in the works here at ECHD – read on for a glimpse of the recent and upcoming news and events:



Launch of Baby Steps to Bright Futures

Our first-of-its-kind-in-NYS universal newborn home visiting program is officially launching in August! This program aims to offer all parents/families with newborns the support and linkage to programs and services that allows all babies to flourish.



National Breastfeeding Month

Our collaboration with Clinton County Health Department on the *Breastfeeding Friendly Communities* grant and other partners as part of our **Bright Futures Coalition** has provided the needed boost for breastfeeding support and services in Essex County. We are excited to announce the inaugural meeting in August of our monthly group: Little Feeders Circle of Support in Elizabethtown! Both new and experienced parents are encouraged to attend this or future meetings – with their little ones – to get advice and tips from a Certified Lactation Counselor, chat and form connections with other parents and families, and so much more! Stay tuned for additional opportunities in the southern portion of the county soon!

The Elizabethtown group will meet the 2nd Friday of every month from 10-12PM at the Elizabethtown Social Center.

Sunscreen Promotion



ECHD distributed sunscreen dispensers, purchased with funding from the NYSACHO Climate and Health Mini Grant, to five towns for public use at Jaycee Park, Keene Town Beach, Minerva Town Beach, Schroon Lake Town Beach, and Wilmington Town Beach. Thank you to Supervisor Wood, Supervisor Holzer, Supervisor McNally, Supervisor Barber, and Supervisor Wilson for the collaboration. ECHD issued a press release as part of the program promotion.

Rabies & Tick-borne Disease



Wildlife in the southeastern corner of the county continue to pose a rabies risk to people and pets. While we at ECHD have advocated for a shift in bait drop location and density to better address the areas where we are seeing impacts, our locus of control remains our ability to:

- promote and provide rabies vaccinations via our free clinics;
- educate the public on preventing rabies exposures; and
- respond to any exposures with urgent and thorough investigation and follow-up.



Tick-borne diseases like Lyme and anaplasmosis are endemic to Essex County and yearly cases might fluctuate, but these illnesses are here to stay and poised to get worse due to climate change. Because of the risks that infections pose, the best offense is a good defense: PREVENTING TICK BITES BEFORE THEY HAPPEN. Our health department helps residents do this through education, media & marketing, promotion and provision of tick remover kits and other materials like signs for parks, playground, and trails; bookmarks; tick identification cards, and other items.

On the Road...In our Communities



ECHD staff have worked hard to re-establish community connections by ensuring a prominent presence at local events throughout the county. Teams signed up to conduct outreach & education at the following:

- 7/15 - E'Town Day
- 7/29 - Ti Street Fest
- 8/9 – Lake Placid Rabies Clinic
- 8/16-8/20 – Essex County Fair
- 9/3 – Port Henry Labor Day Parade
- 9/23 – Adirondack Harvest Festival in Westport
- 10/1 – Schroon Lake Distance Festival



HOME HEALTH UNIT

Per recommendations from Vanesky & Company the CHHA will raise the per visit rates to Maximize 2024 Medicaid – Skilled nursing will increase by \$103 per visit, Therapy by \$10 per visit and Home Health Aides will increase by \$32 per hour.

<https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/>

Use this link to find and compare healthcare providers near you!

Home health agency - Essex County Nursing Service - Patient survey rating

The patient survey asks patients (or their family or friends) about their home health care, and if they would recommend that agency to someone else. The survey ratings can be used to compare agencies using a 5-star scale, with more stars indicating better quality care.

Number of completed surveys: 141

Survey response rate: 38%

How do patients rate the overall care from the home health agency??

Essex County Home Health: 95%

National average: 84%

New York average: 81%

WIC

Target Caseload-700

Enrolled-629

High Risk Participants-33

Nutrition Education Appointments-209

WIC food dollars spent in Essex County- \$34,110 *this does not include Farmer's Market Coupons

One of the Program's current goals is to increase our Breastfeeding Initiation rate from 75% to 76%. We are now at 86% initiation rate. WIC is spotlighting local breastfeeding women and their families this month. Please check out our Facebook and Instagram to support our families.

WIC and Pick has started strong this year. Each session has been full or almost full. We have seen familiar faces and are excited to welcome new families too! Please come visit us during any of our farm sessions.



WIC set up a family area at Streetfest in Ticonderoga in July to kick off World Breastfeeding Week. We had a great turnout, and many women shared their breastfeeding stories with us. We had a coloring contest and lucky Ivy pictured left won a bike.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Early Intervention:

Our Early Intervention numbers have been on the rise the last 3 months. We currently have 45 children enrolled with IFSPS. 12 of those children are on a speech waitlist, 4 for Occupational Therapy, 3 for Physical Therapy, and 1 for Special Instruction.

In accordance with Federal requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), states are required to issue findings of non-compliance to local programs based on data.

COMPLIANCE INDICATORS

Timeliness of service initiation (Indicator 1) *services will start within 45 days

Timeliness of initial IFSP (Indicator 7) *IFSP will be within 45 days of evaluation

Timeliness of transition discussion (Indicator 8A) *at least 90 days prior to the toddler's third birthday

Timeliness of transition notification (Indicator 8B) *at least 90 days prior to the toddler's third birthday

Timeliness of transition conference (Indicator 8C) *at least 90 days prior to the toddler's third birthday

Essex County meets requirements for the program year 2021-2022 in all but Indicator 1 where we were at 58.3%. This is due to not having a provider to assign for services due to our provider shortage. To address this non-compliance we will participate in a call with the Bureau of Early Intervention to address this, review records, and review quality assurance procedures as directed by the Bureau.

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN):

With NYSDOH increased grant funding the Department has been working on hiring a person to meet the state's .5 FTE expectation/requirement. A new staff member starts in August and will work under this program at .5 and the Family Health program at .5 effort. This Public health Outreach Coordinator role will assist in the identification of children and youth with special health care needs and connecting them and their families with education and wrap around services to support their unique needs.