

AGENDA
BOARD OF HEALTH COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 4, 2026

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Blowers, Rondinaro, Jaynes, Halpin, Walker, Fazzary
ALSO PRESENT: Shawn Rosno, County Administrator
STAFF ADVISOR/MINUTES: Nicole Smith, Clerk

Present from Public Health

Director – Jill Kasprzyk
Deputy Director – Lorelei Wagner
Compliance Officer – Deborah Dalmat
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator – Mandy Qualls

- A. New Staff Introduction – Katilynn Taylor, Sr. Account Clerk Keyboard Specialist
- B. Orientation to Public Health
- C. Quarterly Report – see attached.
- D. Emergency Preparedness and Communicable Disease update.



Public Health
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Schuyler County, NY

Introduction to Schuyler County Public Health

Presentation to the Schuyler County Board of Health
February 4, 2026

What is Public Health?

- Public health works to promote and protect “the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play.”
- Across the country, state and local health departments work to prevent injuries and illness and use science-based solutions to improve people’s quality of life.
- Their work is guided by the Ten Essential Public Health Services.



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Ten Essential Public Health Services

1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets
2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population
3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it
4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health
5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health
6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health
7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy
8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce
9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement
10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

Who We Are

Schuyler County Public Health is the local health department serving our community. From no cost rabies clinics for cats, dogs, and ferrets to linking children with speech therapy or other needed services to helping community members get their well water tested, Public Health is committed to protecting and empowering our community to be safe, healthy, and prepared.



Our Purpose

Our mission is to protect and empower our community to be safe, healthy and prepared.

Our vision is a connected community of healthy people and safe places.

Our values:

- **Accountability:** We value the professionalism of our team and the quality of our work.
- **Fairness:** We value equity and meeting people where they are.
- **Honesty:** We value transparency and accuracy.
- **Improvement:** We value the use of evidence to advance performance and address needs.
- **Innovation:** We value novel and idea-driven solutions.
- **Respect:** We value partnership and trust with our stakeholders and the community.
- **Health:** We value the wellbeing of our community.

Pivital Public Health Partnership

- The Pivital Public Health Partnership, formerly the S2AY Rural Health Network, has worked to improve health outcomes in rural upstate New York since 1997.
- It is a partnership of 7 County Health Departments:
 - Chemung (Partner since June 2014)
 - Ontario (Partner since 2002-03)
 - **Schuyler (Partner since 1998)**
 - Seneca (Partner since 2002-03)
 - Steuben (Partner since 1997)
 - Wayne (Partner since 2002-03)
 - Yates (Partner since 1997)
- Through this partnership, we collaborate to address various shared needs such as policy and procedure development, emergency planning, accreditation, and health concerns seen throughout the region.



On a Rural Health Mission

Governing Entity Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide the point of accountability for the health department
- Directly and indirectly influence the direction of the health department
- Maintain a working knowledge of roles and responsibilities of the health department
- Advise, advocate, or consult in policy making, priority setting, resource allocation, collaboration, quality improvement, and/or governing
- Appoint the Public Health Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) including a Board of Health representative and delegate quality assurance and other activities to the committee

Our Programs and Services

Prevent Programs

Core Public Health Programs
(required for receipt of Article
6 State Aid Funding)

- Community Health Assessment
- Chronic Disease Prevention
- Communicable Disease Control
- Emergency Preparedness
- Environmental Health
- Family Health

Children's Programs

- Early Intervention (EI) Program
- Preschool Special Education Program
- Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program

Community Health Assessment

Community Health Assessment (CHA)

- We collaborate with Schuyler Hospital and various community partners to conduct a Community Health Assessment every few years with the goal of identifying the major health concerns facing our county. We just submitted the most recent CHA draft to the State in December. It included:
 - Data and demographics analysis
 - Stakeholder engagement and feedback
 - Development of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and Community Services Plan (CSP)

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

- Using the information from the assessment, we create a multi-year Community Health Improvement Plan to guide efforts to address these health concerns.
- The 2025-2030 Community Health Improvement Plan will address:
 - Poverty
 - Primary Prevention, Substance Misuse, and Overdose Prevention
 - Preventive Services for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control

Chronic Disease Prevention

Chronic diseases - such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes - are the leading causes of death and disability in the United States. Healthy lifestyle choices can help lower the risk of developing many of these chronic diseases.

Our chronic disease prevention program works to reduce the impact of chronic disease in the community and increase the lifespan of community members. We provide education on ways to improve health and reduce long term diseases alongside community partners.



Communicable Disease Control

Communicable diseases are illnesses or infections that can be spread from person to person, animal to person, or person to animal. This includes illnesses like Lyme disease, influenza, rabies, chlamydia, and salmonella.

The overall goal of this program is to protect the community by limiting the spread of infections. We focus on the prevention of disease through surveillance, case management, screening, immunization, and education.



Emergency Preparedness

Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response helps people plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies. These public health emergencies could be a disease outbreak, a weather emergency, an act of terrorism, or a chemical spill.

Schuyler County Public Health collaborates with community partners to ensure businesses, community organizations, and the public are prepared in case of an emergency.

We also rely on the support of the dedicated community volunteers in the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) who help in case of an emergency.

WE WANT YOU!
to become a volunteer with
Schuyler County MRC!

“ Working with Schuyler County's MRC is enjoyable and very fulfilling. It is a great opportunity to meet people and give back to the community. ”

-JANE KISSEL
MRC VOLUNTEER

Public Health
Schuyler County, NY

medical
reserve
corps

Environmental Health

Locally, environmental health includes:

- Injury Prevention including:
 - SAFE
 - SCCUDD
 - Opioid Overdose Prevention Program
- Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
- Watershed Protection Agency



As a partial service county, restaurant inspections, tobacco control enforcement, and other regulatory environmental health matters are handled by the New York State Department of Health's Hornell District Office.

Family Health



Family Health works to improve the health of children in the community. We provide education, health guidance, and referrals to services related to pregnancy and childbirth, infant feeding methods, dental health, and other health concerns children may face.

Our department has a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) on staff that can provide new parents support in feeding their infant.

Early Intervention (EI)

The Early Intervention (EI) Program helps connect children ages 0 to 3 with services they need to help them reach their full potential.

Children who qualify for the program may receive speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, or special instruction. Families in the program also receive care coordination for their child and guidance and resources to support their child's growth. As the municipality, we are responsible for the oversight and administration of the program including getting children scheduled for evaluations and connected with service providers.

Preschool Special Education Program

The Preschool Special Education Program is available for children ages 3-5 who have a suspected delay or concern with development.

Schuyler County Public Health is an active member of each child's CPSE team and provides our local school districts with support in providing preschool services to children who live in Schuyler County. As the municipality, we:

- Contract and pay for services
- Coordinate services & transportation
- Conduct quality assurance
- Complete cost reports
- Bill Medicaid
- Reimburse for school administration cost

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

Our Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) program is for children from birth through age 21 who have conditions or illnesses for which they need extra health care or support services.

Schuyler County Public Health provides families in the community with information and referrals to the services or care their child needs.

Strategic Plan

- It is a guide for the department's goals to achieve, methods for success, and measures to monitor progress.
- It enhances and strengthens CHIP work, workforce development, performance management and quality improvement, and engagement with the community and stakeholders.
- Our department's current strategic plan includes two priorities:
 - To build and maintain trust in Schuyler County Public Health as a collaborative partner in community health improvement.
 - To recruit and retain a high-quality, high-performing workforce.

Workforce Development Plan

- The Workforce Development Plan addresses both departmental and individual level training needs.
- Staff also work with their supervisor to develop individual training and program goals as part of their performance evaluations.
- Performance evaluations are done for all new staff to review expectations and set individual goals at 4 months, 8 months and 12 months.
- Performance evaluations and individual goal review/setting continue annually for all staff after the first year of employment.
- Staff regularly meet, usually monthly, with supervisor to review projects, answer questions, clarify expectations and complete program planning.

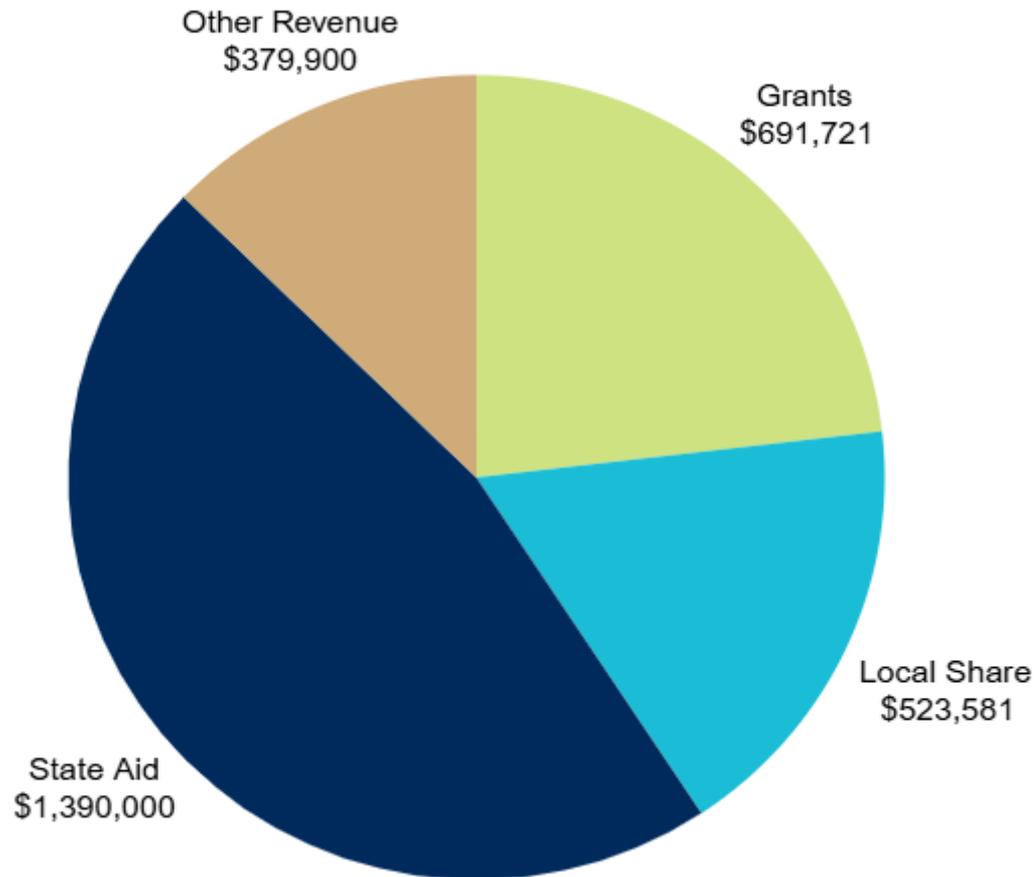
Accreditation

- The measurement of health department performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused, and evidenced-based standards.
- Accreditation supports performance and continuous quality improvement efforts.
- Accreditation is awarded by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).
- Our department was awarded accreditation in September 2020 as a multijurisdictional applicant with 5 other counties in the Pivotal region (Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates).
- Periodic reaccreditation is required to maintain our status. As a region, we are hoping to submit our reaccreditation documentation by September 2026.

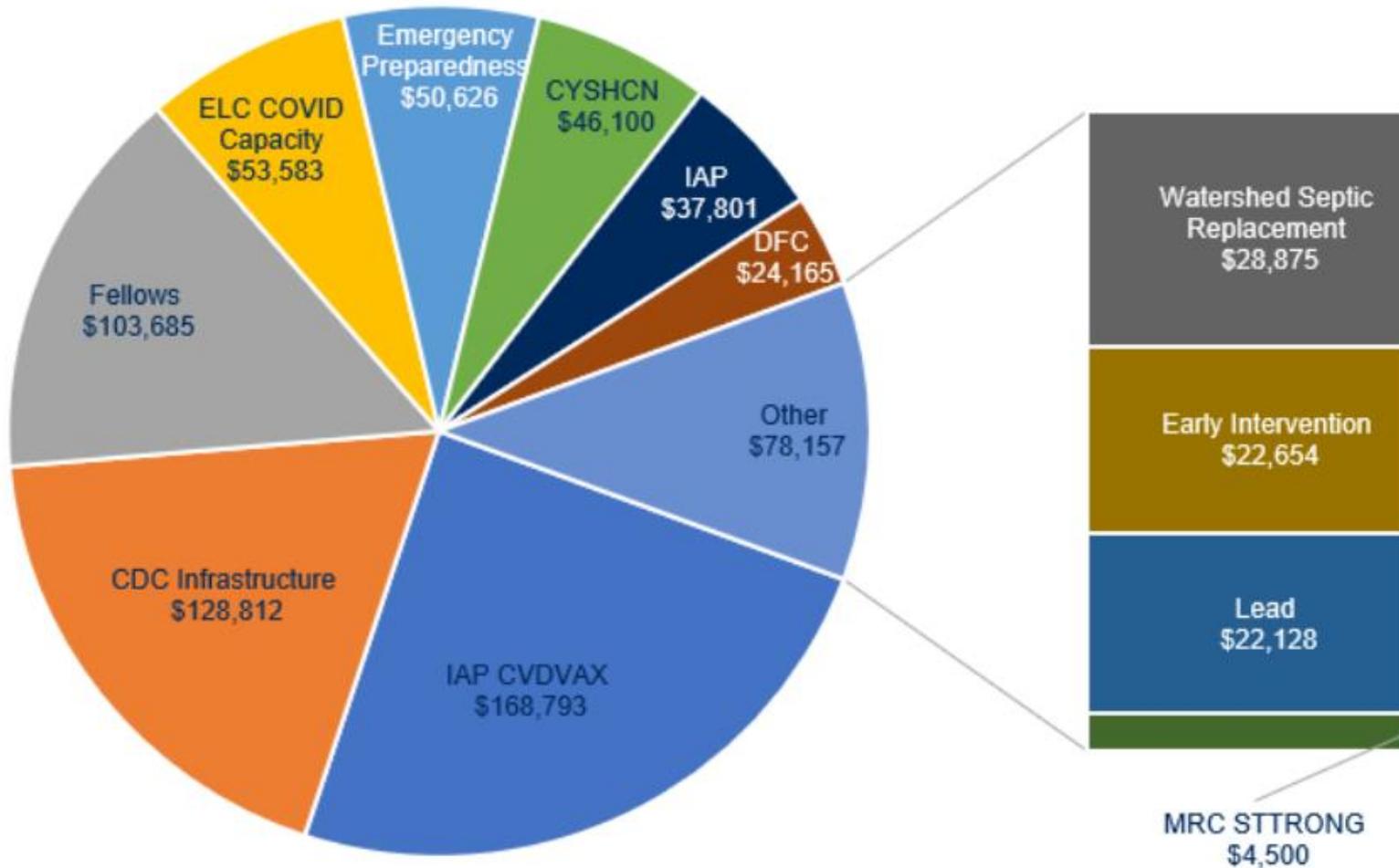
Performance Management / Quality Improvement (PMQI)

- Through PMQI, we work to improve the performance and quality of the services Schuyler County Public Health provides to the community.
- We gather and analyze performance data, including community feedback from surveys.
- We set goals for programs, select quality improvement projects, and review program audits to ensure Schuyler County Public Health is providing effective and efficient programs and services to the community.
- We utilize Clear Impact software as our performance management system.

Revenue (2024 Budget)



Grants (2024 Budget)



Questions?

Our offices are now located in the
Shared Services Building
910 S Decatur St in Watkins Glen

Our clinic is still located in the
Mill Creek Center
106 S Perry St in Watkins Glen



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Public Health Quarterly Report



Administrative Updates

Staffing

We were approved to hire a Program Assistant through the Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG). The person will be an employee of PCG and assigned to work for Schuyler County Public Health.

Employee Milestones this Quarter

- Sharon Stadelmaier- Retired December 5th
- Kayla Smith - 2 years of service
- Deborah Dalmat - 11 years of service

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

The CHIP Team finalized priority areas for the 2025-2030 Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan:

- Poverty
- Primary Prevention, Substance Misuse, and Overdose Prevention
- Preventive Services for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control

The first draft of the Community Health Assessment highlighting information on these areas was submitted to the state at the end of the year, with the final version due along with the CHIP at the end of June.

Strategic Plan

Remaining offices at the Shared Services Building have been vacated. As soon as Buildings and Grounds has the offices fixed and painted, all staff will be housed at the SSB. The clinic will remain at the Mill Creek Center.

Workforce Development Plan

Staff participated in the Public Health Annual Retreat, completing training on annual compliance activities, Effective Communication in the Workplace presented by staff from the Justice Center of the Southern Tier, and Emergency Preparedness Training on the Finger Lakes Public Health Alliance.

Performance Management / Quality Improvement (PMQI)

- **Performance Management:** For the fourth quarter of 2025, 100% of program scorecards had performance data entered by the due date.
- **Quality Improvement (QI):** We currently have one QI project open. The project aims to improve our satisfaction survey process. We have begun testing the new process and we hope to see improvements in the number of satisfaction surveys that are returned.
- **Reaccreditation:** Our accrediting board has extended the deadline to submit our required documentation. We now plan to submit in September 2026. So far, we have identified documentation for 97% of the documents needed. At present, we have compiled over a third of needed documentation.



Schuyler County Public Health staff tabled at the Falls Harvest Festival, sharing community health data.



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Public Health Quarterly Report



Children's Programs

Public Health was notified of a one-year grant through our Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) program titled Community Accessibility and Inclusion (CAI). Funding is for nearly \$27,000 and will be utilized to enhance the CCE garden with sensory experiences and accessibility updates, to provide parking passes for CYSHCN families to the accessible playground at Clute Park, to create a sensory-friendly experience at the Italian American Festival, and to purchase development and sensory items for the Family Play and Resource Center (FPRC). Additionally, Public Health staff worked with the FPRC to develop a Sensory Play Group that started meeting on Tuesdays in January.

Prevent Programs

Injury Prevention

Our VISTA worker has made great strides with opioid prevention efforts, including providing a Narcan refresher training for Probation staff, presenting to students at Watkins Glen High School, developing Public Health kiosk prototypes, and meeting with the Odessa-Montour School District to offer support and information around Narcan.

Chronic Disease Prevention

Efforts to decrease vaping commenced this quarter utilizing the JUUL settlement funding. The team developed plans to work with school sports teams to "Storm out Vaping" in the spring.



Public Health Nurse, Mendy, tabling at the Watkins Glen Library during October with program information.

Coalition Updates (SCCUDD and SAFE)



MRC Volunteers and support staff, Sarai, tabling at Village Christmas on behalf of Public Health, SCCUDD, and SAFE.

Both coalitions were represented at the Falls Harvest Festival and Village Christmas with outreach materials, including gun locks and medication lock boxes and disposal aids.

Schuyler County Coalition on Underage Drinking and Drugs (SCCUDD)

Staff worked with school districts to cement plans for the 2026 Youth Survey implementation.

Suicide Awareness for Everyone (SAFE)

SAFE has been reviewing information and planning education about how AI (ChatGPT specifically) has been implicated in providing information that led to at least one suicide.