

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 10th, 2026

Time: 11:00am – 2:30pm

Location: In-Person: Otesaga Resort Hotel, Cooperstown, NY
Virtual: Microsoft Teams

Chair: Rich Stup, Co-Chair: Dan Zeh, Facilitator: Dahlia Sheehan-Yassin

Virtual Attendees: Jim Bittner, Bruce Gibson

In-Person Attendees: Katherine Brieger, Keith Clark, Alicia Fletcher, Lisa Ford, Kitty Gelberg, Michael Sellitti, Renee St. Jacques, Rich Stup, Becky Wiseman, Elizabeth Wolters, Dan Zeh, Bill Zittel, Anna Meyerhoff, Casey Miller, Christina Day, Christine Lalonde, Cristy Carr, Dahlia Sheehan-Yassin, Destiny Trombley, Erika Scott, Katrina Schwab (note-taker), Liane Hirabayashi, Mandy Roome, Michael Heinle, Pam Milkovich, Pauline Boyer, & Vickie Gwozdz

Absent: Allison Appleton, Liz Callahan, Jessica Garcia, Victor Jones

Welcome & Introductions: Rich Stup

- Rich welcomed everyone to the meeting and facilitated introductions across the room

Director's Report: Erika Scott

- **Highlights:**
 - HealthWorks Team, Education Outreach Services Team and Research Services Teams:
 - Ramping up for fall flu season
 - We have 2 new staff members who have joined us: Casey Miller (Research Coordinator) and Katelyn Jordan (Occupational Health Services Tech 1)
 - Michael Heinle accepted a new position as Data Analyst; additional positions are being posted for an Ed Outreach Coordinator & a Research Assistant
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 - Social Services Heather Chauncey has been doing a great job keeping several programs on track
 - Opioid Overdose Prevention Training (OOPT) with naloxone kits
 - NEASHC Mini-Grant Program: safety training & outreach can support regional agricultural health & safety initiatives
 - Lots of training events & safety focused events are happening
- **Quick Highlights of BOT Report (Apr-Jun 2026)**
 - HealthWorks delivered 70 DOT physicals, 32 audiometry exams, 345 respiratory exams, & 513 fit tests/trainings, supporting rural employers & first responders
 - Firefighter screening clinics cleared 320 firefighters for service across the region
 - The Farm Partners Program expanded opioid prevention efforts, reaching 1,744 individuals across 18 counties & distributing 794 naloxone kits over two years

- Farm Partners provided case management and support services to 15 farmers, including emergency financial assistance to three farm families
- NYCAMH conducted 237 outreach, training, and consultation events, reaching 2,528 participants statewide
- Staff completed 61 on-farm safety consultations and 85 English/Spanish occupational safety trainings, strengthening farm safety practices
- Respirator fit-test clinics trained and evaluated 267 farmworkers to ensure regulatory compliance and worker protection
- The ROPS Rebate Program installed 38 rollover protection systems and maintained a 98% participant satisfaction rate
- The John May Farm Safety Fund approved 52 farm safety projects and reimbursed \$141,784 for completed safety improvements
- NYCAMH researchers contributed multiple peer-reviewed publications and presentations, including a CSTE Poster Award-winning project on agricultural injury surveillance
- Recognizing FarmNet for their 40th year anniversary
 - Kudos to their organization for the sustainability of the programs they offer!
- ROPS (Rollover Protective Structure)
 - The farm bill is now moving towards the finish line
 - ROPS will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year!
- JMFSF (John May Farm Safety Fund)
 - Will be celebrating its 10th year anniversary this year!

Education Core Presentations:

- Needs Assessment with Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development (CAWD): Pam Milkovich
 - Highlights of Pam's presentation:
 - Overview given regarding the ongoing agricultural workforce needs assessment involving workers, supervisors/managers, and owners across dairy, fruit/vegetable, and greenhouse operations. Early worker feedback highlighted challenges related to work-life balance, transportation, language and communication, immigration concerns, health and safety, and access to services. Workers expressed interest in additional hands-on skills training. The assessment will help identify opportunities for future programming, resources, and improved communication within agricultural workplaces.
- VIDA (Life & Wellness Training for Hispanic Farmworkers/Agricultural Supervisory Leadership Program (ALS): Anna Meyerhoff
 - Highlights of Anna's presentation:
 - The VIDA program is a Spanish-language life skills series offering monthly educational videos and virtual discussions on topics such as health, finances, and stress. Recent programming has addressed general health, diet and addiction prevention, with dental care and preventative health planned next. An update was also shared on the Agricultural Supervisory Leadership N(ASL) certificate program, which is being adapted for Spanish-speaking agricultural supervisors and covers leadership, HR practices, workplace safety, employment regulations, and building a strong safety culture.
- Agritourism Guide: Pauline Boyer
 - The Agritourism guide is designed to help farms assess readiness, improve visitor and worker safety, and plan for growth. The guide addresses common safety

considerations, risk education, crowd and event planning, regulatory and tourism resources, and available NYCAMH services, training and financial assistance.

- Agritourism continues to grow in NY State
- Resource pages are very helpful and the QR codes are for easy access to information
- Advisory board members suggested that the guide could be beneficial for county organizations, newsletters, conferences and agritourism operations to broaden outreach to promote safe practices.
- Discussion reinforced the importance of getting safety information into the hands of the agritourism operators.
- The group discussed exploring social media influencers and trusted community voices as potential avenues for sharing health and safety information with broader audiences.
- **Onboarding Videos with CAWD: Christina Day**
 - **Highlights of Christina's presentation:**
 - The SAFE START Farm Employee Onboarding Series is a collaboration between Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development and NYCAMH that provides farm safety onboarding modules in English and Spanish.
 - Topics include heat illness prevention, farm hazard awareness, machinery safety, and dairy cattle handling.
 - The Heat Illness Prevention Guide has been published along with discussion guides to support and document employee training, while additional modules are currently in production.
 - A 2nd year of funding has been awarded, with opportunities to identify future training topics.
 - Advisory board members provided feedback on future topics including skid steer safety, confined spaces, pesticide re-entry, and first aid.
 - Discussion was also had around considerations of downloading and maintaining current versions of training videos.

Tour of New Mobile Clinic Vehicle: Liane Hirabayashi

- This mobile clinic van delivers direct occupational health and safety services directly to farms and agricultural workplaces.
- Trained health and safety professionals can perform basic health screenings, clinical evaluations, and occupational safety assessments at an off-site location

Farm Health Assessments (AB Feedback): Liane Hirabayashi

- **Quick look at the Recent Past**
 - 2021-2022: COVID-19 Immunizations
 - 2022-2023: Pilot health screenings and immunizations
 - 2024-2025: Pilot adding dental and vision to health screenings
 - 2025-2026: Purchase of new mobile unit FFS, CHP events, pilot CVS study
- **Health Assessment Breakout Discussion:**
 - Advisory Board members discussed potential audiences, screening services, locations, timing, and follow-up considerations for health assessments.

- Key themes included reaching underserved and rural workers, providing assessments at farms and other locations where workers already gather, tailoring timing to individual industries and seasonal schedules, and addressing barriers such as lack of insurance or access to healthcare.
- Members emphasized that assessments could expand to preventative services, identify emerging health concerns, build trust, and strengthen connections to follow-up care.

Diseases Affecting Agriculture: Mandy Roome

- Highlights of Mandy's presentation:
 - An overview was provided of emerging agricultural health threats, focusing on H5N1 avian influenza and New World Screwworm (NWS).
 - The presentation reviewed risks to agricultural workers and animals, signs and symptoms, transmission, and prevention strategies.
 - Key recommendations for worker education: appropriate PPE, good hygiene and equipment sanitation, protecting skin and wounds, monitoring animals and workers for signs of illness, and promptly reporting concerns.

Wrap-Up/Adjournment: Erika Scott

- Erika thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting
- Requested advisory board members to provide feedback on a future board retreat via a survey (paper copies in the room or online following the meeting)
- Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30pm

Next Meeting:

Thursday, December 10th, 2026: 11:00am – 2:30pm

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