

# County figures exceed state's

■ N.Y. department needs approval to count out-of-state cancer cases.

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A Chemung County health official said he has received information about 50 cases of

cancer among Southside students and alumni, about 30 more than what the state health department has reported.

Thomas Kump, director of Chemung County environmental health, asked Monday night at a Southside Advisory Committee meeting why there was the discrepancy.

Barbara Metzger and Aura Weinstein, who both work with the state's Cancer Surveillance Program, explained how their investigation of the cancer rate

among Southside alumni includes only information about New York state residents.

Their numbers do not reflect cancer that developed among alumni who have out-of-state permanent addresses. Metzger said. In order to include those cases, the health department needs a signed waiver from each of the out-of-state patients that gives health officials permission to obtain the person's medical records.

The Elmira City School Dis-

## CONCERN ON SOUTHSIDE

trict has drafted a letter and a medical release survey to send to the 7,500 students who have attended Southside since it opened in 1979 at 777 S. Main St.

The survey asks alumni who have developed cancer for basic information such as name, current address, their

address when they attended Southside, and their phone number. It also asks for medical information about the diagnosis, their physicians and the hospitals where they received treatment.

One of the most important parts of the survey is the signature at the bottom that authorizes the health department to obtain the medical records and include them in its cancer cluster investigation at Southside, Metzger said.

### Online

For past stories on Southside cancer concerns, go to [www.stargazettenews.com](http://www.stargazettenews.com).

The district is compiling a mailing list for every class and will attempt to reach graduates as well as students who may not have graduated. They have about half the classes

See SOUTHIDE/4A

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Tue, Apr 16, 2019