

CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
January 24, 2006

PRESENT:	Paul Shore, DDS Ralph Moore, MD William Roe, PE	Mary Ann Baker, RN William G. Howard, MD Charles Gedatus
ABSENT:	Thomas Curran, DDS	Robert Lambert, MD
OTHERS PRESENT:	Robert Page Thomas Kump Terence Lenhardt, MD	Lou Ann Corsi Harry Shepard

Prior to the meeting the CCBH received the following:

1. Agenda for January 24, 2006 CCBH Meeting
2. CCBH Minutes for November 22, 2005 Meeting
3. Budget Status Report for December 2005
4. Environmental Health Services Report for November & December 2005
5. Clinic Services Report dated 1/13/06 & Flu Clinic Summary
6. Dental Statistical Summary for November & December 2005
7. National Public Comparison Data – Home Health Compare, December 2005
8. Analysis of Home Health Care Operation for 2003 & 2004 by Freed Maxick & Battaglia, PC

During the meeting, the following were distributed:

1. Health Department Website Homepage
2. Dental Clinic Expense and Revenue Forecast 2005
3. Chemung County Board of Health By-Laws

Dr. Howard called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 PM.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A correction to the attendance records was made to the minutes for the November 2005 CCBH meeting. Dr. Ralph Moore was not in attendance and Dr. Terence Lenhardt was in attendance. These corrections will be made to the minutes.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Shore and seconded by Mr. Roe that the corrected minutes of the November 22, 2005 Board of Health meeting be approved. Motion approved.

AYES:	Paul Shore, DDS Ralph Moore, MD William Roe, PE	Mary Ann Baker, RN William G. Howard, MD Charles Gedatus
NAYS:	None	
ABSENT:	Thomas Curran, DDS	Robert Lambert, MD

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Harry Shepard commented that the Budget Status Report for December 2005 was included in the packet received in advance of the meeting and that there was nothing out of the ordinary to report. There were no questions for Mr. Shepard. Mr. Shepard also distributed a copy of the Dental Clinic Expense and Revenue Forecast 2005.

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3. SERVICE REPORTS

- A. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** – Thomas Kump had nothing to add to what was presented in the November and December 2005 reports that were included in the mailing. There were no questions for Mr. Kump. Mr. Kump distributed a screen print of the new Chemung County Health Department website homepage. Linda Swarhout and Mr. Kump had been working together on the website for the Department. Mr. Page commended them for doing an outstanding job on this important project.
- B. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING** – Lou Ann Corsi commented on the January 13, 2006 clinic services statistical summary that was included in the mailing. She explained that some clinical data was not available at the time the report was printed. Ms. Corsi also pointed out that a summary of the attendance at flu clinics is attached to her report and will be discussed later in the meeting.
- C. DENTAL CLINIC** – Mr. Page referred to the statistical summary report included in the board’s packet. He reported that Dr. O’Connell started in the clinic on January 9th. There is a minimum 2-year commitment with the hope that he will be around even longer. It is expected that the number of patients seen will get back to normal by February 2006.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. DENTAL CLINIC NO SHOW POLICY** – Mr. Page stated that the Dental Clinic No Show Policy has been controversial for quite some time. Dr. Lax, Mr. Page, and Ms. Corsi met to discuss the current policy and recommend to the CCBH that the policy be rescinded. To try to change behaviors of Medicaid patients is a losing proposition. Managing the clinic per the policy takes too much time and is inefficient when you take into account what is accomplished. Ms. Corsi commented that the Binghamton model that had been looked at was not representative of the conditions here in Chemung County. Binghamton had a zero tolerance policy where “no show” patients were banned from the clinic. There were other providers in that area that were willing to pick up those patients. This is simply not the case in Chemung County. Managing the policy is a complete disruption of operations in the clinic. Dr. Shore agreed totally with the opinion of Department management. Dr. Howard pointed out that Dr. Curran was the board member requesting that this policy be revisited and he is not present. The topic should be tabled to the February 2006 meeting.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Shore and seconded by Mr. Roe that the discussion of the Dental Clinic No Show Policy be tabled until the February 2006 Board of Health meeting. Motion approved.

AYES: Paul Shore, DDS Mary Ann Baker, RN
Ralph Moore, MD William G. Howard, MD
William Roe, PE Charles Gedatus

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Thomas Curran, DDS Robert Lambert, MD

- 2. PANDEMIC FLU PLANNING** – Mr. Page reported that the NYSDOH will be releasing its Pandemic Flu Plan informally to local health departments January 26th and that a formal release will occur on February 2nd. The local planning for pandemic flu will be much more extensive than any other effort we have been involved with. It will involve many local agencies, businesses, utilities, etc. The NYSDOH will be convening workgroups to work on the development of these plans. Each county is expected to have their plan completed by the end of August 2006. We are hopeful that the Finger Lakes group that we contract with for surveillance and epidemiology will be able to prepare a lot of the plan for us. This project will certainly be controversial as it will have to deal with issues that have never been dealt with in the past. There is expected to be much media attention on this issue. The federal government released its plan in November 2005 and the states will be expected to come up with their plans modeled after the federal plan. Local plans will need to be developed that model the state and federal plans. Mr. Page noted

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that we will be planning to do a flu POD (point of distribution) exercise in the Fall of 2006. We need to be prepared to be able to distribute vaccine or medicine to the entire county population in a matter of 48 hours. Realistically, it will take at least 48 to 72 hours just to get personnel and equipment staged. Our current POD plan calls for about 300 personnel per 12-hour shift for POD site operations. We are looking at having three POD sites to cover our county. Dr. Howard questioned if the CCBH will have a role in this project. Mr. Page explained that the members of the CCBH would certainly have a role if they were willing and able to assist. Aside from credentialed healthcare providers, we will need several professionals to manage the various activities at each POD site.

- 3. FLU CLINIC REPORT** – Ms. Corsi reviewed the Flu Clinic Summary that was attached to the back of her monthly statistical report. As of January 5, 2006, there had been 2,084 doses of flu vaccine administered. The last public clinic was held on December 13, 2005. The primary healthcare providers have received their supplies of vaccine and the number of individuals requesting the vaccine at the health department has dropped dramatically.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. NATIONAL QUALITY INDICATORS** – Ms. Corsi referred to the item included in the CCBH packet entitled “National Public Comparison Data”. Each year different quality indicators are selected for evaluation among healthcare providers. We set our quality improvement program based on the findings from these indicators. We are doing at or above state average on most of the indicators on the upper portion of the report. We could do better on the areas in the lower portion of the report. Our Department received recognition for the outstanding improvement seen in the bathing indicator.
- 2. 2004 FINANCIAL REPORTS: HOME CARE AND DENTAL CARE** – Mr. Shepard re-introduced Mr. John S. Kropski, CPA, a partner with the accounting firm Freed Maxick & Battaglia, PC. He has addressed the CCBH in the past and has been involved with the health center for about 17 years. He prepared an un-audited revenue and expense report for the homecare operations and the dental clinic for the years 2003 and 2004. His firm does a lot of work with other healthcare agencies and providers. Many of the other client agencies he works with are in a deficit position. The Chemung County Health Department is in a surplus position which is outstanding. He has noted that the homecare business in general is on a rise. Ms. Corsi added that one area that has had a positive impact is the fact that we now have a certified coder. Carol Wojnarek reviews all charts to make sure that they are properly coded to maximize the reimbursement. At the same time, she has to make sure that we are not up-coding. Mr. Page noted that the \$92,000 bottom-line surplus in 2004 is not totally reflective of how well we did. When you account for the county’s indirect costs that are assessed against the Department that we have no control over, our cash flow looks even better. With efforts we’ve taken over the last few years, Environmental Health Services has become nearly break-even and Vital Records currently is break-even. He added that many counties across the state that still have a homecare agency are looking to scale back their operations or get out of the business altogether. Few other county agencies in the state can demonstrate the success that we are experiencing. Mr. Kropski continued with discussion on the dental clinic operation. Those numbers don’t look as well. One problem is that the state has frozen reimbursement rates for more than 12 years now. We are looking at about a \$128,000 deficit for 2004 in the dental clinic. Mr. Page said that they have met with the NYSDOH Western Region Director on this issue. They pursued the topic but explained that it is the State Legislature that has capped the reimbursement rates. There does not seem to be a plan, desire, or willingness to act on that legislation any time soon. The only option at this point would be to combine or consolidate in another clinic setting and then apply for a rate change under the new circumstances. Mr. Kropski concluded his comments by reiterating that coding claims is a key component. If you don’t know what you are doing, you are going to lose. There is also the risk of up-coding and committing fraud. State accountants have been reassigned to work on investigating Medicaid fraud in healthcare claims.
- 3. STATE BUDGET IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING** – Mr. Page was happy to report for the first time in a long time that the Governor’s proposed budget was a positive proposal for public health. The base funding for public health programs was increased by \$100,000 to \$350,000 for core areas. Optional areas had been reimbursed a various rates in the past. The proposal calls for a 36% reimbursement for all optional programs. Homecare funding remained untouched.

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4. **BOARD OF HEALTH BY-LAWS** – Mr. Page handed out a copy of the current Chemung County Board of Health By-Laws for members to review. This topic will be brought up for discussion at the February 2006 meeting.
5. **BOARD OF HEALTH STIPENDS** – When the Department was undergoing many cuts in funding back in 2003, the CCBH passed a resolution in support of the Department to forfeit their monthly meeting attendance stipends. Financial conditions have eased now and money was budgeted in 2005 for board member stipends. Mr. Page and Mr. Shepard suggested that the CCBH pass a resolution to begin receiving stipends effective January 2005.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mr. Gedatus and seconded by Dr. Shore that stipends for CCBH members be reinstated retroactive to January 2005 and continue indefinitely. Motion approved.

AYES:	Paul Shore, DDS Ralph Moore, MD William Roe, PE	Mary Ann Baker, RN William G. Howard, MD Charles Gedatus
NAYS:	None	
ABSENT:	Thomas Curran, DDS	Robert Lambert, MD

With no further business to conduct, Dr. Howard adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:35 PM

Next meeting:

**Board of Health Meeting
February 28, 2006 @ 7:30 PM
at CCHD Conference Room**