

**CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
February 28, 2006**

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

Prior to the meeting the CCBH received the following:

1. Agenda for February 28, 2006 CCBH Meeting
2. CCBH Minutes for January 24, 2006 Meeting
3. Budget Status Report for December 2005
4. Environmental Health Services Report for January 2006
5. Clinic Services Report dated 2/21/06 & Flu Clinic Attendance Report
6. Dental Statistical Summary for January 2006
7. Chemung County Board of Health By-Laws
8. Isolation & Quarantine Protocol
9. Dental Patients & No-Shows At The Dental Clinic (Report from Dr. Lax)

In the absence of any CCBH officers, Mr. Page called the informational meeting to order at approximately 7:30 PM. There was not a quorum of voting members present, so no official action could be taken.

### **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were no corrections to the submitted minutes from those individuals present. The approval of the minutes of the January 24, 2006 CCBH meeting will be added to the March 28, 2006 CCBH agenda.

### **2. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Harry Shepard commented that the Budget Status Report for the end of year 2005 was included in the packet received in advance of the meeting. The County Treasurer reported last week that the 2005 fiscal year is now closed. There will most likely be some more expenses to add to what is already included in the report as well as some additional revenues. The year should close in good shape. The fee increases approved by the CCBH over the last few years has certainly contributed to the positive budget status. There were no further questions for Mr. Shepard.

### **3. SERVICE REPORTS**

- A. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** – Thomas Kump had nothing to add to what was presented in the January 2006 report that was included in the mailing. A question was raised as to the level of involvement of EHS in the recent gas leak at a local business on Sullivan Street in Elmira. Mr. Kump reported that EHS was notified of the incident but had no real involvement. As part of the standard operating procedures in the County's Comprehensive Emergency Response Plan, several agencies are notified during this type of incident in case there is a need for their involvement. Mr. Kump also reported that his office was involved with the recent mercury spill at the County Jail. The conclusion of that incident is that the mercury was cleaned up by a contractor and clearance air sampling was conducted to assure that it was safe to reoccupy the affected areas. The good that comes out of these events is that we are able to evaluate our response and make modifications to our plans and training of personnel so as to provide for an even better response in future incidents. There were no further questions for Mr. Kump.

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- B. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING** – Lou Ann Corsi commented that she had nothing to add to the February 21, 2006 clinic services statistical summary that was included in the mailing. Ms. Corsi did note that they have not had any luck in filling the physical therapist vacancy and asked members for suggestions if they know of potential candidates for the position.
- C. DENTAL CLINIC** – Mr. Page referred to the statistical summary report included in the board's packet. He also reported the Dr. O'Connell started on January 9, 2006 and seems to be working out quite well. Dr. Lax echoed Mr. Page's comments and felt that Dr. O'Connell was fitting in well with both the staff and with the patients.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. DENTAL CLINIC NO SHOW POLICY** – Mr. Page stated that since there was not a quorum of voting members present, we would table this topic to the March 28, 2006 CCBH meeting.
- 2. PUBLIC HEALTH MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT** – Mr. Page reported that all nine counties involved with this plan have signed on to the agreement and that there would be a press release next week in Rochester on this topic. This agreement will allow participating counties to call upon neighboring partners for assistance in a public health emergency. This is the only agreement of its kind in all of New York State.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. REVIEW & REVISION OF THE CCBH BY-LAWS** – Mr. Page referred to the enclosed copy of the CCBH By-Laws, but since there was not a quorum of voting members present, this topic would be tabled to the March 28, 2006 meeting. Dr. Curran did point out that we seem to be behind in some of our responsibilities per the current policy. Nominations for President and Vice-President should have occurred last fall with an election in November/December of 2005. So in addition to entertaining possible revisions to the document, we will need to take action at the March 28, 2006 meeting on nominations/elections of officers.
- 2. ISOLATION & QUARANTINE PLAN** – Mr. Page noted that the Isolation & Quarantine plan that was included in the CCBH mailing has undergone several modifications since the original document was prepared quite some time ago. This has been in response to comments from the NYSDOH as well as from individuals involved locally with this plan. This plan addresses both voluntary and involuntary quarantines for those that are either ill or have been exposed to someone that is contagious. The plan addresses locations of where these individuals would be confined and/or treated. The first step in the process would be the issuance of a public health order pending a court hearing. The order would be delivered by a public health nurse accompanied by a Chemung County Deputy Sheriff. Police will have the authority to arrest an individual for violating a public health order, which is considered a misdemeanor. The court hearing would most likely be held via videoconferencing to as to minimize exposure by court personnel to the subject of the quarantine.
- 3. PANDEMIC FLU PLANNING** - Mr. Page reported that we are waiting for the State Health Department to release guidelines for counties on their expectations for planning for pandemic flu. Recent discussion has made a point that public health personnel cannot do everything in terms of planning for pandemic flu. Some of the burden must be shared by other entities. The predominant portion of a local pandemic flu plan would not even be health related, but more focused on maintaining decorum and order and in maintaining some basic life-sustaining services. It is very likely that we will not receive sufficient vaccine for the entire population and determinations will need to be made as to who does get the vaccine. Some of the key points that need to be made clear early on is that it is not the government's responsibility to take care of individual needs. Individuals need to take personal responsibility to be able to take care of themselves. Outreach to the special needs population will need to occur. The post-event actions from Hurricane Katrina have sent a wrong message with all blame going to the government. It will not be like that with pandemic flu. We intend to use our new website to disseminate information on planning for a pandemic. There is an excellent brochure currently available on our website that was developed by the federal Centers for Disease Control. Flu occurrences have been very low this season and the virulence seems to be low as well. Tamiflu seems to be about the only medicine effective in combating a flu outbreak. The Emergency Preparedness Committee is researching the possibility of purchasing ventilators to have on hand for standby use in an emergency. Money may also be spent on stockpiling masks and other PPE.

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With no further business to conduct, Mr. Page adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:30 PM

**Next meeting:**

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