

CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
April 25, 2006

PRESENT: Paul Shore, DDS
Ralph Moore, MD
William Roe, PE
Thomas Curran, DDS

Mary Ann Baker, RN
William G. Howard, MD
Charles Gedatus

ABSENT: 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 April 25, 2006 CCBH Meeting
2. Budget Status Report for March 2006
3. Environmental Health Services Report for March 2006
4. Chemung County Board of Health By-Laws

The following items were distributed during the meeting:

5. Clinic Services Report dated 4/25/06
6. Dental Statistical Summary for March 2006
7. Dental Clinic Policy resolution from 2004
8. Letter From Dr. Lax dated 2/21/06 on No Show Policy
9. Draft Bird Flu FAQ List

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was not a quorum of voting members present at the February 2006 CCBH meeting so the January 2006 CCBH meeting minutes had not yet been approved. There was not a meeting in March 2006 so the meeting minutes for February 2006 had not yet been approved.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Curran and seconded by Ms. Baker that the minutes of the January 24, 2006 and February 28, 2006 Board of Health meetings be approved. Motion approved.

AYES: Paul Shore, DDS
Ralph Moore, MD
William Roe, PE

Mary Ann Baker, RN
William G. Howard, MD
Thomas Curran, DDS

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robert Lambert, MD
Charles Gedatus

[NOTE: Mr. Charles Gedatus arrived after the approval of the minutes.]

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Harry Shepard commented that the Budget Status Report for March 2006 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.

3. SERVICE REPORTS

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- A. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** – Thomas Kump had nothing to add to what was presented in the March 2006 report that was included in the mailing. There were no questions for Mr. Kump. Mr. Roe commented on the MS4 requirements mentioned in the EHS report by saying that it has proven to be quite a costly burden on towns and municipalities.
- B. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING** – Lou Ann Corsi commented on the April 25, 2006 clinic services statistical summary that was distributed during the meeting. Dr. Howard questioned whether we were taking new referrals in speech therapy and whether we were able to handle the referrals we were accepting. Ms. Corsi reported that so far we have been able to receive and handle new referrals.
- C. DENTAL CLINIC** – Mr. Page referred to the statistical summary report that was distributed at the meeting. The clinic is still struggling to get up to expected production. The new dentist is doing a fine job, but is still not meeting the expected daily quota due to an assumed lack of experience. The County is hoping to possibly work the dental clinic into a Medicaid managed care model that is currently under development. At this point it is not clear how it would fit into the model, but if a primary care center is created, it is possible that the dental clinic could go there. Mr. Page reminded everyone that it is still in the “concept” stage and that it is dependent upon receiving a waiver from the federal government. Mr. Roe questioned the geographic distribution of the patients that come to the clinic. Ms. Corsi reported that it is quite a diverse distribution from all parts of the County.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. REVIEW & REVISION OF CCBH BY-LAWS** – Mr. Page stated that the CCBH is overdue on its task of conducting the annual review of the Chemung County Board of Health By-Laws, which should have occurred at the January 2006 CCBH meeting. Dr. Curran mentioned a typographical error on page 3, under Article 6, paragraph entitled “Duties”, 3rd line, 8th word. The word “fo” should be “of”. There was no further discussion.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Curran and seconded by Mr. Roe that the Chemung County Board of Health By-Laws be accepted as written with the one noted correction. Motion approved.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robert Lambert, MD

- 2. DENTAL CLINIC NO-SHOW POLICY** – Mr. Page stated that the CCHD administration and dentists feel that the current “no show” policy is not practical and that the policy should be rescinded. Dr. Curran feels that there is confusion about what the current policy is and what his request entails. A copy of the 2004 resolution was distributed to CCBH members for review. Dr. Curran feels that the 2004 resolution was created to allow Dr. Lax and the dental clinic to do what they had requested to do in the beginning. He felt that Dr. Lax’ letter from February 2006 included inaccuracies and misunderstandings. Dr. Curran explained that there were more than just a few practices in the county that provide services to Medicaid patients, specifically, there are 13 of the 34 practitioners in Chemung County that accept Medicaid patients. Dr. Curran provided CCBH members with a list of suggested practices or initiatives that could be implemented to attempt to reduce the no-show rate. Upon reviewing the list of proposals offered by Dr. Curran, a comment was made that the list seemed to be “operational” in nature and did not require a resolution to consider them for implementation. Mr. Page assured Dr. Curran that he would address these ideas with the dental clinic staff and report back to the CCBH on the findings. Dr. Howard suggested that this sounded like a rational approach to the problem and assured the staff that it is not the intent of the CCBH to micromanage the operations of the health department.

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- 3. PANDEMIC FLU PLANNING & DRILL** – Mr. Page reviewed two items with the CCBH relative to pandemic flu planning. The first item was that a community forum geared toward a targeted audience has been scheduled for May 23rd. The two-hour program will be held at the Holiday Inn Riverview on the same date that was originally scheduled for the May 2006 CCBH meeting. Board members were encouraged to attend the forum and to RSVP with Mr. Page's secretary relative to their plans for attendance. Ms. Baker offered to assist with registration of the attendees. The second item to be discussed was a tabletop exercise that has been scheduled for June 1st at the health center. Mr. Page suggested that it would be nice if a CCBH member offered to be a player at the table during this event. It is expected that there could be 40 to 50 actual players sitting around the table participating in this drill representing many various organizations in our community. A professional consultant has been acquired to run this drill and will be paid for by the State. With regard to the actual Pandemic Flu Response Plan, there are 13 sections that need to be completed for each of the three phases of a pandemic. Due to the overwhelming amount of time it would take to complete each section in the short time available, several counties in the Western Region of New York State have divided up responsibility for completion of the sections. One of the most important messages for our community during this planning process is that no one person or group can be responsible for responding to a pandemic by themselves. The focus will be personal responsibility and personal preparedness. We simply cannot count on the federal and/or state government to come in and solve all our problems. We need to do adequate preparations and planning to be able to be self sufficient. CCHD staff echoed the sentiments presented by Mr. Page.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF BOARD OF HEALTH OFFICERS** – Mr. Page referred to the CCBH By-Laws in mentioning that we are overdue in nominating and electing new officers. Dr. Curran pointed out that the last election occurred late in 2003 and should have occurred again late in 2005. For various reasons, it never occurred. It was suggested that the current officers review the bylaws and plan to address this issue at the next regular meeting of the CCBH in June 2006.
- 2. AVIAN FLU PRECAUTIONS – DEAD BIRDS** – Mr. Kump informed the CCBH that experts are predicting that avian flu will hit North America later in 2006. Actions are already underway to implement an avian flu surveillance program. We currently have a dead bird surveillance program in place for West Nile Virus. This involves the public reporting to EHS when they observe dead birds. It also includes the testing of crows and blue jays for West Nile Virus. This protocol is the same in 2006 as it has been in the past several years. However, it is expected that the protocol may change when avian flu is detected. The avian flu surveillance program does not involve local health departments. The surveillance in New York State will be managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Once we receive more details on the program, information will be posted on our website. Also, an FAQ (frequently asked questions) sheet is under development by NYSDOH to assure that each county in the state responds to inquiries with consistent information. A "draft" version of the FAQ sheet was distributed to CCBH members.

With no further business to conduct, Dr. Howard adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:45 PM

The May 2006 CCBH meeting will be cancelled so that CCBH members and staff can attend and/or participate in the Pandemic Flu Planning Community Forum on May 23rd.

Next meeting:

**Board of Health Meeting
June 27, 2006 @ 7:30 PM
at CCHD Conference Room**