

CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
June 27, 2006

PRESENT: Mary Ann Baker, RN
William G. Howard, MD
Thomas Curran, DDS
Paul Shore, DDS (arrived 7:43 PM)

Ralph Moore, MD
Charles Gedatus
Robert Lambert, MD

ABSENT: William Roe, PE

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Page
Thomas Kump

Lou Ann Corsi

Prior to the meeting the CCBH received the following:

1. Agenda for June 27, 2006 CCBH Meeting
2. CCBH Minutes from April 25, 2006
3. Budget Status Report for May 2006
4. Environmental Health Services Report for April & May 2006
5. Clinic Services Report dated 6/21/06
6. Dental Statistical Summary for April & May 2006
7. Letter of Resignation from Dr. Moore
8. Memo from Mr. Page regarding CCBH Officers
9. Letter of Commendation to EHS for Lead Program Review
10. Hepatitis C Integration Project in STD Clinics Report

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Curran and seconded by Ms. Baker that the minutes of the April 25, 2006 Board of Health meeting be approved. Motion approved.

AYES: Mary Ann Baker, RN
William G. Howard, MD
Robert Lambert, MD

Ralph Moore, MD
Thomas Curran, DDS
Charles Gedatus

NAYS: None

ABSENT: William Roe, PE
Paul Shore, DDS

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Harry Shepard was not present. Mr. Page commented that the Budget Status Report for May 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. Page.

3. SERVICE REPORTS

- A. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** – Dr. Howard referenced the Letter of Commendation from Mr. Page to the Environmental Health Services staff for their efforts in receiving such an outstanding report from the NYSDOH for the audit of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. He thought that this achievement was deserving of an official commendation from the CCBH.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Curran and seconded by Dr. Lambert that the Environmental Health Services Section of the Chemung County Health Department be commended for their efforts in the Lead Poisoning Prevention

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Program as noted by the New York State Department of Health in their comments during the recent audit. NYSDOH noted that “Chemung County’s Lead Program is very well managed” and that “the effort put forth by the staff to maintain a high standard was evident throughout the review”. Motion approved.

AYES: Mary Ann Baker, RN
William G. Howard, MD
Robert Lambert, MD
Ralph Moore, MD
Thomas Curran, DDS
Charles Gedatus

NAYS: None

ABSENT: William Roe, PE Paul Shore, DDS

Thomas Kump had nothing else to add to what was presented in the April and May 2006 reports that were included in the mailing.

B. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING – Lou Ann Corsi commented that the June 21, 2006 clinic services statistical summary that was included in the mailing was a consolidation of data for the last 2 months. Ms. Corsi noted that the WIC caseload has increased along with an increase in funding. Two RN’s have been hired with the expectation that we will be a full staffing in July 2006 for the first time in several months. This involved the renegotiation of the starting salary for an experienced nurse. With the new contract, base rates increased about 10% and the current contract goes through 2008.

C. DENTAL CLINIC – Mr. Page referred to the statistical summary report that was included in the mailing. The clinic is not expected to meet the budgeted patient visits this year and adjustments will need to be made to the 2007 budget. However, the work environment in the clinic is the best that it has been in a long time. Everyone seems to be getting along both professionally and personally. Dr. O’Connell has been a positive addition to the clinic.

[Note: Dr. Shore arrived at 7:43 PM]

OLD BUSINESS

1. PANDEMIC FLU PLANNING & DRILL – Mr. Page reported that a Community Forum was held on May 23rd for invited members of the public. Although the attendance by 50 persons was not as good as we had hoped, we did receive a lot of positive feedback from those that did attend. Over 200 persons were invited to attend the forum. On June 1st we conducted a Pandemic Flu Tabletop Exercise. The scenario of the drill started with a pandemic that originated in another part of the world and eventually moved to Chemung County. We realized that our local committee is well ahead of other areas of the State and country in planning and preparing for a pandemic. The facilitators for the event were a professional consulting firm under contract with the NYSDOH. The facilitators did not seem to be very well prepared for facilitating a drill for a county such as ours that is ahead of the game in so many ways. The drill was quite worthwhile for the attendees that have not been part of the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Many political leaders were also present. Mr. Page noted that we should have our pandemic plan in place by the deadline of August 2006. We participated in a recent conference call with the NYSDOH to evaluate gaps in the planning strategies. Hospital capacity is one area where there are gaps between the State’s expectations and the ability to locally provide certain services. Another area of concern is with the funeral directors and their ability to handle potentially hundreds of deceased persons in a short period of time. We will continue to work with the local hospitals to implement alternative processing of patients and triage capabilities. Several groups in the community have been requesting that we come to their organizations and speak to them about pandemic planning. We have packets of information that we are distributing and will continue to provide this information via our website as materials become available. The demands brought on to public health by the pandemic planning requirements have been mind-boggling. Ms. Baker commented that she attended the tabletop drill as a representative of the CCBH. She thought that it was obvious that we are so far ahead in planning for a pandemic and it was very nice to see that. Some of the requirements coming down from NYSDOH are very demanding or confusing. For example, they are expecting that every employee of the health department be trained in incident command, even though many will have no responsibilities on the incident management team. Another requirement from NYSDOH is centered around mental health training. There seemed to be a lot of confusion as to

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the training requirements and who would be giving and getting the training. We are working with our local mental health agency to try to get this issue resolved. Some counties had been using their annual grant funding to pay for a staff person to conduct and/or coordinate all the planning deliverables. In Chemung County, we have been working on it as a community and have been spending our funding on much needed communications and response equipment, as well as stockpiling supplies that would be in short supply during an emergency. In summation, Mr. Page reported that the committee has been doing a fantastic job with a very difficult task. We certainly don't have all the answers right now, but we are diligently working to be as prepared as we can be. Dr. Howard commended the committee for the leadership and efforts being made in this area and noted that it is reassuring to see that we are so far ahead of other areas of the country in preparing for a pandemic.

- 2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS** – Mr. Page referred to a summary memo that was included in the mailing that presented the recent history of officers and the expected course of action. Dr. Howard has appropriately taken on the role of President and will continue for 2006 and 2007. However, the office of Vice President still needs to be filled for that same time period.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Lambert and seconded by Mr. Gedatus that Mary Ann Baker be nominated for the Chemung County Board of Health office of Vice-President, whose term will continue from this date through the end of December 2007. Motion approved.

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

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. RESIGNATION OF DR. MOORE FROM CCBH** – Dr. Moore has actively been a member of the CCBH for several years and has served this community in many meaningful ways. In that he has retired from active practice, he felt that it would now be the time to step down and allow another active medical professional the opportunity to serve on the CCBH. Dr. Moore represented the field of pediatric care while serving on the board, so it would be appropriate for his replacement to come from the pediatric field. Dr. Moore will contact Southern Tier Pediatrics to discuss the potential for one of his past colleagues to serve on the CCBH. He will report his findings to Dr. Howard who will in turn carry this appointment to the next level. Dr. Moore did comment that he was willing to continue serving on the CCBH until a replacement is found.
- 2. HEPATITIS C INTEGRATION PROJECT IN STD CLINICS** – Ms. Corsi referred to a report that was included in the mailing regarding the Hepatitis C Integration Project. The initiative is winding down now and there really was not much learned that we did not already know.
- 3. UPDATE ON EHS ACTIVITIES** – Mr. Kump reported on the recent closing of the bathing beach at Park Station Recreation Center. Routine sampling that occurred on June 19th indicated an elevated level of enterococci bacteria. Follow-up sampling occurred on June 21st that showed a sharp increase in the bacteria levels. A decision to close the beach was made on June 23rd and a press release was issued as a courtesy to potential patrons of the beach. The beach will remain closed until such time as beach water testing indicates that it is again safe to swim there. EHS staff has been working with other county staff to evaluate the situation and see if a cause can be found and eliminated. On another matter, EHS received a report of 5 individuals that ate at a local food service establishment

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and became ill. Stool specimens were obtained from employees and some of the 5 ill individual patrons. All stool specimens were negative for bacterial infections. Viral samples were sent to the NYSDOH lab for further evaluation. No other reports were received of individuals getting ill at this particular establishment and nothing out of the ordinary was found during the investigation. Another illness investigation was initiated after EHS received a report that 15 out of 75 persons that attended a catered event were ill. Some of the reported ill were actually ill at the event. Again, there were no conclusive tests of any bacterial infection. In both cases, the suspicion is that these cases are viral in nature. NYSDOH staff confirmed that there has been a lot of viral infections in the Western Region of NYS in recent months.

With no further business to conduct, Dr. Howard adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:25 PM

Next meeting:

**Board of Health Meeting
July 25, 2006 @ 7:30 PM
at CCHD Conference Room**