

**CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
December 5, 2006**

PRESENT: Mary Ann Baker, RN Paul Shore, DDS
William G. Howard, MD Charles Gedatus
Thomas Curran, DDS Robert Lambert, MD
Ken Sobel, MD

ABSENT: William Roe, PE

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Page Lou Ann Corsi
Thomas Kump Harry Shepard

Prior to the meeting the CCBH received the following:

1. Agenda for December 5, 2006 CCBH Meeting
2. CCBH Minutes from September 26, 2006
3. Environmental Health Services Report for September & October 2006
4. Dental Statistical Summary for October 2006
5. Budget Status Report for October 2006
6. Memo Regarding Proposed Revisions To By-Laws

Items distributed during the meeting:

7. Clinic Services Report 12/5/06
8. Environmental Health Services Report for November 2006
9. Dr. Curran Report On Dental Medicaid Patients In Chemung County

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Lambert and seconded by Dr. Curran that the minutes of the September 26, 2006 Board of Health meeting be approved and accepted. Motion approved.

AYES: Mary Ann Baker, RN Paul Shore, DDS
William G. Howard, MD Charles Gedatus
Thomas Curran, DDS Robert Lambert, MD
Ken Sobel, MD

NAYS: None

ABSENT: William Roe, PE

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Harry Shepard commented that the Budget Status Report for October 2006 that was distributed prior to the meeting had nothing out of the ordinary in it. Mr. Shepard did report that the medical examiner budget was being hit quite hard with several unexpected cases requiring investigation.

3. SERVICE REPORTS

- A. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES – Thomas Kump distributed a copy of the November 2006 EHS Report to add to the other two reports provided in advance of the meeting. Mr. Kump did report the unfortunate news that Patricia Hall, Supervising Sanitarian for EHS resigned her position effective December 1, 2006 to take on

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a position with the New York State Department of Health in Hornell. Although it will be a great loss for the Department, everyone wishes her well with her new employment opportunity. Fortunately, Cassandra Hotchkiss, currently a Public Health Sanitarian with EHS, has agreed to take on the Supervisor's position effective January 2, 2007.

- B. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING** – Lou Ann Corsi commented on the December 5, 2006 clinic services statistical summary that was handed out at the meeting. There is a decrease in the number of HIV post-test visits reported since the new tests that have been used are able to be evaluated while the patient waits. The WIC caseload has increased and that will result in an increase in funding. The CHHA is doing real well. Total admissions have already exceeded the numbers for 2005. However, the therapy visits are down significantly. Efforts are underway to recruit some per diem speech therapists. Dr. Howard questioned how the computer system was working. Ms. Corsi reported that it is going well. She said that there was some difficulty in getting some nurses to perform point of delivery entry into the system, but most of the staff are good about it. There have been three general flu clinics and a few special clinics for City employees and Woodbrook residents. A total of 555 vaccinations have been provided (not counting the vaccinations provided during the POD exercise). Dr. Sobel, who is also the school physician for some of the local school districts, questioned whether it would be possible to go into the schools to provide vaccinations to students. That is something that can be looked in to.
- C. DENTAL CLINIC** – Mr. Page referred to the statistical summary report that was included in the mailing. He reported that the negative variances are higher than hoped for and that Dr. Lax was off on medical leave for a small period of time which affected those numbers. Dr. Curran distributed a copy of a report that he compiled of data on the number of Medicaid patients seen in the clinic versus private practices for the last 6 years.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. LEGISLATIVE APPOINTMENT OF DR. SOBEL TO CCBH** – Mr. Page reported that Dr. Ken Sobel of Southern Tier Pediatrics has been officially appointed by the Chemung County Legislature to be on the CCBH.
- 2. PANDEMIC FLU EDUCATION & PLANNING** – Mr. Page updated the CCBH on the status of the educational outreach efforts on pandemic flu to various groups in the county. This topic seems to have dropped off the radar for most everyone except for local health departments who still have the responsibility to continue planning efforts. A presentation was planned for the GST BOCES in October 2006. The presentation went quite well but the attendance was quite poor. It was hoped that there would be representation from each school in Chemung County, but that simply was not the case. It seems that the communication of this presentation from the top management in the schools down to the people that should attend did not occur. The Horseheads School Board (and one member in particular) has shown interest in this topic and has done a lot of research. Ms. Corsi stated that there seemed to be a high level of interest among some of the school nurses that attended the presentation. There is a lot of apathy in the community on this topic and it is difficult to get people interested until the threat is imminent. Dr. Curran questioned whether there was a plan on getting this information on preparedness out to all the homes in the County. Mr. Page replied that it was originally our intent to have the schools send information home with students on what they can do to prepare. There is some good information and links on the health department website that explains pandemic flu and steps that individuals can take to be prepared for it in the future. More outreach will be planned for the future.
- 3. REVISION OF CCBH BY-LAWS** – Dr. Howard reviewed the proposed changes for the CCBH. Dr. Curran questioned why we would be taking this action with regard to reducing the number of regular board meetings. He thought that it would be better to schedule 12 meetings in a year and have to cancel them if not needed as compared to scheduling only 6 and possibly needing to schedule additional meetings if important business was required. Mr. Page reported that over the last year, several meetings had to be cancelled due to a lack of important agenda items or due to a lack of a quorum. Dr. Howard commented that he had discussed this in the past with other CCBH members as a possibility prior to the proposal by Mr. Page.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Lambert and seconded by Dr. Shore that the proposed changes to the Chemung County Board of Health By-Laws be accepted and adopted as presented. Motion approved.

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William G. Howard, MD Charles Gedatus
Robert Lambert, MD Ken Sobel, MD

NAYS: Thomas Curran, DDS

ABSENT: William Roe, PE

The meeting schedule for 2007 will be as presented below:

January 23, 2007
March 27, 2007
May 22, 2007
July 24, 2007
September 25, 2007
December 4, 2007

Legislator Charles Gedatus informed the CCBH that this would be his last meeting as he did not seek re-election and his legislative term expires December 31st. He was not sure whether a replacement has been selected yet. Mr. Gedatus expressed his appreciation for having the opportunity to serve on the CCBH for the many years that he has served. He has enjoyed working with all the CCBH members and CCHD staff over the years. On behalf of the CCBH, Dr. Howard conveyed to Mr. Gedatus an appreciation for all the time and effort that he has given to the CCBH and the community and all applauded him for his tenure with the CCBH.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISES** – Mr. Page provided an update on the recent Emergency Preparedness exercises.
 - A. **CHEMICAL EVENT ON OCTOBER 14, 2006** - Mr. Page commented that it was unfortunate that the local print media did not show an interest in reporting on these exercises. This drill involved the Chemung County Public Health Emergency Preparedness Committee. The scenario initiated in Schuyler County at the Watkins Glen International racetrack and involved an airplane flying over the grandstands and releasing an unknown chemical onto the crowd. Due to the number of casualties, the Schuyler Hospital was overwhelmed and overflow patients were transported to Corning Hospital, Arnot Ogden Medical Center, and St. Joseph’s Hospital. The local notification system was activated with key emergency management staff reporting to the health department within a half hour and the remaining participants had responded within the hour. Problems with some components of the response did generate some needed actions for correction in the future.
 - B. **POD (Point of Dispensing) FLU DRILL** - Mr. Kump reported on the planning that went in to preparing for this drill that occurred at Elmira Free Academy on November 22nd. The plan was to provide flu shots to 1,000 people in a 2-hour period. Application was made to the NYSDOH to obtain the free flu vaccine for the drill. Objectives had to be specified and the staffing plan had to utilize the Maryland model. There was already a POD plan in place that had been prepared earlier in the year for submittal to the NYSDOH as part of one of the annual BT Grant deliverables. That plan was evaluated and modified to fit the specific needs of this particular exercise. Organization charts and floor plans were created and key leadership roles were filled. Meetings with key players were held in advance of the exercise to fine-tune the plans and develop a list of resources needed for the drill. Job action sheets were prepared for each role needed at the POD. The morning of the drill, JIT (Just In Time) training was provided to all drill staff. Ms. Corsi reported on the operational side of the exercise as well as the outcomes. A total of 404 vaccinations were provided in the 2-hour period, but as is common with all types of clinics, the public started lining up well in advance of the advertised starting time. The doors opened at 9:00 and a surge of participants entered. The average amount of time for an individual to get a shot (from entering the building to exiting the

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building) was about 15 minutes. There were some issues that came up that were not anticipated, such as poor lighting in the auditorium, that will help in making changes to the plan for future exercises or real events. All in all, the exercise was a huge success. Dr. Howard commented that it is nice to know that there are plans in place for this type of event and that we have a great team of leaders working on these efforts.

The CCBH members present were queried as to whether they had computer capabilities to receive “board packets” electronically and whether they wanted printed reports or if electronic reports were acceptable. Everyone present was in favor of receiving everything electronically and they also had no objection to printing off reports themselves.

Dr. Sobel questioned whether the CCHD had any involvement in the drug ingestion situation at Elmira Free Academy recently. Mr. Page commented that the CCHD was notified of the situation and the communicable disease staff worked with the hospitals to provide any assistance that might be required. Ms. Corsi clarified that the CCHD would typically not be involved in that type of situation.

With no further business to conduct, Dr. Howard adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:20 PM

Next meeting:

**Board of Health Meeting
January 23rd, 2007 @ 7:30 PM
at CCHD Conference Room**