

CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
March 27, 2007

PRESENT: Paul Shore, DDS William G. Howard, MD
Christopher Friend, PhD Thomas Curran, DDS
Robert Lambert, MD Ken Sobel, MD
William Roe, PE

ABSENT: Mary Ann Baker, RN

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Page Lou Ann Corsi
Thomas Kump, PE Harry Shepard
Terence Lenhardt, MD

Prior to the meeting the CCBH received the following:

1. Agenda for March 27, 2007 CCBH Meeting
2. CCBH Minutes from January 23, 2007 and February 27, 2007
3. Environmental Health Services Report for January & February 2007
4. Article V of Chemung County Sanitary Code – Final Version

Items distributed during the meeting:

5. Clinical Services Report for March 27, 2007
6. Budget Status Report for March 20, 2007
7. “Let’s Clear the Air In Chemung County” Packet

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Shore and seconded by Dr. Curran that the minutes of the January 23, 2007 and February 27, 2007 Board of Health meetings be approved and accepted. Motion approved.

AYES: Paul Shore, DDS William G. Howard, MD
Christopher Friend, PhD Thomas Curran, DDS
Robert Lambert, MD Ken Sobel, MD
William Roe, PE

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mary Ann Baker, RN

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

Harry Shepard commented that the Budget Status Report distributed just prior to the meeting was the last report that the CCBH would be seeing for 2006 as the books will most likely be closed by the end of this week. The Department’s budget did well overall in 2006. The next report distributed to the CCBH will just include 2007 data.

4. SERVICE REPORTS

- A. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** – Thomas Kump had nothing to add to the January and February 2007 reports that were included in the CCBH mailing. There were no further questions for Mr. Kump.
- B. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING** – Lou Ann Corsi commented on the Clinic Services report that was distributed just prior to the meeting. She pointed out that the PEIP data was slow in coming in so the data in the report is just

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through January 2007. The only other remarkable detail was regarding the CHHA. They had an outstanding year with regard to the number of visits conducted.

C. DENTAL CLINIC – Mr. Page commented that this report will be deferred to an item under “new business”.

OLD BUSINESS

1. FOLLOW-UP ON SMOKING WAIVERS – Mr. Kump reported that after the last CCBH meeting, a letter was sent to each facility that had a current smoking waiver. The letter explained the 3 resolutions passed by the CCBH and also included a copy of their current waiver. Waivers with expiration dates in 2007 remained the same and waivers with expiration dates in 2008 were modified to have an expiration date of December 31, 2007. Mr. Kump did not receive any negative calls regarding this issue and received a minimal number of calls with questions about this new direction and how it would impact permitted facilities.

2. COUNTY SANITARY CODE CHANGES – Mr. Kump commented on the latest, final version of Article V of the Chemung County Sanitary Code. The draft that had been adopted by the CCBH in January 2007 was forwarded to the NYSDOH for review by both the technical staff and legal staff. Once comments were received, Mr. Kump made a few modifications that had no impact on the content of the code changes approved by the CCBH in January 2007. He expects to receive a signed copy of the Article from the NYSDOH in the very near future indicating that it has been properly filed as required by law. Dr. Curran questioned Mr. Kump about the addition of a statement in the code about how an aggrieved contractor could appeal a decision to revoke a registration. Mr. Kump explained that he felt it would be redundant to include that language to the code since it is already included by reference in NYS Public Health Law and would also be further clarified in the information provided to contractors as they register.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mr. Roe and seconded by Dr. Shore that the latest version of Article V of the Chemung County Sanitary Code be approved and adopted by the CCBH. Motion approved.

AYES:	Paul Shore, DDS Christopher Friend, PhD Robert Lambert, MD William Roe, PE	William G. Howard, MD Thomas Curran, DDS Ken Sobel, MD
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NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mary Ann Baker, RN

NEW BUSINESS

1. REPORT ON FIRE & RECOVERY/RELOCATION/REPAIRS - Mr. Page began his report by updating the CCBH on the latest activities related to the fire. A report had been sent to the board shortly after the fire with preliminary information available at that time. He said that the Health Department has been totally evacuated as of this day. A lot of work has been done since the March 2nd fire. However, there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done. During this whole ordeal, the CHHA continued to operate. The clinics were all closed for a period of time. WIC re-opened on the Tuesday following the fire. The other health clinics opened a few weeks later, but the dental clinic has still not been able to re-open. The NYSDOH has been kept apprised of the status of all activities every step of the way and they have approved all that we have done so far. There just does not seem to be an adequate way to offer sufficient praise to both the Elmira Psychiatric Center (EPC) and the GST BOCES for all that they have done to assist us with this disaster. They have both been very generous for which the Health Department is grateful. Only those individuals directly involved with this crisis can truly appreciate all that goes into a relocation of this magnitude, especially with the unique technical issues associated with computers, networks, and phone lines.

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Ms. Corsi has been in charge of the details regarding the actual relocation of the Department. The health education office was one of the first offices to move. They are now located in the Nursing Facility on the 6th floor in the day room. The WIC and public health clinic staff moved into Building 8 of the EPC last week. The WIC “communications” move was unique in that they need to have a secure, direct connection in order to print checks for their clients. The NYSDOH was directly involved in that move. The proprietary “home care” computer system was another difficult task to get up and running properly. In the relocation, we will be going from two clinic rooms to just one for the public health clinics. EPC has re-keyed all doors and has done an incredible job of meeting our needs.

Mr. Page reported that the Dental Clinic is scheduled to re-open this Thursday up at the GST BOCES campus on Philo Road. All patients will be required to come to the Health Department and ride a shuttle bus to the clinic as there is no client parking available at BOCES. It is really an ideal site in that they already have 3 chairs fully equipped for dental patient care. Dental program students at the school will also benefit from the experience of an “in-house” internship with the dental clinic. The space is small but manageable. A big concern we have with both “borrowed” locations is in “wearing out our welcome”. We are doing our best to comply with the rules at each facility and will work to make sure that our clients respect the rules as well. The Dental Clinic will operate 4 days a week from Tuesday through Friday. Unfortunately the clinic will most likely have to close for one week in May, two weeks in June and two weeks in July due to constraints provided by BOCES.

Mr. Kump provided an assessment of the repairs that will be needed. He pointed out that the damage assessment seemed to change from day to day as new information was obtained as to the extent of the damage. Fagan Engineers was hired to perform construction management of the project and to act as “clerk of the works”. The project has become so large that it is not possible to be managed solely with County staff. Any hard surface that experienced damage from the extensive smoke was generally able to be cleaned. Any porous or fibrous materials were not able to be cleaned. Unfortunately, a large part of the HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) system contained fibrous materials and needs to be replaced. The HVAC is large and complex and is beyond the scope of what can be managed internally. An engineering consultant specializing in HVAC systems, DPC Engineering, has been hired to prepare plans and specifications for the replacement of the HVAC system. It is expected that a “project scope” will be finalized by the end of March 2007. Plans and specifications will be prepared by the middle of April 2007 to provide to local, qualified contractors so that they can prepare quotes on the required work. It is hopeful that contracts will be issued by the end of April with major reconstruction starting by the first of May 2007. We have created a deadline of June 30, 2007 for getting the first occupants back in the building. The engineers were doubtful that all work would be able to be completed by that deadline, so re-occupation of the building will be in phases, starting with the Dental Clinic and WIC. Because the entire ventilation system will need to be replaced, the new system will need to comply with the existing building code requirements. Mr. Kump is working with the engineering consultants to assure that code requirements are being met. Another benefit from this experience is in fulfilling a requirement of the Emergency Preparedness Committee in developing a “continuity of operations” plan in the event of an emergency. We have been carrying out a “continuity of operations” scenario in real-time and will be able to document our actions in the creation of this plan. As with much that the Committee has done, the NYSDOH may end up using our plan as a model for other counties to follow in developing their plans.

Dr. Howard offered praise for the leadership at not only the EPC and GST BOCES, but also the Health Center managers. It is the mindset and attitudes of the leadership at all facilities involved that drives the staff in rising to the occasion to stay on task and get the job done, regardless of how difficult the task may be.

- 2. PRESENTATION BY TOBACCO AWARENESS COALITION** – Tammy Miller was introduced as the Program Coordinator for the Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness Community (STTAC) Partnership. She explained that her group is one of four partners in our area working on tobacco control. All four partners share the same five basic goals. Ms. Miller discussed the STTAC past projects as well as projects that were currently underway and planned for the future. The second partner is the Tobacco Cessation Center at ArnotHealth and is coordinated by Faith Tarby. Ms. Tarby explained all that her Center does to meet the established goals and how that program benefits the community. The third partner is Reality Check and is coordinated by Lindsay Winters. Ms. Winters was not able to attend the meeting so Ms. Miller described this partner’s function. The fourth and final partner is the School Policy Partner at GST BOCES under the leadership of Connie Scudder. Ms. Scudder described her

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organization’s role in tobacco control. Ms. Miller summarized the presentation and offered a list of possible collaborations for “clearing the air in Chemung County”.

3. **CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION FEES** – Mr. Kump explained that one aspect of the new changes to the Sanitary Code to take effect May 1, 2007 was the sewage contractor registration. He recommended to the CCBH that a fee of \$50 for a 5-year registration be added to the current Fee Schedule for Environmental Health Services.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mr. Roe and seconded by Dr. Shore that a fee of \$50.00 for a 5-year sewage contractor registration be added to the Fee Schedule for Environmental Health Services and be approved and adopted by the CCBH. Motion approved.

AYES: Paul Shore, DDS
Christopher Friend, PhD
Robert Lambert, MD
William Roe, PE
William G. Howard, MD
Thomas Curran, DDS
Ken Sobel, MD

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mary Ann Baker, RN

4. **DENTAL SEALANT PROGRAM GRANT** - Mr. Page explained to the CCBH that the grant referenced at a prior meeting of the CCBH for a dental sealant program was finally received. There has not been any time yet to do anything with it. It is unfortunate that it was received 8 months after the actual start of the grant period. There won’t be much time to do anything during the first year of the grant period. Sheila Cornacchio will take the lead in coordinating this program and hopes to have it up and running for the 2007-2008 school year. Another hygienist is expected to be hired to fill Ms. Cornacchio’s void in the Dental Clinic while she is administering the program in the schools. At times when she is not working in the dental sealant program, Ms. Cornacchio will work in the Dental Clinic with the new hygienist. Dr. Curran explained that the process for obtaining the grant was started over a year ago and that Ms. Cornacchio did a “yeoman’s job” of gathering information needed for the grant application. Another individual that deserves credit for obtaining this grant is Don Keddell, a retired administrator from the Elmira City School District.

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

Next meeting:

**Board of Health Meeting
May 22, 2007 @ 7:30 PM
Location To Be Determined & Announced**