

CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
June 5, 2007

PRESENT: Paul Shore, DDS William G. Howard, MD
Christopher Friend, PhD Thomas Curran, DDS
Mary Ann Baker, RN Ken Sobel, MD

ABSENT: William Roe, PE Robert Lambert, MD

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Page Lou Ann Corsi
Thomas Kump, PE Harry Shepard
Lynn Brewer, STTAC

Prior to the meeting the CCBH received the following:

1. Agenda for June 5, 2007 CCBH Meeting
2. CCBH Minutes from March 27, 2007
3. Environmental Health Services Report for March & April 2007
4. Letter From Mr. Page To Mr. Santulli On Fire & Recovery Costs

Items distributed during the meeting:

5. Clinical & Home Visiting Services Report dated June 4, 2007
6. Budget Status Report for April 30, 2007
7. Possible Collaborations For Clearing The Air In Chemung County
8. Dental Sealant Statistics For NYS
9. WHO Global Pandemic Phases
10. Guidance For The Use Of Facemasks During Pandemic

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 Ms. Baker that the minutes of the March 27, 2007 Board of Health meeting be approved and accepted. Motion approved.

AYES: Paul Shore, DDS William G. Howard, MD
Christopher Friend, PhD Thomas Curran, DDS
Ken Sobel, MD Mary Ann Baker, RN

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robert Lambert, MD William Roe, PE

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Harry Shepard commented that the Budget Status Report distributed just prior to the meeting was current through April 30, 2007. The CHHA has financially continued to move along without any disruption due to the fire, contrary to the Dental Clinic that has not fared nearly as well. There is nothing substantial to report. However, also attached to the report are two pages of statistics generated from the new Dental Clinic software. These are the types of reports that will be provided from now on. Mr. Shepard suggested that if there are any other statistics not represented on this report that a board member would like to see, they can let him know and he will see what he can do to get that information included in the report

3. SERVICE REPORTS

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- A. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** – Thomas Kump had nothing to add to the March & April 2007 reports that were included in the CCBH mailing. There were no further questions for Mr. Kump as to the information provided in those reports. Mr. Kump updated the CCBH on the status of the bathing beach at Park Station Recreation Area. The State and Federal government regulations allow for a variety of water quality testing parameters to be used in determining that the water is safe for swimming. In 2006 the parameter used for testing was enterococci bacteria. Over the last several months, research has indicated that this may not be the best indicator of potential health threats in the water. The decision was made to change to testing for E. coliform bacteria from now on, since this is a more common type of bacteria that could indicate water quality problems that would have more of a health impact. All pre-season testing has indicated no E. coliform bacteria in the water so the bathing beach opened for the season on Memorial Day weekend. Also, it has been learned from historical data that the quality of the bathing beach water is affected by heavy rain events. When relying solely on bacteriological test results to determine when it was safe or not to swim at the beach, the delay in getting test results was problematic. The proactive approach to be used in 2007 will be a “visual” test following a heavy rain event to see if the clarity of the water in the bathing area has been compromised. Periodic random bacteriological sampling throughout the summer months will still occur.
- B. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING** – Lou Ann Corsi commented on the Clinic Services report that was distributed just prior to the meeting. Ms. Corsi reported that the numbers are down on the clinical services. However, in spite of the disruption caused by the March 2007 fire, the WIC statistics are right on target. There have been discussions regarding the “well child” program. Years ago this clinic was well attended. Generally speaking, it was well attended primarily by those who could afford the services. A cutback in the amount of advertising was made and also the Child Health Plus program has had an impact in the numbers as well. The target population for this clinic was not coming to the clinic. There is now discussion of applying to the State to modify the goals of the Municipal Health Services Plan to eliminate the program. Dr. Sobel added that Southern Tier Pediatrics used to have about 12 providers and as of this summer they will only have 5 providers. They will be doing the best they can to take care of their own patients, but this will leave them with no time to provide services at the clinic. Ms. Corsi noted that the Department would still be having the regular immunization clinics. Dr. Howard suggested that the cost per patient to provide these services would be extremely high and that it might be wise to redirect those funds to another program. The first step is to seek and obtain State approval on this matter. At that point, it will be brought back to the CCBH for formal action.
- C. DENTAL CLINIC** – Mr. Page commented that much of this report will be discussed in another part of the agenda. The Dental Clinic is now in a 3-week shutdown due to constraints set by GST BOCES. The plan is to get the Dental Clinic up and running by the third week in July. It is estimated that the Dental Clinic area will be turned back over to the County by the end of June. This will give the County two weeks to get the equipment moved back in and re-installed.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. REPORT ON FIRE & RECONSTRUCTION** – Mr. Page reported that the project is moving along quite well. One problem that has come up is with replacement of the air handling unit. This piece of equipment is not expected to be delivered until the middle of August. The indoor environment could be unbearable if they are not able to obtain portable air conditioning units to use in the clinic areas. The balance of the reconstruction work is scheduled to be completed by the end of August. This will allow the County a few weeks to move back into the Health Department. Mr. Kump has been working closely with the Clerk of the Works (Sue Oliver, Fagan Engineers) throughout this project as the resident engineer and code compliance officer. Mr. Kump explained that this project is going much faster as an “emergency” project simply because the project did not need to go out for bidding. The contractors involved have been hand-picked based on their reputation in the community, their known ability to do the work in the short time allotted, and their ability to work well with other contractors. Many issues have come up during the course of the project that were not planned. The scope of the project has changed dramatically since the first post-fire meeting on the topic. This project provided an opportunity to upgrade several areas of pre-existing non-conforming conditions. For example, new fire/smoke doors and dampers are being installed, new digital thermostat controls are being provided, a better acoustical tile is being used to provide more privacy between

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clinical offices and exam rooms, new carpeting is being provided in areas where the carpet was in poor condition, the original air handling unit that was provided when the building was originally constructed is being replaced, more smoke detectors are being provided throughout the health department in excess of the minimal code requirements, and better controls on the HVAC system will provide for more energy efficient operation and a more balanced climate in otherwise problematic areas. Mr. Page also noted that the Gridley Building is preparing for the design and bidding of a sprinkler system with a target completion date of early 2010.

2. **TOBACCO AWARENESS COALITION PROPOSAL** – Mr. Page re-distributed a copy of “Possible Collaborations For Clearing the Air in Chemung County” for the CCBH to review and discuss. Many of the items on the list may require the adoption of a Local Law. Mr. Page stated that it would not be possible to make the Health Center campus entirely smoke-free due to the fact that it has a residential care facility. Patients/residents need to be provided a place on the grounds for smoking. It is believed that the County management is not prepared at this time to address the issue of smoke-free campuses with the various bargaining units. Dr. Curran suggested that we review the list and determine which tasks are doable and then prioritize. Mr. Page reported that Deputy County Executive Krusen will be meeting with the STTAC next week. Dr. Sobel suggested that the CCBH approve a soft endorsement of the entire list and forward to the County Executive to develop a priority list. Dr. Howard requested that a representative from the County Executive come to the next CCBH meeting to discuss this topic and provide input.
3. **DENTAL SEALANT PROGRAM** – Mr. Page discussed the status of the Dental Sealant Program. There have already been some bizarre happenings with this program that have caused a lot of confusion and frustration. When approval was finally received by the County, it was made retroactive to 9 months prior to us receiving word of the approval. We have essentially already lost one year of the grant period. One of the latest issues was learning that the County needed to submit an application to the State for an additional approval that may not be issued until late in 2007. This approval would authorize the County to implement a Dental Sealant Program but would require the County to bill Medicaid for eligible expenses. The grant would only cover the difference. Another issue that has come up is the requirement that a licensed dentist must be in the building where the Dental Sealant Program is occurring and that any Medicaid claims made where a dentist was not present would constitute fraud. Needless to say, there are still several issues that need to be worked out on the State level before the program can proceed much further. It is believed that the State will resolve these issues. Dr. Curran requested the opportunity to discuss the status of dental sealants in New York State and provided a handout on the topic. In general, the poor are not getting an adequate dental sealant program. Chemung County is ninth from the bottom of the list in NYS in terms of the percentage of children getting dental sealant services. The group that Dr. Curran works with in NYS has tried unsuccessfully over the years to get funds approved in the State budget for dental sealant programs. He is hopeful that it will be included in the 2008-2009 State Budget. Governor Spitzer has been proactive with regard to prevention programs. Dr. Curran will be involved in an application for \$100,000.00 for a grant to demonstrate the benefit of promoting a preventative dental service in NYS.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **PANDEMIC FLU PLANNING** - Mr. Page provided two handouts for the CCBH to review prior to the next meeting. The first handout was the “World Health Organization Phases of a Pandemic”. The second handout was a document on the use of facemasks and respirators in non-occupational settings during a pandemic. In the interest of time, the items listed on this agenda will be postponed to the July 2007 CCBH meeting. Mr. Page gave a brief summary of the issues that the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Committee is currently dealing with. Dr. Howard commented that this topic is one area where the Department can make a difference in the community and fully appreciates and supports the committee’s efforts. Mr. Page also pointed out that a sub-committee is working on a training video regarding POD’s (Points of Dispensing) that will be used to educate the public on what to expect if there is ever a need to attend a POD.
2. **KENNEDY VALVE LEAD FUND PROGRAM** – Mr. Page briefed the CCBH on the recent Kennedy Valve Lead Abatement Fund that will be created with \$1.5 million as part of a settlement with the NYS Attorney General’s office arising from improper disposal of lead-contaminated waste product by Kennedy Valve. While any

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service provider will be eligible to submit to the State a proposal for a program on how to best spend the money, the Health Department already is providing lead poisoning prevention services. The Department's proposal has several components. First, the Department is proposing to increase the number of children being screened for lead poisoning by purchasing blood lead testing machines and placing them in the Health Department and other private pediatric practitioner's offices. Second, EHS is proposing to provide free environmental home assessments upon request to assist in the identification of lead hazards in homes in the County. This would require the addition of a Sanitarian in EHS. The Department would contract with the City of Elmira on the third component to create a financial program to provide loans and grants to eligible property owners to cover the cost of abatement. There will also be a public health education component to further spread the word about the need to get children tested for lead. The Department is awaiting the posting of the Request For Proposal for this project on the NYS Attorney General's website.

With no further business to conduct, Dr. Howard adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:10 PM

Next meeting:

**Board of Health Meeting
July 24, 2007 @ 7:30 PM
Location To Be Determined & Announced**