

**CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
January 22, 2008**

**PRESENT:** Thomas Curran, DDS Ken Sobel, MD  
Christopher Friend, PhD Mary Ann Baker, RN  
Robert Lambert, MD Paul Shore, DDS

**ABSENT:** William G. Howard, MD William Roe, PE

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Robert Page Lou Ann Corsi  
Thomas Kump, PE Harry Shepard  
Linda Swarthout Cassie Coombs  
Jan Chytilo Lindsay Winters

Prior to the meeting the CCBH received the following:

1. Agenda for January 22, 2008 CCBH Meeting
2. CCBH Minutes from December 4, 2007
3. Environmental Health Services Reports for December 2007
4. STTAC Report On Possible Collaborations For Clearing The Air In Chemung County 2008

Items distributed during the meeting:

5. Clinic/Home Visiting Services Report Dated January 22, 2008
6. Budget Status Report Dated December 31, 2007
7. Summary By County Of Smoking Waivers Issued In NYS
8. Outdoor Secondhand Smoke Fact Sheet

Ms. Baker 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. Friend that the minutes of the December 4, 2007 Board of Health meeting be approved and accepted. Motion approved.

**AYES:** Thomas Curran, DDS Ken Sobel, MD  
Christopher Friend, PhD Mary Ann Baker, RN  
Robert Lambert, MD Paul Shore, DDS

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** William G. Howard, MD William Roe, PE

## **2. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Harry Shepard reported that there was nothing of significance to report that hasn't already been discussed for 2007. A written report was provided at the meeting. There was no further discussion on any financial matters.

## **3. SERVICE REPORTS**

**A. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** – Thomas Kump had nothing further to elaborate on with the report that had already been distributed to the CCBH prior to the meeting. However, he did point out that the on-line posting of restaurant inspections has been going quite well. He did point out however that a few concerned persons had contacted the County Executive's office to complain of some issues related to this new initiative. Mr. Kump said that there was concern about posting minor, non-critical violations and being able to determine whether there were some that were more serious than others. Critical and non-critical violations are reported together on the same form, so there is no way to post the critical violations without also posting the non-critical violations.

**B. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING** – Lou Ann Corsi commented on the Home Visiting Services report dated January 22, 2008 that was distributed at the meeting. Ms. Corsi pointed out that they are no longer doing well child visits and that these will be handled by referral. She also noted that WIC has consistently been over 100% for their caseload, and even though that percentage dropped a bit in December, they continue to do real well. Home care visits are down and this month's report does not reflect all the data for December 2007.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Page acknowledged a note that had been received from retired CCBH member Charles Gedatus thanking the CCBH for recognizing him for his service to the Board. Ms. Baker also acknowledged receipt of a similar note from Dr. Moore who too had retired from the CCBH and was recently recognized for his service.

**C. DENTAL SERVICES REPORT** – Mr. Page reported that the Dental Clinic Statistical Summaries were not included in the mailing. Mr. Page did comment that there are now two hygienists working the clinic. Also, Dr. O'Connell has been working Fridays and Dr. Lax has been working 10-hour days Monday through Thursday. Anything else that needs to be reported for Dental Services will be done under a later agenda item.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**1. ELECTION OF CCBH VICE PRESIDENT** – Mr. Page reminded the CCBH that Dr. Sobel was elected to the office of Vice President for the Board of Health. Dr. Sobel was not present at that meeting so the vote was contingent upon his acceptance of the responsibility. Dr. Sobel informed the CCBH that he does accept the position of CCBH Vice President and will perform all duties associated with that title.

- 2. CLEARING THE AIR - NEXT STEPS** – Public Health Educator Linda Swarthout was introduced and she then introduced representatives from the Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness Community Partnership. This included Jan Chytilo of the American Cancer Society, Lindsay Winters of Reality Check, and Cassie Coombs of STTAC. Reference was made to a document that was distributed prior to the meeting entitled “Possible Collaborations for Clearing the Air in Chemung County 2008”. The various ideas were discussed including Point of Purchase Advertising (POP), Advertising, Sponsorship, and Promotion (ASP), Young Lungs at Play, Entryways, and Smoke-free Housing. The STTAC is funded through grants from New York State and thus NYS is able to direct this and similar partnerships as to the focus areas that they need to center their attention on. The POP initiative has already been started with the mailing of letters to all tobacco retailers. The partnership is looking for the CCBH to endorse this initiative through the form of a resolution of support. The second initiative is called Young Lungs at Play and it is designed to prevent children’s exposure to secondhand smoke in public parks and playgrounds. Dr. Curran commented that he is bothered with this proposal as worded as he thinks that the examples listed on the proposal are weak and that there could be stronger wording that would be more effective. Discussion on this proposal continued among the CCBH members present. Mr. Page suggested that the partnership take notes of the comments made during the meeting and see if the bulleted items on the proposal could be enhanced. A revised proposal could then be discussed at the next regular CCBH meeting. Some members of the CCBH thought that of all the proposals discussed, the Entryways proposal seemed to be one that would have the most immediate impact. A draft resolution has not been created, so this will be done for the next CCBH meeting. It was explained that the partnership was only looking for backing on these initiatives and that the partnership would be the group to do the actual legwork in carrying out these initiatives.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Lambert and seconded by Dr. Sobel that:  
**Whereas**, smoking is the number one cause of preventable death in the United States; and  
**Whereas**, the Surgeon General has concluded that tobacco advertising contributes to youth smoking rates; and  
**Whereas**, each day, about 4,000 children in the United States try their first cigarette; and  
**Whereas**, 90% of adult smokers began smoking while in their teens or earlier; and  
**Whereas**, tobacco advertising in retail stores has a powerful influence on teens, who are significantly more likely to smoke due to advertising than they are due to peer pressure; and  
**Whereas**, the Chemung County Community Survey results of June 2007 state that 63.7% of our residents have noticed at least some cigarette or tobacco products being advertised or promoted on shop windows or inside shops where tobacco is sold; and  
**Whereas**, the Chemung County Community Survey results of June 2007 state that 85.8% of our residents see at least some ads for cigarettes or tobacco products or items that have tobacco names or pictures on them when they go to a convenience store, supermarket, or gas station; and  
**Whereas**, the Chemung County Community Survey results of June 2007 state that 72.5% of our residents think advertising of tobacco products should be restricted or eliminated;

**CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES – 1/22/2008**

***Now, Therefore Be It Resolved***, that the Chemung County Board of Health hereby expresses its support of the efforts of the Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness Community Partnership (STTAC) and Reality Check by encouraging retailers to reduce and ultimately remove interior and exterior tobacco advertising from their place of business. Motion approved.

**AYES:** Thomas Curran, DDS Ken Sobel, MD  
Christopher Friend, PhD Mary Ann Baker, RN  
Robert Lambert, MD Paul Shore, DDS

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** William G. Howard, MD William Roe, PE

Dr. Curran remarked that he understands that the partnership is bound by what NYS tells them to do. However, he feels that the issue of smoking by women during and after pregnancy should be an area of focus. It was suggested that the partnership prepare a report on what has been done and could be done to address this issue. Dr. Sobel said that he sees moms everyday and knows which ones smoke. It is believed that the mothers that still smoke are the diehards and really struggle with smoking cessation.

Mr. Page commented on the corporate initiative by Wegmans to cease selling tobacco products and suggested that the CCBH pass a resolution commending them for their action.

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Curran and seconded by Dr. Lambert that:  
***Whereas***, Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. recognizes the devastating role that smoking plays in people's health; and  
***Whereas***, Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. cares about its employees; and  
***Whereas***, Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. is making plans to provide a smoking cessation program for their employees; and  
***Whereas***, Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. realizes that it is difficult for smokers to stop smoking; and  
***Whereas***, Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. respects a person's right to smoke; and  
***Whereas***, in spite of the fact that tobacco has been a very profitable category for Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.; and  
***Whereas***, Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. has made the bold decision to stop selling tobacco products;  
***Now, Therefore Be It Resolved***, that the Chemung County Board of Health acknowledges and commends Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. for their brave initiative and leadership in combating the tobacco problem in our society, and that a copy of this resolution be provided to both the Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. corporate office as well as the Wegmans Elmira store manager. Motion approved.

**AYES:** Thomas Curran, DDS Ken Sobel, MD  
Christopher Friend, PhD Mary Ann Baker, RN  
Robert Lambert, MD Paul Shore, DDS

**CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES – 1/22/2008**

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** William G. Howard, MD William Roe, PE

Mr. Kump discussed the status of smoking waivers in Chemung County. There are currently NO smoking waivers. A summary of the status of smoking waivers in all counties of NYS was distributed with accompanying statistics. A few veteran's organizations have contacted the County Executive to voice their opposition to the elimination of waivers. Mr. Kump received a few calls on the issue. It was reported that one local VFW was planning to appeal to the CCBH to reconsider the waiver issue at least for their situation. They felt that since their members fought in a war on foreign lands to preserve our freedoms, their right to smoke in their own club in a manner that would not impact non-smokers should not be taken away. They may be contacting the CCBH directly in the near future.

- 3. KENNEDY VALVE GRANT PROGRAM STATUS** – Ms. Corsi commented that they have been working hard to get the Lead Care II testing devices distributed to the local offices providing pediatric care. Board member Dr. Sobel explained that he has experienced mixed emotions about this whole process and that this is a very complex issue that he is trying to address with his colleagues at Southern Tier Pediatrics where he practices. The amount of time it takes to complete a lead test on a child is a lot greater than originally outlined. There are issues related to patient flow and potential reimbursement for the time that it will take to administer the test. Various solutions to these issues are all being considered in an effort to make this initiative happen, even if it is only for a trial basis. Dr. Sobel will be meeting with his group next week to see if some type of compromise can be reached regarding testing of children for lead. Mr. Kump reported that the device needed to conduct home testing for lead has been ordered and should arrive by the end of February. In the meantime, training is being scheduled for the employees that will be using the XRF machine and then an application will be made to the NYSDOH for a license to utilize the device. It is hopeful that home testing may begin as soon as March 2008.
- 4. DENTAL SEALANT GRANT UPDATE** – Mr. Page said that so far everything that has been submitted has been approved by the NYSDOH and that they should be all set to move forward within a month or two. Dr. Curran questioned whether local dental practitioners have been notified of this program and suggested that they should be if they haven't been. Mr. Page reminded the CCBH that they can't actually get into the schools to begin the program until they get the final sign-off from the NYSDOH. Dr. Curran questioned whether there were any plans to do a facilitated enrollment. Ms. Corsi answered that there are not currently plans to do that, but it was possible.
- 5. FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE** – Mr. Page explained that about \$50,000.00 in lost revenue in the clinic due to the fire will be recuperated. Overall, the project is very near to completion. There are just a few loose ends to address. The total project ended up being about \$1.6 million, of which about \$350,000.00 was at County

**CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES – 1/22/2008**

expense. This was due to items that were not directly related to the fire, but were important enough to complete while the other fire-related items were being addressed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. UPDATE ON HOME HEALTH AGENCY** – Ms. Corsi reported that the plan of correction for the recent survey has been submitted and accepted by the NYSDOH. They will revisit after March 2008. There have been a lot of changes that staff have had to deal with. One big issue is the computer/software upgrade. New laptops were actually received in 2007. Now the laptops need to have software upgrades performed. This will require time and patience as the staff learn the mechanics of the updated system. Ms. Corsi also commented that they have been having a difficult time with staffing and in recruiting staff. There are a few vacancies and a few long term disability cases. One problem we face is that we can only hire up to step 3 on the pay scale, regardless of the number of years of experience a person may have.

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

**Next meeting:**

**Board of Health Meeting  
March 25, 2008 @ 7:30 PM  
Health Department Conference Room**