

**CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
May 27, 2008**

PRESENT:	Ken Sobel, MD Robert Lambert, MD William G. Howard, MD	Mary Ann Baker, RN Paul Shore, DDS Thomas Curran, DDS
ABSENT:	Christopher Friend, PhD	William Roe, PE
OTHERS PRESENT:	Robert Page Thomas Kump, PE	Lou Ann Corsi Terence Lenhardt, MD

Prior to the meeting the CCBH received the following:

1. Agenda for May 27, 2008 CCBH Meeting
2. CCBH Minutes from March 25, 2008
3. Budget Status Report for April 2008
4. Environmental Health Services Reports for March & April 2008
5. Dental Clinic Statistical Report for April 2008
6. Young Lungs At Play Revised Proposal

Items distributed during the meeting:

7. Clinic/Home Visiting Services Report Dated May 27, 2008

Ms. Baker 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. Sobel that the minutes of the March 25, 2008 Board of Health meeting be approved and accepted. Motion approved.

AYES:	Ken Sobel, MD Robert Lambert, MD William G. Howard, MD	Thomas Curran, DDS Paul Shore, DDS Mary Ann Baker, RN
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NAYS: None

ABSENT:	William Roe, PE	Christopher Friend, PhD
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2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Harry Shepard was not able to attend the meeting. Mr. Page stated that there was nothing of significance to report. A written report was provided in advance of the meeting. There was no further discussion on any financial matters. Mr. Page added that the State budget situation could have an impact on our budget during the course of the

current fiscal year, but no one from the NYSDOH was able to provide any further information at this point in time.

3. SERVICE REPORTS

- A. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** – Thomas Kump had nothing further to discuss with the March and April 2008 reports that had already been distributed to the CCBH prior to the meeting. However, Mr. Kump did update the CCBH on a very recent situation of a complaint received about a person allegedly performing sub-dermal implants. This is a form of “body modification” whereby an incision is made in the skin and a three-dimensional object is inserted below the skin. There was a question raised to the State Education Department as to whether this procedure constitutes a surgical procedure that would be prohibited by other than a licensed medical professional. The respondent claims that he does not perform this procedure and that he only performs piercings that do not require a license. This situation will continue to be monitored.
- B. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING & CLINICS** – Lou Ann Corsi commented on the Home Visiting Services report dated May 27, 2008 that was distributed at the meeting. The WIC numbers were down one month but seem to have recently bounced back. WIC had their annual audit which went very well. The lead statistics are now being tracked by practice for reporting to the State for the Kennedy Valve grant. The CHHA statistics are down considerably compared to 2007 mainly due to staffing issues. In early June it is expected that staffing will be at 100% again.
- C. DENTAL SERVICES REPORT** – Mr. Page reported that the April 2008 Statistical Summary was distributed prior to the meeting. To explain some of the statistics, Mr. Page pointed out that Dr. O’Connell only works one day per week. Ms. Kintz-Smith is the new dental assistant that was hired for the dental sealant program. She only will work in the clinic when not working in the dental sealant program. From a budget point of view, the clinic seems to be operating in the red just as much as it has in the past. Dr. Curran commented that it is next to impossible to operate otherwise due to constraints beyond the clinic’s control. Article 28 covers both medical and dental clinics. Since these two different practices can’t be separated out under Article 28, an increase in reimbursement for dental would also translate to an increase in medical and the State simply can not afford to do that any time soon. Another trend that Dr. Curran mentioned was regarding the “no show” and “cancelled” statistics. Both numbers used to be reported as one number in the past. It paints a different picture now that they are broken out separately. Dr. Shore questioned whether the clinic is in compliance with the new amalgam disposal requirements. Mr. Page reported that it is in compliance.

OLD BUSINESS

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- 1. CLEARING THE AIR – NEXT STEPS** – Mr. Page reported that there is not much new to discuss on this issue. The resolution by the CCBH has been forwarded on to the County Legislature where it is expected to be discussed during a June committee meeting. Mr. Page did not see that there would be any problem with implementation of the 30-foot separation of smoking from entrances on County buildings if that is the direction the Legislature chooses to go. Dr. Curran again raised a concern about the continuing citation on the “Young Lungs At Play” document of statements regarding the impact of second-hand smoke on children. He referenced the 3rd and 4th points on that document, namely, “Children exposed to secondhand smoke are more likely to have reduced lung function, ear infections, and symptoms of respiratory irritation, like coughing, excess phlegm and wheezing” and “Children with asthma who are exposed to secondhand smoke are especially at risk for having their condition worsened by secondhand smoke”. He has no problem with the statements if the research shows that, but he does not know that to be the case. Dr. Curran will check the cited references at the bottom of the document and Mr. Page will request STTAC to provide factual proof to defend the statements. If the statements can not be defended, Dr. Curran feels that they should be removed from the document.

- 2. KENNEDY VALVE GRANT PROGRAM STATUS** – Ms. Corsi provided an update on the status of this grant program. The blood lead testing devices have been distributed to both Southern Tier Pediatrics and Orchard Family Health Care. Any other machine that was previously distributed to a healthcare provider has been returned back to the health department. Guthrie has declined to use the lead testing machines. Dr. Sobel reported for Southern Tier Pediatrics that it is going much better than the staff there anticipated. There have been issues raised as to the accuracy of the results and quality control. The analysis has been conducted at the time of blood draw. Dr. Sobel will be performing an audit of the results within a few months and will report back to the CCBH. Dr. Howard reported for Orchard Family Health Care that they have been using the machine, but not nearly to the extent as Southern Tier Pediatrics. Orchard Family Health Care batches their testing. Mr. Kump reported that the XRF is working fine and there have been 7 requests for home risk assessments so far. Of those already completed, each home had lead hazards identified. It is expected that the number of requests will continue to increase over the summer months and into the fall as word spreads about the program.

- 3. DENTAL SEALANT GRANT UPDATE** – Ms. Corsi reported that the dental sealant program officially started today. There have been various delays to the program right from the beginning. One of the most recent delays was in obtaining a compressor. They are starting at Parley Coburn Elementary School. So far they have received 200 consents. Nineteen children were seen today and they have twelve more days to complete the balance. Everyone involved with this project have been very enthusiastic and supportive. Dr. Curran pointed out that the grant was obtained in February 2007. He said that there is a technical assistance group in Rochester that could have provided assistance throughout this whole process but it was not taken advantage of. They could have assisted with obtaining a

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compressor. Ms. Corsi pointed out that the problem with the compressor was with our own Purchasing Department and the many requirements that they insist must be followed. Dr. Curran also felt that the new employee hired back in late 2007 could have been in the schools doing education/lecturing for the dental sealant program. Dr. Curran understands that this is all retrospective but did want to make his feelings on the topic known to the CCBH.

- 4. CANCER SCREENING GRANT UPDATE** – Mr. Page updated the CCBH that they are still in the process of getting contracts signed to conduct the program through the Broome County Health Department. One of the issues for some providers is the requirement that they provide an additional insured endorsement from their insurance carrier. Both the CCHD and Arnot Ogden have agreed to this and signed contracts. The good news is that this important screening is still in progress even though Chemung County did not directly get a grant for this program.
- 5. INTERVENTIONS FOR THOSE PREGNANT** – Dr. Curran requested that an item be added under “Old Business” to address the topic from a prior meeting regarding interventions in place for those that are pregnant. He thought the report was thorough in terms of what is being done, but was disappointed that there were no statistics associated with the report. As an example, Dr. Curran questioned what kind of success that WIC is seeing with their program. Mr. Page explained that none of the programs have been able to demonstrate much success. Dr. Curran requested, if possible, to see statistics for 2007 for the WIC program. If that data was not collected and available, he requested that the data be collected for a period of time. Ms. Corsi will check with WIC on this request.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. PANDEMIC FLU PREPAREDNESS** – Mr. Page reported that there has been a lot of national attention to ethical decisions in a pandemic. He explained that it could be possible for a local board of ethics be formed between staff from Arnot Ogden, St. Josephs and the CCBH in the absence of national guidance or criteria. However, he felt that no individual county should have to be forced to make these types of decisions. The federal government should provide this guidance. Even though the issue of a pandemic is quite low on the media radar, Mr. Page explained to the CCBH that the County’s Public Health Emergency Preparedness Committee is still working hard to plan for responding to a pandemic. Ms. Corsi reported on her involvement with alternate care solutions in a major emergency or pandemic. A group in the Western Region has been awarded a grant to study this issue. The area covers from Monroe County down to Chemung County. This area has been subdivided into a north sub-region and a south sub-region. Both the Federal and State governments believe that counties should plan for alternate care sites, whereas that simply is not practical due to a lack of personnel resources. So these working groups are brainstorming “alternate care solutions” that do not necessarily involve physical sites for sick people to go to. The focus has turned to the reality that sick people are going to need to go home and that education and support will

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have to be provided to help people help themselves. This grant project is expected to wrap up in August 2008.

2. **ARTICLE 28 SURVEY REPORT FOR CLINICS** – Ms. Corsi explained to the CCBH that the NYSDOH came and conducted a survey of the clinic areas of the Health Department. This went very well. There were very few deficiencies, all of which were relatively minor in nature. The State will come back at some point in the future to conduct a re-inspection to verify compliance on those items that were deficient.
3. **NYS LAW ON VACCINES WITH THIMEROSAL** –Mr. Page reported that NYS has changed a law that will be effective July 1, 2008. The law will essentially prohibit the use of vaccines with even a trace of Thimerosal on children under the age of 3. One of the influenza vaccines that the CCHD has ordered has this preservative in it. Our order has been changed to go with the vaccine that does not have Thimerosal. This will be a little more costly, but will be a lot easier to deal with during the flu season.

On an unrelated note, Dr. Sobel mentioned that his practice received word that MRSA is now a reportable illness if found to be part of a cluster. The tough part will be in determining whether a case is or is not part of a cluster. The consensus of the CCBH was that this was probably not going to change any of the procedures currently in place for most practices.

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

Next meeting:

**Board of Health Meeting
July 22, 2008 @ 7:30 PM
Health Department Conference Room**