

**CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
September 23, 2008**

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

Prior to the meeting the CCBH received the following:

1. Agenda for September 23, 2008 CCBH Meeting
2. CCBH Minutes from July 22, 2008
3. Environmental Health Services Reports for July & August 2008
4. Hearing Record – Harris Hill Pool

The following items were distributed at the meeting:

5. Southern Tier Pediatrics Fingerstick In-Office Lead Review
6. Budget Status Report for August 2008
7. Clinic Services Report Dated 9/23/08
8. Dental Clinic Statistical Report for August 2008
9. Pregnant Women & Tobacco Use In Chemung County

In Ms. Baker's absence, Dr. Sobel 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. Lambert that the minutes of the July 22, 2008 Board of Health meeting be approved and accepted. Motion approved.

<b>AYES:</b>	Ken Sobel, MD William G. Howard, MD Robert Lambert, MD	Paul Shore, DDS William Roe, PE Thomas Curran, DDS
<b>NAYS:</b>	None	
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Mary Ann Baker, RN	Christopher Friend, PhD

**2. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Harry Shepard commented that there was nothing of significance to report beyond what was written in the report provided at the beginning of the meeting. There was no further discussion on any financial matters.

### **3. SERVICES REPORTS**

- A. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** – Thomas Kump mentioned that a report for July 2008 and August 2008 had already been distributed prior to the meeting for CCBH review. He had nothing to add to the written reports.
- B. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING & CLINICS** – Lou Ann Lance referred to her report that was distributed just prior to the meeting. She reported that since the last CCBH meeting the Department underwent a program review by the NYSDOH for the Lead Poisoning Prevention program and the PHCP program and did very well with both.
- C. DENTAL SERVICES REPORT** – Mr. Page reported that a written report was provided just prior to the meeting for August 2008. The dental sealant program is again underway for the new school year and going well. One of the full time dental assistants has terminated employment with the clinic to take on a different job with another agency. The Department will be working on filling this new vacancy. Dr. Curran mentioned that he has not been working in the clinic and that the reference to him in the statistical report should be corrected. Mr. Shepard reported that it was most likely a coding error and will be fixed as soon as possible.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. KENNEDY VALVE PROGRAM UPDATE** – Ms. Lance commented that the children's finger-stick testing for lead has been going well. There have been over 1,000 children tested through the end of August 2008 in this program and that the testing rate in 2008 compared to the same period in 2007 is three times higher. Mr. Kump reported that the home lead hazard assessments are also going well. Since the program started in May 2008, EHS has received 52 applications from property owners to conduct assessments. There have been 43 assessments completed to date and all assessments identified lead hazards. Each part of the program feeds the other. For instance, homeowners are encouraged to have their children tested when EHS conducts home lead hazard assessments. With more children being tested, there has been a large increase in the number of environmental medical referrals. Dr. Sobel distributed a report he had prepared at Southern Tier Pediatrics as an interim statistical review of the finger-stick blood lead screening being done at his practice. It covers the period of May 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. They are using a level of 8 ug/dl and greater as being considered "elevated". There are concerns about the number of false positives, which then begs the question as to whether there may be a similar number of false negatives. Dr. Sobel opined that it seemed like a lot of money to be spending on a lot of testing with a small return rate. We have increased our testing rate in the County. Mr. Kump suggested that

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since the money is currently available through this grant to cover expenses for the testing, why not continue with the program to build on the statistical base. Mr. Page reminded the CCBH that screening of children for blood lead poisoning is required by law.

- 2. STATE BUDGET IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH** – Mr. Page explained that the Department has already seen a 2% cut in aid from the NYSDOH in some programs earlier this year. The latest action by the State Legislature is expected to incur an additional cut of 6% in some program aid. It becomes a problem when it is done in the form of cost shifting. This is done after expenses have been incurred by the County with a decrease in the amount of reimbursement for expenditures. This causes an increase in local share. It will be less of a burden if the Department is informed upfront of the reductions in available aid so that program changes can be made to reduce spending. This results in no additional local share.
- 3. PREGNANT WOMEN AND TOBACCO USE** – Dr. Curran requested that this item be added to the agenda. He realized that this was already discussed at a prior CCBH meeting, but he was unable to participate. Dr. Curran had originally asked for an evaluation of what is being done for pregnant women with regard to tobacco use. What he was looking for was whether what was being done was successful. He believes that we should be evaluating the success of these programs. Mr. Page explained that WIC is a federally funded program and they set up the expectations for what WIC will do. This type of follow-up and tracking for smoking are not part of the federal expectations and would thus not be funded with federal money. Anything extra beyond federal expectations would have to be funded locally. Dr. Curran stated that he understood this, but suggested that maybe some of the other programs, such as MOMS, could collate this information. Ms. Lance will follow-up to see if this is possible.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. LEGIONELLA OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION** – Mr. Page briefed the CCBH on the recent legionella outbreak investigation that occurred at Flannery Towers. It is important for everyone to understand the role of public health in an outbreak investigation. The NYSDOH has developed a list of “reportable” diseases or illnesses that are required to be reported to the local health department. All of the diseases on the list are not necessarily “communicable” diseases, such as Legionaire’s Disease. The first case of Legionaire’s Disease was reported August 7<sup>th</sup>. Each and every case is investigated to some degree and it is not uncommon to receive reports of a handful of isolated cases of Legionaire’s Disease each year. However, a second case was reported August 11<sup>th</sup> with a common link to the August 7<sup>th</sup> case, that being the fact that both cases were residents of Flannery Towers. Starting on August 11<sup>th</sup>, conference calls with the NYSDOH were occurring on a daily basis for the first week of the investigation. The expertise of the NYSDOH was very helpful in that they have investigated several outbreaks over the years, a few already in 2008. A notice was issued to Flannery Towers on August 12<sup>th</sup> and it was reported to the CCHD by the Elmira Housing Authority (EHA) that they began providing bottled water to residents on that day as well. EHS staff with NYSDOH

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staff conducted an environmental assessment of the Flannery Towers and collected several water samples from various locations within the facility. On Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup> the State Wadsworth Laboratory reported that legionella bacteria were found in the samples taken from the hot water system at the apartments. At that point the CCHD issued an advisory to the residents of Flannery Towers not to use the water. The EHA began a thermal disinfection of the hot water system to inactivate the legionella bacteria. This took over five days to complete. At the same time, it was advised that the EHA contract with a legionella expert consultant to assist in both removing the legionella from the apartments as well as to develop a prevention strategy. The EHA hired Tim Keane who is a nationally-recognized legionella expert. Mr. Page added that since the thermal disinfection of the hot water system was completed, there have been no new cases of legionella confirmed in residents of Flannery Towers. Dr. Howard questioned how the legionella got into the hot water system at the apartment complex. Mr. Kump explained that there is not one specific cause, but more likely was a series of unfortunate circumstances that led to this outbreak. There was a water main break near the Flannery Towers in early July. The temperature of the hot water system had been decreased in response to complaints from residents that the water was too hot and feared that they would get scalded. The demographics of the residents of the Towers made them more susceptible to contracting Legionnaire's Disease than the general population, namely, an elderly population and some with weakened immune systems. Legionella are a naturally-occurring bacteria found in the environment. There are several contributing factors, but no single, isolated cause. The important thing with this investigation is that the cause was quickly found and controlled.

- 2. HARRIS HILL SWIMMING POOL HEARING** – Mr. Shepard summarized the hearing that was held on August 16, 2008 regarding alleged supervision violations that occurred at the Harris Hill Swimming Pool. Mr. Michael Belosky, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds did not dispute the violations but did seek clarification on the issues and expectations. He immediately reviewed procedures with pool staff and requested EHS to provide additional training to pool personnel prior to the start of the 2009 bathing season. A \$100 Stipulation Offer had been issued to Harris Hill Pool and was declined. They chose to appear for a hearing. Based on all facts presented by all parties involved, Mr. Shepard recommended to the CCBH that a fine of \$100 be issued with the condition that the fine be dismissed after 12 months if there are no further supervision violations during that time period.

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Curran and seconded by Dr. Lambert that the recommendation of Hearing Officer Shepard be approved by the CCBH, namely, that a fine of \$100 be levied against Harris Hill Swimming Pool with the condition that the fine will be dismissed after 12 months if there are no further supervision violations during that period of time. Motion approved.

**AYES:**

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

Paul Shore, DDS  
William Roe, PE  
Thomas Curran, DDS

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**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Mary Ann Baker, RN Christopher Friend, PhD

**3. INFLUENZA CLINICS** – Ms. Corsi updated the CCBH on the upcoming flu clinics that will be scheduled in the near future. The CCHD is working with the adult immunization coalition to make sure that there is minimal overlap and that all times and areas are covered to maximize the number of vaccinations administered. Most of the vaccine ordered has been received. CCHD ordered vaccine for 7 counties in addition to Chemung County. Due to the packaging the vaccine came in, it was necessary to make delivery arrangements to the participating counties since there was insufficient storage space in the CCHD refrigeration units. A total of 1,200 doses have been obtained for use by the general public. The type of vaccine ordered does not include any preservatives which will make it safe to use on all clients that request it.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Lambert and seconded by Dr. Shore that the CCBH go into Executive Session to discuss Board Member issues. Motion approved.

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Mary Ann Baker, RN Christopher Friend, PhD

At approximately 9:30 PM, the CCBH came out of Executive Session. It was reported that no business was conducted and no action taken by the CCBH during the session.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

**Next meeting:** Board of Health Meeting  
December 2, 2008 @ 7:30 PM  
Health Department Conference Room