

**CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
May 25, 2010**

**PRESENT:** Christopher Friend, PhD William Roe, PE  
Thomas Curran, DDS William G. Howard, MD  
Robert Lambert, MD Paul Shore, DDS  
Mary Ann Baker, RN

**ABSENT:** Ken Sobel, MD

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Robert Page Thomas Kump, PE  
Lou Ann Lance Harry Shepard  
Terence Lenhardt, MD Ted Lax, DDS

Prior to the meeting the CCBH received the following:

1. Agenda for May 25, 2010 CCBH Meeting
2. CCBH Minutes from March 30, 2010
3. Budget Status Report through April 30, 2010
4. Environmental Health Services Report for March & April 2010
5. Dental Clinic Statistical Report Through March 31, 2010 & April 30, 2010
6. Hearing Report – Keefe’s Tavern
7. County Health Rankings Report 2010

The following items were distributed at the meeting:

8. Clinic Services Report dated 5/25/10

Dr. Friend called the meeting to order at approximately 7:33 PM.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Mr. Roe and seconded by Ms. Baker that the minutes of the March 30, 2010 Board of Health meeting be approved and accepted. Motion approved.

**AYES:** Thomas Curran, DDS Robert Lambert, MD  
William Roe, PE Christopher Friend, PhD  
Mary Ann Baker, RN William G. Howard, MD  
Paul Shore, DDS

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Ken Sobel, MD

## **2. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Harry Shepard commented on the Budget Status Report for 2010 that was included in the mailing prior to the meeting. He pointed out that 2009 claims for the Physically Handicapped Child program have been received nearly in full.

## **3. SERVICES REPORTS**

**A. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** – Thomas Kump mentioned that reports for March & April 2010 were included in the mailing to BOH members. A question was asked for clarification about the difference between high, medium, and low Risk food service establishments. Mr. Kump explained that it did not related to a particular facility as being risky but rather was an impartial assessment made based on the number and types of food preparation processes that are employed at a facility. A question was raised as to why there was so little activity in the lead risk assessments under the Kennedy Valve grant and whether it had to do with the lack of funding. Mr. Kump explained that there is still money available for lead risk assessments but the money for rehabilitation of properties has been depleted. He felt that the chance of getting rehab monies was what drove most property owners to request a lead risk assessment of their homes. There were no further questions for Mr. Kump.

**B. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING & CLINICS** – Lou Ann Lance referred to her report that was distributed just prior to the meeting. Ms. Lance pointed out that all data is current through April 30, 2010 with the exception of the PEIP program which is current through March 31, 2010. Ms. Lance briefly discussed another chart that was included with the monthly report related to admissions. This topic will be discussed later on the agenda. A question was raised about whether new patients are being accepted now. Ms. Lance explained that it is really a day-to-day decision that has to be made based on several factors including the needed care and whether the resources would be available to effectively handle them. The CCBH had no further questions for Ms. Lance.

**C. DENTAL SERVICES REPORT** – Mr. Page commented on the Dental Clinic Statistical Report for the months ending March 31, 2010 and April 30, 2010 that were provided in the mailing prior to the meeting. There were no questions for Mr. Page.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**1. DENTAL SEALANT PROGRAM** – Ted Lax, DDS was present to discuss the Dental Sealant Program in response to a request from a prior meeting. Dr. Lax first discussed the expansion of the program into the Horseheads School District. He provided a copy of the letter that was sent to Horseheads explaining the details of the program and seeking information in order to move forward. The three items that the school district needs to provide in advance include (a) a demographics survey, (b) school floor plan, and (c) signed copies of the MOU. The sense right now is that the school district will participate, but none of the needed information

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has been received at this point in time. There are approximately 1,500 eligible students in the Horseheads School District. In the Elmira City School District only about one third of the eligible students participated. Next Dr. Lax discussed the issue of parental participation on the consent forms. He discussed statistics from the past few years at the Elmira City School District. Much effort has been made to increase the participation with disappointing results. This discussion then continued into the follow-up on treatment needs. Dr. Lax explained the types of communications that occur post-treatment. He provided a copy of the parental contact procedures that included data from September 2008 through April 2010. A copy of the Dental Screening Program Report was provided that included a “dear parent” letter as well as a list of dentists accepting patients in the area. Dr. Curran provided two hand-outs that contained information about the prevalence of dental caries in NYS as well as some school-specific data from the Elmira City School District. Dr. Curran said that he was hoping to be able to find out the numbers of students with decay that actually received follow-up treatment. Dr. Lax explained that much of the tracking that is done must be done manually as the software provided by the State does not have the ability to do this. He said that the State has opined that Chemung County is doing as well as would be expected. Dr. Curran stated that the funding for this program is Federal and he feels that the program will be renewed into the future after the current expiration date of this program. Even though the State believes that Chemung County is doing well, Dr. Curran feels that we can do even better.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. HEARING OFFICER’S REPORT: KEEFE’S TAVERN** – Mr. Shepard reported to the CCBH that a Hearing was held on May 12, 2010 with representatives from Keefe’s Tavern in response to an alleged violation of the NYS Clean Indoor Air Act. They were issued a Stipulation Offer for \$500 but declined and opted to attend a Hearing. Mr. Shepard’s recommendation to the CCBH is that a fine of \$250 be ordered against Keefe’s Tavern. This is based on the fact that even though they were in violation, he felt the facility provided compelling argument of financial hardship.

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Ms. Baker and seconded by Dr. Lambert that a fine of \$250 be assessed against the operator of Keefe’s Tavern based on the recommendation of the Hearing Officer for a hearing that was held on May 12, 2010 as a result of repeat violations of the NYS Sanitary Code. Motion approved.

**AYES:** Thomas Curran, DDS  
William Roe, PE  
Mary Ann Baker, RN  
Paul Shore, DDS  
Robert Lambert, MD  
Christopher Friend, PhD  
William G. Howard, MD

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Ken Sobel, MD

- 2. HOSPITAL READMISSIONS WORK GROUP** – Ms. Lance reported that she has been working with Arnot Ogden Medical Center on an initiative to prevent hospital re-admissions within 30 days of discharge. They will be meeting again in the next few weeks with other agencies to develop specific plans of care. In reviewing the surveys that have been done thus far, it is apparent that there are more weaknesses with the current system than there are strengths. One factor that we have no control over is the patients themselves. One new concept that is being tried is to provide a colored sheet of paper that in bold letters tells the patient who to call if they are not feeling well. Many times the patient didn't even know who their healthcare provider was. The other big issue is re-admissions to nursing homes. Another issue to be addressed deals with prescriptions. Ms. Lance asked whether any of the physicians on the CCBH have been involved with this initiative. Dr. Lambert said that it seems to be a hot topic right now, but that it will roll out slowly over the next few years. He explained that it was not re-admissions in general but rather excessive re-admissions for the same diagnosis. Ms. Lance said that she will keep the CCBH apprised of this initiative as it progresses.
- 3. COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS – NEXT STEPS** – Mr. Page took a few minutes to discuss some of the current health initiatives that have been in progress. He provided a handout explaining the Health Communities Capacity Building Grant and the distribution of the funds under that grant. One specific project was the redevelopment of the Katy Leary Park with new playground equipment, benches and groundcover. The intent is to make it a welcoming environment where children and families will partake in healthy activities. The ribbon-cutting ceremony for that project is scheduled for this Thursday at 3:00 PM. Another project was the "Hunt for the Gold Shoes 2010". He provided a flyer explaining that program. The final program that he provided a handout for was the "Step It Up" program. It included statistics on the participation and success of the program. Mr. Page noted that Public Health Educator Linda Swarthout is the lead coordinator for the CCHD with other agencies on all these initiatives. Then the discussion turned specifically to the Wisconsin report on County Health Rankings. Mr. Page pointed out one of the biggest concerns is Chemung County's ranking of 62 out of 62 counties for tobacco use. Other rankings noted included being 48<sup>th</sup> for obesity, 53<sup>rd</sup> for occurrences of gonorrhea, and 59<sup>th</sup> for teen pregnancies. Dr. Lambert pointed out that when you compare some of the County Health Indicators against the State average, Chemung County does better than the State average. He asked Mr. Page what he thought the CCBH should focus on. Mr. Page said that the statistics point to smoking and tobacco use as being an area of focus. There are already a lot of initiatives related to exercise. Funding is going to be an issue for some initiatives. People need to realize that public health is only one part of any potential solution. Some of the deficient indicators point to a societal problem. Dr. Howard suggested that an approach be made to the County Legislature again to renew interest in past efforts to affect change through policies and/or laws that would affect the use of tobacco in our County. Dr. Friend was under the impression that past requests to the Legislature had made their way through committee and were now sitting on the County Attorney's desk awaiting review and further action.

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**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Howard and seconded by Mr. Roe that the County Legislature be contacted again to revisit the issue of tobacco use in Chemung County and seek efforts by the Legislature to further this initiative. Motion approved.

**AYES:** Thomas Curran, DDS Robert Lambert, MD  
William Roe, PE Christopher Friend, PhD  
Mary Ann Baker, RN William G. Howard, MD  
Paul Shore, DDS

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Ken Sobel, MD

Mr. Page had a copy of a list of businesses in Chemung County that have gone totally tobacco-free. It was suggested that a copy of that list be provided to Dr. Friend so that he can share it with his colleagues on the Legislature. Mr. Page said that he could have Ms. Swarthout come to a future CCBH meeting to answer any questions the Board may have and obtain feedback that she can take to the various coalitions she is involved with. Dr. Friend agreed that it would be a good idea and asked Mr. Page to make that arrangement for a future meeting.

Dr. Friend mentioned that there was a need to have an Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Lambert and seconded by Dr. Howard that the CCBH go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue. Motion approved.

**AYES:** Thomas Curran, DDS Robert Lambert, MD  
William Roe, PE Christopher Friend, PhD  
Mary Ann Baker, RN William G. Howard, MD  
Paul Shore, DDS

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Ken Sobel, MD

Mr. Page and the voting members of the CCBH went into Executive Session at about 8:54 PM.

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Curran and seconded by Dr. Howard that the CCBH come out of Executive Session. Motion approved.

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**AYES:** Thomas Curran, DDS Robert Lambert, MD  
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Mary Ann Baker, RN William G. Howard, MD  
Paul Shore, DDS

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Ken Sobel, MD

The CCBH came out of Executive Session at about 9:23 PM.

Dr. Curran stated that he had spoken in error at the previous meeting that the School Readiness Program had been closed. He clarified for the CCBH that he found that the program was still in place but that funding had been reduced.

Dr. Curran also clarified that some of the information disseminated about his volunteer contributions leading to his receipt of the Jefferson Award had mistakenly reported that he was the volunteer coordinator for the dental sealant program. He wanted to set the record straight on that misinformation.

Discussion followed on the recent announcement of Dr. Curran being a recipient of the Jefferson Award. Members recognized and commended Dr. Curran for this prestigious honor through a resolution.

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Lambert and seconded by Dr. Howard that the CCBH recognize and commend CCBH Member Dr. Curran for his recent receipt of the Jefferson Award. Motion approved.

**AYES:** Robert Lambert, MD William Roe, PE  
Christopher Friend, PhD Mary Ann Baker, RN  
William G. Howard, MD Paul Shore, DDS

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** Thomas Curran, DDS

**ABSENT:** Ken Sobel, MD

With no further official business to conduct, a motion for adjournment was made. The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2010.

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**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Howard and seconded by Dr. Shore that the CCBH be adjourned until the next meeting of July 27, 2010. Motion approved.

**AYES:** Thomas Curran, DDS Robert Lambert, MD  
William Roe, PE Christopher Friend, PhD  
Mary Ann Baker, RN William G. Howard, MD  
Paul Shore, DDS

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Ken Sobel, MD

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:26 PM.

**Next meeting:** **Board of Health Meeting**  
**July 27, 2010 @ 7:30 PM**  
**Health Department Conference Room**