

**CHEMUNG COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

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July 8, 2020

Call to order

A meeting of the Chemung County Health Department Professional Advisory Committee was held via WebEx on July 8, 2020.

Attendees

Attendees included:

Kim Schrolucke-Smith, PT	Lisa Buckley BSN RN	Nicole Barton, RN
Lisa Kruckow, RN	Jonathan Keough	Courtney Aronstam, ST
Rena Terwilliger	Mary Krebs, RN	Dr. Terence Lenhardt
Susan Larson OT	Mary Ann Baker, RN	Chris Standt, RN

Members excused

Members not in attendance included:

Peter Buzzetti , MPH	Kim Rosekrans MSW
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Approval of minutes

The May13, 2020 meeting minutes were distributed for review. Minutes were accepted as written.

Reports:

CHHA REPORT - Lisa Buckley

STAFFING

They are currently advertising on Indeed for 3 full time RN Case Manager positions and continue to have 1 ¾ vacant positions in their clerical/billing department. Due to COVID-19 and the inability to do outreach activities, Cancer Services has slowed down. They are utilizing the Cancer Service Coordinator to assist with the extra clerical duties related to the clerical/billing vacancies.

COVID-19

The HERDS (Health Emergency Response Data System) survey that has been reported daily to the NYS Department of Health since the onset of the Pandemic, has been changed to every Monday, Wed and Friday. The information requested includes daily patient census, the number of new patients that could be admitted to service, PPE inventory and usage, number of RN and Aide hours provided and hours that were unable to be covered due to staffing, the number of COVID positive patients, patients presenting with COVID type symptoms and the number of COVID deaths.

All of the nursing staff have completed Clinician Training on swabbing for COVID-19 provided by the Home Care Association. They are now able to provide swabbing for any home care patient that requires testing. They currently have no COVID positive patients on service. The Home Care Nursing Supervisors provided training for 2 RNs at the Chemung County Jail on COVID-19 testing, including donning and doffing the appropriate PPE, in order for them to perform the swabbing of the inmates at the jail that require testing.

Home Care has 9 clinicians who are being swabbed weekly for COVID-19, along with the Nursing Facility staff, in order to provide services to patients at Woodbrook and Bethany Courtyards (Assisted Living Facilities) as required by Governor Cuomo's Executive order.

QUALITY ASSURANCE PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT (QAPI)/INFECTION CONTROL

Medicare's Home Health Compare data is scheduled to be updated on Monday July 13. These Star Ratings will be reported to the committee in September. There have been changes to the Metrix used to calculate agency's Star Ratings. These changes will be reflected in October 2020 Home Health Compare data.

Home Health Quality Measures

- Re-hospitalization rate was down in May to 15.9% but unfortunately went up to 22.9% in June. Increasing frequency of nursing visits and phone calls to fragile patients to check on their condition in between home visits are a few of the interventions being utilized to help reduce the re-hospitalization rate.
- Decreased Improvements noted in Toileting Hygiene, Eating and Grooming. More of a focus is being put on these areas during the QA process with staff in-servicing being done as needed.

Infection Control

- Adequate supply of PPE
- Surgical ear loop masks and gloves are being worn during all home visits. N-95 masks/face shields and surgical gowns are being worn if indicated by exposure risk (respiratory symptoms, immunocompromised patients or patients who have had possible exposure, travel etc.)
- No trends noted during review of their Patient Infection Log this quarter.

INCIDENTS AND COMPLAINTS

This quarter they had a patient fall while ambulating with her rolling walker during a home visit with a nurse. Patient denied any injury or issue related to the fall. No injuries noted on PE. MD was notified and was to discuss a higher level of care at the patient's next office visit.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT - Rebecca Becraft

COVID-19

Public Health efforts have been primarily devoted to the pandemic response in Chemung County. This includes case investigation for positive patients and contact tracing for those in close contact to positive cases. The office remains open seven days per week to respond in a timely manner. Staff from other county departments continue to assist with the response efforts. There was a slowdown in the number of positive cases reported from late May until mid-June. The last week of June the county had three new positive cases that were directly related to travel from states identified under a Travel Advisory by Governor Cuomo on June 25, 2020. These persons had traveled prior to the advisory but were diagnosed after their return.

As of the first week of July, there have been a total of 118 COVID-19 positive patients in Chemung County.

PUBLIC HEALTH CLINICS

Clinic services have slowly resumed for the general public. A procedure was developed to safely examine patients in our clinic. See attached 'Resumption of Clinic Services'. Patients are screened upon entry into the building and are required to wear a mask. Appointments must be scheduled and patients are only seen one at a time. This has slowed down services significantly but we have been able to provide STD and HIV testing, Lead Testing and Tuberculin Skin Testing. Their total number of patient encounters is expected to be low in comparison to previous years. Immunization and Lead grant work plan activities have been on hold during the pandemic as most require outreach and physician office visits.

STTAC (Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness Coalition)

New York State has recently passed some exciting legislation that will deliver impactful changes to public health regarding tobacco-control. The newly passed legislation partially took place on May 18th and the rest took effect on July 1st. The recently passed budget will:

- Prohibit the sale or distribution of flavored e-cigarettes or nicotine vapor products unless it is approved by the FDA
- Prohibit the sale of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, in all pharmacies
- Restrict the delivery of nicotine vapor products only to NYS-licensed vapor products dealer (Thus ending online sales of nicotine vapor products to private residences)
- Restrict the public display of tobacco and nicotine vapor products near schools (within 1500ft)
- Require manufacturers of nicotine vapor products to disclose information regarding the ingredients, by-products, or contaminants in vapor products, whether intentional or unintentionally added.
- Allow the DOH Commissioner to ban certain carrier oils if they are determined to be harmful
- Ban coupons and manufacturer discounts and displays in shops
- Increase penalties for illegally selling tobacco products to minors

QA/QI

Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement activities are expected to resume now that clinic services are once again being offered.

PATIENT COMPLAINTS/INCIDENTS

The Health Dept. had no complaints or incidents reported in the past quarter.

WIC REPORT -Rena Terwilliger

USDA has extended the physical presence requirement for Certifications until Sept 30th 2020, and continuing to allow remote appointments of non-certifications. Every appointment will continue to be completed over the phone.

Almost all staff are back in the office. Peer Counselors are working from home since they have no moms to meet. Before COVID a majority of their work was already being done from home.

World Breastfeeding Week (First week of August)

- All in-person events are restricted.
- Breastfeeding Coordinator is recording a different segment each day of WBW and posting on Facebook.
- Topics will include breastfeeding myths, meet the Peer Counselors, and a segment on Black Breastfeeding Week.
- They have items to raffle off so each person that shares the post will be entered into a drawing for a prize.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Professional Advisory Committee

September 9, 2020 at 12pm via WebEx