

**CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
July 26, 2022**

PRESENT: Mary Ann Baker, RN Ken Sobel, MD William G. Howard, MD
 Rosemary Anthony, RN Frank Steed Mari Delaney, DVM
 James Gensel, PE Brian Cassetta, MD Gregory Schultz, MD

ABSENT: Joseph Brennan

STAFF PRESENT: Peter Buzzetti III Sarah Mattison Jonathan Keough
 Terence Lenhardt, MD Jessica Holton Lisa Buckley, RN

STAFF ABSENT: None

Prior to the meeting, the CCBH received the following:

- July Agenda
- May 24th Meeting Minutes
- EHS Highlight Reports
 - May & June 2022
- July 2022 PAC Meeting Minutes
- Budget Review
- Director's Report
- COVID Update
- Tickborne Diseases

Mr. Buzzetti introduced Scott Drake. New legislature who will be replacing Joseph Brennan's role as Health and Human Services position with the Board. Mr. Buzzetti announced this meeting will be recorded via Zoom, and be posted to county website.

CALL TO ORDER

BOH Meeting called to order by Brian Cassetta, MD at 6:01 PM. Quorum established.

1. MEETING MINUTES MARCH AND MAY 2022

Due to computer issues and unable to collect record of motion for March Meeting Minutes, Members decided to redo the motion. Review of minutes of BOH meeting May 24, 2022. No corrections.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by James Gensel and seconded by Rosemary Anthony to approve the March & May meeting minutes. All in favor. The Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2022 and May 24, 2022 approved and accepted. **Motion Approved.**

AYES: Mary Ann Baker, RN Ken Sobel, MD William G. Howard, MD
Rosemary Anthony, RN Frank Steed Mari Delaney, DVM
James Gensel, PE Brian Cassetta, MD Gregory Schultz, MD

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Joseph Brennan

2. EHS HILITES

May and June have been a bit busy. Last few months been busy but if you look back we are a bit behind on inspections. Lead cases are even a bit down and that is with the assumption of 15 down to 5 micrograms per deciliter. Along with slow start due to helping with case investigations. Also have new staff who are needing to get all the needed training. Dr Howard, May report amending the fee structure but did not see in June report is this still an action item? JK this wasn't done and hoping to have done to get approved by legislature as well as the board.

3. PAC MEETING MINUTES

Mrs. Buckley discussed the recertification survey process

4. BUDGET REVIEW

Right on par with where we need to be. Do have an update with a new ticketing system called Freshworks. This system will make us more efficient when it comes to calls coming in. The medical examiner budget is low that is due to not having the invoices for them in yet.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Back on track with directors' report. A thank you to Dr. Lenhardt and Mrs. Buckley for being themselves and being great to work with. It will surely be loss for us when they are retired. Dr. Lenhardt mentioned he is always willing to help us when he able no matter where he is at.

OLD BUSINESS

1. DISCUSS REPLACEMENT OF MEDICAL CONSULTANT

Medical Consultant as Dr. Lenhart retires at end of the year does anyone have suggestion of candidates. Review of contract makes the position appear as a fulltime job, but it doesn't have to be. It is a paid contract position. Dr. Lenhart mentioned that the staff in the county due to the dedication an enthusiasm has made it such a joy. The Public Health Nurses did have a suggestion when Dr. Lenhart was in the office today, or Dr. Nistico. Dr. Lenhart things that he could make a great candidate based on professional knowledge. Mr. Buzzetti will reach out him. With the retirement of Dr. Lenhart, Dr. Cassetta is happy to help with questions in the interim. Mrs. Anthony wanted to know if the change in hours goes from the minimum of 3.5 hours a week to upto 3.5 hours a week if this will need official

board approval. Mr. Buzzetti will make the changes and send to the board for review, but doesn't need an approval.

2. COVID UPDATE

Based on last meeting, sent out COVID updates prior to meeting. Mr. Buzzetti noted that the worst of the counties COVID rates were in Fall of 2020 and then Winter of 2021. Once self-attestation and self-testing started numbers just aren't the same due to lack of reporting. Amount of new cases have gone down. One (1) death in July had been reported. Dr. Howard asked if the dashboard was changing the reporting of deaths to their vaccination status. Ms. Mattison would check with the lead person doing dashboard updates and report back. Dr. Cassetta wondered what data we have for adverse effects. Mr. Buzzetti noted that it's something we don't have access to. Dr. Cassetta also asked about false negatives on home testing. Mr. Buzzetti didn't recommend advising it as such. The home tests are not as robust. Also stated that if you have symptoms home test relates a negative, the person being tested really need to have the PCR as requested by the testing directions on home test kits. Public Health Nurses will extend an isolation based on patients' symptoms if they aren't better by day five (5). The ninety (90) day exemption is still in play unless you have new onset of symptoms. By day sixty (60) if you and test positive either PCR or antigen you typically are looked at as a new case.

NEW BUSINESS

1. MONKEYPOX UPDATE

One confirmed case. The individual had traveled abroad, went to Arnot for care. Individual had no contacts within Chemung County. Since this confirmed case we have had 2 suspected cases. Currently testing through Wadsworth. We are happy that Arnot can run tests without having to use Wadsworth. The Health Department is working to use CDD as well as to partner with Cayuga Medical for this testing. Roughly 1,100 cases of monkeypox, mostly in NYC. Two (2) have been confirmed in NYS for children with household spread. NYS reporting Chemung with two (2) cases, we've reached out for clarification as we are only aware of one. Member Questions Dr. Cassetta questioned how sick the patient was, Ms. Mattison stated the patient had been in a lot of pain but not horrible ill (4%-10% fatality rate) Ms. Mattison mentioned the virus is spreading in a way that we aren't used to seeing, what we are concerned about is if we have someone more ill and not being able to get our hands on the treatment. Ms. Anthony asked if we are concerned for Polio vaccine, and those who are unvaccinated. COVID has had a huge impact on immune systems. Ms. Mattison mentioned that will be monitoring and we are putting on foot in front of the other. We are working on public health messaging, which needs to be delicate, we don't want to raise alarm bells but want it to be at the forefront of minds.

2. ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER

Update to ensure Roberts Rules of Order are followed, as everyone on the board had become a little lax on meetings with this. Ms. Baker will hold the Board to Roberts Rules of Order.

3. TICKBORNE DISEASES

Discussion for tickborne data, from last meeting. Dr. Delaney thinks that what we are seeing is more of an increase with the disease due to deer. Last data percentages of ticks were 70% that if you were bitten you would be exposed to one of the diseases. Lyme is most common of the tickborne diseases. We do routine test for these. NYS hasn't done sampling due to COVID but hopeful we can get that back soon.

4. TESTING OF WASTEWATER

Item not on agenda – Testing Wastewater for COVID. HD Staff had meeting with Chemung Sewer and NYS personnel. Samples will be taken weekly for COVID, two at a time. The wastewater testing will be more beneficial, and other diseases can be tested, hopefully. Testing at Milton with the hope to add Lake. Mr. Buzzetti couldn't recall if they were already testing both.

ADJORNMENT

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mrs. Baker and seconded by Dr Sobel that this meeting of the Chemung County Board of Health be adjourned.

AYES: Mary Ann Baker, RN Ken Sobel, MD William G. Howard, MD
Rosemary Anthony, RN Frank Steed Mari Delaney, DVM
James Gensel, PE Brian Cassetta, MD Gregory Schultz, MD

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Joseph Brennan

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:12 PM

Next meeting: **Board of Health Meeting**
 Chemung County Health Department Conference Room
 September 27, 2022 @ 6:00 PM