CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
May 21, 2019

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

ABSENT:   Joseph Brennan           Kevin Wicks, DDS
          Ken Sobel, MD

STAFF PRESENT:   Peter Buzzetti III   Terence Lenhardt, MD
                 Rebecca Becraft, RN       Jonathan Keough
                 Lisa Buckley, RN

STAFF ABSENT:    Kyle Wieder

Prior to the meeting the CCBH received the following:

1. Board of Health Minutes for March 26, 2019
2. Board of Health Agenda for May 21, 2019
3. Environmental Health Services Report for March 2019
4. Professional Advisory Committee report May 2019
5. Director’s Report for BOH May 21, 2019
6. Certified Home Health Agency Rates
7. Home Health Agency Rate Comparison
8. 2017 Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado The Impact
9. Pueblo Colorado Marijuana report
10. Measles Fact Sheet
11. Food Service Inspection Fact Sheet
12. Blood Lead Level

Presentation on Cancer Services Program by Denise Argetsinger
Immediately prior to the start of the meeting, Denise Argetsinger, Outreach Coordinator for the Southern Tier Cancer Services Program, gave a presentation. This program is funded by New York State and assists the uninsured and underinsured to get screenings for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer for persons aged 40-64. Services covered may include mammogram, ultrasound, surgery, Pap tests, HPV testing, biopsy or fecal test kits. Patients diagnosed with cancer may also be assisted in applying for the NYS Medicaid Cancer Services Treatment Program. Denise works collaboratively with doctor’s offices, health centers, clinics and hospitals in Chemung County. For further information, call 607-873-1500.

CALL TO ORDER
CCBH Meeting called to order by Dr. Gregory Schultz, MD at approximately 6:20 PM. Quorum established.
1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR March 26, 2019 MEETING

Review of minutes of BOH March 26, 2019. No questions or comments.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mary Ann Baker to approve the meeting minutes. Seconded by Rosemary Anthony. All in favor. The minutes of the March 26, 2019 Board of Health meeting approved and accepted. Motion approved.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Joseph Brennan  Kevin Wicks, DDS  
         Ken Sobel, MD

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

No financial report was given this meeting. A report will be provided at the next meeting.

3. SERVICES REPORTS

A. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES – The report for EHS was submitted for March 2019 and sent to BOH members in advance of the meeting. Jonathan Keough, Environmental Health Director reported for EHS. There was one new Lead referral in March with a lead level of 26.0 in the town of Southport, zip code 14901. The New York State annual tick collection survey results have been released. Of the adult ticks collected in Chemung County, 62% tested positive for the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. The Health Dept. has released a Lyme disease fact sheet that is available on social media and the Health Dept. website. Discussion continued regarding a previous suggestion to re-evaluate the fine structure for food service enforcement fees. Jonathan explained that enforcement begins with education and may progress to fines, if applicable. Fine structures are being compared with other counties. Dr. Howard would be in favor of increasing fines if it improves the ultimate goal of food safety. Food service inspections and enforcements are posted on the Health Dept. website. A food service fact sheet has been developed and posted on social media and the Health Dept. website.

B. PUBLIC HEALTH CLINICS REPORT – Rebecca Becraft provided a report that was distributed to the CCBH in advance of the meeting. NYS Commissioner Howard Zucker has declared that influenza is no longer prevalent in NY State as of May 3, 2019. Unvaccinated health care workers are no longer required to wear a mask in
patient areas. The Health Priorities committee met in April to rank the health issues of most concern. The chosen priorities will be used to guide public health efforts in the next three years. The Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness Program (STTAC) has been awarded a five-year $1.6 million grant to combat tobacco in Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben counties. The grant cycle runs from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024. Measles case continue to be reported in New York State. There have been no cases of measles in Chemung County to date. A measles fact sheet has been developed and posted to social media and the Health Dept. website.

C. HOME HEALTH AGENCY REPORT – Lisa Buckley provided a report in advance of the meeting. Quality Assurance Performance Improvement (QAPI) efforts have resulted in implementation of a team approach to nurses providing service to certain demographic areas. This improved continuity of care has helped to decrease the re-hospitalization rate from 26.4% in April to 16.8% in May. There will be improved collaborations between the Home Care Agency and the hospital and case managers at Arnot Medical Services. Meetings are planned with Arnot and Guthrie. Home Care nurses will have a greater presence in the hospitals to make the referral process smoother. Patient Driven Group Models (PDGM) is a new payment system that will replace the Prospective Payment System. It will go into effect in Jan. 2020. Billing cycles will be shortened among other key changes. The latest Quality of Patient Care and Patient Satisfaction Star Ratings were published by CMS (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services) on April 11th and we continue to be the leading Certified Home Care Agency in Chemung County with a 4.5 star rating. Of the 124 CCHA’s in New York State, only 9 have 4.5 stars. Rosemary Anthony suggested marketing the CHHA based upon its quality rating.

D. WIC – The WIC report was submitted within the Professional Advisory Report of May 2019. Peter Buzzetti provided the WIC update. WIC is a federal grant program with a five year grant cycle administered by the state and held by the Chemung County Health Dept. There was a one-year extension this year due to the implementation of eWIC. Mr. Buzzetti has been responding to questions regarding grant requirements.

4. DIRECTOR’S REPORT - Peter Buzzetti, Public Health Director, submitted a Director’s report for May 21, 2019 prior to the meeting. Topics will be detailed below. Fact sheets will continue to be developed to provide public information in a quick and understandable format.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Recreational Marijuana update
   Included with the BOH report are two reports from Colorado that detail the impact of recreational marijuana legalization. Of note are an increase in traffic deaths, increased ER visits related to marijuana and an increase in ingestion among nine year olds.
Legalization will require an increased need for service programs. The Pueblo County report reflects demographics that are similar to Elmira in population size. If Chemung County opts out of legalization, persons will still be able to possess it and use it but would not be able to buy it in the county.

2. **CBD presentation**

Jonathan Keough gave the BOH a presentation on cannabidiol, otherwise known as CBD. CBD is derived from hemp plants and does not contain THC. CBD has increased in popularity as it is claimed to alleviate many common ailments and illnesses such as seizures, anxiety, depression and pain. The body has receptors that CBD binds to. We do not know the long term consequences of its use due to lack of research. CBD has been legal federally since 2018 but laws differ from state to state. It is marketed in many forms, including oils, pills, vaping liquid, food products and topical lotions. CBD is not currently regulated by the FDA for these products. For this reason, the consumer cannot be sure about the product ingredients. The FDA has approved a prescription version of CBD called Epidiolex which is used for treatment of seizures. The FDA is holding a public hearing on May 31, 2019 regarding the decision to regulate or not. NYSDOH does not have an official opinion to approve or prohibit it. Mari Delaney uses the product in her veterinary practice to alleviate arthritis symptoms in animals. James Gensel is aware of a group of pharmacists called Green Roads that sell pre-measured and pre-packaged doses.

3. **Discuss increasing environmental health fines**

Previously discussed during EHS report. See above. Will continue to be evaluated. No determination made at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Influenza no longer prevalent as of 5/03/2019**

Rebecca Becraft RN previously reported that influenza peaked the first week of February in New York State this year. The predominant strain was Type A.

2. **New law lowering blood lead action level**

Peter Buzzetti states there is a New York State law going into effect in October 2019 that lowers the actionable level for lead poisoning from 15 mcg/dl to 5 mcg/dl. See attachment- Blood Lead Level. NYSACHO has estimated the increased cost for nursing case management and environmental health inspections to be 37 million across New York State. Chemung County Public Health estimates an increase from 10 cases a year to 50 cases a year. This equates to an added need for 1.5 FTE’s. Concerns expressed were for staffing, equipment, training component, the need for EPA Certified Lead Risk Assessors and follow-up of rental properties. NYSACHO is lobbying for an extension of the deadline. EHS Directors are supporting an extension. The Chemung County Lead Coalition plans to apply for a HUD grant later this year which will bring in community partners for the purpose of home renovations.
3. Discuss increasing price rates for CHHA
Lisa Buckley submitted price rates for the Chemung County Home Health Agency and comparison rates to those of Kindred and Guthrie. The CHHA rates have not increased in three years and are significantly lower than Kindred and Guthrie. Lisa was also able to obtain comparison rates with Hamilton and Jefferson counties. Lisa stated the vast majority of patients are not paying cash, rather using insurance. It was the consensus of the Board that the CHHA should make an adjustment to the rates, especially in light of the CHHA’s 4.5 star rating by CMS (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services).

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by James Gensel and seconded by Rosemary Anthony approving an adjustment of rates to take effect in January 2020. All in favor. Motion approved.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Schultz and seconded by Dr. Howard that this meeting of the Chemung County Board of Health be adjourned. Motion approved.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Joseph Brennan Kevin Wicks, DDS
Ken Sobel, MD

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:05 PM.

Next meeting: Board of Health Meeting
July 23, 2019 @ 6:00 PM
Health Department Conference Room