CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
January 27, 2015

PRESENT:
Robert Lambert, MD
Kevin Wicks, DDS
Rosemary Anthony, RN
Ken Sobel, MD
James Gensel, PE*
John Varga, DVM

ABSENT:
Gregory Schultz, MD
Mary Ann Baker, RN
Joseph Brennan
William G. Howard, MD

OTHERS PRESENT:
Robert Page
Melissa Klossner
Melissa Traub
Thomas Kump, PE
Harry Shepard

*Mr. Gensel arrived at about 7:48 PM.

Prior to the meeting the CCBH received the following:

1. Agenda for January 27, 2015 CCBH Meeting
2. CCBH Meeting Minutes from December 2, 2014
3. Environmental Health Services Report for December 2014

The following items were distributed at the meeting:

5. Dental Clinic Report for December 2014
6. EHS Program Listing

CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of the President, Past President Dr. Lambert called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 PM.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 2, 2014 MEETING

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Sobel and seconded by Dr. Varga that the minutes of the December 2, 2014 Board of Health meeting be approved and accepted as presented. Motion approved.

AYES: Robert Lambert, MD
Kevin Wicks, DDS
John Varga, DVM
Ken Sobel, MD
Rosemary Anthony, RN

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Gregory Schultz, MD
Mary Ann Baker, RN
James Gensel, PE*
Joseph Brennan
William G. Howard, MD
2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Harry Shepard mentioned that the Budget Status Report through December 31, 2014 was distributed to the CCBH just prior to the meeting. He commented that everything has been business as usual. From an accounting point of view, we are still in fiscal year 2014. The accounts are currently reflecting revenue less than budgeted at about 97%, but expenses are also coming in under budget. There were no further questions for Mr. Shepard.

3. SERVICES REPORTS

A. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES – Thomas Kump mentioned that the report for December 2014 was included in the mailing to BOH members in advance of the meeting. Dr. Lambert questioned whether the EHS data was where it should be for the year. Mr. Kump explained that there was an unexpected windfall from a larger than normal number of tobacco sales under the ATUPA program, but that only increases the workload for future years as additional re-checks will be required for the next 3 years at those facilities. There were no further questions for Mr. Kump.

B. PUBLIC HEALTH CLINICS REPORT – Melissa Klossner commented on the communicable disease performance grant that was received by CCHD. Among the items purchased with the additional funds were a new vaccine refrigerator, new laptops, as well as some new cellular air cards for remote access. The grant was for about $19,000 and about $16,000 has been spent thus far. She reported that it has been pretty uneventful in terms of any communicable disease work. The seasonal influenza is here and it is estimated that this year’s vaccine is showing to be about 25% effective against the strains of flu being diagnosed thus far. Ms. Klossner mentioned that the decision had been made not to proceed with getting official accreditation from the national PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board). This would have been done along with several other counties in the Western Region as part of a group application. Accreditation is not yet mandated by NYSDOH and it would have taken more resources to complete the process than were currently available. There were no further questions for Ms. Klossner.

C. DENTAL SERVICES REPORT – Mr. Page mentioned that there was one report distributed to the CCBH just prior to the meeting for Dental Services for December 2014. Activity at the clinic has been pretty consistent and unremarkable. The clinic is barely treading water as they are now down to just operating 3 days per week. There is currently not a hygienist on staff and only 1 dental assistant. He reported that they have been working with the Regional Primary Care Network (RPCN) on turning over operation of the dental clinic which will be covered under Old Business. There were no further questions for Mr. Page.
OLD BUSINESS

1. DENTAL CLINIC TRANSITION - Mr. Page updated the CCBH on the progress of the transition of the dental clinic to RPCN. The transition is proceeding, but progress has been remarkably slow. There is still work being conducted on edits to the contract agreement language. RPCN has interviewed candidates for the expected positions it hopes to fill, however, no offers of employment have been issued at this point in time. It could end up being a few weeks before any offers are made and early March before any of the persons hired would commence employment. The current dentist has expressed an interest in seeking retirement by sometime late in the first half of 2015. At this point it is looking like the clinic will have to actually close for a period of time as the transition progresses. Once the agreement language is settled on, the Certificate of Need will be submitted to NYS for consideration and approval. The current estimation of full transfer of the clinic over to RPCN is looking like fall 2015.

*Mr. Gensel arrived at about 7:48 PM

NEW BUSINESS

1. PRESENTATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES – Mr. Kump provided an alphabetical listing of the major programs covered in the Environmental Health Services Section of the Chemung County Health Department. This type of presentation has never been done while Mr. Kump has been the DEHS. Since there have been several new CCBH members appointed in the last few years, it was thought that with the lack of other agenda items to discuss, this would be a great time to provide a primer on EHS. Some of the topics covered by Mr. Kump included ATUPA, Indoor Air, Campgrounds, Children’s Camps, Clean Indoor Air Act, Complaints, Food Service, Sewage Treatment Systems, Mobile Home Parks, Private/Public Water Supplies, Rabies, Radon, Lead Poisoning Prevention, Pools, Tanning, and Hotels/Motels. Mr. Kump explained that it is the diverse group of programs performed by EHS that makes the job so enjoyable.

2. PRESENTATION ON HOME HEALTH AGENCY SERVICES– Ms. Traub followed the same format as Mr. Kump and presented a discussion on the various services performed by the Community Home Health Agency (CHHA). She explained that very few county health departments still have a CHHA so Chemung County is in the minority. There are a total of 3 CHHA’s in Chemung County including Gentiva and Guthrie as well as the county. We provide skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy among the various services provided. The current enrollment is about 220 patients, which is up from a year ago where there were only 190. Twenty four hour service is provided, although much of the typical work is conducted during normal business hours. There are currently 17 nurses including 14 RN’s and 3 LPN’s. There are 2 full time physical therapists and a physical therapy assistant as well as an occupational therapist. Medicare patients make up about half of all patients enrolled. During 2014 there were about 24,000 home visits which translates to about 67 visits per day on average. Most of the referrals come from the Arnot and St. Joseph’s while less come from Strong Memorial and Corning Hospital. They are experiencing about 4 to 5 new admissions per day. Some of the challenges they are facing include reimbursement for services performed, Medicare cuts, implementation of the electronic health records, and the discharge planning process.
One of their goals is to curb the re-admission rates for their patients. They are already seeing progress in this area.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION: With no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Dr. Sobel and seconded by Dr. Varga that the CCBH be adjourned until the next regular meeting of March 24, 2015. Motion approved.

AYES: Robert Lambert, MD Ken Sobel, MD
Kevin Wicks, DDS James Gensel, PE*
Rosemary Anthony, RN John Varga, DVM

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Gregory Schultz, MD Joseph Brennan
Mary Ann Baker, RN William G. Howard, MD

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 PM.

Next meeting: Board of Health Meeting
March 24, 2015 @ 7:30 PM
Health Department Conference Room