Present:  
Ken Sobel, MD  
Rosemary Anthony, RN*  
Gregory Schultz, MD  
John Varga, DVM  
James Gensel, PE  
Mary Ann Baker, RN  
William G. Howard, MD

Absent:  
Robert Lambert, MD  
Joseph Brennan  
Kevin Wicks, DDS

Others present:  
Robert Page  
Rebecca Becraft  
Terence Lenhardt, MD  
Thomas Kump, PE  
Harry Shepard

*Ms. Anthony arrived about 7:33 PM

Prior to the meeting the CCBH received the following:

1. Agenda for July 28, 2015 CCBH Meeting
2. CCBH Meeting Minutes from March 24, 2015
3. Environmental Health Services Report for March, April, May & June 2015
5. Dental Clinic Report for March, April, May & June 2015
6. Hearing Officer Report – Treadwell Restaurants
7. Hearing Officer Report – Horseheads Mobile Home Park
8. Powdered Caffeine Sales Correspondence
9. CHHA 2nd Quarter Financial Report
10. NYSDOH Correspondence On Overprescribing Antibiotics
11. NYSDOH Map For Overprescribing Antibiotics
12. Tick Surveillance Report for Summer & Fall 2014
13. Proposed EHS Fee Schedule Changes

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

14. NYS Gonorrhea Treatment Data
15. NYS Syphilis Case Data
16. Communicable Disease Performance Improvement Report

Call to Order

President Mary Ann Baker called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 PM.

1. Approval of Minutes for March 24, 2015 Meeting

Resolution: A motion was made by Mr. Gensel and seconded by Dr. Schultz that the minutes of the March 24, 2015 Board of Health meeting be approved and accepted as presented. Motion approved.
CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES – 7/28/2015

AYES: Ken Sobel, MD
     John Varga, DVM
     Gregory Schultz, MD
     James Gensel, PE
     Mary Ann Baker, RN
     William G. Howard, MD

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Robert Lambert, MD
        Kevin Wicks, DDS
        Joseph Brennan
        Rosemary Anthony, RN

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Harry Shepard mentioned that the Budget Status Reports for April & June 2015 were provided to the CCBH in advance of the meeting. He commented that everything has been business as usual and that there was nothing of particular note at this juncture. There were no questions for Mr. Shepard.

3. SERVICES REPORTS

A. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES – Thomas Kump mentioned that reports for March, April, May and June 2015 were included in the mailing to BOH members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Kump had nothing further to add to what was presented in the written reports. A question was raised as to what was meant when a food item was not from an approved source. Mr. Kump explained that all food products must come from a licensed/regulated facility and that items such as personally obtained wild game or home-canned products could not be used in a permitted food service establishment. There were no further questions for Mr. Kump.

B. PUBLIC HEALTH CLINICS REPORT – Mr. Page introduced Rebecca Becraft to the Board of Health. Ms. Becraft has been with the CCHD for over 18 years now and was recently promoted to Supervising Public Health Nurse. Ms. Becraft commented on a few reports that provide a snapshot of activity for a 6-month period from November 2014 through May 2015. The first report was a Performance Improvement Report which included sections on the timeliness of investigation initiation, case report form completeness, and comparison data. The report shows the most common diseases that are occurring in Chemung County. In order to meet the “timeliness” requirement (which Chemung County met for 100% of the cases in the report period), an investigation must be initiated within 24 hours after receipt of the case report. Due to the performance provided by Chemung County last year, a financial award was provided by NYSDOH to the CCHD. This has been a lot of work for such a small office that only has 3 nurses to work on all the cases. The second and third sheets Ms. Becraft discussed were specifically for gonorrhea and syphilis respectively and they covered all the performance statistics for each county in NYS for each of those two diseases. A question was raised about Lyme disease. Ms. Becraft explained that a very strict algorithm for diagnosis of Lyme disease is used which may actually present a picture that there are less cases of
Lyme disease than actually exist. There is currently a multi-county salmonella cluster under investigation by NYSDOH in cooperation with 5 LHD’s. The “fingerprint” from this strain seems to match that strain that was involved with the outbreak in the fall of 2014 linked to an ethnic buffet in Chemung County. At this point there are no common links among the cases, but the investigation is ongoing. Ms. Becraft displayed a certificate that was presented to Chemung County by the NYSDOH for having the highest lead testing rates in the Western Region of NYS. Dr. Sobel requested a copy that he could distribute to his practice since he and his staff were instrumental in providing testing for children in our area. That topic lead to a discussion as to the dynamics between public health nursing and environmental health services with regard to children with elevated blood lead levels. Ms. Becraft explained that all lead test results are provided to her office. If the blood lead level is 15 micrograms per deciliter or greater, a referral is made to EHS (both by phone and electronically). EHS then conducts an environmental lead risk assessment and requires that the owner correct any lead hazards that are found. If it is a rental property and the lead hazards have not been adequately addressed in a timely manner, a placard is posted on the property and occupancy is prohibited until such time the hazards are abated. There is a little more leniency given in situations where the home is owner-occupied. Mr. Page added that the nurses and EHS work well together on several fronts, but they also both often work with the NYSDOH as colleagues as compared to having an adversarial relationship. There were no further questions for Ms. Becraft.

C. DENTAL SERVICES REPORT – Mr. Page mentioned that there were four reports distributed to the CCBH just prior to the meeting for Dental Services for March, April, May & June 2015. Activity at the clinic has continued to decline with the loss of staff hours in the clinic due to a retirement and a cutback in dentist hours due to other commitments. There is also the anticipation that RPCN will be taking over the clinic sometime later in the year. This was on the agenda to be discussed under Old Business, but Mr. Page used this opportunity to cover that topic at this time. Mr. Page updated the CCBH on the progress of the transition of the dental clinic to RPCN. There is now a signed transfer agreement between the County and RPCN as well as an employment agreement for the interim period before the full RPCN takeover. The employment agreement will allow RPCN to hire their employees and allow them to work in the clinic in the interim. It has been determined that the clinic will need to shut down after August 28, 2015 for a period of time before RPCN is able to take over the clinic. The Certificate of Need (CON) has yet to be completed or submitted for review and approval. While the building modifications are not extensive, they will not be able to commence until the CON is obtained. The current estimation of full transfer of the clinic over to RPCN is looking like January 2016. There were no further dental clinic questions for Mr. Page.

D. HOME HEALTH AGENCY FINANCIAL REPORT – Ms. Traub was not in attendance to discuss the report. Mr. Page discussed the First Quarter 2015 Financial Report for the CHHA. In summary, the report indicated good news for the CHHA. In reviewing the Net Gain from operations for the First Quarter of 2015 in comparison to the First Quarter from 2013 and 2014, it was quite apparent that improvement has occurred each year. A deficit was reported for 2013 with a modest surplus in
2014 and another significant net gain in 2015. There has been a big demand for services and it has been a struggle to keep up. Fortunately, the CHHA will be a full staff in a few weeks with the last vacant position being filled. There have also been some enhancements made to the therapy contracts which will improve services provided. Mr. Page reported that there have been continuing problems with the software used by the CHHA by the nurses in the field. County IT staff have been working to address issues as they arise, but it has been problematic. Consideration may need to be given to contracting out to the vendor for IT support services.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **DENTAL CLINIC TRANSITION** – This topic was already covered under the Dental Services Report earlier in the meeting by Mr. Page.

2. **POWDERED CAFFEINE SALES** – Mr. Page reported that correspondence related to this topic was sent to the NYSDOH Commissioner and a copy was included in the mailing to the CCBH in advance of the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **PERSONNEL CHANGES** – Mr. Page took some time to formally inform the CCBH of the various personnel changes that have occurred at the Health Department since the last meeting. The first change was already discussed regarding Ms. Becraft. The other change was the creation of the position of Public Health Program Coordinator. Dawn Bush was hired to fill this new position. Ms. Bush will be responsible for coordinating the many grants that we have for tobacco, lead, cancer, public health preparedness, etc. She will also work with the various community coalitions that are in place as was performed in the past by the former Public Health Educator Linda Swarthout. Ms. Bush comes to the CCHD with many years of experience doing all of these activities with other LHD’s in the region.

2. **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HEARINGS**– Mr. Shepard reported that two hearings were held since the last meeting. He provided written reports with his recommendations prior to the meeting.

The first hearing was against *Horseheads MHC, LLC (owner of Horseheads Mobile Home Park)* on May 22, 2015 for repeat violations of sewage waste material on top of the ground surface. A Stipulation Offer for $100 was made to the operator. The owner declined the Stipulation Offer and requested to attend a hearing. Representatives for EHS were present at the hearing as well as the Park Manager from Horseheads Mobile Home Park. The park admitted that the violation did occur, but explained that in the most recent occurrence there were extenuating circumstances that were weather related. Mr. Shepard recommended that the fine be increased to $150.
RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Howard and seconded by Dr. Varga that Horseheads MHC, LLC (owner of Horseheads Mobile Home Park) be fined the amount of $150 for repeat violations of sewage waste material on top of the ground surface. Motion approved.

AYES: Ken Sobel, MD  James Gensel, PE
     John Varga, DVM  Mary Ann Baker, RN
     Gregory Schultz, MD  William G. Howard, MD
     Rosemary Anthony, RN

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Robert Lambert, MD  Kevin Wicks, DDS
        Joseph Brennan

The second hearing was also held with Treadwell Restaurants of the Northeast, Inc, (owner of Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell) for repeat violations of potentially hazardous foods that are not kept at a temperature of greater than or equal to 140F during hot-holding. A Stipulation Offer for $100 was made to the operator and declined. A hearing was held on May 22, 2015. Representatives for the food service establishment did not appear for the hearing to present their case. There was no dispute that the violations occurred. EHS contended that these violations occurred on more than one event and inadequate efforts had been made to assure that the violation did not occur in subsequent inspections. Mr. Shepard recommends to the BOH that the fine be increased to $200.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Sobel and seconded by Dr. Howard that Treadwell Restaurants of the Northeast, Inc (owner of Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell) be fined an amount of $200 for repeat violations of potentially hazardous foods that are not kept at a temperature of greater than or equal to 140F during hot holding. Motion approved.

AYES: Ken Sobel, MD  James Gensel, PE
     John Varga, DVM  Mary Ann Baker, RN
     Gregory Schultz, MD  William G. Howard, MD
     Rosemary Anthony, RN

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Robert Lambert, MD  Kevin Wicks, DDS
        Joseph Brennan

3. ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIPTION RATE – Mr. Page provided the CCBH with a copy of correspondence received as a courtesy from the NYSDOH related to the antibiotic prescription rate in Chemung County that will be mailed to all providers in the respective areas of the State. This and a map of NYS were included in the CCBH mailing in advance
of the meeting. The intention was to use the available data to the attention of the providers so that they might reconsider their potentially unnecessary prescription writing. Dr. Schutz stated that his office received a copy of the letter and he thought that it was nicely done. He thought that it was well received and admits that it is a problem in many practices in the area. Hopefully the letter will have an impact such that the rates will go down in the counties where it is a serious problem.

4. **TICK SURVEILLANCE REPORT** – Mr. Kump provided the CCBH prior to the meeting with a copy of the most recent tick surveillance report for Chemung County that was prepared by the NYSDOH. Sampling occurred in Chemung County in both the summer and fall of 2014. There was not a large change in the outcome from prior years. Of the 50 nymphal deer ticks collected in June 2014, 12 were positive for the presence of Borrelia burgdorferi, which translates to an infection rate of 24%. Of the 54 adult deer ticks collected in October 2014, 24 were positive for the presence of Borrelia burgdorferi, which translates to an infection rate of 44%. Efforts will continue to educate the public as to the presence of the bacterial causative agent of Lyme disease in Chemung County.

5. **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FEE SCHEDULE** – Mr. Kump prepared a draft of the proposed changes to the Environmental Health Services Fee Schedule and provided it to the CCBH in advance of the meeting. Nominal increases are being requested for several fees while some services will not see any fee increases. Mr. Kump requested that the CCBH approve the proposed changes to the fee schedule with the intention of making the changes effective September 1, 2015.

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Howard and seconded by Dr. Schultz that the proposed EHS Fee Schedule be approved by the Chemung County Board of Health and that the nominal increases in fees be scheduled to take effect on September 1, 2015. **Motion approved.**

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6. **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISES** – Mr. Page provided the BOH with an update on activities that are underway with regard to public health preparedness. Mr. Kump informed the CCBH that a mandated Medical Counter Measures drill is scheduled for September 16, 2015 and will take place at the Horseheads Middle/Intermediate School Complex from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. The drill is designed to test the capability of providing medications to the entire population of Chemung County in a short period of time. Public outreach regarding the drill will begin in August and intensify early in September. The public will be able to pre-register online and be able to select a specific 15-minute time slot during which they will be planning to appear at the clinic. We need to be able to
demonstrate that we can provide medications to 300 persons in a 1.5 hour time period. Mr. Page also discussed WRECK-IT which is a major drill that will involve all 17 counties that make up the Western Region of NYS. The scenario for this drill is a major weather event (ice storm) that will knock out power, transportation, and many available means of communications. There are already over 400 entities committed to participating in this drill. The drill will occur the week of October 5th and there are a whole week’s worth of activities lined up. Finally, Mr. Page updated the CCBH on the emergency radio system that was recently installed in Chemung County that will be an independent radio communications link between the Health Center, Emergency Management, Erway Ambulance, Arnot Ogden, St. Joseph’s, Elcor, and Bethany Center. The system has been tested and seems to work as planned.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Baker informed the CCBH that she was unable to attend the next regularly scheduled meeting on September 22, 2015 and asked if the meeting could be postponed one week to September 29, 2015. There was no opposition to changing the meeting date.

**RESOLUTION:** With no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Mr. Gensel and seconded by Dr. Howard that the CCBH be adjourned until the next regular meeting that will be re-scheduled to September 29, 2015. **Motion approved.**

**AYES:**

Ken Sobel, MD  
John Varga, DVM  
Gregory Schultz, MD  
Rosemary Anthony, RN  
James Gensel, PE  
Mary Ann Baker, RN  
William G. Howard, MD

**NAYES:**

None

**ABSENT:**

Robert Lambert, MD  
Joseph Brennan  
Kevin Wicks, DDS

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55 PM.

**Next meeting:** Board of Health Meeting  
**September 29, 2015 @ 7:30 PM**  
Health Department Conference Room