CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
September 29, 2015

PRESENT:  James Gensel, PE  Mary Ann Baker, RN
           Gregory Schultz, MD  William G. Howard, MD
           Robert Lambert, MD  Joseph Brennan

ABSENT:   Kevin Wicks, DDS  Ken Sobel, MD
           Rosemary Anthony, RN  John Varga, DVM

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Page  Thomas Kump, PE
                Rebecca Becraft

Prior to the meeting the CCBH received the following:
1. Agenda for September 29, 2015 CCBH Meeting
2. CCBH Meeting Minutes from July 28, 2015
3. Environmental Health Services Report for July & August 2015
5. Dental Clinic Report for July & August 2015
6. CHHA 2nd Quarter Financial Report
7. Vaccine For Adults Program
8. CCBH Bylaws

The following items were discussed at the meeting:
9. NYSDOH Performance Incentive Award Announcement – Communicable Disease

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY 28, 2015 MEETING

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Howard and seconded by Mr. Gensel that the minutes of the July 28, 2015 Board of Health meeting be approved and accepted as presented. Motion approved.

AYES:    James Gensel, PE  Mary Ann Baker, RN
         Gregory Schultz, MD  William G. Howard, MD
         Robert Lambert, MD  Joseph Brennan

NAYES:   None

ABSENT:  Kevin Wicks, DDS  Ken Sobel, MD
          Rosemary Anthony, RN  John Varga, DVM
2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Harry Shepard was unable to attend the CCBH meeting. Mr. Page mentioned that the Budget Status Report for August 2015 was 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 point. There were no questions for Mr. Page.

3. SERVICES REPORTS

A. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES – Thomas Kump mentioned that reports for July & August 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 whether the increase in rabies activity was abnormal or expected. Mr. Kump explained that there are usually more submitted specimens and more reported positive cases in August than in any other month of the year and that the numbers for this report were in line with expectations. There were no further questions for Mr. Kump.

B. PUBLIC HEALTH CLINICS REPORT – Rebecca Becraft commented on correspondence that was just received from the NYSDOH awarding Chemung County with a Performance Incentive Award for communicable diseases for year 2 of a 5-year program. This award was for $20,900 and suggestions were provided as to the type of eligible expenses that would be covered by this award. Dr. Howard questioned whether there has been any studies or research performed to indicate whether these programs are being effective in the community as a whole. No one was aware of any research data of this nature being available at this time. Ms. Becraft also reported on a new initiative by the NYSDOH to end the HIV epidemic. They will be utilizing a three-prong approach. First, they will aim to get every NYS resident tested at least once. Next, they are hoping to achieve viral suppression. Finally, they are looking to increase the use of PrEP(pre-exposure prophylaxis). The goal is to end the epidemic by the end of 2020 with 750 or less new cases per year in NYS. They also aim to reduce the annual death rate due to HIV to zero cases per year. There were no further questions for Ms. Becraft.

C. HOME HEALTH AGENCY FINANCIAL REPORT – Melissa Traub was unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Page mentioned that the 2nd quarter CHHA Financial Report was distributed in advance of the meeting. The performance has been very stable and the caseload has been at or above national standards. Therapy services remain strong and the staffing levels have been good. There were no questions for Mr. Page.
OLD BUSINESS

1. DENTAL CLINIC TRANSITION – Mr. Page explained that the progress on the transition has been moving forward albeit at a very slow pace. The RPCN transition team visited the clinic and met with staff from the health center and buildings and grounds. Plans still need to be completed for the certificate of need application. The current timeline is hopeful of receiving an approval in the spring with construction to follow immediately thereafter with an opening early summer. RPCN has yet to find a dentist.

2. MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES EXERCISE – Mr. Page reported that Medical Counter Measures (MCM) Drill was held on September 16th at Horseheads Intermediate School and it was very successful. Mr. Kump was the Planning Chief for the drill and explained that there was already an MCM Plan in place. However, the plan had to be modified slightly to make sure that the goals and requirements of the drill were being met. The drill planning team visited the site in late July to walk through with school personnel to answer any questions as to the resources that would be available the night of the drill. Public relations efforts for the drill started in August and continued up to the time of the drill. The CDMS (Countermeasure Data Management System) on the NYS Health Commerce System (HCS) was setup for this drill and used to allow for pre-registration of drill participants. Many of the drill staff positions were assigned in advance of the drill, but some assignments did not occur until the night of the drill. Only so much planning can occur prior to actual implementation of a plan. The only way to know whether a plan works is to test it in the form of a drill. So from that viewpoint alone, the drill was a huge success because it pointed out areas in need of change or improvement that would not have otherwise been known. Ms. Becraft was the Operations Chief and talked about some of the operational issues encountered during the drill. More volunteers participated than were expected, so that presented a challenge in terms of assignments and “Just In Time” Training. Upon arrival at the school it was learned that the internet connection in the whole school system was down. A backup paper system was part of the planning and was about to be implemented when it was learned that the internet connection was again available. An AAR (After Action Report) needs to be completed within 90 days following completion of the drill where much more data and observations will be recorded.

NEW BUSINESS

1. LEGIONELLA REGULATIONS & REPORTING – Mr. Page discussed the recently created emergency regulations for the protection against Legionella in response to the outbreak that occurred in NYC in July 2015. This statewide emergency regulation (Part 4) was promulgated to protect the public from potential exposure to Legionella associated with inadequately maintained cooling towers as well as potable water systems located in hospitals and residential health care facilities. Mr. Page spoke from the point of view of being a regulated facility and the measures that have been taken at the Chemung County Nursing Facility (CCNF). A recognized Legionella expert was hired as a consultant to guide the CCNF in complying with the emergency regulations in regard to both the cooling tower that exists at the facility as well as the potable water system. At this point in time, the CCNF is in compliance with all requirements of Part 4. Mr. Kump discussed the other side
of the regulation which deals with enforcement. The LHD has been designated as having enforcement powers and duties to assure that the requirements of Part 4 are being adhered to by all applicable facilities located in Chemung County. Thus far, the only role of EHS in Chemung County has been to provide guidance to regulated entities and to direct them to the NYSDOH website where all the applicable information is located. At this point in time there is no intention for EHS to do any more than to provide guidance to assist in attaining compliance among applicable facilities.

2. VACCINES FOR ADULTS PROGRAM– Ms. Becraft reported that a new program has been launched to help certain adults get needed vaccines. A descriptive memo was distributed to the CCBH in advance of the meeting. Some existing vaccine programs were combined and expanded into a new program called Vaccines For Adults (VFA). All uninsured and underinsured adults will now be eligible to receive a whole host of vaccines at no cost. Here at CCHD, vaccines have been ordered and a plan put in place to administer this new program.

3. NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR CCBH VICE PRESIDENT – Ms. Baker commented that the CCBH Bylaws require the CCBH President to appoint a board member to be part of a Nominating Committee that will be chaired by the current Vice President at or before the September CCBH meeting. Vice President Guerry Howard, MD will serve as chair with member James Gensel to work on nominating someone to serve as Vice President. The election will occur at the December meeting of the CCBH.

4. BYLAWS REVIEW FOR DECEMBER MEETING – Mr. Page noted that the CCBH will be due to review and/or modify the bylaws at the December meeting. A copy of the current bylaws was provided to all CCBH members and asked that if anyone has suggestions for changes or additions to the bylaws. Changes to the bylaws require written notification to the voting members at least 2 weeks before a meeting of the CCBH, so if anyone has any suggestions they should get them to Mr. Page about 3 weeks before the next meeting.

5. REPLACEMENT CANDIDATE FOR DR. VARGA – Mr. Page reported that he received word from Dr. Varga that he plans to be relocating outside of NYS sometime in the first half of 2016 requiring his resignation from the CCBH. Dr. Varga wanted to provide advance notice so that a replacement candidate could be located and appointed prior to his departure. Mr. Kump commented that Dr. Varga was the first person that he recalls having veterinary experience on the CCBH and that a replacement should also have veterinary experience considering the number of animal related issues that EHS deals with. CCBH members concurred with Mr. Kump’s suggestion and will provide Mr. Page with suggested replacement candidates.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to conduct so President Baker requested a motion to adjourn.
**RESOLUTION:** With no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Dr. Howard and seconded by Dr. Lambert that the CCBH be adjourned until the next regular meeting that will be re-scheduled to December 1, 2015. **Motion approved.**

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| ABSENT:                    |                    |
| Kevin Wicks, DDS           | Ken Sobel, MD      |
| Rosemary Anthony, RN       | John Varga, DVM    |

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 PM.

**Next meeting:**
**Board of Health Meeting**  
December 1, 2015 @ 7:30 PM  
Health Department Conference Room