CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
January 29, 2013

PRESENT:
Thomas Curran, DDS
Robert Lambert, MD
Richard Madl
Ken Sobel, MD

ABSENT:
Mary Ann Baker, RN
William G. Howard, MD
Paul Shore, DDS

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

Prior to the meeting the CCBH received the following:

1. Agenda for January 29, 2013 CCBH Meeting
2. CCBH Meeting Minutes from December 4, 2012
3. Environmental Health Services Report for December 2012
5. Dental Services Report for November & December 2012
6. Dental Services 2012 Summary Report
7. Hearing Report for Collingwood Mobile Home Park

The following items were distributed at the meeting:


CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Lambert called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 PM.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 4, 2012 MEETING

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Sobel and seconded by Dr. Curran that the minutes of the December 4, 2012 Board of Health meeting be approved and accepted as presented. Motion approved.

AYES:
Thomas Curran, DDS
Robert Lambert, MD
Richard Madl
Ken Sobel, MD

NAYES:
None

ABSENT:
Mary Ann Baker, RN
William G. Howard, MD
Paul Shore, DDS
2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Harry Shepard mentioned that the Budget Status Report through December 31, 2012 was distributed to the CCBH prior to the meeting. He commented that everything has been business as usual. From an accounting presentation point of view, we are still in fiscal year 2012 and will be until the early to middle part of March 2013 when the books will officially be closed for 2012. The accounts are currently reflecting revenue less than budgeted, but expenses are also coming in under budget. By the time that the year is finalized, it will be pretty close to break even. There were no further questions for Mr. Shepard.

3. SERVICES REPORTS

A. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES – Thomas Kump mentioned that the report for December 2012 was included in the mailing to BOH members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Kump mentioned that the EHS field staff have implemented electronic inspection reporting via iPad tablets. The NYSDOH implemented a pilot program using an application from MobiTask. This will eliminate paper inspection reports. Electronic reports are prepared that get sent via email to facility operators as well as to staff in EHS. They are then posted electronically on the EHS website. There will be a learning curve associated with this new concept, but eventually will be more efficient and economical. Dr. Lambert questioned whether the finances for EHS were where we expected them to be. Mr. Kump explained that one can’t compare numbers directly year to year but have to look at running averages. Some fees (tanning) are only collected every other year and some facilities pay their annual fees early or late which may throw off the numbers a bit from one year to the next. Overall, everything is on target financially. All targets have been met in terms of inspections completed. There were no further questions for Mr. Kump.

B. CHHA UPDATE & CLINIC ACTIVITIES – Melissa Klossner did not have the CHHA Visits Dashboard with data through December 2012 finalized yet but reported that numbers have been up. There has been an increase in admissions and staff are carrying higher caseloads. Call-in rates among staff have decreased. Overall, Ms. Klossner could not be happier with the progress that has been made with the performance in the CHHA. The new concept utilizing a Nurse Practitioner that has been in effect since November has been working out quite well. All parties involved have displayed profound maturity and professionalism and they are truly exceeding expectations in an area that could have been very problematic to implement. The influenza clinics have been poorly attended. Many providers in the area have been providing flu vaccinations as no one has had a shortage of vaccine. The NYSDOH announced a vaccine re-distribution program whereby providers can report surplus of vaccine or the need for additional vaccine and the State will coordinate getting vaccine from those with a surplus to those who need more vaccine. The flu seems to be widespread across the State. The vaccine has most recently been reported as being 62% effective. There were no further questions for Ms. Klossner.
C. DENTAL SERVICES REPORT – Mr. Page mentioned that there were three reports distributed in the CCBH mailing for Dental Services including the November & December 2012 reports as well as a 2012 Summary Report. Activity at the clinic has been pretty consistent and unremarkable. The dental sealant program is currently still on a hiatus. Dr. Curran commented that since the dental sealant program will not be as busy this spring, the hygienist can work with the dental certificate program by making calls to get children in need of service to available providers. Dr. Curran also mentioned that there has been a positive response from the nurse practitioner at the Elmira City School District regarding cooperation in the programs. There were no further questions for Mr. Page or Dr. Curran.

OLD BUSINESS

1. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT – Mr. Page explained that with the resignation of Mr. William Roe from the CCBH, Dr. Robert Lambert became the Board President. This left the office of Vice President vacant. The nominating committee chaired by Dr. Lambert had planned to recommend the nomination of Mary Ann Baker for the office of CCBH Vice President. But with no success in contacting her in advance, it was decided to postpone the official nomination until the matter could be discussed with her.

2. NOMINATION OF JAMES GENSEL, PE TO FILL CCBH VACANCY – Mr. Page introduced James Gensel, PE to the CCBH. Mr. Gensel is currently employed as President of Fagan Engineers, a prominent environmental engineering firm located in Elmira, NY. Mr. Gensel has been a licensed professional engineer since July 2000. He and his wife and children live in Pine City, New York.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Curran and seconded by Mr. Madl that James Gensel, PE be nominated for appointment to the Chemung County Board of Health to fill the position vacated with the resignation of William Roe, PE. The Chemung County Legislature will act on the nomination at the next meeting of the Legislature. Motion approved.

AYES: Thomas Curran, DDS
Robert Lambert, MD
Richard Madl
Ken Sobel, MD

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Mary Ann Baker, RN
Paul Shore, DDS
William G. Howard, MD

NEW BUSINESS

1. COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT PUBLIC SURVEY – Mr. Page explained that Gail Walker of the Chemung County YWCA was scheduled to present a report tonight to
the CCBH but postponed until the March 2013 meeting so as to have more time to present a more comprehensive report on the Community Health Survey that was conducted. Some discussion occurred about another part of the survey that involved community and business leaders. Those present at the meeting that completed the survey reported that it was quite cumbersome and difficult to complete. Mr. Page explained that the survey had already been prepared and conducted for another county in the State and they just took that survey for use in Chemung County to expedite the completion versus taking the time to prepare a completely new survey.

2. LOCAL UPDATE ON FLU SEASON— Ms. Klossner explained that she already covered this topic during her report earlier in the meeting and had nothing further to report.

3. HEARING REPORTS – COLLINGWOOD MOBILE HOME PARK – Mr. Shepard informed the CCBH that a hearing was held on December 19, 2012. The hearing was with the operator of Collingwood Mobile Home Park located in Horseheads, New York. The repeat violation that prompted the original Stipulation Offer of $250 was for operating a mobile home park without a permit. A new owner had purchased the park early in the summer and, after repeated attempts by EHS to get them under permit, still failed to get the proper operating permit for several months. A Stipulation Offer of $250 was issued by EHS and declined by the operator. The operator was unable to provide any legitimate reason for the lengthy delay in getting the park under permit.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Sobel and seconded by Dr. Curran that the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, that a fine of $350 be assessed against the operator of Collingwood Mobile Home Park, be approved and accepted as presented. Motion approved.

AYES: Thomas Curran, DDS
      Robert Lambert, MD
      Richard Madl
      Ken Sobel, MD

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Mary Ann Baker, RN
       Paul Shore, DDS
       William G. Howard, MD

4. WAIVER POLICY – Mr. Shepard explained to the CCBH that when the agenda was prepared for this meeting, it was his intention to propose some changes to the waiver policy. But upon further review, it was decided that a postponement to later in the year would be more appropriate considering some of the information that was discovered during the review to date. More research is needed and a comprehensive review of the entire program needs to occur prior to any further action by the CCBH. It is currently expected that something may be ready for CCBH by the July 2013 meeting.
5. NURSING FACILITY RESTRUCTURING – Mr. Page informed the CCBH that there has been a lot of media coverage and rumors circulating through town about plans for the Chemung County Nursing Facility (CCNF). Although the CCNF and the CCHD are separate operating entities, there will be impacts to the CCHD due to the fact that they both share the same building. Information has been shared with the County Legislature as well as the employees of the CCNF. There are essentially three courses of action that could occur. First, the County is marketing the CCNF for sale in the public sector through a realty firm in Chicago, Illinois. No decision to sell has been made. It is only being offered for sale to see what if any interest there is in the public sector. The second course of action would entail a public/private partnership between the County and one of a few health care systems operating in the area. The third approach would be a change in staffing of the facility such that an employment agency would provide “leased” staff to the CCNF to operate the facility. This would require major changes to the employment agreement. One of the major financial hurdles the CCNF currently faces is the financial handicap of the current fringe benefit factor which is at 62%. It is important to point out that no decisions have been made at this point and that they are only in the information gathering stage right now. The County hopes to be able to make a recommendation to the Legislature later in the spring of 2013, but the process is planned to be very public and transparent. Government operated nursing homes are closing all across New York State and/or being sold to private entities. This is a very emotional, sensitive topic due to the impact it will have on so many people in our community. Mr. Page did comment that he intends to continue on in his current role to assist the County in this difficult effort.

6. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM PLAN – Mr. Page discussed with the CCBH that this is only intended to provide them with an update and no action is needed by the CCBH on this. Communications is one of the greatest weaknesses when a true emergency occurs. This was recently demonstrated with the storm that came through the area in July of 2012 when cell phone service was impacted. The CCHD used to receive a grant from the NYS Office of Homeland Security (NYSOHS), but has in recent years declined the grant due to the constraints placed on the funds. The NYSOHS was asked whether the available funds could be directed toward the County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM). They have submitted a grant request for funds to purchase a communications system that would involve the local hospitals, nursing homes, the local ambulance service, and the CCOEM that would operate independent of existing radio and cellular service. It is currently under Federal review.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION: With no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Dr. Curran and seconded by Dr. Sobel that the CCBH be adjourned until the next regular meeting of March 26, 2013. Motion approved.

AYES: Thomas Curran, DDS
       Richard Madl
       Robert Lambert, MD
       Ken Sobel, MD

NAYES: None
CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
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ABSENT: Mary Ann Baker, RN     William G. Howard, MD
Paul Shore, DDS

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:47 PM.

Next meeting: Board of Health Meeting
March 26, 2013 @ 7:30 PM
Health Department Conference Room