



CHEMUNG COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES



May 11, 2022

Call to order

A meeting of the Chemung County Health Department Professional Advisory Committee was held via WebEx on April, 2022 at 12pm.

Attendees

Attendees included:

Kim Schrolucke-Smith, PT	Nicole Barton, RN	Rena Terwilliger
Kim Rosekrans, MSW	Dr. Terence Lenhardt	Susan Larson, OT
Katie Hamilton, ST	Mary Kreb, RN	Jonathan Keough
Chris Standt, RN	Sarah Mattison, Deputy PHD	Lisa Buckley, DPS

Members excused

None

Approval of Minutes

The February 9, 2022 meeting minutes were distributed for review with no errors noted, Motion made and seconded by Rena Terwilliger

Reports:

CHHA REPORT – Christina Standt

COVID

They continue to screen staff at the start of their work day for COVID symptoms. Patients are screened on the phone when arranging the time of their home visit. The HERDS report (Health Electronic Response Data System) continues to be submitted weekly, reporting our number of COVID positive patients, COVID deaths, number of employees vaccinated, both clinic and administrative staff and the number of staff members lost due to the vaccine mandate.

Clinical staff are required to test weekly. They currently have 3 positive patients on service

NYS DOH SURVEY

Ongoing chart reviews with a follow up case conference with all of the clinicians involved with the patient to discuss the findings of the chart reviews.

They met with Emergency Preparedness contractor Kali Beilman-Martin 5/4/22 to ensure that they have included all of the newly required elements in our Emergency Preparedness Policy.

QUALITY ASSURANCE PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT (QAPI)/ INFECTION CONTROL

Home Health Quality Measures

They have showed slight decline in several quality measures, Improvement in Ambulation down to 85.5 from 93.1 also all ADLs have shown decline since March. Improvement noted in pain management up from 92% to 96.4%. They are reviewing cases to ensure PT/OT evaluations and treatments are made to provide improved outcomes.

All ADL outcomes remain above the state and national averages.

Infection Control

Continued training on competencies on wound vac dressing changes, PICC line dressing changes and lab draws. Reviewed infection control policies and education on proper bag technique. Employees attended a zoom education from 3M regarding Wound Vac applications. Education on types of wounds and appropriate treatment, dressings choices will be ongoing with identified staff members.

The supervisory staff have completed the annual supervisory visits with the nursing staff and yearly evaluations are currently being conducted.

Performance Improvement Plan

During chart reviews they have identified higher number of patient falls, and also noted that consistency of clinicians seeing patient has declined.

The CHHA presented to committee for approval the following Performance Improvement Plans for Falls and Continuity of Care they developed that will address issues and provide educational opportunity, to improve clinician awareness and identify area's for improved patient outcomes and patient satisfaction. Motion made Dr. Lenhardt and approved by committee members

CMS Home Health Compare: Patient Satisfaction

Updated scores were posted on 4/27/22. CHHA star rating is currently 4 out of 5 Stars. Previously 5 out of 5. To improve on Star Rating they have updated the internal survey and educated all clinicians on the importance of reviewing these with patients. Staff has been instructed to review on start of care and again on discharge.

CMS Home Health Compare: Quality of Patient Care

Updated scores were posted on 4/27/22. CHHA quality rating is currently 4.5 out of 5 Stars, which remains unchanged

They continue to have the highest star rating of the 3 home care agencies that service Chemung County for Quality of Patient Care. All three home care agencies have a 4 for Star Rating for Patient Satisfaction.

INCIDENTS/COMPLAINTS

No incidents and 1 complaint received about unprofessional behavior and the individual has been counseled.

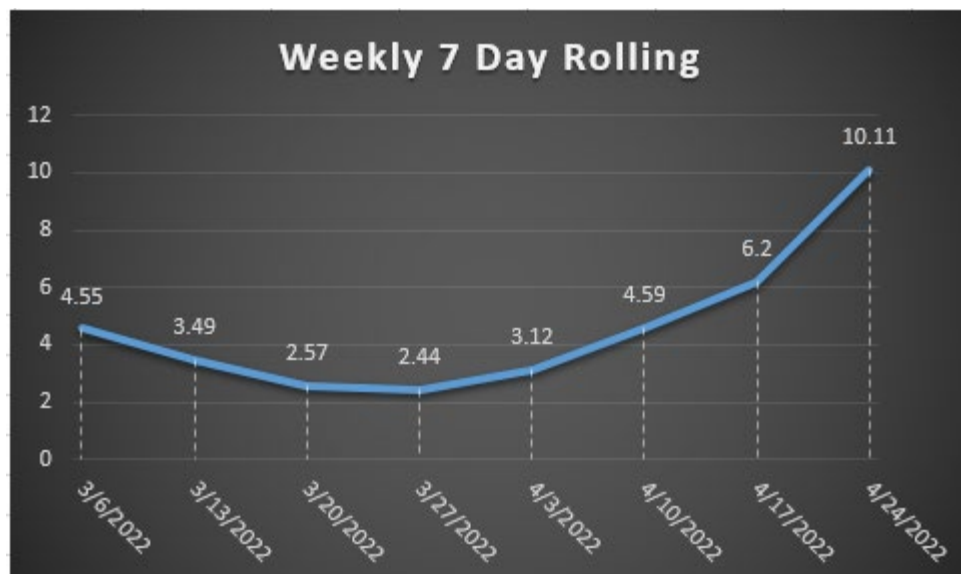
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT REPORT –Sarah Mattison

COVID-19

COVID activities remain steady as cases are beginning to increase. Isolation and quarantine guidance remain the same. The majority of case investigations were being done by Case Investigators through the NYS Virtual Call Center, however, this group was disbanded as of April 29th. Their office continues to utilize RN Case Investigators hired through a private agency employed by New York State. Investigations will continue as staffing allows. The COVID Paperwork Portal has been a useful resource for the public to obtain necessary quarantine and isolation documents.

They continue to utilize Temporary Community Service Aids and volunteers in our Public Health COVID clinics that started April 8, 2022

Chemung County maintained a 7 day positivity rate between 9-11% in the past week. The average positivity rate for the month of April was 6.78%, but is now increasing in May.



Additional data is reported daily on the County Dashboard here:

<https://forms.chemungcountyny.gov/covidmapupdates/map.php>

Statewide data is also reported on the New York Dashboard here:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-data-new-york>

The PH office started holding COVID vaccination clinics as of 4/8/22 on Fridays from 10am-2pm by appointment. Janssen COVID vaccines continue to be on hold by our county since 12/2021 due to some adverse health events. Those who wish to receive a Janssen vaccine are referred back to their PCP or other vaccine providers.

As of 4/1 22 the following updates for COVID vaccines have occurred:

- People age 12 and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised may choose to receive a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months after the first booster dose.
- All adults ages 50 years and older regardless of health status may choose to receive a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Moderna and Pfizer-BioNtech) at least 4 months after the first booster dose.
- People ages 18–49 years regardless of health status who received Janssen/Johnson & Johnson’s COVID-19 vaccine as both their primary series dose and booster dose may receive a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months after the first Janssen booster dose.
- Clarification of safety issues including those related to multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) and adults (MIS-A) and myocarditis.

- Update on the availability of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine supplied in a vial with a blue cap (0.5 mL dosage volume) for administration of a 50 µg booster dose. The red cap vial is still available (0.25 mL dosage volume).

Vaccination continues to be a primary focus to protect the community. Approximately 58.31% of Chemung County residents are fully vaccinated. To date, the clinics hosted by Chemung County Health Department have administered a total of 17,100 doses of COVID vaccine.

INFLUENZA

Chemung County has had 52 laboratory confirmed Influenza cases reported in 2021. 49 Influenza A, and 3 Influenza B. Thus far in 2022 we have had 269 influenza A cases and 1 influenza B cases. No deaths attributed to influenza have been reported thus far.

PUBLIC HEALTH CLINICS

Clinic hours remain by appointment only. All patients are screened upon entry into the building. STD services are normally scheduled Monday through Thursday afternoons. Our STD clinic has been full the month of April. They have seen an average of 9 clients per week.

Immunization appointments are prioritized for students who need vaccinations to sit in class. Lead case management has been coordinated between the Public Health Educator and the Environmental Health Office.

OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES:

They have experienced 23 cases of Lyme disease already for 2022. In 2021, had a total of 16 cases reported. They have also reported cases of cryptosporidiosis, ehrlichiosis, giardiasis, haemophilus influenzae (not type b), rocky mountain spotted fever, salmonella, strep group b, strep pneumoniae, and vibrio. They are working with administration to pull the legionella reports that they have requested from the 2019 outbreak that affected our community.

They have concluded the successful case management and directly observed medication treatment for our active TB case in the county. This case completed their directly observed treatment April 28th. The two family members in the household that were receiving DOT for Latent TB have completed their therapy. They have had three LTBI referrals for 2022. They have two patients that have Latent TB medication on hold until middle of May due to reaction of medication regimen. Pulmonary will revamp their plan of care at that time and determine appropriate treatment. They are also experiencing

intermittent shortages of rifapentine and working with NYSDOH and other local pharmacies to try to access as needed.

They continue to see the county's STI rates increase. At the year's end we recorded a total of 491 STI's reported/treated. For 2022, they are already up to 195 cases for STI's. they have had 108 cases of chlamydia, 81 of gonorrhea, and 6 cases of syphilis. They have reported 3 Gonorrhea PID cases for 2022 and all three were admitted to Arnot Hospital. This has been extensive for 2022 as they reported zero Gonorrhea PID cases for 2021. They continue to work closely with their NYS field representatives to thoroughly investigate and trace contacts/partners and educate our clinic clients in EPT and partner treatment.

They are working with the Chemung County Jail to test and treat their clients every Wednesday at the STD clinic. On average, they are seeing two clients each Wednesday. They email the jail every Monday to get an idea how many clients we will have on Wednesday so we can plan accordingly. They coordinate with jail staff for patient treatment.

They completed EPT training with AOMC ED staff for Chlamydia. They would now like to pursue EPT for Gonorrhea and Trich. They are working with NYSDOH to implement this new strategy to hopefully reduce the amount of STD rates in Chemung County.

Ebola Drill was performed on April 13th. The policy and procedure will be updated based on the outcome of the drill. Public Health Nurses participated in the Ebola Drill.

Public Health Office attended STEM night at Horseheads Intermediate School. A table was set up to teach parents and children how to properly remove ticks. Each person was able to walk away with a tick removal kit along with information on tickborne illnesses and how to prevent lyme disease.

Miscellaneous:

They have one new Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) in the Public Health Office and one CLC in process of taking her exam. This certification requires extensive training and a proctored exam. To maintain certification, 18 credit hours are required every 3 years. This allows our office make a home visit to new mothers who are breastfeeding to address any questions or concerns they may be experiencing.

IMMUNIZATIONS:

The next virtual immunization coalition meeting is scheduled for 5/18/2022 at noon. Steuben County will be chairing this meeting. An initial work group meeting was held 4/27 with these counties to start our yearly evidenced based project. Their annual vaccine provider agreement was submitted to NYS with Karen Mott now recorded as the Immunization Coordinator for the office. Lisa Kruckow is the backup coordinator.

An updated standing orders documentation page was initiated for yearly vaccination orders. This streamlines the process and Dr. Lenhardt was very grateful. A new monthly data document is being tried out. It compiles the monthly inventory task with all other immunization tasks as well as documentation of any educational/community or other work plan activities that were completed that month. It allows us to start documenting these details on the quarterly activities throughout the weeks and have the report regularly up to date.

They promoted International Women's Day and National Infant immunization week through educational social media posts, a television segments on Senior Notebook, licensed day care educational emails and a blast text to WIC recipients linking them with the CCHD webpage for immunization schedules. Thanks to Dawn Bush and Rena Terwilliger for their technical assistance! They have met with Elmira Psych Center's new Infection Control nurse regarding questions about mandatory Hep B vaccinations for health care workers. We participated in a STEM event at Horseheads Intermediate School sharing materials on the HPV vaccine and school/childhood vaccine schedules.

IQIP (quality improvement for providers) provider visits have been scheduled for May and June per NYS's request to begin these visits.

In office COVID vaccination clinics began April 8th. (10am to 2pm) Two PH nurses work this clinic. Registration by phone allows us to screen and work patients in efficiently yet allowing the office to sustain it's daily activities. They have vaccinated up to 15 patients in one clinic, but are averaging 10 a week. The clinic is booked a week in advance and have referred two people so far to other vaccination sites that needed their vaccination in a shorter time frame.

Our yearly statewide Immunization Conference will be held virtually May 10-11, 2022 9am to 1pm. All PH nurses plan to be attending.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & PODS

The Chemung County Health Department's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Committee has resumed meeting with community partners on a quarterly basis. A communications drill and MCM exercise were held on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, utilizing CCHD's regularly scheduled COVID-19 vaccination clinic. Along with vaccinations, at-home test kits were distributed to participants. In addition, the Chemung County Health Center Ebola Policy has been in the process of being updated and was drilled on Wednesday, April 13, 2022. Lessons learned from the drill are being used to improve the policy which will be drilled again in the near future.

SOUTHERN TIER TOBACCO AWARENESS COALITION (STTAC)

The Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness Coalition (STTAC) has resumed program activities full-time following a 2 year hiatus. Most recently, STTAC's Reality Check youth program partnered with the TC Commons Clubhouse for an Earth Day cigarette butt clean up in Ernie Davis Park. Local youth learned about the negative health and environmental impacts of tobacco use and cleaned up hundreds of cigarette butts. STTAC continues to support local businesses and municipalities who wish to adopt tobacco-free policies that save lives and save money.

CANCER SERVICES

Southern Tier Cancer Services Program from January- April 2022 has completed 28 screenings.

Even though this might seem like a slow start to the year, 6 new Breast Cancers were diagnosed. These patients were signed up for the Medicaid Cancer Treatment Program which provides full Medicaid coverage while they are under Cancer treatment.

This in itself is an amazing success!

Denise attended her first outreach event in 2 years due to the pandemic and is hopeful to help many more people.

QA/QI

Dr. Lenhardt has reviewed STD/HIV charts and offered direct feedback for Quality Improvement in documentation.

PATIENT COMPLAINTS/INCIDENTS

As the transition has begun to return to normal operating practices, the front doors to the Health Department were unlocked. This allowed the public to come in freely for appointments, but subsequently led to 2 incidents in the lobby. Until further notice, the front doors will remain locked until a new procedure is in place.

WIC REPORT- Rena Terwilliger

- They are still completing all appts over the phone. Physical presence waiver was extended again until July 15th then we'd have 90-days to reopen, so potentially October 2022. They are hoping the waiver would not be extended in April so they could resume some normalcy, but that was not the case. As an office we are working on a plan to start seeing some appointments again starting in July. The physical presence waiver gives us and participants the flexibility to complete appointments over the phone, but they can start seeing participants again if everyone is agreeable and able to come.
- The Request for Application (RFA) was submitted in early February. By late February the State notified every agency that submitted an application that all applications were withdrawn. No other explanation was given and there was some talk that it might be released again in the early Spring. No new information at this point but all current contracts have been extended until Sept 30, 2023.
- Having all Health Department calls routed through a voicemail and the addition of the COVID paperwork portal has made a huge impact on the WIC staff. There are a lot of procedures and behind the scene operations that go into running the day-to-day operations of the WIC Program so now staff are able to get back to ensuring these functions are completed.
- March was National Nutrition Month. We had several events/promotions happening.
 - They created a Eat the Rainbow Facebook challenge and highlighted a color of the rainbow each week. We posted healthy recipes to go along with each color.
 - They partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension and offered a virtual cooking demo twice in March. They promoted it on social media and utilized our texting platform but unfortunately had no participants sign-up to attend.
 - They were not able to make it a true challenge and offer a prize for those that completed the challenge or attended the cooking demo because if we're giving out prizes they have to be offered to all participants.
- Newest nutritionists have completed and passed the Certified Lactation Course and is now a Certified Lactation Counselor!
- They are getting started on planning our event for World Breastfeeding Week in August.

Next Meeting scheduled for at July 13, 2022 at 12:00PM via WebEx.