



Public Health
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Established 1923

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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Joseph Bohan, MD, President

James Lapey, Vice-President

*Giles Hamlin, MD
Zahid Chohan, MD
Sondra Fox, RN
Richard Haberer
Georgina Paul, FNP
Theresa Raftis
James Snyder*

MINUTES

December 3, 2014

The 832nd meeting of the Cattaraugus County Board of Health was held at St. Bonaventure Clubhouse Restaurant, Route 417, Allegany, New York on December 3, 2014.

The following members were present:

Dr. Joseph Bohan	James Lapey
Dr. Zahid Chohan	Theresa Raftis
Sondra Fox, RN	James Snyder

Also present were:

Kevin D. Watkins, MD, MPH, Public Health Director
Thomas Brady, County Attorney
Madelyn Thornton, RN, BS, Guest Speaker
Linda Edstrom, County Legislator
Paula Stockman, County Legislator
Howard VanRensselaer, County Legislator
Donna Vickman, County Legislator
Gilbert Witte, MD, Medical Director
Susan Andrews, Director of Patient Services
Kathleen Ellis, Administrative Officer
Raymond Jordan, Sr. Public Health Sanitarian
Debra Lacher, Secretary to Public Health Director
Eric Wohlers, Director of Environmental Health
Rick Miller, Olean Times Herald

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Bohan. The roll was called and a quorum declared.

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Health meeting held on November 5, 2014. It was seconded by Dr. Chohan, and unanimously approved.

Dr. Bohan introduced Madelyn Thornton, RN, BS, Program Coordinator, for the Komen Kares Program who is the guest speaker for today's Board of Health meeting. The cancer services program of Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties provides free cancer screenings for uninsured and financial assistance for those who are underinsured.

Cancer screenings that are covered under this program include breast, cervical and colorectal. The Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) kits are provided for the colorectal screenings, if the test results are positive the cancer services program then pays for a colonoscopy. Anyone with an abnormal breast exam or abnormal Pap smear test is also provided with additional diagnostic testing to determine if cancer is present. If cancer is confirmed, the patient could apply and most will qualify for the Medicaid cancer treatment program, which would pay for all their treatment including surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation therapy. This takes the financial burden away from the patient.

The cancer services program has linked up with the mobile mammogram unit which comes from Buffalo. The mobile unit typically goes to areas which are difficult to serve because of their location, including the Seneca Nation and the town of Salamanca, four times a year.

The cancer services program has also been involved in working with providers to provide screening to the Amish communities at the Amish health fair. The colorectal FIT kits have been readily accepted into this community.

There have been (228) clients served through this program in the year 2014 and of that, (4) individuals were found to have invasive breast cancer, and (1) with positive colorectal cancer.

Recent statistics of colorectal cancer screenings in New York State show that 68% of adults between the ages of 50-75 have received a screening of some type. Those who do not have health insurance 44% of them were screened, those with health insurance 70% were screened. The statistics prove that those with no health insurance are less likely to get screened, so this program reaches where it is needed most.

Director's Report: Dr. Watkins reported that the Health Department is in the middle of their influenza vaccine campaign, and that influenza vaccinations were offered to both the public, and the county employees. He stated that Health Care Personnel (HCP) are considered a high priority group for receiving the influenza vaccine as they provide care to patients who are at high risk for complications of influenza. He went on to say, that it is the goal of public health officials to achieve high rates of vaccination among HCP in order to protect both the staff and patient and to reduce the disease burden and healthcare cost. Dr. Watkins informed the board that most of the health department nursing staff and the County's nursing home personnel have already been vaccinated as per the state regulation. The regulation states that all personnel in healthcare and residential facilities and agencies, whose job activities could expose patients or residents to influenza, should receive an influenza vaccine. For those who do not receive a vaccine, they must wear a surgical or procedure mask while providing care to patients or residents. He stated that over 2,000 influenza vaccines have been administered throughout the campaign this year, which do not include those administered to county employees.

Dr. Watkins reported that during the week of November 22nd the influenza activity within New York State has been geographically categorized as just local. The predominant influenza strain this season appears to be influenza A (H3N2). The 2014-2015 influenza vaccine covers both influenza A and B. The number of patients who have been admitted to the hospital with laboratory confirmed influenza throughout the entire state over the week of November 22nd was about (49). This is a 69% increase from the previous week. The age groups that are most effected is still between 18-49, and those who are over 65 years of age.

There have been no influenza associated pediatric deaths throughout the state this season. Dr. Watkins reminded the board that it is not too late to get an influenza vaccine for those who have not received a vaccine this year.

Dr. Watkins stated that (2) children in Cattaraugus County were diagnosed with Pertussis otherwise known as Whooping Cough. Back in 2012, there was a large outbreak of Whooping Cough here in New York State with over (970) cases and over (48,200) cases throughout the United States.

Dr. Watkins reported that the Ebola epidemic is still spreading in West Africa and that there has been a total of (10,585) confirmed Ebola cases and a little over (6,000) deaths associated with Ebola. The countries most affected by this epidemic continue to be Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. He stated that Liberia continues to have the most deaths but we are seeing more cases in Sierra Leone. Advisory from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) informs travelers to avoid any non-essential travel to these endemic areas. CDC has also identified some active cases in Mali and advises travelers to practice enhanced precautions if they travel through Mali as well. Dr. Watkins informed the board that there have been a number of people that required work-up (rule-out) for possible Ebola here in New York State and one false alarm case in Cattaraugus County. The Health Department, Olean General Hospital, and EMS personnel are well equipped and ready to deal with Ebola cases if the need arises.

Dr. Watkins summarized by informing the board that membership association applications were sent out to the four membership associations in Cattaraugus County. Three membership associations completed their application and paid their required fees to renew their permits. The Loyal Order of Moose decided to no longer register as a membership association because they have decided to convert to a no smoking facility and are making plans to hire employees. The remaining three membership associations in Cattaraugus County, includes the Olean Veterans Club, Christopher Columbus Club, and the Olean American Legion Post #530.

Dr. Watkins concluded by reminding the board that we have only three clean indoor air act waivers in Cattaraugus County and they include, the Ischua Fire Department, Off Track Betting, and the Little Valley VFW.

Dr. Bohan questioned if the (2) recent positive Pertussis cases in Cattaraugus County were children who had received the vaccine previously. Mrs. Andrews confirmed that indeed both had received the vaccine.

Nursing Division Report: Mrs. Andrews reported (1) new Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) case, this was a younger person who was identified with IV drug use.

Two cases of Pertussis were reported this month including a 5 year old from Ischua, and a 16 year old from Yorkshire both who had been immunized previously.

There are no Ebola cases within our county that we are monitoring but surrounding counties both Erie, and Niagara County are currently monitoring several patients who have recently returned from the endemic areas.

The influenza activity for our county is low but it is showing an increase in activity. Nationwide there have been (5) pediatric deaths, which is a reminder that influenza can have serious complications.

Mrs. Andrews stated that the family planning staff met with three social workers from the Salamanca school district regarding assisting students to access needed services. In New York State, minors can access confidential reproductive health services without parental consent. Salamanca pregnancy rates remain one of the highest at 78.8 per 1,000 so hopefully working with the school social workers will have a positive impact on this statistic.

Mrs. Andrews reported (1) new elevated blood lead level case which was identified at 10 ug/dl, (normal <9 ug/dl). Eleven additional children continue under follow up testing.

There were (2) new possible rabies exposures in November requiring post exposure rabies vaccines. The animals involved included a raccoon that bit through someone's glove and a cat that could not be located.

Mrs. Andrews informed the board that the homecare census is currently down to (360) cases which is a 10-12% decrease from last year. The nursing staff continues to hear that our residents in the Buffalo hospitals are not given a choice of homecare services but are being provided with Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) home care agency as their only provider. No new certified agencies have been approved for Cattaraugus County, we continue to currently have (3) agencies which include Lakeshore Healthcare, VNA and Cattaraugus County Health Department.

Mrs. Andrews concluded by informing the board that family planning will be required to switch to a certified electronic health record therefore, attendance at a webinar has been set up for tomorrow to gather more information.

Dr. Watkins informed the board that in response to the repeated claims that the Buffalo hospitals are not giving residents a choice during discharge planning, that plans are being made to give residents a reminder, possibly in the form of a wallet card. This would be something they could hand to a discharge planner like an insurance card prompting them that they prefer to have Cattaraugus County provide their home care services. Dr. Bohan requested that the County Attorney send a letter to the Buffalo hospital administrator to remind them that discharge planners must give patients a choice.

Environmental Health Division Report: Mr. Wohlers reported that there will be a rabies vaccination clinic held on January 10th at the Little Valley Department of Public Works (DPW).

Today all of the environmental health field staff are attending a State Health Department sponsored food service program training, which was scheduled regionally in the Jamestown area.

Mr. Wohlers informed the board that each year the State Health Department allows each county a certain amount of laboratory time at the State Health Departments Wadsworth Center for lab and research to do surveillance sampling for small public water systems. This actually saves our small community water systems quite a bit of money. The third week of January we will sample (8) of our public water supplies for the whole series of inorganic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals, and the principal organic chemicals. This is monitoring that could be quite expensive.

Last month Mr. Wohlers invited the regional director and inspector from the New York State Agricultural and Markets (NYSA&M) to come to the environmental staff meeting but due to the snow storm and the road closures they had to cancel their visit.

Mr. Wohlers reminded the board that there is an official memorandum of understanding between New York State Department of Health and NYSA&M concerning the inspection of food service establishments. The health department is responsible for the inspection of places where food is consumed on the premises or sold ready-to-eat for off-premises consumption including the site at which individual portions are provided. The NYSA&M is responsible for the inspection of places where food is processed or manufactured, food warehouses, wholesale food distributors and retail food stores. The departments work in conjunction with each other over food borne illness complaints. Farmers markets are now becoming a source where NYSA&M must investigate the home bakeries, foods processed at homes and sold at these venues.

An inquiry was made if the health department inspected food service establishments at the casino. Mr. Wohlers informed the board that the Seneca Nation has their own health department which performs their own inspections.

Old Business: Dr. Watkins reported that after reviewing old enforcement cases that were still open, a case which dated back to 2012, **Docket 12-027 Victor Farr, Jr., 1702 Andrew Street, Olean, NY 14760** required that Mr. Farr connect to a public sanitary sewer system. On October 25, 2014 the connection was made, after an on-site inspection which included a dye test, it was confirmed that the work performed was acceptable. Now that Mr. Farr has complied with the board order, Dr. Watkins would like to bring to the board's attention that Mr. Farr has come into some financial difficulty and the fine which started out as \$50.00, is now \$1,090.00, and he cannot afford to pay. Dr. Watkins asked the board if they would revisit this case and vacate the fine as compliance with the board order of connecting to the public water system has been met. Mr. Snyder made a motion to accept this recommendation, and Ms. Raftis seconded this motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

New Business: Dr. Bohan informed the board that a new calendar year begins at the next meeting and nominations for new officers must be conducted. He suggested that another member of the board be appointed to the nominating committee since Mr. Lapey is now an officer of the board and is no longer eligible. Mr. Snyder nominated Ms. Raftis, who graciously accepted. No further nominations being made, the board voted to appoint Ms. Raftis unanimously. The new nominating committee consists of Mrs. Fox and Ms. Raftis. Dr. Bohan asked the new committee to meet during the break and decide on a slate for board president and vice president.

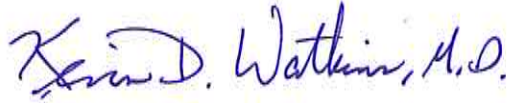
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Dr. Watkins reminded the board that there would be no January meeting because of the restructuring of the County legislators. Therefore the next meeting will be held in February. Normally the meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month, but due to a scheduling conflict Dr. Watkins proposed that the next meeting be held on February 11th. The board was in agreement with this change.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lapey, and it was seconded by Dr. Chohan and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin D. Watkins, M.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin D. Watkins, M.D., M.P.H.

Secretary

KDW/dl