



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Established 1923

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

1 Leo Moss Drive, Olean, NY 14760, Tel. (716) 373-8050, Fax (716) 701-3737

Joseph Bohan, MD, President

Joseph Eade, Vice-President

Giles Hamlin, MD

Zahid Chohan, MD

Sondra Fox, RN

Richard Haberer

James Lapey

Georgina Paul, FNP

James Snyder

MINUTES

November 6, 2013

The 820th meeting of the Cattaraugus County Board of Health was held at St. Bonaventure Clubhouse Restaurant, Route 417, Allegany, New York on November 6, 2013.

The following members were present:

Joseph Bohan, MD

James Lapey

Giles Hamlin, MD

James Snyder

Sondra Fox, RN

Richard Haberer

Joseph Eade

Also present were:

Kevin D. Watkins, MD, MPH, Public Health Director

Kathleen Ellis, Administrative Officer

Thomas Brady, County Attorney

Linda Edstrom, County Legislator

Paula Stockman, County Legislator

Donna Vickman, County Legislator

Howard VanRensselaer, County Legislator

Karen Manners, Secretary to Public Health Director

Eric Wohlers, Environmental Health Director

Raymond Jordan, Sr. Public Health Sanitarian

Susan Andrews, Director of Patient Services

Deborah Nichols, Public Health Educator

Gilbert Witte, MD, Medical Director

Chris Chapman, Buffalo News & Jamestown Post Journal

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Bohan. The roll was called and a quorum declared. Dr. Bohan welcomed back Mr. Eade who has been away for several months due to illness.

Mr. Eade made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2013 meeting and also the minutes of the July 17, 2013 Professional Advisory meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Lapey and unanimously approved.

Director's Report: Dr. Watkins reported that the Health Department held their influenza POD for county employees and the public on 10/16/13 and served over 308 clients of which 199 were county employees. A POD was also held in Little Valley on 10/23/13 and approximately 130 county employees were vaccinated. There are new State regulations that employees licensed under Article 28 and 36 (nursing home facilities and home care agencies), not receiving the influenza vaccine will be required to wear a face mask during the influenza season. Approximately 2,000 influenza vaccinations have been administered this year by the Health Department. The week of 10/26/13 there were 9 laboratory confirmed cases of influenza in New York State that were admitted to the hospital. There were no influenza associated pediatric deaths within New York State during that time period and no laboratory confirmed cases in Cattaraugus County so far. It is recommended that everyone six months of age and older receive an influenza vaccine. Children age 6 months through eight years of age who have never received a seasonal influenza vaccination, should receive two doses this year that are administered at least 4 weeks apart. It is strongly recommended that individuals who are at high risk of developing serious complications from seasonal influenza receive the influenza vaccine. These include individuals 65 years of age and older, children younger than 5 years of age, pregnant women and people of any age with chronic medical conditions.

Dr. Watkins stated that the first review of the Health Department's budget has been completed with the County Administrator who will release his recommendation to the County Legislators this afternoon. We were able to keep the budget within the requested parameters, with no more than a 2% increase of the 2013 budget. The Health Department submitted a budget that was 4.5% less than the 2013 budget; our 2014 budget totaled \$10,990,994.00. The decrease can be attributed to an increase in the public health work funding from the State, an insignificant increase in employee benefits, a loss in expenses in the Early Intervention Program and the loss of the Emergency Medical Services Program. The County levy that we will be asking to support the Health Department programs will be \$1,649,528.00. In the 2014 budget, a request was made to reinstate the Program Aides for the Mosquito Surveillance Program and included one-third of the expense for our accreditation process.

Dr. Watkins said that as of 10/29/13 a State Law under the Clean Indoor Air Act went into effect that prohibits smoking on or near the grounds of hospitals and nursing homes. Many of these facilities already have a smoke free policy in place. Individuals will not be allowed to smoke within 15 feet of such a facility. Violators can be fined up to \$2,000.00 for each violation and the penalty can be increased for any repeat violation within a 12 month period.

Dr. Watkins informed the Board that this afternoon he will attend a vacancy committee meeting to request permission to fill a Medical Social Work position in the Home Care Program and the Administrative Secretary position in Administration.

Dr. Watkins also informed the Board that Lake Shore Hospital in Irving, New York is planning to close its doors in January. They serve residents of Cattaraugus, Erie and Chautauqua Counties. Most concerning is the loss of their in-patient mental health unit and more importantly, as it relates to the Health Department, their Long Term Home Health Care Program. It appears that the hospital was just recently approved to receive a certificate of need to become a certified home health agency in Cattaraugus, Erie and Chautauqua Counties and now they plan to sell that certificate. We are not sure if selling the certificate will have any adverse affects on our certified home health care program.

Dr. Watkins will contact Senator Young's office and the State Planning Board to oppose the sale of the certificate. Mrs. Fox commented that there are a number of hospitals with psychiatric units along the I-86 corridor that are closing because of lack of funding.

Dr. Watkins recognized the 90th Anniversary of the Cattaraugus County Health Department stating that in 1923 a small group of courageous leaders both inside and outside of the political light made a serious attempt to meet the health needs of the people of Cattaraugus County. In 1916, the County Tuberculosis Sanatorium was established and in the same year the Olean Chamber of Commerce established a full time County health service as part of its program. In 1921, Olean applied for aid to establish a demonstration unit under the American Red Cross which was ultimately secured by Mansfield Ohio. Then in 1922, Milbank Memorial Fund announced funding to demonstrate that the extent of sickness in the United States can be diminished and mortality rates substantially reduced in a relatively short period of time by applying evidence based studies in communities that would be willing to bear the per capita costs. Cattaraugus County applied for and was chosen for this project in 1923 and it lasted for seven years, from 1923-1929.

The first year of the demonstration project was largely devoted to the preliminary organization of the County Health Department. There were six bureaus which included Communicable Disease, Laboratory Diagnosis, Tuberculosis, Statistical Records & Reports, Maternity, Infancy and Child Hygiene and a Health Education and Publicity Bureau. The County was then divided into six administrative districts with local offices that were located in Olean, Salamanca, Franklinville, Cattaraugus, Ellicottville and Randolph. Initiation of the rural health demonstration began in January 1923 by the act of the County Board of Supervisors, now known as County Legislators, appointing five County Board of Health members who then appointed a County Health Officer. Between 1925 and 1928, public health nurses traveled some 550,000 miles and made almost 990,000 home visits to provide information, counseling and identifying patients with tuberculosis and care for the sick under the general direction of local physicians. They supervised patients with communicable diseases, assisted in child birth, provided health and nutrition education and worked in clinics and schools.

As you would expect, because of the nuance of this program there were problems with accepting the demonstration project. One of the most striking aspects of the history was the opposition of the Medical Society who denounced the demonstration project in the mid 1920's. The Fund and the Technical Board worried about negative publicity. A crisis occurred, for example, when the Health Director fired several Medical Society members because they refused to undergo training to prevent infectious diseases. The technical board discussed this crisis for seven months and one member feared that the publicity may retard the establishment of county health units elsewhere in the state and within the nation. Another disagreed and said arguing this conflict with local physicians was necessary for good progress. In the end, the technical board sent a nuance message to the County Legislators that the demonstration would continue only if the supervisors or legislators would negotiate a truce between the Medical Society and increase the budget for the health department for the coming year.

The success of the demonstration program is best summarized in the statistical results that were released from the project that showed a reduction in both morbidity and mortality when analyzing disease and death rates for all causes. The demonstration project was recognized by governors and also by President Roosevelt as to how health outcomes within municipalities should actually work.

The strategy that was employed by this project and public health today is to: identify and define health problems, to identify the factors associated with the problems, to develop and test interventions to control or prevent the problems, and to assess the effectiveness of the interventions.

As Winslow stated, health is dependent on a complex interplay among an array of genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors. As a result, public health is built on expertise and skills from many areas, including biology, environmental and earth science, sociology, psychology, government, medicine, statistics, communication, and many others. This complexity makes it difficult for the general public to understand exactly what public health is and what it does. In addition, public health has been so successful that some in the general population may not be aware of the expertise and hard work that is required to ensure the health and safety of their community. The life of a person who develops severe heart disease might be prolonged by a dramatic and very expensive medical procedure such as heart surgery. However, public health is about interventions that prevent disease from occurring, so the benefits tend to be less obvious. In addition, prevention of disease both prolongs life and improves the quality of life. In a sense, public health is the heart disease that never developed, the epidemic that didn't happen, the outbreak of foodborne illness that never occurred, the child that would have developed asthma, but didn't. Public health is the disaster that didn't happen.

Dr. Watkins concluded by saying that we are part of a legacy, just 90 years ago, here in this county, history was made and today we share the struggles and success of that history with each other. Let us continue to make history to meet the health needs of the people of Cattaraugus County, Happy 90th Anniversary!

Mrs. Fox added that her first job was in a county in Maryland where the director noted on several occasions that Cattaraugus County paved the way for public health by being the first organized health department in New York State.

Ms. Nichols noted that the Culinary Arts students from the Ellicottville BOCES who provided the desserts for the anniversary celebration will be at the celebration next Wednesday at the Legislative meeting. She pointed out that in 1948, Yale University researchers noted that “the entire progress made in the United States in developing health services for rural areas owes its inception to Cattaraugus County” which is quite remarkable. She went on to say that in 1931, Dr. C.E.A. Winslow, a Professor of Public Health at the Yale School of Medicine, wrote a book called *Health on the Farm and in the Village: A Review and Evaluation of the Cattaraugus County Health Demonstration with Special Reference to Its Lessons for Other Rural Areas* as an observation based on follow up of our demonstration project. In his introduction, Dr. Winslow stated that one of the most tangible results of this demonstration project in Cattaraugus County is its success in convincing health authorities of the value of modern health programs and the importance of making financial sacrifices for the results which such a program entailed. Mr. John Walrath, President of the County Board of Health, said in 1927 at the close of the original demonstration period of 4 years: “It has been shown conclusively that it is possible and practicable to establish a health department in a rural county in New York State and that such a health department can furnish an effective health service for those living in the county. It has been shown also that county authorities are sufficiently interested in such a service to give it substantial financial support, thus insuring the continuation of the work.”

Ms. Nichols also mentioned some excerpts from an article in the British Medical Journal in 1931 that recognized the contributions the demonstration project in Cattaraugus County made in developing health services in rural areas.

Dr. Bohan said that it is wonderful to celebrate the Health Department's 90th Anniversary and the foresight of the previous Boards and the fantastic job that the present workers of the Health Department do; as Dr. Watkins stated the job of public health is about interventions that prevent disease from occurring, so the benefits tend to be less obvious.

Nursing Division Report: Mrs. Andrews reported that the number of communicable disease cases for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Hepatitis C are higher than they were at this time last year.

Patti Williams (Supervisor Community Health Nurse) conducted an AFIX (Assessment, Feedback, Incentive and eXchange – an immunization assessment) at one of the large day cares in the County and found that they are doing extremely well and actually only one child was out of compliance but that should be corrected.

The public influenza clinics conducted by the Health Department are finished, although we will be offering influenza vaccines in Salamanca on December 7, 2013 at the Silver Bells community event. Influenza activity is low but it has been confirmed in all upstate counties including Cattaraugus County.

One post-exposure rabies treatment was administered in October because of exposure to a cat. The year to date total is now at 27 which is the same as it was last year at this time.

The first implantable contraception was inserted at the clinic. It lasts for three years and is progesterone; there is no estrogen in it. The only down side to this contraception is that it does not protect against sexually transmitted diseases. The Family Planning Grant is due at the end of November.

There were two new confirmed elevated lead level cases in October. Both children 13 and 15 months of age respectively, had readings of 10ug/dl (normal is 0-9ug/dl).

The patient census in Home Care is at 351 and year to date total is similar to last year. Additional nurses will attend training for the uniform assessment which is very time consuming. There is part time Social Worker position open. This is our direct service; therefore we need to have that position filled. We have identified a potential candidate once we have approval from the vacancy committee.

Environmental Health Division: Mr. Wohlers reported that because of the increasing complaints regarding bed bugs, Dr. Gall, State Entomologist, will conduct a seminar at the Jamestown Community College campus in Jamestown on November 21, 2013. All hotel and motel operators, people from housing agencies and certain code enforcement officers have been invited. This seminar will educate our facility operators how to quickly and effectively respond when they are called upon by the public to investigate their facilities.

Mr. Wohlers also reported that the winter rabies vaccination clinic has been scheduled for January 4, 2013 in Little Valley from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon.

In 2011 the County Legislature passed a Local Law regulating the sale and use of herbal and electronic cigarettes ("E-cigarettes"). Recently we have received a few complaints of people using e-cigarettes in establishments, so a notice will be sent to all food service establishments some of which may not know that the County Law was passed.

Also a notice will be sent to all food service establishments regarding amendments to the Americans with Disabilities Act on allowing service animals, such as Seeing Eye dogs into restaurants.

The five year contract with DEC to do commercial sewage system inspections and plan reviews in our county will be renewed.

Mr. Wohlers stated that the engineer involved with the Lime Lake sewer project has updated their study and they are applying for additional State grant funding. He reminded the Board that the State DEC would not approve the engineering design to collect the wastewater around Lime Lake and pump it to Franklinville because Franklinville is outside of the Great Lakes watershed basin and there is a legal compact stating that flows cannot be diverted from the Great Lakes basin into different watershed basins. The outlet of Lime Lake goes north to the Cattaraugus Creek and into the Great Lakes but everything from Machias south goes into the Ischua Creek and into the Allegany River. The plan now is to change the design, build a pump station and would probably be pumped to the Arcade Wastewater Treatment Plant which is only a mile further than Franklinville. They are still hoping to break ground in 2014 on this project.

Mr. Wohlers also reported that he has been meeting with the Randolph and Conewango Town Boards to create legal sewer districts after taking over the Randolph and East Randolph Village systems.

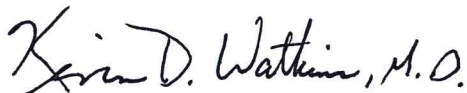
The Town of Randolph and the Crystal Water Company in West Valley have had their funding approved through the New York State Drinking Water Revolving Fund. They will hopefully break ground in 2014 on their water system projects.

Lastly, Mr. Wohlers stated that the Village of Cattaraugus appears to be eligible and hopefully will get a \$600,000 Community Development Block Grant from New York State next year to do necessary upgrades to their water system.

All October enforcement cases are closed therefore no Board action is necessary.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Eade made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Lapey and carried to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Copies of articles mentioned at the Board of Health meeting are available upon request by contacting the Cattaraugus County Health Department at 716-701-3398. No Freedom of Information (FOIL) request is necessary.