



Public Health

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CATTARAUGUS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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Andrew Klaczynski, MD, President

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Joseph Eade

Sondra Fox, RN

Richard Haberer

James Lapey

Georgina Paul, FNP

James Snyder

MINUTES

March 7, 2012

The 803rd meeting of the Cattaraugus County Board of Health was held at St. Bonaventure Clubhouse Route 417, Allegany, New York on March 7, 2012.

The following members were present:

Andrew Klaczynski, MD

Giles Hamlin, MD

Joseph Eade

Sondra Fox, RN

Georgina Paul, FNP

Richard Haberer

James Lapey

James Snyder

Also present were:

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

Karen Manners, Secretary to Public Health Director

Thomas Brady, County Attorney

Paula Stockman, County Legislator

Donna Vickman, County Legislator

Linda Edstrom, County Legislator

Gilbert Witte, MD, Medical Director

Raymond Jordan, Sr. Sanitarian

Susan Andrews, Director of Patient Services

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Klaczynski. The roll was called and a quorum declared. Mr. Eade made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2012 Board of Health meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Haberer and unanimously approved.

Director's Report: Dr. Watkins reported that this Friday is the deadline for the State to accept applications from licensed home health agencies to become certified. There will probably be at least one agency from our community that will apply.

Dr. Watkins went on to say that there is no unmet need in our community and if this agency becomes certified it will lead to duplication of services and competition for the same patient population.

The State recently completed a detailed review of our home health agency and found a few minor deficiencies. They will send a letter outlining the deficiencies and then we will have 10 days to respond with a plan of corrections.

The New York State Department of Health will be here March 15-23, 2012 to do a consolidated review of various programs which will include Children with Special Health Care Needs/Physically Handicapped Children's Program, Family Planning Program, Lead, Communicable Disease/Epi, Immunization, along with the Vaccine for Children Program (VFC), STD/HIV, Tuberculosis (TB) and Environmental Health Programs. The Program Managers of these programs are working to see that all policies and procedures are in order.

We have received several requests to review the herbal and electronic cigarette Local Law that was adopted by the County Legislature on December 14, 2011 and filed with the Secretary of State on December 29, 2011. Letters to local vendors have been drafted and the ordinance has been enforceable since February 27, 2012. Dr. Watkins is urging the eight Western Region counties to adopt this local law through the WNY Public Health Association.

Lynn Conlon and Michael McCarthy, the auditors who conduct the Medicaid & Medicare cost analysis review, will be at the Health Department beginning April 23-27, 2012.

It was discovered that the basement of the Little Valley office building has elevated levels of radon. Staff has been relocated and the radon mitigation work should be completed within the next two weeks to bring the levels below or equal to the recommendation provided by EPA which is 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L).

The County's Health Rankings are expected to be released next month. Last year Cattaraugus County moved up slightly, but has always been near the bottom. We are working with a consortium within the County to improve the health status report, but it may take some time before there is any significant improvement in this report. The report will be available on April 3, 2012 and the Board's next meeting is April 4, 2012, so we will have it available for the May meeting.

An intern working at the Health Department has conducted an analysis of mortality statistics for 2011 and will present it to the Board in April. The Health Department's 2011 Annual Report will also be available in April.

Dr. Watkins stated that he was able to purchase an electronic cigarette. He passed it around to the Board members so that they could see the three parts of the e-cigarette, i.e., the cartridge that contains diethylene glycol (antifreeze), the atomizer and the battery. Dr. Witte mentioned the recent article about a man in Florida that had the e-cigarette explode in his face. He was hospitalized with first or second degree burns. Dr. Watkins said that there have been no other reports of this happening, but the e-cigarettes have a potential to be dangerous and until they are FDA approved, they should not be promoted to individuals that want to decrease their smoking habits.

Nursing Division Report: Mrs. Andrews reported that they are preparing for the consolidated public health review. The Nursing Division has a lot of programs that will be reviewed.

Communicable diseases reported to the State included: 16-Chlamydia, 2-Gonorrhea, 1-Strep Pneumonia in a hospitalized person, 1-Salmonella, 1-Lyme Disease and 6-Chronic Hepatitis. There were several positive cases of Cryptosporidiosis initially from the hospital in Jamestown, however, when the State Laboratory conducted the tests they were negative, so therefore the initial tests were false positives.

Mrs. Andrews stated that the flu activity in the area has been very low, but there was a little increase last week. They have approved the flu vaccine strain for next year. Two of those components will be changing this year, only the H1N1 component will stay the same. The FDA has also just approved a new Quadrivalent flu vaccine which will be manufactured by the company that makes the nasal Flu Mist and a second strain of Influenza B will be added to make it more effective and it will be available 2013-2014.

Erie County had a case of Diptheria, which was unusual because the last documented case was 24 years ago. They were not able to determine where the exposure occurred, but it was probably related to travel. The person has since recovered.

Mrs. Andrews also stated that Pertussis activity has increased from previous years throughout the State and there have been 158 cases so far this year. There has been one post-exposure rabies treatment given because of a dog bite incident.

The Nurse Practitioner that we thought was going to replace Julie McAndrew has decided not to take the position. She will continue to contract with us but on a very limited basis, so we are recruiting for a full time Nurse Practitioner for the Family Planning Clinic.

There were no newly confirmed lead cases in February. Recently an area doctor specifically requested that the nurses do follow up on a child with a level of 9 ug/dl and another child with a level of 7 ug/dl (normal is 0 - 9 ug/dl).

Mrs. Andrews said that the Home Care survey was very long; it was from 2/9/12-2/22/12. The last survey was 3 years prior and since then the survey process has changed dramatically. In the first part of the process they look at the 9 regulations and conditions that they felt impacted patient's safety and care; then if there was a deficiency in one of those areas, they do a partially extended survey and look at more conditions and regulations. The Health Department did have a partially extended survey. They went out on 10 home visits at all three offices, reviewed over 20 records, interviewed 15 staff members and looked at policies and procedures, contracts, personnel records, meeting minutes, etc. We will make the appropriate plan of corrections to submit to them after we receive the statement of deficiencies.

Mrs. Edstrom asked the age range for STD cases. Mrs. Andrews did not have that information but said that they can be as young as fourteen. Dr. Watkins stated that he would get those statistics to Mrs. Edstrom.

Environmental Health Division: Mr. Jordan stated that Mr. Wohlers was unable to attend today because he is participating in a video conference in Chautauqua County with representatives from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regarding the proposed regulations on hydro-

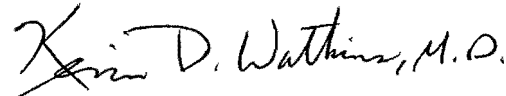
fracking. Environmental Health sponsored a video conference last week from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on bed bugs. It concentrated on residential settings and how health care workers or government agencies can recognize if a home is infested with bed bugs and how to protect themselves. Representatives from the Department of Aging, Social Services and the Nursing and Environmental Health Divisions from the Health Department attended. Staff from these various departments may be putting themselves in a position to transport bed bugs when they visit client's homes. Hopefully, the training was informative and staff becomes more vigilant about not bringing the bugs home to their families.

Mr. Jordan stated that with the changes in the State Sanitary Code for children's camps, day camps may now have to be permitted as children's camps. He had a meeting last month with a group that will most likely have to be permitted as a children's camp. There are a lot of rules and regulations that are going to have to be implemented and the children's day camp will have to modify how they currently operate.

There were two enforcement cases for February that were both closed and required no Board action.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black 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/km