

**CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
January 24, 2023**

PRESENT:

In Person: Ken Sobel, MD

Remote: Rosemary Anthony, RN William G. Howard, MD Gregory Schultz, MD
 Brian Cassetta, MD Mari Delaney, DVM James Gensel, PE
 Frank Steed

ABSENT: Mary Ann Baker, RN Joseph Donovan

STAFF PRESENT: Peter Buzzetti III Sarah Mattison Christina Standt, RN
 Justin Nistico, DO Jonathan Keough Jessica Holton

STAFF ABSENT: None

Prior to the meeting, the CCBH received the following:

- January Agenda
- December 2022 BOH Minutes
- Board of Health By-laws
- EHS Highlights - November 2022
- EHS Highlights - December 2022
- Budget Report
- Director's Report
- Public Health Report
- Covid Update
- Community Health Assessment
- Community Health Improvement Plan

Mr. Buzzetti announced this meeting will be recorded via Zoom and in-person; the recording would be posted to the county website.

CALL TO ORDER

BOH Meeting called to order at 6:00PM. Quorum established.

1. MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 2022

No corrections needed.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Howard and seconded by Ms. Baker to approve Minutes from December. Minutes from December approved and accepted. **Motion Approved.**

AYES: Rosemary Anthony, RN William G. Howard, MD Gregory Schultz, MD
Brian Cassetta, MD Mari Delaney, DVM James Gensel, PE
Ken Sobel, MD Frank Steed

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mary Ann Baker, RN Joseph Donovan

2. EHS HILITES

Mr. Keough noted that he is now able to access the program Lead Web and -is able to get more data and information on Lead cases to provide to the Board in the future. Members may have noticed that not all inspections were completed as planned. Some pools closed prior to inspection being able to be completed. Mr. Keough is very proud of the staff for completing the inspections in which they were able. Some establishments were given enforcement actions, one to note was Smoking Vapor, NY, they had their attorney reach out and claim that our department was running a harassment campaign. The county attorney did respond back and we have not been made aware of any new information.

3. Budget Report

Mr. Buzzetti informed members that the report is for the end of 2022 and that some items may not be fully settled. Dr. Howard commented on being favorably impressed with the budget. Mr. Buzzetti noted that it was with the hard work of Kyle Wieder and Melissa Schill and being able to keep on top of the budget.

4. Public Health Report

Ms. Mattison provided update on what was a possible Meningitidis case within the county which ended up as dismissed. Ms. Mattison also mentioned that she is proud of the team for being prepared and ready to carry out the POD.

5. Directors Report

Mr. Buzzetti reviewed some financial incentives that are available and of interest to CCHD. Specifically, CDC funding for improving the public health infrastructure. Dr Howard commented on some of the conspiracy theories on how the CDC is controlling the information that they get and only providing money to those that are following it, and this goes to show that that isn't the case.

OLD BUSINESS

1. BOH BYLAWS

The updates/corrections suggested from the December meeting were completed, Mr. Buzzetti asked if there were any additional comments. Dr. Howard noted that one change needed to be made with the reviewed and approved date be today's date. Mr Buzzetti did provide an update that legislature Scott Drake has been replaced (as he was to carry out Joe Brennan's term) and we will be welcoming Joe Donovan. Mr. Donovan was unable to attend this meeting, but he looks forward to attending the next meeting.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Howard and seconded by Dr. Delaney to approve the Board of Health Bylaws. The Board of Health Bylaws approved and accepted. **Motion Approved.**

AYES:

Rosemary Anthony, RN	William G. Howard, MD	Gregory Schultz, MD
Brian Cassetta, MD	Mari Delaney, DVM	James Gensel, PE
Ken Sobel, MD	Frank Steed	

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mary Ann Baker, RN Joseph Donovan

2. COVID UPDATE

Mr Buzzetti did a quick walk through of the changes made to the PowerPoint with COVID data. Dr. Howard feels that it would make sense for us to use 100,000 per population when we make our graphs or provide data. It was then mentioned by Mr. Buzzetti that he thought that change was made and maybe it was just missed when updating the graphs going forward. Will make the note and have the graphs completed with the 100,000 per population data going forward as it does help the public if we use that metric so it doesn't come across as skewing information. Mrs. Anthony asked for Mr. Buzzetti and Ms. Mattison's for thoughts on the new COVID variant, and if any reports on how it may be affecting our area. Mr. Buzzetti commented that locally numbers are very static. Ms. Mattison mentioned the new variant is becoming the dominant one in New York State. Dr. Howard noted the use of percentage of those vaccinated with death rates gives false impression. It can make one feel that the vaccine doesn't actually make a difference. Which seems to be part of the definitions. Vaccinated only being initial series, where up to date includes boosters. So, one may be fully vaccinated but because not up to date you may not be as protected as you may think. Mrs. Anthony asked Dr. Cassetta if Guthrie primary care offices have any COVID vaccine. Dr. Cassetta noted that they do, but many patients are receiving from the drug stores.

Mrs. Anthony asked if any remarkable flu data to share. Mr. Buzzetti noted the state flu report. Numbers have fallen, but if you compare this year's total to the past few years we are well over those totals. We did have a couple weeks where the graph was almost a vertical line and the state noted they haven't seen that in almost 25 years. Dr. Nistico spoke on flu vaccination timeframe. Shift in timing of flu vaccinations may need to jump a month earlier. Instead of being September/October it should be August/September. Unsure if it will shift the season, but mask use may need to be more of an initiative, and promote more preventable measure going forward. Dr. Howard asked how long current flu shot is effective. Dr. Nistico noted it can be skewed but you should expect to get 3 months' worth of protection. For best timeframe of protection, you would want to get it around the peak time. And if possible try to get a second dose or booster but insurances won't typically cover those doses. Mr. Buzzetti commented that the health department doesn't receive allotment of flu vaccine until October, asked the group when they receive theirs. Mr. Steed mentioned the delivery is due in part to when the

vaccine is ordered. Mr. Steed has already ordered for next fall, and is expecting the delivery to be around second week of August. Mrs. Anthony asked if the group feels that there will be more compliance if the flu and COVID vaccine were combined. Dr. Nistico thinks yes as opposed to having to get more than 1 shot. Dr. Nistico has seen a lot of push back on safety. Most patients are fine with flu but not COVID vaccine.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Mr. Buzzetti noted that for the last 3 years the health department has lobbied the state to allow local health departments to reuse prior plans, due to the impact of COVID. The state wouldn't allow it, so we had completed an abbreviated plan. This plan was sent for review of the Board prior to this meeting.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Sobel and seconded by Dr. Howard to approve the CHA & CHIP. CHA & CHIP approved and accepted. **Motion Approved.**

AYES: Rosemary Anthony, RN William G. Howard, MD Gregory Schultz, MD
Brian Cassetta, MD Mari Delaney, DVM James Gensel, PE
Ken Sobel, MD Frank Steed

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mary Ann Baker, RN Joseph Donovan

Dr. Sobel commented that he happens to have been in a unique position, and that thinks it makes sense to have Arnot be the lead, but doesn't it make sense to have Guthrie be involved in this. Ms. Mattison commented that Guthrie does participate within the discussion of the plan, and that Guthrie was just not part of writing the plan.

2. Accreditation

Mr. Buzzetti noted that we have one (1) public health fellow who has the main focus of working on accreditation. And we are in a unique position to have the resources to apply for accreditation. The County Executive did provide input and approval of the health department applying. Mr. Buzzetti is now looking for input and approval from the board. Dr. Sobel asked what the fees/financial cost of the reaccreditation is. Accreditation remains for 5 years, and reaccreditation fee currently is around one thousand five hundred (\$1,500). Dr. Howard noted that this will provide a much-improved health department.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Howard and seconded by Dr. Schultz to approve the health department seeking local health department accreditation. The health department accreditation approved and accepted.

Motion Approved.

AYES: Rosemary Anthony, RN William G. Howard, MD Gregory Schultz, MD
Brian Cassetta, MD Mari Delaney, DVM James Gensel, PE
Ken Sobel, MD Frank Steed

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mary Ann Baker, RN Joseph Donovan

ADJORNMENT

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Howard and seconded by Dr. Schultz that this meeting of the Chemung County Board of Health be adjourned.

AYES: Rosemary Anthony, RN William G. Howard, MD Gregory Schultz, MD
Brian Cassetta, MD Mari Delaney, DVM James Gensel, PE
Ken Sobel, MD Frank Steed

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mary Ann Baker, RN Joseph Donovan

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:04 PM

Next meeting: **Board of Health Meeting
Chemung County Health Department Conference Room
March 28, 2023 @ 6:00 PM**