



CATTARAUGUS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Cattaraugus County
Health Department
Established 1923

Joseph Bohan, MD, President

Giles Hamlin, MD, Vice-President

*Zahid Chohan, MD
Kelly J. Andreano, Legislator
Sondra Fox, RN, MSN, C.S.
Theresa Raftis
David L. Smith, Mayor
Kathryn Cooney Thrush, NP, MSN
Donna Vickman, LPN*

MINUTES April 5, 2023

The 912th meeting of the Cattaraugus County Board of Health (BOH) was held at the Old Library Restaurant on April 5, 2023.

The following members were present:

Joseph Bohan, MD
Giles Hamlin, MD
Zahid Chohan, MD

Kathryn Cooney-Thrush, NP, MSN
Theresa Raftis
Donna Vickman, LPN

Also present were:

Kevin D. Watkins, MD, MPH, Public Health Director
Ashley Smith, County Attorney
Ray Jordan, Senior Public Health Sanitarian
Debra Lacher, Secretary to the Public Health Director
James Lawrence, Emergency Preparedness Director
Collette Lulay-Pound, Administrative Officer
Rick Miller, Olean Times Herald Reporter (Virtual)
Lynne Moore, Director of Nursing
Dave Porter, Hearing Officer
Matt Tyssee, Health Educator
Gilbert Witte, MD, Medical Director

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Bohan. The roll was called and a quorum was present. Dr. Bohan asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 3, 2023. A motion to approve the Board of Health (BOH) meeting minutes from March 3, 2023 was made by Mrs. Cooney-Thrush, seconded by Dr. Hamlin, and unanimously approved.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Dr. Watkins reviewed the annual report which was handed out to those in attendance. He stated that in 2022 the certified home health agency had an average of (255) patients with care provided to (1,371) individuals; compared to the 2021 annual report when there was a daily census of (260) patients and care provided to (1,431) individuals. He acknowledged that these numbers are trending downward and that it is most likely due to the competition with the other certified home health agency that is providing services to patients within the community. Services provided by the home health agency includes skilled nursing, physical therapy, home health aides, occupational therapy, speech therapy, medical social work, and nutritionist. He stated that speech therapy services have declined due to lack of providers, and the department is having difficulty in locating new providers in this field.

The Medicaid Obstetrics Maternal (MOMS) program enrolls eligible individuals who do not have insurance, or underinsured with presumptive Medicaid. In 2022 there was (1) new admission and services provided to (2) individuals. Comparing that to 2021, there were (2) eligible individuals who received presumptive Medicaid services, and (12) individuals who received (20) visits through the MOMS program. There was a change in staffing which led to a decrease in the number of services that were provided. In 2023 the department will be increasing efforts on getting eligible individuals enrolled within this program.

The Family Planning program's objective is to reduce adolescent pregnancy, and make sure unintended pregnancies do not happen, if at all possible. Dr. Watkins shared a teen pregnancies (Females 15-19 years old) graph, from teens treated at Cattaraugus County Health Department, from 2018-2022 and stated that there were (2) teen positive pregnancy tests in 2022 compared to 6 teen positive pregnancy tests in 2021. He stated that in the department's health clinic, we also test for sexually transmitted infections such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). In 2022, the department's most common communicable disease was chlamydia followed by gonorrhea, then syphilis and this has been the case for the last five years.

The lead poisoning prevention program monitors lead levels for children between the ages of (1-2 years of age). In 2022, over (2,100) blood lead levels were followed in the department system, compared to only (1,400) in 2021. The increase in the number of children followed in the program correlates with a change made by NYSDOH in 2019 that requires local health departments to provide risk reduction, nutrition counseling and lead assessment to families with a child who has a venous lead level of 5ug/dl (previously 10ug/dl). Currently, the Center of Disease Control (CDC) recommends providing risk reduction, nutrition counseling and lead assessment to families with a child who has a venous lead level of (3ug/dl). If NYS changes its regulation to correlate with CDC's recommendation, then the department can expect that the number of children monitored would probably double.

The environmental health program enforces the NYS Sanitary Code (10 NYCRR), the Sanitary Code of the Cattaraugus County Health District, and parts of NYS Public Health Law. Additionally, the division performs inspections and sanitary surveys to critically review operations and management of public and non-public water systems. In 2022, environmental health staff performed over (100) inspections for the public water systems, and (402) private water systems.

Environmental health also inspects local restaurants; in 2022, (598) food service establishments were inspected.

The clean indoor air act (CIAA) requires nearly every workplace (including all bars and restaurants) to be smoke-free. Compliance checks are conducted to ensure that indoor smoking in public places are not occurring. In 2022, staff conducted (40) smoking compliance checks in establishments throughout Cattaraugus County. Also under the CIAA is the adolescent tobacco use prevention act (ATUPA) which is another compliance check that makes sure the sale of tobacco products are not made to individuals under the age of 21. In 2022, there were (67) ATUPA compliance checks completed with (2) sales of tobacco to minors.

Formal enforcement for violations of the NYS Public Health Law, State Sanitary Code, or the Sanitary Code of the Cattaraugus County Health District are conducted in accordance with the administrative hearing process adopted by the Board of Health (BOH).

There were (36) formal enforcement actions that were initiated, (22) enforcement actions taken, and (2) appeals.

Additional programs offered by the department include; health education which covers handwashing, personal hygiene, catch my breath program, bullying prevention, contraception education, healthy relationships, and decision-making education, to name a few.

Other programs include early intervention; physically handicapped children's program; children and youth special health care needs; Women Infant and Children's (WIC); public health emergency preparedness; clinical laboratory; and the healthy neighbors program.

The healthy neighborhoods program provides home safety visits to residents in high risk communities to improve their living environments and overall quality of life. Items provided to these families can include smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, radon test kits, fire extinguishers, and asthma prevention, safety, and education kits, to name a few.

In 2022, the department created a special partnership with a community based organization called Operation Warm Hearts. Operation Warm Hearts is a 501C-3 charitable foundation based in Olean that provides clothing to children in need. The collaboration between Operation Warm Hearts and several of the department's divisions (i.e. early intervention, children and youth special health care needs, WIC, and health education) has been instrumental in making a difference in our community and providing a comprehensive network of support.

In 2022, the BOH approved the department's request to apply for reaccreditation.

In 2022, the county legislators adopted the department's operating budget of (\$14,543,901.00).

Dr. Watkins thanked those who made the annual report possible including Alyssa Dean, Matthew Tyssee, Dr. Pauline Hoffman, Deb Lacher, and the entire department.

Dr. Bohan asked what the "catch my breath" program was. Dr. Watkins responded that it is an evidence-based youth nicotine vaping prevention program for grades 5-12 that has been proven to substantially reduce students' likelihood of vaping. Health educators provides this four day educational program to students as a tool for smoking cessation.

A motion was made by Dr. Chohan to approve the 2022 annual report as presented, the motion was seconded by Ms. Raftis, and unanimously approved.

Dr. Watkins shared that as Spring arrives be aware of tick borne diseases such as Lyme Disease caused by a bacterium *Borrelia Burdorferi* this is often transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected tick. Typical symptoms include fever, chills, headache, body ache, loss of appetite and a target rash. If left untreated the infection can spread to the joints, heart, and nervous system. Lyme disease is based on physical findings and the possibility of exposure to an infected tick. The CDC requires that a two-step testing be completed for those who are suspected of having Lyme disease. If the first Elisa test does not provide a positive result, test again one and half months later. The treatment depends on the extent and location within the body system that the disease has infected and can include either doxycycline, amoxicillin, cefuroxime or ceftriaxone as the therapeutic treatments. Dr. Watkins explained that another tick borne disease that is caused by parasites that infect red blood cells called Babesiosis is on the rise in the northeastern United States.

He stated that the department has been alerted by NYSDOH that there is an increase in the number of cases in NYS. Babesiosis disease is caused by a parasite from infected ticks, (Ixodes scapularis ticks also called blacklegged ticks or deer ticks) which grow and reproduce in red blood cells (RBC), leading to rupture of the RBC and causing increased pain and hemolytic anemia. He suggested that when returning from outside, use a towel to wash and remove any possible ticks that have attached. Symptoms include the same as Lyme but additionally dark urine due to rupturing red blood cells, and elevated liver enzymes. Pets can also bring ticks into the home, and spread ticks to their owners.

Dr. Watkins informed the Board that the County Health rankings were recently released, and Cattaraugus County is sitting in about the same spot as last year. The county health rankings are based on two major factors. One is the health outcome and the other is the health factors. Health outcomes is based on two criteria's, one is the mortality (length of life) and the second is morbidity (quality of life). Fifty percent of the County Health Ranking is based on the health outcomes. Mortality measures the Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) or premature death based on all deaths occurring before age 75. He explained that life expectancy is until age (75) and if a person dies prior to age 75, then they add to their community's years of potential life lost. Based on the report, Cattaraugus County had (8,181) years of potential life lost compared to NYS who had (5,952) years of potential life lost. The leading causes of death in Cattaraugus County included heart disease, cancer, chronic lower respiratory disease, unintentional injury and diabetes.

The rankings report looked at morbidity or quality of life within Cattaraugus County, these measures include poor or fair health, poor physical health days, poor mental health days, and low birthweight. To assess this measure, residents would have received a phone call stating that the caller is from NYS Department of Health who was calling to ask a few health survey questions.

One question asked how a person described their health, and based on the rankings report, (14%) of the county's residents described their overall health as poor or fair, compared to NYS which was (12%).

Another question, "in the last thirty days, how many days did you have poor physical health", based on the report, the residents surveyed indicated that they had an average of (3.4) days that could be described as poor physical health days in the last month of the survey, compared to an average of (2.7) days of residents of NYS.

Another question, "in the last thirty days how many days did you have poor mental health days", based on the report, the residents surveyed indicated that they had an average of (5.3) days that could be described as poor mental health days in the last month of the survey, compared to an average of (4.1) days of residents of NYS.

Another measure for morbidity is the number of babies born with low birth weight over a period of time (several years). Low birth weight is any child born with a weight under (5 pounds 8 oz.) and based on the rankings report, Cattaraugus County had an average of (8) children born per year that are of low birth weight and this is equal to NYS which is about (8) per year as well.

One measure for health factor is access to clinical care. Based on the rankings report, for every (2,168) Cattaraugus County residents there is one primary care physician, compared to NYS, where for every (1,174) residents there is one primary care physician.

Dental care, based on the rankings report, for every (2,184) Cattaraugus County residents there is one dentist, compared to NYS, where for every (1,218) residents there is one dentist.

Mental health providers based on the rankings report, for every (592) Cattaraugus County residents there is one mental health provider, compared to NYS, where for every (300) residents there is one mental health provider.

New to the county health rankings is mammography screening, and flu vaccinations. Based on the rankings report, in Cattaraugus County the mammography screening rate equaled that of NYS at (38%); flu vaccinations within the last year for Cattaraugus was (47%) compared to (53%) for NYS.

In the 2023 County Health Rankings, for health outcomes, Cattaraugus County ranked (61) of (62) counties, the only county below Cattaraugus was the Bronx. Looking at rankings for other measures: length of life, Cattaraugus County ranked (58); quality of life (61); health factors (59); health behaviors (58); clinical care (61); and social & economic factors (49).

To sum up the County Health Rankings, Cattaraugus County is ranked among the least healthy counties in New York (Lowest 0%-25%)

Dr. Chohan shared that he just operated on a (100) year old resident who did well in a carotid endarterectomy, and after checking, found that he is the oldest living person who has gone through this procedure.

Dr. Watkins stated that this is National Public Health Week which started April 3rd and the theme for this week is "Center and Celebrate Cultures in Public Health".

ENFORCEMENT LIST: Mr. Porter, Hearing Administrator Officer reported on the administrative hearing held on March 21, 2023.

DOCKET #23-005:

Respondent: John H. and Holly A. Rose, 29 Delevan Avenue, Delevan, NY 14042.

Violations: 10NYCRR Section 67-2.6 (b) Respondent issued a notice and demand, dated 1-30-23, which required the discontinuance of conditions conducive to lead poisoning at 29 Delevan Avenue, Delevan, New York 14 days from receipt of notice & demand a written work outlining the methods to be used to correct the identified lead hazards was to be sent to CCHD for review and approval. To date, not received.

Recommendation: 1. The respondents must contact CCHD by 4-30-23 so that an inspection of the interior can be conducted to ensure that the conditions of the approved work plan are being met for the interior.
2. The respondents must contact CCHD by 6-30-23 so that an inspection of the exterior can be conducted to ensure that the conditions of the approved work plan are being met for the exterior.

A motion was made by Dr. Hamlin to accept Mr. Porter's recommendation, the motion was seconded by Ms. Raftis, and unanimously approved.

NURSING DIVISION REPORT: Mrs. Moore shared that the homecare census was (265) which is an upward trend from last year, there were (198) admissions in March, (108) were re-admissions, and (92) discharges. The average length of service for a homecare patients is between thirty and sixty days. The department has been working daily with the electronic visit verification (EVV) system and it has had multiple issues. Required information about the visits are being submitted but there are still a few problems that must be addressed.

The lead program; in March there were (110) lead tests conducted with the highest blood lead levels of (13.6ug/dl), (15.8ug/dl) and (25.1ug/dl) [normal is \leq 5ug/dl]. This was the first lead test that had been done on these three children, so they will be followed. The total number of children being followed under the lead program is currently (100).

The new refrigerator chart recorder is finally installed in the refrigerator. Brooke Schnell, the new clinic supervisor is updating the clinic waiting room that is shared with the Women Infant and Children (WIC) program.

HIV testing; in the month of March there were (14) tests conducted in Olean, (3) tests conducted in Salamanca and none conducted in Machias; all of which were negative.

Communicable diseases: for the month of March there was (1) case of campylobacteriosis, source unknown at this time; there were (29) confirmed cases of chlamydia; (4) cases of gonorrhea; (3) chronic cases of Hepatitis C; and (1) case of chronic Hepatitis B.

Influenza cases in March, there were (6) positive cases of influenza A and (1) of influenza B. There were (223) positive cases of COVID in the month of March.

There were (7) probable cases of Lyme disease; (1) case of strep group A, and (3) cases of syphilis.

There was (1) pre-exposure prophylaxis rabies vaccination given in March and (1) post exposure rabies given for a dog bite.

Dr. Bohan asked what the procedure was for a child who tests at a high level for lead, are they retested a few weeks later. Moore replied that if a capillary test is high for lead it is confirmed with a venous draw, and then they will test (90) days later. Dr. Bohan asked when an inspection will occur of their living quarters. Jordan replied that if a child's lead level is confirmed to be at or above (5ug/dl) then an environmental lead inspector is sent to the home, and other locations the child may visit (ex. grandparent's home, school, etc.).

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT: Mr. Jordan stated the spring rabies clinic will be held on May 6th from 9:00AM-11:00AM in the Little Valley DPW garage.

Mailers were sent out on the food service manager training course, any food service operators whose certificate is expiring or any new high or medium risk facilities opening, is required to take this training. There are in-person options being held at St. Bonaventure University on April 10th, and April 15th, or (5) on-line courses that are available.

Temporary food events will be starting shortly with the Maple Festival beginning at the end of April, and will continue through to the end of October.

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Children's camps are also starting up, there are (7) overnight facilities, (11) children's camps, with (1) day camp throughout the summer. This is a very labor intensive program as the department makes sure that all campgrounds meet safety regulations.

There are a few water, and sewer capital projects that will cause construction issues throughout the summer; these include the Village of Franklinville, Village of Little Valley, South Dayton, the Town and Village of Ellicottville, and the Town of Yorkshire.

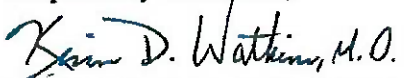
Old/New Business: Matt Tyssee shared that the Lead Smart Partnership Coalition (Chautauqua County, Allegany County and the Seneca Nation), will host a lead dinner for providers. The speaker Dr. Stanley Schaffer, will be providing a presentation on lead poisoning and the coalition is working on offering continuing medical education (CME) credits for this program. The date is May 16th, and will be held at St. Bonaventure University, approximately (150) providers will be invited, including all the BOH members.

Dr. Bohan shared a revised schedule for the remaining BOH meetings. There will be no meeting in September and the October, and December meetings were moved to the second Wednesday of the month.

Dr. Watkins reminded everyone that the department will be celebrating its 100 year anniversary on June 15th in Ellicottville, NY. Every board member should have received their invitations, and we are hoping to see all board members there. Plans to bring Dr. James MacDonald, State Commissioner of Health, is in the works.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Cooney-Thrush, the motion was seconded by Dr. Chohan and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,


Kevin D. Watkins, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary to the Board of Health