



CATTARAUGUS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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

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David L. Smith, Mayor

James Snyder, Legislator

Kathryn Cooney Thrush, NP, MSN

MINUTES April 3, 2019

The 874th meeting of the Cattaraugus County Board of Health (BOH) was held at The Point Restaurant, 800 East State Street, Olean, New York on April 3, 2019.

The following members were present:

Dr. Joseph Bohan

Richard Haberer

Dr. Giles Hamlin

James Snyder, Legislator

Dr. Zahid Chohan

Kathryn Cooney Thrush, NP, MSN

Also present were:

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

Dr. Gil Witte, Medical Director

Tom Brady, County Attorney

Mike Makutonin, St Bonaventure University Student

Xiao-Ning Zhang, PhD, St. Bonaventure University Professor

Richard Helmich Jr, Legislator

Donna Vickman, Legislator

Rick Miller, Olean Times Herald

Raymond Jordan, Sr. Public Health Sanitarian

Debra Lacher, Secretary to the Public Health Director

Colette Lulay-Pound, Administrative Officer

Lynne Moore, Director of Patient Services

Debra Nichols, Health Educator

Gina Parks, Resource Coordinator

Dave Porter, Hearing Officer

Shomita Steiner, PhD

Eric Wohlers, Environmental Health Director

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Joseph Bohan. The roll was called, and when a quorum was announced Mr. Haberer made a motion to approve the minutes of the BOH meeting held on March 6, 2019, it was seconded by Legislator. Snyder and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Bohan introduced Dr. Xiao-Ning Zhang, St. Bonaventure University Biology Professor, and Mike Makutonin, St. Bonaventure University student as guest speakers who shared the results of a study they completed by analyzing local health data using a new informatics database program called QlikView that conducts computational research on health data.

A handout was presented to those in attendance summarizing the study they completed using the 2016 Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS) data report, which is a comprehensive data reporting system that collects patient level detail information on inpatient and outpatient characteristics, diagnoses and treatments, services.

Mr. Makutonin stated that there was a massive amount of data retrieved from the 2016 SPARCS report. After obtaining the leading causes of hospital admissions which included mental health, substance abuse, diabetes, circulatory system, respiratory system, cancer, and heart disease he was able to compare it with the leading causes of mortality in Cattaraugus County which include heart disease, cancer, respiratory disorders, stroke and unintentional injuries. Mr. Makutonin stated that although Mental health, cardiac, and respiratory diagnoses were the most common source of hospital admissions, the most serious conditions were cardiac, respiratory, and infectious disease which lead to longer hospitalization, and were more often associated with additional medical events which are in line with the top causes of premature deaths in Cattaraugus County.

Dr. Zhang shared possible preventive approaches that could be utilized for improvement of health outcomes. Suggestions include mental health programs; i.e. the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) a two day training program which is free to anyone, and Suicide Alertness for Everyone (safeTALK) is a half day training program that teaches participants to recognize and engage persons who might be having thoughts of suicide. She urged the department to develop plans that included schools implementing lesson plans that focused on healthier lifestyles. Recent studies show that adults are getting more active while children are not. She stressed greater vaping prevention efforts for teens even though teens must be 21 years old to purchase tobacco products they are still acquiring vaping products. She went on to say that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) list quite a few risk factors for heart conditions, examples include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, obesity, poor diet, smoking and diabetes. Dr. Zhang summarized that if we want to improve our county health then we must focus on improving those risk factors.

Legislator Snyder commented that in the presentation there was no mention of poverty which he felt is a common denominator, and Dr. Zhang confirmed that yes they did not highlight poverty but instead addressed that there must be affordable options with early education.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Dr. Watkins thanked Dr. Zhang, and the future Dr. Makutonin for their presentation to the Board. This collaboration between the University and the Health Department has been most insightful and it is the department's hope that this will lead to a long term collaborative working relationship that will benefit the community as a whole.

Dr. Watkins also extended his condolences to Mayor Smith and his family in the loss of his mother-in-law.

A number of handouts were provided to those in attendance regarding the County health rankings. A person's health is a product of their environment. As such, a healthy community is one in which all residents should have access to quality education, safe and healthy homes, adequate employment, transportation, physical activity, good nutrition, and quality healthcare. These are all social determinants of health.

Based on the 2019 county health rankings, Cattaraugus County is one of five unhealthiest counties in New York State (NYS). The first handout was a comparison between the 2018 and the 2019 County Health rankings.

In the Health Outcomes category, there was no change from 2018 to 2019, Cattaraugus County still ranks 60. Health outcomes are based on mortality (length of life), and morbidity (quality of life).

- Length of Life: Cattaraugus County improved by (4), in 2019 Cattaraugus County ranked (54) compared to (58) in 2018.
 - Premature Deaths: (Death before age 75) or Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) worsened by (100), in 2019 Cattaraugus County had 7,400 YPLL, compared to 7,300 YPLL in 2018.
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- Quality of Life: Cattaraugus County dropped by (1), in 2019 Cattaraugus County ranked (61) compared to (60) in 2018.
 - There are four parameters which make up the quality of life category and they include, poor or fair health, poor physical health days, poor mental health days, and low birth weight but all of these parameters were unchanged from 2018 to 2019 and yet the 2019 quality of life category ranking dropped by (1).
Dr. Watkins stated that a rank may improve or worsen not due to a change in one's own county's measures, but rather because of changes in counties ranked just above or below one's county.

In the health factors category, Cattaraugus County dropped by (1), in 2019 Cattaraugus County ranked (61) compared to (60) in 2018. Health factors are made up of four parameters, health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic development and physical environment.

- Health Behavior: Cattaraugus County dropped by (2), in 2019 Cattaraugus County ranked (61) compared to (59) in 2018.
 - adult smoking, no change from 2018 to 2019, 23% of adults still say that they smoke tobacco in Cattaraugus County compared to 14% in NYS.
 - Adult obesity had a big change, 9% increase in the number of adults identified as being obese, in 2019 Cattaraugus County adult obesity rate is 37% compared to 28% in 2018.
 - Physical inactivity improved to 26% in 2019 compared to 29% in 2018.
- Clinical Care: Cattaraugus County dropped by (4), in 2019 Cattaraugus County ranked (58) compared to (54) in 2018.
 - Primary care physician's ratio to residents improved to 1:1,990 in 2019 compared to 1:2,050 in 2018. Although it looks as if the county is improving in this category, the reality is the population of Cattaraugus County is decreasing.

- Social and Economic Development: Cattaraugus County dropped by (7), in 2019 Cattaraugus County ranked (52) compared to (45) in 2018.
 - Education - Some College category remained the same, 55% for 2018 and 2019 compared to 68% for NYS.
 - Median Household income slightly improved, \$47,900 in 2019, compared to \$46,200 in 2018, but still far below \$62,700 which is the median household income for NYS.

- Physical Environment: Cattaraugus County improved by (30), in 2019 Cattaraugus County ranked (20) compared to (50) in 2018.
 - Air pollution – particulate matter, in 2019 (9.3) compared to 2018 which was (9.0).
 - Drinking water violation, improved (No) 2019 compared to (Yes) in 2018.

Another handout compared Cattaraugus County 2019 County health rankings amongst the other seven Western NY Counties, Allegany, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming. Looking at the health outcomes, Cattaraugus County ranks 60 out of 62 but other Western NY counties have fared poorly in the health outcomes rankings as well, Erie ranks 56, Niagara ranks 58 and Chautauqua ranks 59. Premature deaths or YPLL in these counties are all high, when compared to NYS YPLL.

The last handout compared the health outcome of Cattaraugus County against the health outcomes of the top six ranked counties (Rockland, Nassau, Westchester, Saratoga, New York, and Putnam) of NYS. Areas that stood out as a significant difference besides premature deaths, included adults smoking, unemployment, primary care physician ratio, and median household income.

Dr. Watkins summarized this report saying resources for education, improvement in homes, improvement in transportation, quality healthcare, good nutrition, good paying jobs, and more physical activity are needed. With the help of our community partners Cattaraugus County can move the dial and change the community's behavior.

Dr. Bohan stated that the ranking is a disappointment but there are good people in the department who can help improve the health outcome of this county, provided that they can get the resources, but the focus needs to continue to be on education which unfortunately can be a long process to turn things around. Dr. Witte stated that he thinks the department should direct its efforts on preventing vaping, as evidence has recently shown that vaping has become an epidemic amongst high school students, which is leading them to turn to tobacco products as a cheaper source to satisfy their nicotine addiction.

Dr. Zhang suggested working with the schools through their teachers mixing fun with science, math, technology, and the arts. Dr. Steiner asked what is being done to track this data in the community as opposed to waiting for these rankings once a year from an outside agency. Dr. Steiner also suggested looking at other rural counties and what is working for them.

Dr. Watkins responded that the tracking of these patterns is what Dr. Zhang, and Mr. Makutonin were enlisted to do for the department, a study to evaluate the trending health conditions in Cattaraugus County through this new program system called QlikView. As far as looking at what other rural counties are doing, he pointed out Allegany and Wyoming Counties whose 2019 County Health rankings places their health outcomes at (40) and (24) respectively, and stated that these counties are doing far less than what is being doing done in Cattaraugus County (which is forming coalitions, working with community base organization to place resources in communities where there is the greatest need, implementing countywide healthy eating and vending machine policies, working with providers to increase cancer screening rates, encouraging legislators to pass tobacco 21 local laws, etc.). He surmised that when comparing these three rural counties, the larger number of premature deaths in Cattaraugus County compared to Allegany and Wyoming Counties stands out as the biggest difference. Dr. Watkins stated that the real work is getting our residents to understand the importance in behavioral modifications in order to prolong their life.

NURSING DIVISION REPORT: Mrs. Moore reported that homecare is maintaining a census of over (300) patients. There have been some staff changes that include Barb Parish the supervisor in Machias moving to Olean as a clinic supervisor, Amit Benedict, Community Health Nurse, has assumed the supervisor position in Machias, and the department has filled its last open RN position.

There are a few things coming up this year that may help to build up the census, they include the addition of the “Field of Dreams” assisted living facility being built in the town of Allegany, and the housing development agency (HDA) which is pushing for a new program through the Department of Social Services (DSS) which may be a source of new referrals.

The lead program is following (74) children with elevated blood lead levels between 5ug/dl and 30ug/dl (normal is <5ug/dl). There were (6) children added to the program in March, their blood level levels were between 5ug/dl and 9ug/dl. There were (8) point of care lead tests conducted at two WIC clinics and all results were within normal limits. Gayle Faulkner, Community Health Nurse, has conducted educational outreach to pediatric healthcare facilities in Olean and Salamanca, in addition to Universal Primary Care (UPC) in Salamanca, and the Gowanda medical center, in order to increase the lead testing rates. As of March 31, 2019, 63.45% of one year olds, and only 59.1% of two year olds are tested for lead. The department has applied for a \$25,000 lead poisoning prevention grant from the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) that helps communities build local capacity and advance evidence-based lead poisoning prevention efforts, the funding is supported by the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation.

Training for the new electronic medical records (EMR) for the clinic called Patogonia begins next week. The department is optimistic that this new EMR will meet more of the department’s clinic needs such as accessing of patients’ information. The “go live” date is scheduled for May 14th.

Reportable communicable diseases; In March, there were (188) new influenza cases, most of which were influenza A. Last month at the BOH meeting Dr. Bohan asked what the influenza vaccination rates for other counties were compared to Cattaraugus County. Mrs. Moore reported that she had contacted the State who said that information would not be gathered until next year. She then reached out to Chautauqua County who administered (110) influenza vaccinations in their department, Allegany County administered (1,850) vaccines and Cattaraugus County administered (1,385) vaccines.

South Western Immunization Coalition of NY is a coalition with Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Allegany counties formed to improve the rates of immunizations among adults. The adult immunization rates such as influenza, pneumonia, shingles, and cervical cancer, is low across all three counties. The New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) is the database that is used to see if children, and adults have been immunized, however the numbers are not as accurate as they should be due to the lack of participation by some medical providers.

In March there was (1) case of hepatitis B, (9) chronic cases of hepatitis C, (1) confirmed Lyme case, and (1) case of invasive strep A.

Sexually transmitted diseases included (27) positive cases of chlamydia, (5) cases of gonorrhea, and (1) confirmed case of syphilis.

Dr. Bohan asked if the clinic offered HIV testing to those who have venereal disease. Mrs. Moore responded that anyone who receives services in the STD clinic, or come in for family planning, or a gynecological exam the Nurse Practitioner offers testing for everything. Dr. Bohan asked if someone is positive for a STD are their contacts tracked down. Mrs. Moore stated that the clinic staff offers the patient options for informing their sexual and needle-sharing partners about possible exposure. Legislator Vickman asked how many of the STD clients seen are repeat clients. Mrs. Moore stated that surprisingly only (1) or (2). Dr. Watkins added that it is the department's responsibility to get the partner's contact information and provide it to NYSDOH Partner Services program who will contact those partners or the department can follow-up with the partners. The clinic completes a contact history form with anyone who is identified as positive from an STD.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION REPORT: Mr. Wohlers reported that the spring rabies clinic is set for Saturday May 4, 2019 and will be held at the DPW garage in Little Valley from 9:00AM- Noon.

Although the department's last application for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program was turned down, the department had an exit conference call with the Office of Community Renewal who reviewed the strengths and weakness of the application and based on their comments the department needed to provide more detail information. Shortly after that conference call, the Office of Community Renewal put out another notice of available funding opportunity for well and septic system replacement, and lateral connection assistance that primarily benefit low- and moderate-income persons in local communities. The application is due April 26, 2019 and the department is actively working on the application, and optimistic that this application will get approved.

There were a large number of qualified applicants for the Public Health Sanitarian Trainee position, and (10) interviews were completed last week. References are now being checked and it is hopeful this individual will start by the end of April.

Legislator Helmich asked how was advertisement done for this position. Mr. Wohlers stated that it was posted on the County website, in addition to utilizing an employment website called Indeed.

Mr. Wohlers reported that the department has started to prepare for the upcoming summer mosquito surveillance program. Duflo has once again won the bid for aerial spraying if needed.

The Olean home show will be held the weekend of April 13th. The home show is always a chance to provide education and dissemination of information.

Mr. Wohlers stated the release of the tick surveillance results from 2018, revealed nothing unexpected. The percentage of infected deer ticks that are collected each summer with *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacterium that is the causative agent of Lyme disease is on the increase. In the annual report this year there will be a comparison chart outlining the increasing trends of ticks, and Lyme disease.

Mr. Haberer asked what can be done to combat the increase of this infection, or reverse this problem. Dr. Watkins responded that the number of Lyme disease cases are not increasing, they actually have decreased in Cattaraugus County, but because funding was not put into the state budget for prevention, education is our best recourse. Mr. Wohlers added that in Massachusetts where the tick population started they have thousands of cases a year of Lyme disease, it's also getting bad in the Albany and Saratoga areas where they are seeing hundreds of cases a year. Mr. Wohlers suggested using repellants with deet, purchasing clothing that is treated with permethrin, and spray clothing with permethrin to protect yourself from ticks. The real scare is the new Asian longhorn ticks that were just discovered in New Jersey and have been identified in at least six or seven eastern seaboard states. These ticks are common in New Zealand, they have been found on pets, livestock, wildlife, and people. The female ticks can lay eggs and reproduce without mating. Up to thousands of ticks may be found at a time, or on an animal. These ticks have been associated with causing illness that can result in human fatalities. The Asian longhorn ticks that have been found in the states are not transmitting disease but they populate very fast.

Legislator Snyder asked what basis does the State use for making the awards for CDBG funding, he wondered why Cattaraugus County with one of the worse health rankings didn't receive the funding. Mr. Wohlers replied that the CDBG program primarily benefit low- and moderate-income persons in local communities. There were many more applications than funds available and the scoring process used to determine who would get the funding required the department to reach certain measures for each question. Dr. Watkins expounded that during the exit conference the department learned that Cattaraugus County had not provided its program income certification report for the previous CDBG funding cycle before the application's deadline. Although all funds were earmarked to be spent, all county program income had to be accounted for or returned to the program before a new application can be approved. Mr. Wohlers added that in the past the CDBG funds have helped many households, and now that all reports have been received, the department is very optimistic that this application will be funded in this grant cycle.

Enforcement Report: Mr. Porter reported on Docket # 19-013 (previous dockets #18-011, #18-014):

Administrative Hearing 3-26-19

Respondent: Guang Min Chen DBA Super Great Wall Chinese Restaurant, 700 West State Street, Olean, NY 14760

Violations: State sanitary code subpart 14-1, 1.71 not washing hands to remove contamination from raw foods. 14-1.4 (a) & 14.1.43 Food not protected during storage or when not being processed. 14-1.110(b) Food contact surfaces not washed, rinsed and sanitized between uses. 14-1.111 Three bay sink not maintained to wash dishes. 14-1.143 (c) adequate hand washing facilities not maintained.

Docket #19-013 (continued):

Recommendation:	a.) 1 Public Health Hazard Repeat	\$150.00
	b.) 4 Violations repeat 4 @ \$100.00 =	<u>\$400.00</u>
		\$550.00

The Respondent pay a fine of \$550.00 on or before 4-30-19. A \$10.00 per day, per diem will be levied for every day not paid.

Dr. Bohan asked if the sanitarian that inspects the restaurant speaks Chinese. Dr. Watkins replied that when the sanitarian goes in to inspect a facility that a vasco translator is available to be used. In essence a computer is utilized that when spoken into it in English, it will translate to any number of languages, and in turn the respondent can speak into the computer in their native tongue and it will be translated back to English. Another form of communication that can be used is the language line, which allows the sanitarian to dial a number on their phone and speak with an interpreter to translate their conversation.

A motion was made by Mr. Haberer to accept Mr. Porter’s recommendation, seconded by Dr. Hamlin and unanimously approved.

Docket #18-046:

Administrative Hearing 2-19-19

Respondent: Christine Ellis, 4087 Erie Street, Salamanca, NY 14779.

Violation: Subsection 24.2.5 of the sanitary code of the Cattaraugus County Health District. Respondent failed to provide proof of a current rabies vaccine certification or the animal confinement verification form for her dog, Cabo, to the CCHD when directed following a biting incident.

Recommendation: The \$75.00 civil compromise be changed to a \$75.00 fine then doubled for not appearing for the hearing. The \$150.00 fine, confinement form and proof of rabies vaccine for respondent dog Cabo be provide to the CCHD by 4-30-19. A \$10.00 per day per diem will be levied for every day not in compliance.

A motion was made by Legislator Snyder, seconded by Dr. Hamlin and unanimously approved.

The next BOH meeting will be Tuesday, May 7, 2019. Mr. John Bennett will be our guest speaker and he will speak on vaping and the affects it may have on the County Health Rankings.

Legislator Vickman, shared that the county is having a job fair tomorrow at the community center in Ellicottville.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Legislator Snyder and seconded by Dr. Hamlin and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



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