



CATTARAUGUS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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



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

Mayor David L. Smith, President

Legislator Kelly Andreano, Vice-President

Joseph Bohan, MD

Zahid Chohan, MD

Kathryn Cooney Thrush, NP, MSN

Shane Pancio

Theresa Raftis

Legislator Ginger D. Schroder

MINUTES

September 4, 2024

The 925th meeting of the Cattaraugus County Board of Health (BOH) was held at the Old Library Restaurant on September 4, 2024.

The following members were present:

Joseph Bohan, MD

Zahid Chohan, MD

Legislator Kelly Andreano

Kathryn Cooney-Thrush

Shane Pancio

Theresa Raftis

Legislator Ginger Schroder

Mayor David Smith

Also present were:

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

Ashley Smith, County Attorney

Ray Jordan, Senior Public Health Sanitarian (Virtual)

Debra Lacher, Secretary to the Public Health Director

James Lawrence, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Director

Colette Lulay-Pound, Administrative Officer

Lynne Moore, Director of Nursing

Dave Porter, Hearing Officer

Robert Ring, Environmental Health Director

Matt Tyssee, Health Educator

Rick Miller, Catt Co News & Photos

Mayor Smith welcomed everyone to the Board of Health (BOH) meeting, the roll was called, and a quorum was noted.

Mayor Smith called for the approval of the August 7, 2024 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Dr. Bohan to approve the minutes as presented, the motion was seconded by Ms. Raftis, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Smith called upon Theresa Raftis, of the nominating committee, to nominate a member of the Board to replace Dr. Hamlin, as Vice President. Ms. Raftis stated that the nominating committee met and recommends Legislator Kelly Andreano as the nominee for Vice President of the Board of Health. Mayor Smith stated it was his pleasure to accept this nomination.



A motion was made by Legislator Schroder to accept the nomination, the motion was seconded by Dr. Chohan and approved by all board members with the exception Legislator Andreano, who abstained.

Mayor Smith announced that there would be a change in the agenda, Mr. Porter, the hearing officer, will present prior to Dr. Watkins' presentation due to a prior obligation.

ENFORCEMENT LIST: Mr. Porter presented docket #24-012 resulting from an administrative hearing on 8-13-2024 at 9:30AM.

Respondent: Diane Bull, Owner & Darcy Parker Manager, Arrowhead Camping Area, Inc. P.O. Box 328, Delevan, NY, 14101. Location of property 10487 Rt. 16, Yorkshire, NY 14173.

- Violations: 1. 10NYCRR Subpart 5-1.71(b) operator failed to exercise due care and diligence in the operation and maintenance of a water treatment plant and distribution systems.**
- 2. 10NYCRR Subpart 5-1.30 operator failed to disinfect a groundwater source and provide treatment to safeguard the public.**
- 3. 10NYCRR Subpart 5-1.72(c) the operator failed to maintain completed daily records of the operation of a water system.**

Hearing Officer findings: The respondent is in violation of (3) subparts of the NYCRR on (2) separate dates and (2) weeks apart. #1 and #2 violations are RED and are described as significant violations of the sanitary code. #3 violation is BLUE and is described as a deficiency.

Recommendation: The violations described carry the following fines.

Violation #1	5-1.71	RED	\$ 75.00
Violation #2	5-1.30	RED	\$ 75.00
Violation #3	5-1.72	BLUE	\$ 50.00
			\$ 200.00 TOTAL

Both the \$200.00 fine and standard operating procedures for the operation and maintenance of the water systems at Arrowhead Camping Area, Inc. to be paid and completed on or before 9-30-24. A \$10.00 per day per diem for every day not in compliance will be levied.

A motion was made by Ms. Raftis, to accept the recommendation as presented by Mr. Porter, the motion was seconded by Dr. Bohan and unanimously approved by all board members with the exception of Legislator Andreano, who abstained.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Dr. Watkins informed the Board that the department was going through reaccreditation and that the department submitted dozens of documents to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The PHAB reviewed the documents and sent back comments asking the department to readdress a few narratives and resubmit. The deadline for this resubmission is October 3rd. Dr. Watkins stated that this was a very tedious, labor-intensive task, but the department was up to the challenge.

In addition, the department is undergoing budget preparations, Dr. Watkins stated that the department's fiscal staff is preparing the proposed fiscal year 2025 budget to submit to the county administrator and then to the county legislators. He stated he will have a final proposed budget summary for the Board's approval at the October meeting.

Dr. Watkins presented an update on Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) which he stated has been consistently in the news recently. He reminded the Board that both arboviruses are spread by the bite of a mosquito infected with EEEV or WNV. He stated that some people who are infected with EEEV or WNV will not develop any symptoms.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus (EEEV) symptoms may appear (4-10) days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Those at greatest risk are those over age (50), and those under the age (15). Severe cases of EEE can result in symptoms such as headache, high fever, chills, vomiting, seizures, encephalitis and coma. Providers can diagnose EEEV simply by taking a sample of blood or spinal fluid. New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is advising New Yorkers to take personal protection against mosquito bites after confirming that EEEV has been diagnosed in multiple horses in multiple counties in NYS. Counties reporting EEE in horses includes: Cayuga, Clinton, Franklin, Madison, Oneida, Orange, Saint Lawrence, Ulster, Washington, and Wayne. As of date, there have been no confirmed EEE in Cattaraugus County, and no human cases in NYS. However there has been at least (6) human cases in the United States. States that have reported human cases of EEE include, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. Dr. Watkins informed the Board that there has been (1) death from EEE, which occurred in a (41) year old male in New Hampshire who had no underlying medical conditions.

West Nile Virus (WNV) symptoms may occur (3-14) days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Severe Symptoms include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, muscle weakness, disorientation, seizures, and coma. Healthcare providers can diagnose WNV by testing blood or spinal fluid. NYSDOH is now advising New Yorkers to take protective measures to avoid mosquito bites after confirming human cases of WNV in multiple counties. Human cases of WNV have been identified in several counties in NYS. These counties included the Bronx, King, Nassau, Manhattan, Queens, Suffolk, and Westchester. As of date, there are no confirmed human cases in Cattaraugus County. Dr. Watkins stated that the number of WNV cases reported this year are already at least (3) times the number of WNV cases reported last year. He went on to say that as of date, in 2024, there has been only (1) equine case of WNV in NYS, in Oswego County.

In Cattaraugus County the last reported EEE case was in 2019 and the last reported WNV case was in 2021, both in equine. There are vaccines available for horses against EEEV and WNV but vaccines are not available for humans. Additionally, there is no specific treatment for EEE or WNV, just supportive treatment and hospitalization. Prevention from EEEV and WNV include, wearing long sleeves and tucking shirts into pants and tucking pants into socks, when outdoors at dusk or dawn, use insect repellent that contain DEET, make sure screens are in windows and doors at home, and eliminate all standing water.

Dr. Watkins updated the Board on the listeriosis outbreak involving Boar's Head deli meat that led to (2) deaths, he explained that the number of deaths associated with the outbreak had increased to (9). He reiterated that most healthy people rarely become ill from listeria infection, but it does disproportionately impact people older than 65, newborns and pregnant women, who may themselves experience only mild symptoms but babies in utero can die from listeria. Mild symptoms include fever, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. More severe symptoms include headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance, and convulsions. Symptoms can last from days to several weeks.

In July the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) confirmed that (34) people were sicked across (13) states with listeria, (33) were hospitalized. Of the (34) sickened (12) were from NYS. As of date, in 2024, there has been (57) confirmed cases, all have been hospitalized, with (9) deaths in (18) States. Of the (57) cases identified, (17) are from NYS;

The Centers of Disease Control (CDC) says that this is the largest listeria outbreak since 2011 when there was an outbreak from cantaloupe distributed by Jensen Farms of Holly, Colorado, where there were (147) confirmed cases in (28) states and (33) deaths.

Boar's Head has expanded their recall to include every product made at their facility in Virginia. Inspection reports revealed insects, mold, and mildew at the plant over the (12) months before it was voluntarily shut down because of the outbreak. Walmart, Aldi, Save-a-lot, and Shop n Save has recalled bagged and bulk produce. The Food Safety and Inspection Service recommends facilities clean and sanitize all food and non-food surfaces, including refrigerators, and discard any open meats and cheese to prevent risk of cross contamination.

Dr. Watkins updated the Board on why adults experiencing homelessness and Alaska Natives in Alaska are more likely to experience Invasive Pneumococcal Disease due to serotype 4 than other people. He explained that there are many potential consequences of homelessness, which include inadequate hygiene and over-crowded living conditions within shelters that predispose for airborne infections. Homeless individuals are also much more likely than people not experiencing homelessness to report substance abuse and have underlying chronic medical conditions, leading to increased risk for infections. Additionally, people experiencing homelessness (PEH) are at increased risk for infections due to limited access to healthcare and preventive care, such as vaccinations.

Dr. Watkins summarized why PEH are more likely to experience Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD) due to serotype 4 based on a study published, April 2021, in the Journal of Infectious Disease titled, Upsurge of Conjugate Vaccine Serotype 4 Invasive Pneumococcal Disease Clusters Among Adults Experiencing Homelessness in California, Colorado, and New Mexico. He stated that the study found that IPD due to serotype 4 was not due to any specific virulence properties, but simply related to a particularly vulnerable subset of individuals within the surveillance sites that were studied.

For Alaskan natives Dr. Watkins referenced a report from a June 21, 2022, State of Alaska Epidemiology Bulletin, that stated IPD rates among Alaska Native adults were 3–5 times higher than non-Alaska Native adults aged 19–64 years due to underlying medical condition or other risk factors.

Dr. Chohan asked if there is a consensus that homeless, and Alaskan natives would benefit from the pneumococcal vaccine that we should take the vaccine and education to where they live instead of expecting them to come to a clinic. Dr. Watkins said absolutely, going to shelters to offer the vaccine is a great idea, but unfortunately the vaccine needs to be paid for and this would be a costly expense for local health departments.

Dr. Watkins presented an action item request to approve the credentials of the new Nurse Practitioner. He stated that during her credentialing review, the department has verified her licensure, educational training, fitness for duty, etc. and that she will be applying for her Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration.

Legislator Schroder asked if a DEA license is part of the checklist for a NP. Dr. Watkins stated that it is not a requirement but she will be applying for it, and it typically takes (3) months to receive it. A discussion was held that the DEA application cost approximately \$800.00 and Ms. Bidwell will be paying for the registration herself. A motion was made by Ms. Cooney-Thrush to approve credentialing for Mrs. Bidwell, the motion was seconded by Legislator Andreano, and unanimously approved. Dr. Chohan asked if Ms. Bidwell would have a supervising physician. Dr. Watkins replied that yes Dr. Witte would be the supervising physician for her, and the department will also have a contracting OBGYN that can also support her.

NURSING DIVISION REPORT: Mrs. Moore shared that the homecare census was currently (230). There have been at least (14) referrals in the last day and a half. The summer is coming to a close and business will be picking up. There were (88) admissions in August, of which (40) were readmissions, and (91) discharges.

Lead program update: in August there were (105) lead tests conducted, with (4) tests higher than (20ug/dl). The highest blood lead level (BLL) tested was (31.7ug/dl), [normal is \leq 5ug/dl], this child was previously (36.8ug/dl) in July. Next highest was (30.2ug/dl), which previously had been (24.8ug/dl) in May. The other two highest BLL's were (25ug/dl) and (23ug/dl) respectively. The remaining BLL's, included one at (10.7ug/dl), (3) between (5-7ug/dl) and ninety-seven that were lower than (5ug/dl). The total lead case load is currently (80) children.

HIV testing; In August, there was (1) test conducted in Olean; none in Salamanca and none in Machias, the one result was negative.

The department has scheduled its influenza/COVID vaccination community clinics, the first clinic is scheduled for September 30th in Limestone. Eleven scheduled clinics are available on Cattco.org website for registration. COVID vaccines have been received at the department.

In August, there were (3) rabies pre-exposure vaccine series given and (15) rabies post-exposure prophylaxis vaccines series given due to (2) exposures to a skunk that was positive for rabies, (2) cat bites and (11) bat exposures.

Communicable diseases: In August, there was (1) case of legionellosis; (1) case of Giardiasis; (1) case of Salmonellosis; (8) cases of Chlamydia; (3) cases of Gonorrhea; (2) cases of syphilis; (2) cases of chronic hepatitis C; (2) cases of influenza A; (114) cases of COVID-19; and (1) case of Strep Group B invasive.

Dr. Chohan asked how residents got exposed to a rabid skunk. Dr. Watkins stated that many people attempt to make pets out of these animals and pick them up when they are sitting idle or appear in distress.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT: Mr. Ring shared that on November 30, 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). The proposed LCRI is a major advancement in protecting children and adults from the significant, and irreversible, health effects from being exposed to lead in drinking water. Water systems are currently required to provide an initial inventory of their lead service lines by October 16, 2024. Under the proposed LCRI, all water systems would be required to regularly update their inventories, create a publicly available service line replacement plan, and identify the materials of all service lines of unknown material.

This will impact at least (75) Cattaraugus County's water systems, mainly municipalities, mobile home parks, schools, and large employers that are on the public water supply. The role of the local health department is to accept the inventories, review them and verify that they were submitted.

The next step will be public notifications. There are (13,000) public water service lines in Cattaraugus County, and the department is anticipating (5-10%) of those are going to be lead service lines, which will need to be replaced. The proposed LCRI would require the vast majority of water systems to replace lead services lines within 10 years.

Mosquito data update: Mr. Ring went over a graph that identified the number of mosquitoes collected over the summer. He stated that the larvicide is meant to be effective up to (30) days and based on the number of mosquitoes collected before the spray and after the spray (June 13th to mid-July) the spray was very effective.

As of date, there has been no positive cases of EEE or WNV this year in Cattaraugus County.

A handout was provided with the dates of the fall's free rabies clinics for domestic animals.

Old/New Business: Mayor Smith stated that at the next Board meeting October 2nd, representatives from the West Valley Demonstration Project will present their yearly update to the board.

Mayor Smith shared that a recommendation for a new Board member was submitted to County Legislature to replace Dr. Hamlin. Dr. Watkins stated that Dr. Thomas Spigel was recommended as Dr. Hamlin's replacement.

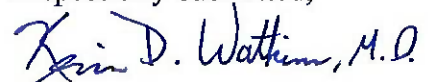
Mayor Smith announced that it was brought to his attention by a Board member to discuss the possibility of changing the venue for these meetings. He asked the Board to think about it and the Board can discuss that under new business in October. He asks that they keep location in mind, availability of technology, cost, and privacy of a separate room.

Dr. Watkins shared that a card was received from Dr. Hamlin's family thanking the Board for the beautiful floral arrangement that was sent to his funeral. In addition, they spoke of how much Dr. Hamlin enjoyed serving on the Board of Health.

Matt Tyssee shared that the 2nd annual Lead Education Conference will be held on October 24th at 9:30AM and will be held at the Allegany Resort Casino. Guest speaker Jennifer Becker from the WNY Lead Poisoning Resource Center, will be the main speaker. All Board members will be sent an invitation, and hopefully they can attend.

A motion was made by Ms. Raftis to adjourn the meeting, 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