



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

Kelly J. Andreano, Legislator

Zahid Chohan, MD

Sondra Fox, RN, MSN, C.S.

Richard Haberer

Theresa Raftis

David L. Smith, Mayor

Kathryn Cooney Thrush, NP, MSN

MINUTES October 7, 2020

The 889th meeting of the Cattaraugus County Board of Health (BOH) was held virtually on October 7, 2020.

The following members were present:

Joseph Bohan, MD

Theresa Raftis

Giles Hamlin, MD

Mayor David L. Smith

Legislator Kelly Andreano

Kathryn Cooney-Thrush, NP, MSN

Sondra Fox, RN, MSN, C.S.

Also present were:

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

Ashley Milliman, County Attorney

Brian Carpenter, IT Support

Mark Goshgarian, Spectrum News Buffalo

Raymond Jordan, Sr. Public Health Sanitarian

Debra Lacher, Secretary to the Public Health Director

Colette Lulay-Pound, Administrative Officer

Rick Miller, Olean Times Herald Reporter

Lynne Moore, Director of Patients Services

Kip Morrow, Legislator

Dave Porter, Hearing Officer

Ginger Schroder, Legislator

Paul Schwach, MD, Clinical Director

Rick Smith, Legislator

Gilbert Witte, MD, Medical Director

Eric Wohlers, Environmental Health Director

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Bohan. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

Dr Bohan asked the Board for a motion to accept the September minutes that were distributed by email. Dr. Hamlin made a motion to approve the minutes of the BOH meeting held September 2, 2020, the motion was seconded by Mayor Smith and unanimously approved.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Dr. Watkins stated that COVID-19 related responses continues to be a large part of the daily workload for the department.

Dr. Watkins reported that as of Monday, October 5th 2020 NYS reported a total of (466,908) confirmed cases of COVID-19 and (25,536) deaths. On the same date, NYS also reported (1,393) new cases of COVID-19.

The number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients reported on Monday, October 5th were (705), of which, (158) were in the intensive care units, which indicates that 22% of all hospitalized COVID-19 patients in NYS, were admitted into intensive care units.

Finally, the number of deaths being reported in NYS from COVID-19 related complication on October 5th were 9.

In Cattaraugus County, as of date, there are a grand total of (316) residents who are currently under quarantine. There are (60) under precautionary quarantine, and (256) under mandatory quarantine.

Additionally, there has been (263) confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in Cattaraugus County, of which, (215) have recovered and (38) are active. This morning the department was notified of (2) more positive cases, and (1) death, that will raise the confirm number of positive cases to (265), the number of deaths to (10) and the department's active cases will increase to (39).

Cattaraugus County has administered (33,500) COVID-19 tests, of which, (33,231) have been negative. Of all the test administered, there is a 99% negative rate, and less than a 1% positive rate. Of the (265) positive cases and (215) individuals recovered, the recovery rate is at 82%. Of the (265) positive cases, (60) have been identified as health care workers, (104) were asymptomatic, (97) were contacts of positives. Also, of the (265) positive cases, the ages range from 4 years old to 97 years of age, there were (87) cases between the ages of 20-39, and (72) cases between the ages of 60-79.

The number of positive cases in Cattaraugus County continues to rise. Last week the department saw its largest number of new cases in a one day total, (13) new cases. Western New York has also seen an increase of COVID-19 cases. Due to the rise in the transmission rate of COVID-19 in WNY, the Governor has issued COVID-19 rapid test instruments to all five WNY counties. Three (3) Abbott ID Now instruments, which test for the RNA of the virus, have been received and being used in the department's laboratory. The instruments can only analyze (1) test at a time, and results are displayed in 15-20 minutes, allowing the department to conduct (20) tests within five hours per instrument. The negative side of receiving the instruments is that, it only comes with a limited supply of test kits, therefore the ability for the department to expand services to everyone in the county is somewhat limited. Once the kits are depleted, the department must find a way to acquire new test kits. We have reached out to Abbott Laboratory's and we have been unsuccessful in acquiring new kits. There is no cost for a COVID-19 rapid test for any resident, while the kit supplies last.

Over the last week several COVID-19 clusters have been identified within the county. Two (2) were at healthcare facilities, both employees and patients have been identified as being positive. In addition, an adult care facilities have also been identified with residents who are positive.

The department is closely monitoring all (3) of the facilities at this particular time, and will continue to work closely with them to isolate those who are positive and quarantine those who have been in direct contact with the positive individuals.

Dr. Bohan asked why our mortality rate is higher than the national average. Dr. Watkins replied that a number of our positive cases have been over the age of 60 and most of the mortalities are of individuals who have underlying health conditions. Although the local hospital have the antiviral drug remdesivir, it has been shown to reduce the number of hospital days a person spends in the intensive care unit, and not a cure for the virus. In addition, the local hospital uses convalescent plasma, and dexamethasone an anti-inflammatory drug which has been recommended but still not proven to be a cure for all critical cases of COVID-19. Dr. Witte stated he doesn't think our numbers are that much higher as the death rate nationwide is (3%), Cattaraugus County has a smaller sample size so (1) more death takes us from (3% to 4%).

Influenza season has begun, and the COVID-19 pandemic continues in full swing which will further stress our hospital system. It is still recommended that anyone that is 6 months of age or older, should get the influenza vaccine. There is a shortage of the high dose influenza vaccine, which is specifically for those 65 years of age or older. It contains four times the antigen which helps the body build up protection against the flu virus. This higher dose of antigen is intended to give older individuals a better immune response and therefore better protection. The department is on a wait list for the high dose vaccine but if the high dose is not available during the community influenza clinics, we are still recommending that the senior population take the standard dose.

When the Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA) was enacted, waivers were granted to establishments that modified their place of business by designating a separate room away from the general traffic; the rooms utilize special mechanical ventilation systems to control second hand smoke exposure to non-smokers that entered into their establishments. The permits for those CIAA waivers will soon need to be renewed; expiration date is 12/31/2020. The department would like to send out inspectors to conduct inspection for the facilities. In addition, the department would like to send out letters notifying the permitted establishments that their permits will be expiring and they must submit a renewal application and pay the permit fee. There are (2) facilities who meet this waiver the Ischua Fire Department, and the Little Valley V.F.W. A motion was made by Dr. Hamlin to issue a one year waiver if the facility passed inspection, it was seconded by Mayor Smith, and unanimously approved.

In addition, there are membership associations which are exempt from all smoking restrictions contained with the CIAA. These associations attest that members of their organizations do not receive compensation of any kind from the membership association or any other entity for their performance or duties within the association. There are (3) of those associations; Christopher Columbus Club, Olean American Legion, and the Olean Veterans Club. Recently, the department received a request from the South Dayton American Legion to be added to this list. Dr. Watkins stated although he thinks they are asking for a permit to be a membership association the correspondence is asking for a waiver. Dr. Watkins read Statute 1399Q which allows the exception that smoking is allowed at a facility under membership guidelines. County Attorney, Milliman stated that this particular association falls in the parameters of section 4, therefore they do not need a waiver. Historically the County has simply asked for an attestation from these associations to be in compliance with the statute. Dr. Bohan asked if it would be legally possible to get rid of all membership associations.

County Attorney Milliman stated that she would investigate and report back to the Board next month. Any changes made would have to go before the Legislature to change. Mayor Smith stated we are a Health Board, responsible for maintaining the health of the public and anything that authorizes smoking is contrary to that duty. Dr. Watkins stated he would assist Attorney Milliman's in the research.

The Health Department has completed its budget review for submission to the County Administrator and is scheduled to undergo an initial review with the County Administrator and his staff in two days. The budget that the department is submitting for approval is for (\$11,791,463) just a (1%) increase from last year's budget of (\$11,670,891).

October is breast cancer awareness month, which is an annual campaign to increase awareness of the disease. While most people are aware of breast cancer, many forget to take the steps to have a plan to detect the disease in its early stages and encourage others to do the same. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death amongst women. Only lung cancer kills more women each year. The chances that a woman will die from breast cancer is about 1 in 36 (3%). The American Cancer Society's estimates for breast cancer in the United States, in 2020, there will be (276,480) new cases of invasive breast cancer diagnosed in women and about (42,170) women will die from breast cancer. In men, they estimate (2,620) new cases will be diagnosed and (520) deaths. The American College of Radiology recommends yearly mammography starting at age 40. Findings from randomized trials of women in their 40s and 50s have demonstrated that screening mammograms decrease breast cancer deaths by 15 to 29 percent.

ENFORCEMENT LIST: Mr. Porter, Hearing Administrator Officer reported on the administrative hearings held August 12, 2020.

DOCKET #20-013:

Respondent: Tang You Wen owner of the New Lakeview Chinese Restaurant, Inc., 3042 West State Street, Olean, NY 14760.

Violations: A.) 10NYCRR Subpart 14-1.40 8A Food not protected during storage, preparation, display, transportation and service, from potential sources of contamination (e.g., food uncovered); two containers of raw meat were observed to be stored in the walk-in-cooler without covers. Dates of violation 8/31/20, 12/17/19, 11/25/19. 9/30/19, 6/25/19, 1/23/19, 1/11/18.
B.) 10NYCRR Subpart 14-1.42 10A Food (ice) contact surfaces are improperly designed, constructed, installed, located (cracks, open seams, pitted surfaces, tin cans reused, uncleanable or corroded food contact surfaces). In the chest freezers, there are raw meats stored in re-used bags which are not intended for re-use (cannot be washed, rinsed and sanitized between uses). Dates of violation 8/31/20, 8/3/20, 5/5/20, 3/2/20, 12/17/19.
C.) 10NYCRR Subpart 14-1.10(a) 4D Other violations deemed a Public Health Hazard by the Permit Issuing Official, 14-1.10(a). Upon arrival at the facility, it was observed that at least 2 of the kitchen staff were not wearing face coverings over their nose and mouth as required by current mandates issued by the Governor and the guidance required for food service establishments during the COVID-19 pandemic. The violation was corrected at the time of the visit by the staff putting masks on.

DOCKET #20-013 (continued):

Recommendation: Following the CCHD division of environmental health penalty determination policy Fourth and subsequent offenses:

Violation #1R Subpart 14-1.40 8A	\$500.00
Violation #2R Subpart 14-1.42 10A	\$500.00
Violation #3 Subpart 14-1.10(a) 4D	\$500.00
	\$1,500.00

Fine to be paid on or before October 30, 2020. With a \$10.00 per day per diem for every day not in compliance. I am not recommending suspension of operating permit at this time for the New Lakeview Chinese Restaurant, Inc.

The latest inspection report was reviewed which had no violations and was sent to all Board members prior to today’s meeting. A discussion was held amongst the Board.

A motion was made by Mayor Smith to accept Mr. Porter’s recommendation, seconded by Mrs. Fox and unanimously approved.

Mayor Smith made a motion to approve a one month permit to New Lakeview Chinese Restaurant, Inc. seconded by Dr. Hamlin, and unanimously approved.

NURSING DIVISION REPORT: Mrs. Moore, reported that the nursing division continues to remain busy with (2) homecare nurses working on the COVID response team, and (2) clinic nurses who are also working on the team.

The homecare census is (269) with (102) admissions in September.

The department started administering flu vaccines in the last week of September, with the first flu clinic held at St. Bonaventure University on September 29th. There were (102) vaccines completed at that clinic which was a closed clinic due to restrictions of visitors to campus. There will be (11) open clinics throughout October, and (5) closed clinics. All open clinics require pre-registration. There has been a total of (244) immunizations in the clinic. The department will hold a county employee influenza clinic, on Friday, in Olean, and on October 28th in Little Valley.

There are (82) active cases in the lead program that are being followed with elevated blood lead levels (EBLL), greater than 5ug/dl. There are (7) newly confirmed cases in September with EBLLs greater than 5ug/dl, with (1) greater than 17ug/dl, and the rest were between 5-9ug/dl.

Clinic testing for HIV included (12) in Olean, and (4) in Salamanca, all of which were negative. There were no Hepatitis C testing in any of the clinics in September.

Communicable disease report for September: there were (5) cases of campylobacteriosis; (2) cases of chronic Hepatitis C, and (1) case of Group A Strep invasive.

For STD, there were (15) cases of chlamydia, (8) cases of gonorrhea, and (3) cases of syphilis.

In the month of September there was (1) pre-exposure rabies vaccination series given; (2) post-exposure rabies prophylaxis series given, due to a bat exposure in a bedroom, and (1) positive bobcat exposure.

Dr. Bohan asked if the 17ug/dl is one of the highest cases of lead that has been seen by the department. Mrs. Moore replied that there has been cases as high as 40ug/dl.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT: Mr. Wohlers, reported that in July the first rabies vaccination clinic vaccinated (600) animals at the drive thru clinic. On September 19th another clinic was held, with approximately (350) to (400) animals vaccinated.

There was one unusual case where a man broke up a fight during the day between his dog and a bobcat. He shot the bobcat and when the bobcat was tested, the results indicated that it was positive for rabies.

In the end of August the US Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the State Health Department set up an oral rabies vaccine bait drop from airplanes in our area for the very first time.

This has been a very busy summer for new septic system permits, installations, and inspections. Over the last five years, the department averaged (170) new septic system permits a year, and this year, the department already has (173) new septic system permits, which puts the department on track to set a new record.

Property transfers for the year 2020 have already reached (407); in the past, the average has always been (440-490) for the year. During the COVID shutdown, property transfers were placed on hold for about six months of the year, hence we are on pace to set a new record for property transfers as well.

Update on the septic system replacement program fund, we received a \$75,000.00 grant for a contract period of (5) years to assist property owners that had to replace failed septic systems. Their properties had to be adjacent to the Allegheny River, or reservoir or primary tributaries. In 2019 the department completed (3) grant projects at a total of \$13,919.00. This year (10) additional property owners qualified. To date, the department has spent a total of \$55,516.00 leaving a balance of \$19,484.00 for the next two years of the program. This should assist another (4-5) more property owners.

With the recent spike in COVID cases environmental health staff is assisting on a daily basis to deliver quarantine orders, and essential supplies to households who are under mandatory quarantine.

Dr. Bohan asked if the environmental health staff designs the septic systems. Mr. Wohlers replied that every single septic system requires health department staff to do a site investigation, run a perk test, then based on those results our staff designs the systems, draw up the permits, and the specifications are then sent to the homeowner to give to a contractor. Once the contractor has built the system then staff goes out for a final inspection. Probably 50% of the environmental health staff time is spent every year in the private septic system and well program.

Old/New Business: None to discuss.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Fox, seconded by Kathryn Cooney Thrush and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin D. Watkins, M.D." in a cursive style.

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