



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

Sondra Fox, RN, MSN, C.S.

Richard Haberer

Theresa Raftis

David L. Smith, Mayor

James Snyder, Legislator

Kathryn Cooney Thrush, NP, MSN

MINUTES

September 4, 2019

The 878th meeting of the Cattaraugus County Board of Health (BOH) was held at The Point Restaurant, 800 East State Street, Olean, New York on September 4, 2019.

The following members were present:

Joseph Bohan, MD

Richard Haberer

Zahid Chohan, MD

Theresa Raftis

Giles Hamlin, MD

James Snyder, Sr. Legislator Chair

Sondra Fox, RN, MSN, C.S.

Kathryn Cooney Thrush, NP, MSN

Also present were:

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

Dennis R. DePerro, Ed. D., 21st President of St. Bonaventure University

Tom Brady, County Attorney

Barb Hastings, Legislator

Sue Labuhn, Legislator

Donna Vickman, Legislator

Jeff Barry, Business Owner

Andrew Osborne, Vice President of New York State Vapor Association

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

Dave Porter, Hearing Officer

Dr. Paul Schwach, Clinic Physician

Dr. Gilbert Witte, Medical Director

Eric Wohlers, Environmental Health Director

Rick Miller, Olean Times Herald

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

Legislator James Snyder, Sr. made a motion to approve the minutes of the BOH meeting held on August 7, 2019, the motion was seconded by Dr. Chohan and unanimously approved.

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Dr. Bohan introduced Dr. Dennis DePerro, the 21st President of St. Bonaventure University as the guest speaker. Dr. DePerro shared that from 2005 to 2015 St. Bonaventure University experienced a dramatic decline in enrollment. Enrollment went from (2,300) full-time undergrad students to (1,600). An ambitious strategic plan was set in motion, the university established an undergraduate program in Health Sciences that feed students into its graduate programs. The graduate programs will include curriculums in occupational therapy, physical therapy, nursing and a physician assistant (PA) program. In 2017 there were about (40) students in the health science program. St. Bonaventure University now has a RN to BSN program in nursing, a bachelors program in Public Health, a bachelors in broadcast journalism, and sports media.

A comprehensive capital campaign was initiated under Dr. DePerro's administration. One of the potential goals of the capital campaign is to increase the university's endowment. Another priority identified for the campaign is the creation of the new School of Health Professions. Typically, a campaign has three phases and lasts seven to eight years. The first phase is the campaign preparation phase, the second phase is the silent phase during which, the team seeks to close the campaign gap, typically to about half of the stated goal. In the first year of the silent phase, the University was looking at raising \$15 million, and \$26 million was raised. The third phase is to raise the rest of the campaign funds which it appears to be on schedule to accomplish.

The university is also expanding its online programs in business, strategic communications, clinical mental health counseling and now a master's in cyberspace security. Online enrollment has gone from 100 students two years ago, to 400 students.

The University is working with JCC, as they provide a two year associate degree nursing program, which will be a feeder into the University's bachelor program. All nurses will be required to have a bachelor's degree in the next ten years.

The students run a soup kitchen in downtown Olean, which is the first student run soup kitchen in the United States. Bona students recently enacted a smoke free policy for the University, which President DePerro signed off on.

Dr. Bohan congratulated Dr. DePerro on forming a new School of Health Professions and growing the University.

Mr. Haberer asked if the ROTC program was seeing any growth. Dr. DePerro stated they are starting to see an increase in that area as well.

Dr. Chohan shared that he is excited about recently signing up with the University to teach, and train PA students in vascular surgery at Olean General Hospital. Dr. DePerro stated that the first group of PA students will begin in January 2021 with a first class of (40) students, and the Occupational Therapy program will begin in June 2021 with (30) students.

Dr. Watkins asked about a status update on the new Health Professions building. Dr. DePerro said the original Francis Hall is being renovated in a \$17.5 million makeover to house the new School of Health Professions. More than \$13 million has been raised for the 18-month construction project. He stated that the asbestos abatement has been completed and renovation will begin in December.

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Andrew Osborne, Vice President of the NYS Vapor Association, and Buffalo business owner was accompanied by Jeff Barry, an Olean vape shop business owner, at the BOH meeting. Mr. Osborne stated that they are looking to work together with municipalities across NYS in the interest of properly regulating the sale of their products. They shared that their goal is saving lives of adult smokers, but doing everything they can to curb the uptick of youth abuse of these products. Many of their locations are adult only establishments of no one under 18 (soon to comply with the tobacco 21 law that goes in effect in November, all across the State).

Mr. Osborne stated that removing flavored liquid nicotine products from the market would put small business owners that specialize in selling tobacco cessation products out of business but will have little or no impact on convenience stores and smoke shops, where they believe youth are actually purchasing these products. He stated that data from FDA stings show an exponentially higher levels of minors make their purchases in the traditional convenience store, not independent vape shops.

Health concerns from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention show that most health reports are related to illicit marketed products that are produced in unsafe environments that are being manufactured by unlicensed, unregulated distributors. The CDC is recommending that all vape users should use a legitimate, tested lab quality product. Taking away the consumers ability to purchase this product, will only lead them to try and make it themselves. Dr. Bohan thanked the men for sharing their point of view.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Dr. Watkins provided several handouts to all in attendance. The first report he reviewed was the interim estimates of the 2018-2019 influenza vaccine effectiveness for 2018-2019 influenza season. He stated that the 2019-2020 influenza vaccine is already being administered by health care providers and local pharmacists. NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) will start collecting data for the 2019-2020 influenza season in mid-October. The 2018-2019 influenza season saw its peak in late January to late February and WNY saw its peak in late February and March.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that the 2018-2019 influenza vaccine had an overall efficacy rate of 47%. In table 2 of the handout, the vaccine effectiveness is compared among age groups and influenza strain types. For Influenza A and B overall, for age group 6 months to 17 years old, the 2018-2019 influenza vaccine had a 61% efficacy rate, but for the age group of 18-49 years old, the 2018-2019 influenza vaccine had a 37% efficacy rate, however for age group of 50 years old and older, the 2018-2019 influenza vaccine had only a 24% efficacy rate.

For Influenza A(H3N2) the 2018-2019 influenza vaccine had an overall efficacy rate of 44%.

For Influenza A(H1N1) the 2018-2019 influenza vaccine had an overall efficacy rate of 46%. When looking at Influenza A(H1N1) in the age group 6 months to 17 years old, the 2018-2019 influenza vaccine had a efficacy rate of 62%, but for the age group of 18-49 years old, the 2018-2019 influenza vaccine had a 45% efficacy rate, however for age group 50 years old and older, the 2018-2019 influenza vaccine had only a 8% efficacy rate.

The FDA advisory committee met in March reviewing this data and decided it was important to change the Influenza A components of the 2019-2020 influenza vaccine.

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Dr. Bohan asked if the results measured projected whether the vaccine lessened the severity of illness. Dr. Watkins stated absolutely, those who received the vaccine are receiving the first line of defense, and were less likely to be admitted into the hospital due to complications from influenza, and the vaccine had an even higher efficacy against protecting individuals against mortality associated with influenza, it is unfortunate that only a small portion of people were used for this study.

Dr. Witte highlighted the health department's 2019 community influenza vaccination clinic schedule which begins in late September. He stressed the most effective time to vaccinate is late September or October as this will provide the longest protection during the peak of influenza season. Vaccines are effective for about six months, postponement to late September to October will give a person the greatest protection if there is a late peak. Older people and others with weakened immune systems may not generate the same amount of antibodies after vaccination, their antibody levels may drop more quickly when compared to young healthy people.

Hopefully the changes made to the 2019-2020 influenza vaccine will prove to be a better match for the circulating influenza viruses this season.

The strategic plan tracker progress report was reviewed in length as required by accreditation. The BOH approved the actual 2018-2021 strategic plan last year and the information provided was to update the Board on the progress that has occurred since the approval.

Dr. Bohan asked if there were any healthy eating flyers that could be distributed to businesses suggesting healthy alternatives for their employees. Dr. Watkins replied that the CDC tends to have a healthy food awareness campaign that can be used as evidence based publications that could be distributed to local businesses.

Legislator Snyder asked for an update on the Amish vaccination situation. Dr. Watkins replied that he was scheduled to meet with the Amish Bishops and leaders regarding this topic but they canceled the meeting. They are aware of the States regulation to remove religious exemptions as a reason to not vaccinate children. Children who attend the Amish schools will not be allowed to ride the public school busses unless they have been vaccinated and schools that are not in compliance with the new regulations will be subject to a civil penalty. The Amish leader has indicated that their students will walk to school.

NURSING DIVISION REPORT: Mrs. Moore reported that the homecare census is (271) clients but they seem quite busy as three nurses have resigned. In August there were (118) admissions, and (110) discharges. Cases seem to be much more acute, with daily visits required for many of the clients. Staffing changes will occur to accommodate the resignations, and plans to hire a new nurse are underway.

The lead program is following (70) children with elevated blood lead levels (normal < 5ug/dl). The program added (5) new cases in August with levels between 5ug/dl to 9ug/dl. Lead education was offered at (4) WIC clinics last month, which added a total of (15) finger stick or point of care lead tests that were all normal. Lead testing will be done at Headstart for the new school year. In October, testing will be done at the Olean, Salamanca, and Delevan WIC Clinics.

Community Influenza clinics have been scheduled for the year and others will be added. Anyone can call the clinic to make an appointment if they prefer.

Recent shortages in tubersol (tuberculin skin testing solution) has been corrected, now there seems to be shortages with the rabies vaccines. For the past month the department had to preorder the immune globulin, and now there is a rabavert shortage which is the vaccine for rabies, and it will not be available until October. A dose of rabavert is \$284.00, the department will need to order imovax in its place which is more expensive at \$310.00 until rabavert is available again. The department is administering quite a few post exposure rabies vaccines as the weather changes and bats are coming inside.

Communicable diseases in August: Hepatitis A, (1) case that is still being investigated; Hepatitis C, there were (8) chronic cases; Lyme disease, there were (2) confirmed cases; Giardiasis, (3) cases; and Campylobacter, (1) confirmed case.

Sexually transmitted diseases included: Chlamydia, (24) positive cases, Gonorrhea, (1) positive case, and Syphilis, (1) case.

Dr. Bohan asked how the numbers for rabies this year compared to last year. Mrs. Moore responded that the department was busier in the beginning of last year as (32) post-exposure rabies vaccines were administered compared to August of this year where (20) post-exposure rabies vaccines have been administered. Last year there were two positive bats and this year there has been none.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION REPORT: Mr. Wohlers reported that seasonal programs are winding down. The mosquito surveillance program is over for the summer, and no spraying was necessary this year.

NYSDOH has reported that harmful algae blooms have been identified on the Allegheny Reservoir, warnings are posted all over the northern end.

During a recent exit interview for the community development block grant application that was resubmitted, the department learned that the Office of Community Renewal previewed the original application instead of the department's resubmitted application. They apologized and encouraged the department to reapply in the next few months when funding becomes available again.

Last year the department entered into a contract with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Environmental Facilities Corporation for a septic system replacement program. The only properties that are eligible are those within 200 feet of the Allegany River or major contributors. Last year the department had no applicants, but this year the department processed its first applicant in July, and two more projects are pending. Homeowners who are close to a tributary and have a failing septic system that is discharging into the Allegany River are eligible for up to \$5,000.00 reimbursement of their cost, with no income limits attached.

The State has lowered the blood lead level standards, previously children with blood lead levels that were 15ug/dl or higher required investigation by the environmental health division, starting in October, the level has been reduced to 5ug/dl increasing the annual workload tremendously. Last month the department applied for a radioactive materials license from NYSDOH that must be in effect prior to ordering a lead paint analyzer (XRF machine) which has a radioactive source within it. Once the license is received, the XRF machine will be ordered. In addition, the department is hoping to hire another sanitarian due to the increased workload.

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The water project in Cattaraugus (replacement of the 100 year old transmission line) was started about a month ago, and nearly one third of the work has already been completed.

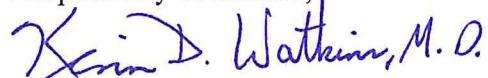
There are proposed new municipalities projects in Yorkshire, Great Valley, and Killbuck. In addition, several support letters have been written for grant applications including the Village of Little Valley, City of Salamanca, City of Olean, and the Village of Ellicottville.

Enforcement Report: Mr. Porter reported no new enforcements at this time.

Everyone in attendance received a proposed BOH schedule for 2020, which will be voted on at the next meeting. The next BOH meeting will be held Wednesday, October 2, 2019.

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

Respectfully submitted,



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