



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

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 March 3, 2020

The 883rd meeting of the Cattaraugus County Board of Health (BOH) was held at The Point Restaurant, 800 East State Street, Olean, New York on March 3, 2020.

The following members were present:

Joseph Bohan, MD

Zahid Chohan, MD

Giles Hamlin, MD

Legislator Kelly Andreano

Sondra Fox, RN, MSN, C.S.

Theresa Raftis

Mayor David L. Smith

Kathryn Cooney Thrush, NP, MSN

Also present were:

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

Tom Brady, Assistant County Attorney

Ashley Milliman, County Attorney

Kip Morrow, Legislator

Richard Smith, Legislator

Howard VanRensselaer, Legislator Chairman

You Wen Tang, Public

Phillipe Yates, Public

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

Barb Parish, Supervising Community Health Nurse

Dave Porter, Hearing Officer

Gilbert Witte, MD, Medical Director

Eric Wohlers, Environmental Health Director

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Joseph Bohan. The roll was called and a quorum, was declared. Dr Bohan asked the Board for a motion to accept the minutes that was distributed in the Board's package.

Dr. Hamlin made a motion to approve the minutes of the BOH meeting held on February 4, 2020, the motion was seconded by Dr. Chohan and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Dr. Hamlin to approve the minutes of the Professional Advisory Meeting held on January 15, 2020, the motion was seconded by Dr. Witte and unanimously approved.

Dr. Bohan asked the Board for a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. A motion was made by Mayor Smith, seconded by Ms. Raftis and unanimously approved. Dr. Bohan stated that the executive session would include Board members, legislators, county attorneys, Dr. Watkins, Dr. Witte, and Raymond Jordan, all others were excused from the room. A motion was made by Mayor Smith to adjourn the executive session, the motion was second by Mrs. Fox and unanimously approved. Dr. Bohan stated that there were no actions taken during the executive session.

Dr. Bohan stated that an appeal for docket #20-001 was submitted by Mr. You Wen Tang of New Lakeview Chinese Restaurant, Inc. This appeal document was made available to all the Board members prior to the meeting. Mr. Philippe Yates, who identified himself as a friend, accompanied Mr. Tang and asked if he could address the Board on Mr. Tang's behalf. Mr. Tang acknowledged that he was in agreeance with Mr. Yates representing him before the Board regarding the appeal he submitted.

Mr. Yates thanked the Board for the crucial work that they do to keep Cattaraugus County residents safe. He stated that Mr. Tang has ran a restaurant business in Cattaraugus County for 25 years. Last year, some serious deficiencies were identified in the handling and preparation of food. As soon as Mr. Tang was notified of the decision by the Board for suspension of his permit, he took decisive steps to address the violations found by the inspectors.

Mr. Yates stated that Mr. Tang followed the recommendations of the Board to hire the services of Mr. John Haley, a Servsafe certified instructor who advised him of the steps that he needed to take in order to correct the deficiencies, and he conducted a general review of Mr. Tang's current practice. Mr. Tang in turn corrected the deficiencies identified in the inspection reports. Finally, Mr. Haley completed a consulting report after working with Mr. Tang and the report was provided to the BOH at today's meeting. A summary of the report stated "I left feeling confident that Mr. Tang was committed to striving for and maintaining a clean and safe facility as well as maintaining proper food safety practices." Mr. Yates added that Mr. Tang's revenue for his business has been severely impacted secondary to the publicity of the BOH decision to suspend the permit. Mr. Yates stated that Mr. Tang apologizes for his past deficiencies and is committed to maintaining the highest standards in the quality of his food, and the safety to his patrons. Mr. Yates respectfully asked the Board to reverse their decision, and asked that the local media give equal publicity to the reversal if the Board decides to accept the appeal.

Dr. Bohan thanked them for the presentation, and the explanation of their case. Dr. Bohan stated that it was never the intent of the Board to hurt Mr. Tang or the New Lakeview Chinese Restaurant, the purpose was to insure that the health of the patrons who eat there was not in danger, which is the Board's obligation.

Dr. Bohan addressed the Board and stated that the reports from both Mr. Haley and Mr. Eli Rust, Public Health Sanitarian, have been reviewed by the Board. He went on to state that it appears that the violations have been remediated and a Board's decision is needed to determine if Mr. Tang should be given a chance to continue operating the New Lakeview Chinese Restaurant based on the recent actions. Dr. Bohan added, if the Board votes to allow continuation, he would recommend that monthly inspections continue and that the Board continues reviewing the inspection reports and approving the operating permit on a monthly basis.

A motion was made by Dr. Hamlin for New Lakeview Chinese Restaurant to continue operating on a month to month basis, the motion was seconded by Dr. Chohan and unanimously approved.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Dr. Watkins reported that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been monitoring the outbreak of a respiratory illness called the novel (new) coronavirus (2019-nCoV). The World Health Organization (WHO) has named this novel coronavirus COVID-19. "CO" stands for "Corona", "VI" for "Virus" and "D" for "Disease", while "19" was for the year, that the outbreak was first identified on December 31, 2019.

COVID-19 is an infectious disease that is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 or SARS-CoV-2. A color diagram was provided to those in attendance. Dr. Watkins stated that the disease is transmitted from one person to another through respiratory droplets. From the time of exposure to the onset of symptoms it usually lasts anywhere from 2-14 days. Symptoms include fever, coughing, shortness of breath, and myalgia or body aches. Diagnostic testing for COVID-19 is being conducted in Atlanta at the CDC laboratory, and as of this week it has also been approved to be conducted in Albany at the Wadsworth laboratory, and at the NYC Health Department. Commercial labs are working diligently on developing their own test and hopefully those tests will be available soon.

Case reports show that 82% a people infected with COVID-19 show mild symptoms, 15% will show a severe case of the infection, and 3% will have a critical case. Those that fall in the severe and critical categories most have an underlying medical condition. There has been at least 90,000 COVID-19 cases that have been confirmed globally, and about 3,000 deaths have been associated with COVID-19. In the United States there are (105) confirmed cases, and there have been (6) deaths in the US and those have all occurred in Washington State, (4) of those were in a nursing home facility. The general risk remains very low for this infection to spread within the United States at this particular time. The first positive case in New York State was confirmed this past Sunday, a 30 year old woman from Westchester County contracted the virus by traveling to Iran and is currently isolated in her home. She presented with respiratory symptoms but is not a serious condition, and she is in a controlled situation upon her arrival to NY.

There is no treatment for this virus, no anti-viral medication, and no vaccine available at this time. Prevention includes washing your hands as often as you can with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water is not available use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth, avoid shaking hands, and stay home if you're sick. Continue to clean and disinfect frequently any touched objects and surfaces.

As of February 25th China, Italy, Iran, and South Korea are ongoing areas of community transmission of the disease and non-essential travel should be avoided for citizens of the US to these areas. The CDC and US Customs and Border Protection are implementing enhanced health screenings to detect travelers coming in from China, and Iran who has fever, cough, or difficulty breathing when they enter the US. Those individuals are then taken to a medical facility if there is a need for supportive care. If those individuals do not need a facility but are symptomatic they will be isolated or quarantined for (14) days. If they are asymptomatic they are allowed to come to their final destination. The CDC will contact the local health department (LHD) where they reside, it then becomes the job of that health department to isolate those individuals for (14) days. They will need to sign a voluntary isolation document, and LHD's will restrict their movement for (14) days. If the individual is not compliant then the public health director will issue an order for mandatory quarantine.

The department has identified a home and several units in Ellicottville that can be utilized to isolate and quarantine individuals if necessary. The department will do its best to isolate individuals in their own home if at all possible.

COVID-19 is potentially more contagious than influenza and potentially more deadly than influenza. Epidemiologists normally look at the R-naught (R_0) of communicable disease. This number describes how an infectious agent spreads through a population. Seasonal flu has an R_0 of 1.2, measles has an R_0 between 12-18, and COVID-19 has a R_0 of 2.2. An epidemic can occur as long as the R_0 is greater than 1. The SARS outbreak had an R_0 of 3, but this was successfully controlled by isolating and quarantining the patients, and careful infection control of washing hands, and cleaning off surfaces.

Some of our barriers include limited isolation facilities, if we had more than (30) residents that needed isolation we may have a problem. Social media rumors, and stereotyping community residents has been a problem, it has caused the department to conduct investigations that diverts us from our normal daily duties. COVID-19 testing is far too little and we are still uncertain on the sensitivity and the specificity of the test. No rapid tests are available in the US. Unfortunately we have no idea how many false negatives are out there. Face masks are not required at this time for the average citizen, as hysteria in purchasing face masks are depleting the stock for medical personnel. Dr. Witte added that he has read that the virus can survive on contact surfaces for hours after someone has coughed or touch the area. Dr. Witte also added that the symptoms are the same that you see for influenza. Dr. Chohan shared that areas nearer the equator are not seeing the surge in numbers for the coronavirus due to the warmer climates.

Dr. Watkins provided those in attendance with a copy of the 2020 influenza vaccine effectiveness (VE) report from CDC. Overall, the adjusted VE was 45% against influenza A and B virus types combined, the 2019-2020 VE was 50% against influenza B/Victoria, and 37% against influenza A (H1N1). The influenza A (H1N1) VE was higher among children and adolescents aged 6 months–17 years of age (VE=51%) and lower among adults aged 18–49 years of age (VE = 5%) and if you were older than 50 years of age, the VE was 50% effective.

March is colorectal cancer awareness month. In NYS colorectal cancer is one of the most frequently diagnosed cancers and the second leading cause of cancer deaths in men and women. A handout was provided to those in attendance. In Cattaraugus County the average annual incidence of colorectal cancer for men is 20.8 (rate 44.2) compared to women which is 23.8 (rate 46.1) and the annual mortality of colorectal cancer in Cattaraugus County is 6.4 for men and the rate/100,000 is (13.3) and for women the annual mortality of colorectal cancer in Cattaraugus County is 7.6, and the rate/100,000 is (14.6). Both the incidence and mortality is higher for women than for men in Cattaraugus County.

NURSING DIVISION REPORT: Mrs. Parish, Supervising Community Health Nurse, reported that the homecare census is (287). New admissions for the month of February was (38), and readmissions were (63). There were (93) discharges in February.

The homecare is working on the Patient Driven Groupings Model (PDGM) for reimbursement, which is the new billing framework for homecare agency that changes the unit of home health payment from a 60-day episode to a 30-day period, although it started in January there is no data on its impact to the department.

There were (538) encounters within the clinics. For family planning clinic, there were (21) HIV test conducted in February, no positives. There were (6) rapid HIV tests conducted in February with no positives and (6) rapid Hepatitis C tests conducted in February, no positives.

In February the department had a pop up clinic at St. Bonaventure where (42) people were immunized for influenza. Influenza vaccine, is still available in the clinic, the high dose will expire at the end of this month, and the standard dose will expire in June.

Sexually transmitted infections for the month of February; There were (13) cases of chlamydia, (9) females and (4) males,

Communicable disease for the month of February included; (3) probable hepatitis C chronic cases, and (1) confirmed hepatitis C chronic case, (3) strep A cases, (1) suspected perinatal hep B case, (1) Lyme positive case, (2) suspected Lyme positive case, and (2) invasive group A strep cases.

There are (95) open lead cases, (9) were new referrals in February, (9) lead tests were done at (5) WIC clinics, (1) child was found to have elevated lead levels via finger stick. Environmental Health and nursing are doing the follow-ups for this case.

The lead coalition met on February 12th with a very good turnout, with representation from all three counties.

Legislator Andreano asked how many children are above a lead level of 40. Mrs. Parish said she did not have that information with her, but she would see that it was sent to her.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION REPORT: Mr. Wohlers reported that the department is now current on the backlog of lead investigations.

This past week the environmental health division received an updated list of the registered tobacco and vape shops within the county. The department will schedule tobacco compliance checks and visit vape shops for the first time. In the last year there has been a decrease in the number of registered vape shops in the State.

The department will not be hiring the (2) two seasonal mosquito program aides this year since NYSDOH will not backfill a critical position in the western region that trains the program aides on identifying mosquitoes. Hence, the department will not conduct any surveillance for mosquitoes this year.

Dr. Bohan asked if there were any commercial or national labs that could do the mosquito surveillance. Mr. Wohlers replied that the State Health Department lab has done this all along at no charge, including summarizing the data, and sending the data to all the health commissioners in the State. Dr. Chohan asked if the position was eliminated or the person simply retired. Mr. Wohlers stated the person retired and funding has dried up.

ENFORCEMENT LIST: Mr. Porter reported there were no enforcements this month.

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New Business: Dr. Watkins asked if the Board if they would feel comfortable if we started to send the agenda, and minutes via email as opposed by US postal mail. Any articles and handouts that are not ready at the time of the agenda will still be brought to the Board meeting or sent electronically prior. After discussion, it was agreed by the Board members to switch from paper copies to electronic copies.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin D. Watkins, M.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

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