

Chautauqua County Board of Health
MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time: Thursday, July 18, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.
Location: HRC Bldg., 4th floor conference room, Mayville
Scribe: Sherri Rater

ATTENDANCE:

BOH Members	P/A	BOH Members	P/A	Others Present	Title
Tom Erlandson	P	Dr. Tallett	P	Lynn Schaffer	County Health Dept. Attorney
Dr. Hewes	P	Natasha Souter	P	Mark Stow	Director of Environmental Health
Dr. Khan	P	Mark Tarbrake	P	Leanna Luka-Conley	Deputy Commissioner of Adult, Children Family Services
Dr. Ney	P	Elisabeth Rankin	P	Sherri Rater	Scribe
Andrew O'Brien	P			Mark Twichel	Citizen
				Karen Engstrom	Citizen
				Michelle Twichel	Citizen

Call to order	<p>The meeting was called to order by President Tom Erlandson at 6:02 p.m. Lynn Schaffer was introduced as our new Legal representative replacing Kristen Wright's duties. Lynn works in the Health and Human Services Legal Division. The Division has taken over legal representation for the Department's Public Health Division, which was formerly represented by the County Attorney's Office.</p>
Privilege of the Floor	<p>Mark Twichel – Fredonia resident. Mr. Twichel states there is an intersection between science and politics. Politics: The County Rankings were reviewed at a previous Board of Health meeting. Chautauqua County ranked 55 out of 62 counties. Mr. Twichel states he went back home and used three references to try and correlate that Chautauqua County is a wind industrialized county and I used the county health rankings.org, NYS independent systems operators which contains a list of all of their wind facilities both current and pending and usgeologicalsurvey.gov.</p> <p>The conclusion was that the eight WNYPHA counties have an average rank of 46 and those are all wind-industrialized counties. If you subtract the two least wind-industrialized counties, Erie and Genesee, our rank is 51.</p> <p>Science: There is an acute absence of science in the realm of infrasound and low frequency noise and its human health impacts. At past meetings we have said that NYS does not recognize any of the infrasonic frequencies as being harmful. I stand corrected - Cassadaga wind farm has given us a frequency of 16 Hertz. ANSI publishes data on human annoyances and low frequency – ANSI is 16 hertz and 60 decibel. What if it is 16 hertz at 50 decibels or 40? Mr. Twichel had charts to show that he was unable to draw a curve on a chart</p>

because there is no data. The curve is only a possibility because there is no science to draw a curve. A handout was given to the Board that was published as a result of an international conference that was held in Montreal last week on noise and vibration.

In the absence of science, what we are dealing with is merely politics, which gets us back to the fact that Chautauqua County is ranked 55 out of 62.

Erlandson Thanks Mark Twichel for organizing a meeting that was held on 7/12/19 in Cassadaga. Erlandson states he is approaching inundation with emails and reports on this topic and has barely begun to review the information.

Karen Engstrom Mayville resident. A video was distributed to the Board of the many voices of Arkwright residence who are living near the wind mills.

The Cassadaga Wind is not in operation; it has not begun yet and has not been permitted yet. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has not given the federal permit and has put out a multi-page document. On page five of the document it states 'the decision to approve or deny this permit for Cassadaga Wind, the request will be based an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonable foreseeable detriments.' Then it invites everyone official in Chautauqua County to make a comment. I am sharing with you the address and email of the man in charge in Buffalo and I hope you will take a look at the data. We feel it is important to assess the health effects for those people in Arkwright and feel that it should be done before this permit is granted. As a Board of Health you could do that. Also the WNYPHA could as well. Ms. Engstrom second point is that the WNYPHA has made a very strong statement that we are all aware. There are eight counties involved. WNYPHA through the organization or each individual health board should ask the state to do a study. The study could be done because the people in Arkwright are here and can give you the data that you need to prove or disprove whether there are negative health impacts. We know already that close to 100 of them are suing. They have enough proof to hire a lawyer who feels we have substantial proof to go ahead with a lawsuit.

A handout was distributed.

Erlandson - Might we consider as a Board writing a letter to Buffalo District US Army Corps of Engineers. Ney agrees and states I think science takes a long time to come to grips with this and so listening to patients is important. Data that we have learned about the annoyance factor is fascinating because dealing with patient for many years. People's resilience and sensitivity really factors in a lot.

Khan also agrees that we need to pursue it wherever the science may lead us. Studies that have been done, how controlled they were, psychological testing done. People describing their mental health condition 30, 40, 50 years ago and they were believed to be possessed by spirits when they were struggling with an actual condition.

Erlandson states that company running the Cassadaga project want to come in and start clearing trees soon but there are still outstanding permits needed. Ball Hill project has an article 78 in place against the town, which is

	<p>like a cease and desist order until the Town of Villanova either performs as supplemental environmental impact statement to account for the fact that the turbines are much larger than originally planned. There is a possible project in the Town of Portland and the Town Board has put a six month moratorium on the decision that ends in December. Those are the three projects going on in the county.</p> <p>Tarbrake asks as a board what is our long term goal? Are we looking to stop those projects or are we more concerned with the health aspects? I don't think we can turn into a lobbying group. T</p> <p>Erlandson thinks we need to be concerned about linking what happens in NYS with some of the research and links from our own world and particularly focus on lowering the decibels and infrasound, low frequency sound, flickers, etc.</p> <p>Ney – We also need to look at the distance from turbines and residences. The Board is in an educational mode and the scientific data is going to lag behind.</p> <p>Erlandson points out that there is a link to a suicide last March. The individual was surrounded by wind towers.</p>
<p>Approval of Minutes from May 30, 2019</p>	<p>Mark Tarbrake made a motion to approve the May 30, 2019 meeting minutes. Second by Dr. Khan. All in favor. Motion carried.</p>
<p>Agreements to Settle</p>	<p>Agreements to settle were reviewed and include typical water violations and bare hand touching of food. There is a significant tire waste pile in the town of Ripley that will most likely go to a hearing in August. There is one bar that continues to allow smoking.</p>
<p>Clean Indoor Air Act</p>	<p>An amendment was made to Article 13-E of the Public Health Law, effective June 19, 2019 prohibiting smoking within 100 feet of the entrances, exits or outdoor areas of public or association libraries as defined in subdivision two of section 253 of the Education Law.</p>
<p>SART/Leadership Institute in Chautauqua County- Planning a system of care for children 0-5</p>	<p>Recently a group of 23 leaders in Chautauqua County which included Christine Schuyler, Department Director, Leanna Luka-Conley, Department Deputy Commissioner of Adult, Children & Family Services, as well as Board of Health Members Dr. Khan, Dr. Ney and Andrew O'Brien, spent four days together with Dr. Ira Chasnoff, an internationally well-known pediatrician and expert on prenatal substance abuse exposure, to try to develop a plan to address some of the needs of infants exposed to substances in Chautauqua County. Dr. Chasnoff first came to Chautauqua County in the fall of 2018 to present on this topic.</p> <p>Leanna handed out a power point presentation, a one page draft of what the vision is and an article about medical marijuana laws and pregnancy.</p> <p>Luka-Conley - The reason Dr. Chasnoff was asked to come back to Chautauqua County is because over the past five years we have had increased exposure to drugs and alcohol and finding out what the exposure does to kids. A lot of these kids fall through the gaps because when they are screened for early intervention they screen well and therefore don't receive the early intervention services. These children screen well because it is really their executive functioning that's impaired and so we don't find out about these kids until they get to school. As a leadership team we are now working at a high pace rate because Dr. Chasnoff brought a grant to our attention that is due July 31st. The team has been conferencing every day to be able to submit this grant. We are really trying to put an assessment and screening system in place to prevent these kids from falling through the gaps.</p>

SART/Leadership
Institute cont'd

O'Brien- Most places don't have a system for this. The old thinking was when you are dealing with a baby at age 1 or 2 it might not be necessary to diagnose and label them with behavioral or developmental problems. We have come to learn that because of that well intended attitude, we missed the boat. What we are able to establish how through science is that you can recognize and identify certain developmental conditions related to exposure to substances. By doing so you will significantly improve outcomes in terms of the overall health of the county and you will also develop ways to save the health care system a lot of money because the children that were misidentified tend to have a slew of interventions offered to them through the years, but it is the wrong interventions. People don't improve and so the investment of time and infrastructure to help these people has been wasted. Chautauqua County, we are ahead of most places because we have the coalition of pediatric providers, school system, mental health professionals and other health related agencies plus Leanna's leadership in child welfare to really make a big splash and improve the overall health in Chautauqua County.

Khan – the need is there, was there, for those children who fall through the cracks who don't have clear and identifiable diagnosis. Practicing pediatricians, family doctors, social workers, mental health workers, we know this and have known this for years. Dealing with schools I have seen this for over 20 years as well. When I was invited to attend, I jumped on the invitation to attend, even though it was several long days I am excited for the possibility of what we can do for the young folks in Chautauqua County. Right now we are in the planning phases. Grant writing is being done, protocols are being devised as to how the screening will take place. We will need a lot more people to come on board. We want to spread the word. We will come back to the community and Board of Health. Jamestown Public School sent a team of three that sat with us for three days. Smaller schools will jump on board as well. Everyone that is involved is going above and beyond our normal work hours but ...it's for the young people and kids in Chautauqua County. We will be the trendsetters and leaders. We are calling the program SART, Screening Assessment and Referral and Treatment. We are thrilled that we have an opportunity to do something for the young kids in Chautauqua County.

Ney compliments Leanna Luka-Conley for her extraordinary leadership that she has provided on this project. I have been concerned for years about the very poor percentage of children entering the third grade who are not reading at third grade level. There are a lot of reasons for that but this issue of lack of early intervention is probably a very big part of it. We have spent a lot of time and effort on the opioid epidemic and now to find out that one of the impacts is on the prenatal effects. Alcohol and pregnancy, Marijuana and pregnancy are very devastating to the fetus. The problems down the road and very high costs of special education. By the time they are identified in PreK they are way behind already. All kinds of evidence of effects, impulsivity, aggression, lack of ability to succeed in school, low graduation rates, alcohol and drug use. If nothing else people can understand the huge costs.

Rankin spoke about her own personal experience and multiple services required and received for her adopted child. She said that what helped was the way Chautauqua County EI agency came together to help and that there is no one specific formula for a child and so a program like this where everyone is working together will work. O'Brien stated that differences are seen when families are proactive and able to start the process. A lot of what Dr. Chasnoff and this group are doing is establishing universal screening so that we can identify all children, not just the ones with proactive parents, with a goal of developing a transdisciplinary team that will provide easier access to services, a lot of which are already available in Chautauqua County.

<p>Lead</p>	<p>As a result of the May meeting, a letter was sent to the State asking for financial support to assist with increased staffing as a result of the new lead laws reducing the lead levels from 15 micrograms per deciliter to 5 in children whose families must participate in the lead poisoning prevention program. Additionally, a letter was sent to the County Legislature regarding the need for adequate staff to implement the program. Lisa Schmidfrerick-Miller, Healthy Communities Consultant for the Department submitted a statement indicating that she and the Law Department have found that a regulation already exists in New York Public Health Law that requires children to be tested for lead, however, the law is not being enforced. Lisa's recommendations is that she and our County Lead Program staff work with Jamestown Public Schools, daycare centers, and early-education providers, and our clinical staff to develop a process for verifying that a child has been tested, and then work to refine that process and share it Countywide. Dr. Ney moves that we endorse Lisa's recommendation with the amendment to work with all schools county wide and not just Jamestown Public Schools. Second by Rankin. All in favor. Motion carried. Ney states that she, Lisa Schmidfrerick-Miller, and Natalie Whiteman were on WRFA radio in Jamestown today regarding the lead issue in Chautauqua County.</p> <p>Lisa Schmidfrerick-Miller chairs the Healthy Housing Taskforce Committee that includes school systems, COI, CHRIC, Jamestown Renaissance Corporation and there is a subcommittee that includes renters, landlords and more. There is a big steam of effort going on right now to take care of the biggest problem which seems to be substandard housing and that we are not identifying all of the children with higher lead levels. Other counties have enforced mandatory lead inspections at the time of property transfer or withheld social services rent payments until lead testing is done and problems areas remediated</p>
<p>Future Meeting Dates</p>	<p>September 19, 2019, November 21, 2019</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn by Dr. Tallett, 2nd by Souter. Meeting adjourned at 7:24pm</p>