

Chautauqua County Board of Health
MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time: Thursday, July 17, 2025 6:00 p.m.
Location: HRC 4th Floor Conference Room, 7 North Erie Street, Mayville, NY 14757
Scribe: Hannah Abram and Amanda Reiner
YouTube Live Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KePTtXNg9Tc>

ATTENDANCE:

BOH Members	P/A	BOH Members	P/A	Others Present	Title
Dr. Faulk*	P	Dawn Columbare	P	Jessica Wuerstle	Director of Environmental Health
Matt Hanley	P	Kenneth Dahlgren	P	Dr. Berke	County Physician
Rick Ketcham	P	Dr. Kidder	P	Hannah Abram	Administrative Aide, Board of Health Scribe
Dr. Khan	P	Dr. Krahn	P	Amanda Reiner	Resource Assistant, Board of Health Scribe
Lacey Wilson*	P	Dr. Pender	P	Greg Bacon	
<i>*non-voting member</i>		Legislature Proctor	P	Kristen Wright	
		Mark Tarbrake	E	Gene Palmer	
				Jayne Gavin	

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Kidder.
Privilege of the Floor	<p>Gene: My name is Gene Palmer. I just wanted to share some more of the experiences I've had with healthcare in Chautauqua County. Would anybody offer to ask Dr. Berke why he's violated my HIPPA rights refusing to respond to a request for an amendment? I mean, I've had these live falsifications on my record for seven years now.</p> <p>Kidder: Okay. We don't respond during this session; this is your opportunity to present to us. So, you can just continue.</p> <p>Gene: Yeah, there's a signature copy of a signature receipt there from 2021 requesting an amendment. They put in my record said I -- he sent me to the hospital. He thought I had a Doppler. I go right down to the hospital. They turn me away and refuse to see me. I file a complaint with the hospital. They write me back. Nothing but falsifications, too, stating I was taken back to an exam room, but at least I had a letter from the hospital stating I was there that day, even though it was all lies. I give him the letter stating I was there that day after he gave me a non-compliant letter. Katherine (<i>inaudible</i>), one of the nurse practitioners, called me up demanding to want to</p>

	<p>know why I didn't go to the hospital. I recorded the call. I was in my car coming back from the hospital on my dash cam. I played the recording for her. I gave these papers that you have there in the center of the table to Dr. <i>(inaudible)</i> and Katherine <i>(inaudible)</i>. Explicit instructions to give to Dr. Berke. Buerke. They found their way in the garbage. Okay. Couple months later, I stop into his office, give the same papers to the manager. I'm expecting to be discharged. I mean, I'm not hearing nothing. Not hearing nothing. I'm expecting to be discharged. Finally, I get after I deliver them personally to their office manager and in his letter, he writes me back, I read the letters you left in my office on such and such date, which implies that where did the letters go that I gave Katherine <i>(inaudible)</i>? I had her to listen to the conversation of her lying and falsifying my records in the garbage. He didn't get any of according to his own words. I read the letters he left at my office on June 20th. Okay. I reached out to other people. I sent basically a lot of this same stuff to Lacey Wilson. I contacted Carmelo Hernandez, asked if anybody from his office could reach out me. No response from anybody. You know, your motto is what is it? prevent, promote, protect. I think you're walk talking the talk, but I don't know if you're meeting walking the walk. Okay. So, does anybody Oh, you don't respond. Okay. I was going to ask if anybody has any suggestions on what I can do. My last three providers I've had in a row have violated my HIPPA rights. Either one by refusing to give me a copy of my own records. Why? Because I have them on tape also lying, falsifying my records. I mean, what is a person supposed to do? I mean, this is just this is disgusting. I look at people in healthcare now, all people in healthcare are low lives. I'd be more likely to get reliable, honest information from used car salesman. This is a joke. You know, this is a joke. This was a freaking joke.</p>
Approval of 5/15/25 and 6/12/25 Minutes	<p>Khan made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2025 Board of Health Meeting. 2nd by Pender; all in favor; motion carried.</p> <p>Ketcham made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 2025 Board of Health Special meeting. 2nd by Khan; all in favor; motion carried.</p>
Old Business:	<p>Lead Rental Registry Questions</p> <p>In following up with the Lead Rental Registry presentation at the May 2025 Board of Health meeting, Jessica provided answers to questions from the Board regarding other municipalities' handling of the program as it pertains to fees for inspections. Jessica and her team are still planning and awaiting more guidance from NYS and will have more information to present to the Board in the coming months. the Board members had questions concerning other municipalities' handling of the program.</p>
New Business: Agreements to Settle	<p>Agreements to settle were reviewed. As usual, there were several public water supply violations. These are facilities failing to submit their monthly water report and water monitoring results.</p>
Hearing Officer Recommendations:	<p><u>Hearing Summary:</u></p> <p>1. In the matter of A6 Properties, LLC the Hearing Officer, having determined that Respondent was properly served notice to appear, and upon owner's failure to appear or request an adjournment, found owner in default and proceeded with the hearing in <i>absentia</i>. As a result, the Hearing Officer found the</p>

Commented [RSL1]: Typically what I would do here is summarize the questions and what was explained. If there were a lot of questions you could be general like this for example: Wuerstle (or whoever answered the questions) provided answers to questions related to the Lead Rental Registry as it pertains to the inspection process and who qualifies for the program.

another example : Wuerstle provided answers to questions related to the Lead Rental Registry as it pertains to the inspection process and who qualifies for the program. The program is for dwellings that contain 2 or more rental units and that are located within the 14701 zip code.

	<p>owner has violated Title 10 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 5-1.51(b)(Table 11) in that the Respondent has failed to timely submit the required water monitoring reports.</p> <p>Discussion Summary: The Board of Health, after review and discussion, unanimously voted in favor of adopting the Hearing Officer's Findings of Fact and the recommended penalty amount.</p> <p>Motion: Krahn made a motion to adopt the Hearing Officer's recommendation of a total fine of \$2,000.00. 2nd by Columbare; all in favor; motion carried.</p>
Director's Report:	<p><u>-Boil Water Orders (BWO)</u> Our department's role in BWO's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We amplify the order, including safe use information, on behalf of the water source/operator. • We send out the NY Alert notifications – received via text, phone or email (depending on preferences the resident sets during sign-up). • Our Water Specialists/staff provide technical assistance, troubleshooting additional concerns and issues. • We offer CCHD lab as an option for them to complete microbiological sample analysis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilities, though, do not have to use our lab. - If we do process samples, we communicate water test results. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -If a private lab is used then the results of the testing must be communicated to our department before the BWO can be lifted. • We amplify the lifting of the BWO and other necessary or helpful instructions/information at that time. <p><u>-2026 Budget</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A primary focus of our departmental 2025-2027 strategic plan is departmental efficiency. • The division leads have planned well and we have contingency strategies in place to ensure that there are no major shifts in the budget despite funding concerns. • We have also remained committed to strengthening and streamlining our services and programs. <p><u>-NYSDOH Prevention Agenda</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYSDOH's agenda was released 7/17/25 • Plan/foundation for health entities and organizations in NYS • Is meant to form consistency in health priorities and outcomes across the state.

<p><i>Director's Report Cont'd</i></p>	<p><u>Updates</u></p> <p><u>Federal Funding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health Fellows Program – Temporary Injunction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fellows retained until further notice. • Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funds had not been released which contributed to a sense that they may be discontinued or reduced. <p><u>Pediatric Dental Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WNY Public Health Alliance formed a working group to develop funding and infrastructure plans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan is under review and edits by partner organizations. <p><u>Strategic Planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 current vacancies – down from 5 in May, 10 in March and 17 in January
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Pender made a motion to adjourn at 7:20pm.</p>
<p>Future Meeting Dates</p>	<p>September 18, 2025; November 20, 2025</p>