Rowe Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
May 31, 1985

The meeting came to order at 7:08 p.m.

Present: Rowe Board of Health: George Riggan, Chairman; Tim Snyder and Ellen Foberg. Rowe School Committee: Donna Arnold, Chairman; and Henry Dandeneau. Heath Board of Health: Ann Steinbock, Chairman; and David Giard. Heath School Committee: Skip Venneri, Chairman; Linda Marcotte; and Budge Litchfield. Heath residents: Susan Gleason (also of West County News) and Sheila Litchfield.

This special public meeting was called to discuss a health problem at the Rowe School. An outbreak of pediculus capitis (head lice) is occuring in the school with 172 (90 children and 82 adults) known/reported cases as of May 31 (see Appendix A). After two or three infestations of a head by lice the over-the-counter treatment is no longer effective and it is necessary to treat with a prescription medication (KWELL). This product is a known carcinogen and in addition can cause brain damage (see Appendix B). In view of this severe and dangerous treatment, the Rowe Board of Health, at a meeting on May 28, 1985, declared ~~the~~ repeated treatment a public health hazard.

Of specific concern for this meeting is a Heath family that has had six infestations in a six-week period. They are unable to cope with the problem (clean up of house, etc.) and have responded negatively to efforts of the town/school nurse to help in the matter. The nurse is no longer allowed into the home by the family. Of great concern is that fact that the children from this home have been treated at least 16 times with "KWELL." The school doctor has voiced concern over the number of treatments these children have been subjected to. One child has developed lesions on the back of his head as a result. The doctor reportedly will allow only one more treatment with "KWELL." Documentation in writing from the doctor is being obtained as to specific hazards.

It is the recommendation of the school/town nurse, the school doctor, and the Department of Child Protection that the family be temporarily evicted from their home, the home be fumigated, and occupants treated before reentering. Rowe Town Counsel feels enforcement of this action falls under the jurisdiction of the Heath Board of Health. The Heath Board of Health agreed and will handle the matter.

In addition, the Rowe School Committee is amending their policy handbook to cover this type of problem, and the Heath School Committee will take steps to have the children from this particular Heath family suspended from riding the school bus until this problem is corrected to avoid possible infestation to other school children. The parents, or a responsible agency, will need to transport the children to school and remain there with them while the children's heads are checked for infestation. If free of lice and nits, the children will be allowed into school. If not free, they will be sent home. The school nurse has agreed to alter her work schedule so that she can be at the school each morning to check the children.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen L. Foberg
Ellen L. Foberg, Selectman

Approved: George A. Riggan
Ellen L. Foberg
Timothy C. Snyder

Appendix A

May 31, 1985

The following is a cronological history of the documented cases of head lice in the Rowe Elementary School this school year. These are only the known cases that I have found or have been reported to me.

Date	Family size	Tx. times	Pres./non
10/15/84	4	2	N
10/19/84	4	2	N
10/19	6	1	N
11/28/84	4	2	N
12/11/84	5	2	P
12/13/84 reinfest x1	4	2	P
1/3/85	5	2	N
	4	2	N
	3	1	N
	4	2	N
1/29/85	4	2	N
4/23/85			
17 cases treated in total	10 children	7 adult 3 reinfest	60 persons
4/30 reinfest x2	5	2	N
5/7/85 reinfest x3	5	2	P
5/20/85 reinfest x4	5	2	P
5/20/85 reinfest x2	4	2	P
5/28/85 reinfest x1	4	2	P
5/28 reinfest x1	5	1	N
	3	2	N
reinfest x5	5	2	P
5/29/85	4	1	N
	3	1	N
5/30/85 reinfest x6	5	1	P
	4	1	P
	4	1	N

172

82 adults
90 children

Total including reinfestations...

Respectfully submitted,
Sharleen Moffatt

Sharleen Moffatt, R.N.
School Nurse
Rowe Elementary School

Town of Rowe

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Massachusetts

01367

May 20, 1985

From the Office of

School Nurse

Board of Health Town of Rowe:

Beginning after the April school vacation, two families of children from the town of Heath began what has become a long line of reinfestations with head lice. I have exhausted my resources and would now seek your advice in which steps to take next in an attempt to control what I feel is a threat to public health at the Rowe Elementary School.

The first diagnosed episode was found on April 22, 1985. At that time the children were sent home from school with instructions on how to effectively treat the head lice and prevent reinfestation. I personnaly escourted the children home and spoke with the mother to verbally reinforce the importance of the instructions. The children re-entered the school three days after and were free of nits.

The children were found to be reinfested on April 30th. They were, again brought home my me, and the mother was presented with written instructions and we went over them again, and re-emphasized the importance of following thru on all of the steps. At this time, I contacted Ms. Gainer of the Mass. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, who had been a case worker with the family in the past and explained what was happening, She stated that she could be of no help in this matter, and that the family did not respond to agency involvment. I contacted Dr. French, the school and family physician and updated him on the situation. The mother then contacted me and stated that she could not treat the children because she could not get credit at the drug store. I contacted the Baker Pharmacy and arranged for the medication to be issued and billed to me at the school. The children re-entered school three days later, free of nits.

The children presented to me May 7,1985 reinfested with head lice. I attempted to reach the parents, and was unable to do so. I then transported the children home for the third time and attempted to give instructions to both parents. The parents were upset and hostile, and I left the premises. Upon returning to the Rowe school, I again contacted the M.S.P.C.C. and was told to file with the Department of Social Service. I filed a Form 51-A, a charge of neglect that same day. I filed both a verbal and a written file. I went and spoke with Dr. French again to update him.. He issued a perscription for Kwell to the mother. Once again the medication was billed to me by the Baker Pharmacy. At this time, I also spoke with Ann Steinbock as a member of the Board of Health of the Town of Heath and explained the situation to her. She opted with my knowledge to wait until we heard from D.SS.

On May 10, 1985, I received written notification from D.S.S. that there were no grounds for filing and that no services would be rendered. I contacted Ted

Town of Rowe

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Massachusetts
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May 20, 1985

From the Office of

School Nurse

Harrison, the co-ordinator of Human Services for Franklin County, to enlist his help. He in turn contacted D.S.S. to review the case again, but the same findings were upheld. The children re-entered school five days later, again free of nits.

On May 20, 1985, the children presented at school, re-infested with head lice for the fourth time. I sent written instructions home again, and the children were taken home by Budge Litchfield, a school committee member of the Town of Heath. The children have been treated again and re-entered the school today, May 21st free of nits. The issue is obvious. The parents are apparently unable to complete the tasks necessary to prevent re-infestation. The children, I feel without intervention, will re-infest time and time again. I fear for them as the agent that is being used is a known carcinogenic and they are far and above being over-treated. On the other hand, I feel that my responsibilities are for the welfare of the whole school, and this situation presents a threat to that body of students and to the community at large. I have again, notified the attending physician of this on-going situation. I would appreciate any and all advice that your board could give me. I feel that I have exhausted all of my resources.

Sincerely yours,

Sharleen Moffatt

Sharleen Moffatt, R.N.
School Nurse
Rowe Elementary School

Appendix B

KWELL® Shampoo
(lindane) 1%
Topical Therapy for Pediculosis

KWELL Shampoo (lindane) 1%
Description: Active ingredient (lindane) 1%.

Inert ingredients: 99% in a cosmetically pleasant shampoo base, containing polyoxyethylene sorbitan monostearate, triethanolamine, lauryl sulfate, acetone and purified water.

ACTIONS AND INDICATIONS
KWELL Shampoo is an ectoparasiticide and ovicide indicated for the treatment of infestations with Pediculus capitis (head lice), Phthirus pubis (crab lice), and their nits.

CONTRAINDICATIONS
KWELL Shampoo is contraindicated for individuals with known sensitivity to the product or to any of its components.

WARNING
KWELL SHAMPOO SHOULD BE USED WITH CAUTION, ESPECIALLY ON INFANTS, CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN. LINDANE PENETRATES HUMAN SKIN AND HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR CNS TOXICITY. STUDIES INDICATE THAT POTENTIAL TOXIC EFFECTS OF TOPICALLY APPLIED LINDANE ARE GREATER IN THE YOUNG. Seizures have been reported after the use of lindane, but a cause and effect relationship has not been established.

Simultaneous application of creams, ointments or oils may enhance the percutaneous absorption of lindane.

PRECAUTIONS
If accidental ingestion occurs, prompt gastric lavage will rid the body of large amounts of the toxicant. However, since oils favor absorption, saline cathartics for intestinal evacuation should be given rather than oil laxatives. If central nervous system manifestations occur, they can be antagonized by the administration of pentobarbital or phenobarbital.

If accidental contact with the eyes occurs, flush with water. If irritation or sensitization occurs, discontinue use and contact a physician.

ADVERSE REACTIONS
Eczematous eruptions due to irritation from this product have been reported.

ADMINISTRATION

CAUTION: USE ONLY AS DIRECTED. DO NOT EXCEED RECOMMENDED DOSAGE.
NOTE: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE:
Pediculosis capitis **(head lice):** (1) Apply a sufficient quantity of the shampoo to thoroughly wet the hair and skin of the infested and adjacent, hairy areas. (2) Work thoroughly into the hair and allow to remain in place 4 minutes. (3) Add small quantities of water until a good lather forms and shampoo as usual. Rinse thoroughly. Towel briskly. When the hair is dry, any remaining nits or nit shells may be removed by fine-tooth combing or with tweezers.

Retreatment is usually not necessary. Demonstrable living lice after 7 days indicate retreatment is necessary.

Pediculosis pubis **(crab lice):** (1)Apply a sufficient quantity of the shampoo to thoroughly wet hair and skin of the infested and adjacent, hairy areas. (2) Work thoroughly into the hair and allow to remain in place 4 minutes. (3) Add small quantities of water until a good lather forms and shampoo as usual. Rinse thoroughly. Towel briskly.

Retreatment is usually not necessary. Demonstrable living lice after 7 days indicate retreatment is necessary.

Sexual contacts should be treated simultaneously.

NOTE: KWELL Shampoo is intended only for head lice and crab lice infestations and should not be used as a routine shampoo. For other ectoparasitic infestations, such as scabies, the use of KWELL Cream or KWELL Lotion is recommended.

CAUTION: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

HOW SUPPLIED
KWELL Shampoo in bottles of 2 fluid oz (59 ml), 16 fluid oz (472 ml) and 1 gallon (3.8L).

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