

# ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

## June 19, 2018

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Andrew Williams, Dr. Gregory Healey, Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Nancy Potter, John Burke

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Todd Wells, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dana Olzenak McGuire, Director; Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant; Brigette Sanderson, Wil Neves, Richelle Cisco, Kindra Cousineau (Public Health Staff); Taylor Goodman, SLU Intern.

### CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Andrew Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Upon motion by J. Burke, and seconded by Dr. Terrence, the minutes from the May 15, 2018 meeting were approved.**

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Taylor Goodman, SLU Intern with the Public Health Department introduced herself and gave a brief summary of her education and what she is currently working on at the Public Health Department. She is a junior at St. Lawrence University working on her BA. She is reviewing the Public Health Department website to help improve their online presence and is working on information pamphlets regarding fluoride varnish.

#### **Public Health Updates:**

**PH Detailing Update:** Dana noted a letter was written and sent to area dentists informing them of the fluoride varnish program and inviting them to attend this meeting. Dana spoke with a few dentists who were excited about being given this information. Dana asked members for input on how we could keep the dentists informed with ongoing information. She has talked with Dr. Akin and will follow up with him on the progress of the fluoride varnish program so he can share at their next meeting in September. Dr. Williams noted he would share the information with the Dental Society.

Richelle shared she ran into a road block trying to get in contact with the appropriate individuals when she attempted to make her first informational visit to Dr. Terrence's office. Dr. Terrence told her to call her office first and she will help with the presentation of the information. Dr. Williams shared he would help with contact to Dr. Schuessler's office in Gouverneur, who is interested in the program. Kindra asked Dr. Healey if he would be able to run a report on how

many fluoride varnish kits his office has implemented, along with the ease of use and final outcomes. Dr. Healey agreed to run a report.

**Walk with a Doc Update:** Members were given copies of the Walk with a Doc Community Flyer and Walk with a Doc Invitation for Physicians.

The first walk is scheduled for Saturday, June 30, 2018 at 10:00 am in Canton (Partridge Run Trail). Brigitte noted (3) doctors have signed up for the walks: Dr. Terry Knowles, Dr. Melchior Buscemi and Dr. David Pinegar; (2) Nurse Practitioners: Susan Knowles and Patricia Ellis; and Physician Assistant student Aaron Casey. Walk with a Doc informational topics will be sent to the doctors prior to attending the walks. Donations for the walk are being given by Kinney Drugs, North Lawrence Dairy and HCR Home Care. The shirts for the doctors and the banners have arrived – we are ready to go. A site visit will be done next Thursday – in case of rain the walk will take place at the Canton School. Attempts have been made to get information out to the community via media. Watertown Daily Times and the St. Lawrence Plaindealer did put out a news release. Still working on getting it posted on North Country Now. Noted Kevin Shea from Watertown Daily Times will be at the June 30, 2018 walk. John suggested contacting Keith Bennett from Channel 7 News also. Dana shared they have been asked to do a live presentation on the Channel 7 News Morning Show in July. The next walk is scheduled for Waddington on July 28, 2018. Members reviewed the current walk date/location schedule. Dr. Healey volunteered to attend the November 24, 2018 walk in Potsdam. The Walk with a Doc committee meets again on Friday.

**Sanitarian Update:** Wil noted he is at a standstill with Madrid area garbage issue he presented last month. He and Kindra made an onsite visit today and it appears the garbage has increased (showed pictures). He is asking the town to take ownership in order to provide help. He feels this highlights the need for an enforceable code due to the nuisance it causes (rats, etc.). Dana spoke with a neighbor who shared there has been no garbage pickup at this resident in 3 years, said Jim Pipher, Dog Control Officer, has been there due to there being a young calf on the premises she feels should be removed and there are (2) young children living there with lots of dog feces in the yard.

Dana shared she has a meeting with Stephen Button, County Attorney, next week regarding code and policies to enforce the code. Wil noted the Town Code Officer issues property maintenance violations where the individuals are given a time frame to clean up the issue or they will be fined. This garbage issue began in February and he meets with the family every month. Noted under the State code, with the creation of the Board of Health, they become the enforcer of these issues. It would start with an informal hearing and if the issue is taken care of within the specified time period then nothing happens. Noted the neighbors need to make a formal written complaint to the Town. Dr. Williams shared the board members are agreeable and willing to offer a letter to be sent to individuals.

**Rabies Update:** Kindra shared there were a total of (76) submissions – (69) being negative. There were (43) raccoons, (2) skunks, (10) bats, (3) cats, (2) dogs, (3) fox, (3) horses and (10) other. There were no positive submissions – (6) were untestable due to decomposition. Example: a horse had died and the vet was unable to send in the specimen timely and it had started to decay leaving (hot days) it untestable.

Treatment has been authorized for (16) individuals - currently have (13) receiving treatment – waiting to hear back from (3) people who have not responded to our calls, certified letters have been sent. There are (8) individual who are insured and (3) who are uninsured.

There were (140) animal bites reported: 13% Massena, 10% Potsdam, 11% Ogdensburg, 7% Gouverneur. Noted we do have MOUs with CPH, CHMC and Gouverneur. The department does not have an MOU with Massena, they have had changes in administration. We have not reached back out to discuss this with them again. Massena residents have had to go to CPH or CHMC for treatment – a whole series is done at the hospital (infusion room). If they are uninsured, Public Health is providing the vaccine (to decrease the cost for the program= vaccine/time).

Rabies clinics are doing great! Thus far, there have been (1600) animals vaccinated. Still waiting on one town to return their certificates to get their numbers. There are (8) clinics left for the year and we are halfway to the total from last year – hopefully we will beat it. Information on bats and rabies was provided at the recent AgriMark annual meeting. We have had horses come to the clinics in the past – not sure about recently. It was noted the Amish will reach out to the vets when their horses become ill. Three of the individuals we are treating are from the Amish community. Working on doing more outreach. We do partner with Friends 4 Pounds Paws in Gouverneur. They will provide rabies vaccination for free to animals brought in. In the past Senator Ritchie secured funds for advertising and promotion – these funds were used for the rabid horse (vet/vaccine). Richelle asked if there is an Amish community newspaper that circulates within the Amish communities. Noted this would be a good way to provide information to them.

**Tick Born Illness:** Dr. Williams asked about education for the general public. Public Health recently sent a press release regarding this topic, but it was not listed in the newspapers, etc. Brigitte noted there will be brochures at the Walk with a Doc walks and they can be distributed at the Farmer’s Markets, etc. Wil shared there is a table downstairs in the Human Services Building with a lot of information also.

Kindra shared the Governor has issued an order to control the growing tick population, which is still in the “planning” stages. This would include tick tubes and salt licks for the deer to rub against, etc. The DEC is implementing this program. We are waiting for more information. Kindra noted Lyme disease is reportable – our County only has to follow up on 20% of the reported positive serology for Lyme. Letters are sent to the doctors to complete for their clients who have been selected. Providers need to send in the completed Lyme letter if they are diagnosing Lyme based on the bull’s eye rash, as no blood work should be drawn on that client.

**Other Items:** No Other Items.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

No Other Business.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session began at 7:15 pm. All non-members were excused.

## **ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2018 at 6:00 pm.**