

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

December 17, 2019

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Acres, Dr. Gregory Healey, Jessica Rafter, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, Nancy Potter, Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Dr. Andrew Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dana Olzenak McGuire, Director; Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant; Tricia Storie, Sanitarian.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by K. Terrence, and seconded by K. Acres, the minutes from the November 19, 2019 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

Action Items from November 17, 2019:

Process for reviewing Public Comment Guidelines by individuals prior to signing up for comment period.

- A Sign In Sheet has been created which will note if the Public Comment Guidelines have/have not been reviewed. If they have not been reviewed, a copy of the guidelines will be provided. The Public Comment Guidelines #1 will be updated to remove “Thirty minutes before the meeting...” and changed to “Prior to the start of the meeting there will be a sign-up sheet...”

Update Bylaws with track changes for members review prior to next meeting.

- Updated Bylaws with track changes were emailed to members for review.

Dana will speak with County Attorney to clarify appointment of the Public Health Director.

- See below under “Bylaw Finalization.”

Naloxone letter will be updated and a second letter regarding dispensing will be drafted.

- Discussed and changes made. See below under “Pharmacy Naloxone Letters.”

Tricia will research funding for the disposal of old mattresses, etc.

- She researched funding for bed bug/pest control management. She could not find anything.
- A contact from Massena Central School, Kristin Colarusso, has told Tricia they want to hold a bed bug awareness training. Tricia noted since the cockroach incident at the Gouverneur School she has received numerous calls.

Dr. Williams meet with lab director to discuss lead testing.

- Dr. Williams met with the assistant lab director and also talked with another person in Gouverneur.

Bylaw Finalization

Regarding board member's question surrounding the selection of the Public Health Director, Dana shared, County Attorney, Steve Button, noted it is in the law that the Board of Health makes the selection of the Public Health Director. The board members want to be sure they will choose the Public Health Director candidate and then the information will be forwarded to the Board of Legislators. There was a discussion of the previous process for selection of the Public Health Director. The Bylaws will be updated with noted changes and sent to Steve Button prior to finalization.

Pharmacy Naloxone letters:

Copies of the Pharmacy Naloxone letter and Packaging & Storage draft letter were distributed to members for review.

Member suggestions for changes to the letters included:

- Addressing the Naloxone letter to both physicians and pharmacists.
- It was noted the physician/pharmacist letter seems a little lengthy and individuals may not take the time to read it – discussed lines/paragraph to be adjusted. Jessica R offered to review/make adjustments and send to members for review.
- Add N-CAP website to the letter.
- Jessica R noted she has sent this information to the regional manager for review.

Sanitarian Case Update:

There have been a couple calls for water tests to be done.

The Gouverneur Elementary School recently had a cockroach incident which has kept her busy. She has placed a call to the middle school to see if there is any monitoring taking place there. What is happening with belongings? Noted backpacks may be the issue. Cockroaches reproduce quickly, females will produce an average of 150 young in her lifetime, or approximately 15 eggs every 5-7 week. If the environment is clean, you won't have them. They can live one month without food and one week without water. There is one family that seems to be targeted. The school social worker has been in contact with the family. Tricia has been contacted by Clifton Fine School and now Gouverneur middle school.

HUD/Lead Update:

A pediatrician in Gouverneur, Dr. Schuessler, does lead screening with the lab. Dana asked what the testing rate is for Dr. Schuessler. Dr. Williams thinks it's higher than 90%. How many are under age 6 – how many were tested at (1) and (2) years? Dr. Terrence noted she does not add this information in NYIIS and thinks below 50% are entered. Dr. Williams believes Dr. Terrence is correct, this information does not get reported in NYIIS. All immunizations are added to NYIIS. Dr. Terrence did say she has had an uptick in lead testing – noted it could be due to the Public Health Department lead advertising.

Lead Web receives information from lab. Tricia will see what other ways there are to find the data. Posters/flyers were provided to Dr. Terrence for her office. She noted Dr. Jones asked about the car seat program – information was given to Dr. Terrence for Dr. Jones.

Prior to the new regulations, which took effect October 1, 2019, requiring all children with blood lead level above 5.0 micrograms per deciliter to undergo an environmental investigation, there were (4) environmental cases and now there are (28) cases. All but (2) of these cases are between 5.0 and 9.9 micrograms per deciliter, which prior to the new regulations would not have required an environmental investigation nor would one have been offered. The remaining (2) are

both less than 15 micrograms per deciliter, which prior to the new lead regulations would have been offered a home visit and visual inspection (not an environmental investigation), but the family had the option to opt out.

HUD Grant: there is a radio announcement on pregnancy and the lead billboard is also up in Ogdensburg. The Housing Council needs to get information out. All elementary schools have received fliers to go in student backpacks. Gouverneur schools asked for translation in Mandarin and Spanish – these were provided.

Tricia announced her last day at the Public Health Department will be January 10, 2020. She has another career opportunity as a school counselor at the Potsdam School.

Dana noted the Sanitarian position has science requirements – focusing on biology.

Communicable Disease Update:

Public Health continues to work with North Country Freedom Homes NCFH. Hepatitis C vaccine is given to new residents (recently vaccinated 25-26 residents). There are (5) new residents scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2019, for the Communicable Disease/STD clinic. Staff will try to administer vaccinations for Hepatitis A and B, Tdap and Flu.

Jessica S asked if there has been an influx in flu cases. Dana noted 60% increase over last week, with String B on the rise. They found the incidence of flu rising earlier than last year.

There has been a Hepatitis A case – there is a statewide increase in cases. Jefferson County has been hit. We are watching to see if it will reach St. Lawrence County. There are no needle exchanges in St. Lawrence County – the closest is Watertown. A conversation needs to take place about this. Kevin noted some individuals believe these sites promote drug use. ODMAP has logged (10) overdoses since September 1, 2019 – none have been fatal. The first advisory board meeting will be to set the spike level for the ODMAP. A press release will be discussed if this level is reached. With this data we will know where the overdoses are happening and where services should be offered.

Other Items and Questions:

There is an incentive project through the State for the IAP Grant which monitors adult visits to clinics and submission of information into NYISS. The award received is approximately \$41,000. Looking for ideas for the funding. This coming year the incentive program will focus on STIs including education and having PEP on hand, which will need to be monitored.

Opioid Grant: we are meeting with school superintendents and are hoping to bring a speaker from Michigan to give guidance on how to put policies and systems in place related to trauma and resilience for the students.

Kevin asked if vaping deaths were all THC related. Dana noted many of them are. The Opioid Coalition focuses on this. Schools have problems with vaping. Noted the Tall Cop presentation “High in Plain Sight” speaks of the dark drug world. We are looking to help schools with a quick one page information sheet and to create policies and guidelines to help with quitting vaping/smoking.

Kevin asked about a report on ticks and if there have been more issues with ticks. Dana noted we provide tick education. Tick kits were being provided by the state each year. Jessica S noted there is a place in Syracuse where you can send a tick to be identified and they report back to you. Noted individuals still need to contact their health care provider. There have been new

species of ticks. Dr. Healey noted he has (2) new cases of Lyme each week – more than strep laryngitis.

Dana shared there is a new tick that is causing Powassan disease in deer that have been found with these ticks. The Saratoga region has seen this. Paul Smiths College is doing surveillance for this.

The 2020 Board of Health meeting dates will be sent as invites to members if no changes need to be made.

OTHER BUSINESS

No Other Business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

ACTIONS ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

1. Send updated bylaws to County Attorney for review/approval prior to being adopted.
2. Email updated Naloxone letters to members for review prior to next meeting.
3. Tricia will check to see what other ways there are to find out lead testing data.
4. Send email invites for 2020 Board of Health meetings.