

**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**February 19, 2019**

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Gregory Healey, Nancy Potter, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Todd Wells

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kevin Acres, Dr. Andrew Williams

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dana Olzenak McGuire, Director; Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant; Brigitte Sanderson, Renae Johnson, Tricia Storie (Public Health Staff)

**CALL TO ORDER**

In the absence of Dr. Andrew Williams, President, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Upon motion by J. Scillieri Smith, and seconded by T. Wells, the minutes from the December 11, 2018 meeting were approved.**

**Upon motion by K. Terrence, and seconded by J. Scillieri Smith, the minutes from the January 15, 2019 meeting were approved.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment.

**Annual Statement of Financial Disclosure – Due March 31, 2019**

Members were reminded to submit their Annual Statement of Financial Disclosure to Michele Zera at the County Attorney's Office by March 31, 2019. A reminder email with the forms will be resent to members.

**Introduction of new Public Health Sanitarian**

Tricia Storie was introduced as the new Public Health Sanitarian. She started with the Public Health Department (2) months ago. Tricia gave a brief description of what she has been doing thus far. She has been attending the Basic Environmental Health trainings in Albany – (2) 3-day trainings in January and February, and another 3-day training scheduled for March. Topics have included air quality, private water systems, meth labs, etc. She has also been doing a lot of webinars. Tricia is also learning the rabies program. Dana noted that Tricia has created a database for us to house the rabies bite information – it's a great system.

### **Emergency Preparedness – Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Event**

The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) event takes place on February 27, 2019. Staff will go to the St. Lawrence County Jail and act as if we were there to receive supplies for an emergency. Receiving supplies for an emergency is coordinated through the EMS. This is a timed drill and should take approximately 90 minutes, with a 40 minute after action meeting. Noted Brandi has updated the policy for the SNS event and the Medical Countermeasure (MCM) event to be one policy. These events are now called Public Health Asset Distribution (PHAD). Dana shared that the drill that took place last year was a Point of Dispensing (POD) drill. In the event that we would need more goods during an emergency they would come from the SNS (unknown area) and we would go to the St. Lawrence County Jail to receive them.

### **Update on Lead Cases**

There are (20) active cases. Last July we had a child with a lead level of (60), it is now down to (35). The family has moved to a lead safe home and hopefully the lead level will continue to decrease. We had another case of elevated lead levels in a child, where one parent lived in St. Lawrence County and the other lived in Franklin County. This case has been transferred to Franklin County. Dana noted new legislation regarding home visits for lead levels of (10) or higher could be moved to (5) or higher. This could mean (60) cases to manage if this happens. Noted there is a NYSACHO meeting next week and she will see what is shared on this topic.

### **Walk with a Doc**

The next walk is scheduled for this Saturday, February 23, 2019 at the Madrid-Waddington School. There are currently (2) Physician Assistants, (1) Nurse Practitioner scheduled to attend. Brittany Terpstra will also be coming and Dr. Terrence noted she will be attending as well. Madrid-Waddington School officials are offering individuals the use of their skis for open skiing after the walk. Brigitte distributed “Walk with a Doc” advertising script pads that “prescribe” participation with Walk with a Doc and a link for future walk times/locations and posters to Dr. Healey and Dr. Terrence to be used at their practices. Dana noted that members had previously asked about a resource list of areas that have walking/physical activities. She has met with Superintendents and some schools are willing to give this information. Brigitte will work on gathering this information.

### **2019 Rabies Clinics**

A 2019 Rabies Clinic postcard is in each member’s folder. This information can also be found on the Public Health Department website: <http://www.stlawco.org/Departments/PublicHealth/> The first rabies clinic of 2019 will take place on February 23, 2019 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. The CDMS system will be used at this clinic. Staff have visited Cornell Cooperative Extension to test the equipment/system to be sure it will work properly for the clinic. There are (18) individuals pre-registered using the CDMS system: <http://www.health.ny.gov/gotoclinic/45>. Dana shared that new this year for the rabies clinics we have scheduled two of the clinics on Saturdays (September and November clinics) in hopes of being more convenient for the community. Jessica asked if the Dog Control Officers were present during the individual town rabies clinics to try to enforce licensing of dogs.

### **Opioid Grant Updates**

There have been (2) Task Force meetings – approximately (40) individuals at each meeting. Due to the large number in attendance at the Task Force meetings, an Advisory Group of approximately (8) individuals was created. Todd is a part of this Advisory Group. The mission, vision, goals, and structure of meetings has been developed. The next meeting is scheduled for

Friday, March 8, 2019. We have a Superintendent in the group that will lead an activity for the group, which would have them assemble four stations to help brainstorm activities the task force can work on, and provide a chance to mingle and connect with one another. She has been talking with the State and they are asking if we are going to utilize all the funds. We have not vouchered yet, because it is hard to put a dollar amount on most of our activities. She is looking for ideas on what information to get out to the community. Currently working with schools regarding "Chasing the Dragon." Potsdam School postponed their presentation until the fall due to school closures and having time within the students' schedules for an assembly. Clarkson University will be doing an evening event. The end of the grant period is June 30, 2019.

### **HUD Lead Grant Updates**

Dana noted this has been a slow start due to the federal furlough. However, this month there have been numerous webinars and we are working with the planning office on the budget. The budget has to be more specifically set – activities need to be planned. As far as outreach, there are thoughts of using billboards and putting information on the county public transportation bus routes for more visibility. The county public transportation bus routes go to Ogdensburg, Massena and Potsdam. We are gathering educational material – hoping to collaborate with grandparents, daycares, Head Start, hardware stores for presentations and outreach. We are working on tag lines on what to do and how to change the message over the grant period.

Dana recently gave a 5-minute community connection interview. She plans to do an interview for the lead grant as well. In May she will be doing a 30 minute interview with Donna Seymour for North Country Matters regarding general public health and the opioid epidemic. The department plans to continue increased media coverage to increase awareness of public health topics and to get the information out.

### **Preschool Program Updates**

There was a First Student transportation complaint surrounding a bus accident. There was (1) student on the bus at the time and they were not injured. The complaint was regarding the communication process from the time of the accident to the time the parents were notified (1.5 hours after the incident). First Student was contacted on January 30, 2019 and a response was received Friday, February 15, 2019 regarding their procedure in these cases. We are looking at having a Preschool Transportation Committee and have invited Frank Doldo from volunteer transportation, Keith Zimmerman, (2) CPSE Chairs, along with public health staff, in hopes of generating different ideas. Frank has given contract information for new transportation. It was noted that Potsdam Central busses their own students and Tupper Lake Central has (1) student they bus themselves. Dana noted the First Student Transportation contract ends June 30, 2020. Dr. Healey asked if we could encourage the school districts to provide their own transportation of students. Renae noted not all school districts have busses available to do their own transportation and there is also parent transportation (which is cheaper than bussing) where the parents are paid the federal mileage rates to transport their children to school.

Dana noted there are lots of issues with the Preschool Transportation. We use Benchmark in Watertown to provide services and they have not yet received their rate from the State so we cannot pay for their services. This may mean that when we do pay for their services, we may not be able to receive reimbursement from the state due to the delay. With the new staff working in the Preschool Program we have been able to receive more reimbursement than previous years.

### **Coroner Program Updates**

This program is a challenge to coordinate due to the coroners being elected officials. Policies and Procedures are being put in place for submission of timely documentation. We are awaiting reports from 2018 to close out the year. Dr. Livingstone has asked that coroner reports be received within (2) days and this is not happening. Information has been shared with the Board office.

Dr. Livingstone (pathologist for St. Lawrence, Jefferson, and Lewis counties) will be retiring soon approximately 2-3 years. We would like to schedule a meeting with the hospitals and law enforcement to brainstorm ideas for the future before requesting a meeting with the other 2 counties. As a future plan is needed. If there is a homicide in the area, they are transported to Albany Medical Center. If Dr. Livingstone is out, they are transported to Syracuse, which increases cost. Franklin County (Plattsburgh) was contacted, but have not heard back. The medical examiner/pathologist is a difficult position to recruit for. Maybe a new system is needed – we would like to discuss all options.

Jessica noted it would be a good idea to have it within the county. Suggested maybe asking pathologists to attend the Board of Health meeting to discuss. Dr. Healey noted there is a need for good pathology departments – they need to do more autopsies. Agreed the hospitals should be involved. Suggested contacting Dr. Bob Rogers. Noted this is a hospital issue – see if the hospitals would recruit pathologists. Nancy asked how coroners are paid. It was noted that all coroners receive a set salary.

### **Other Items:**

Dana shared the Public Health Department recently promoted a county wide collection of toiletries to be donated to the North Country Freedom Homes (NCFH) Halfway House. There were (3) other county departments that served as collection sites. The NCFH staff and residents were pleased and felt it was a nice gesture.

The Public Health Department recently collected sheets/pillowcases, bath towels, wash cloths, bath mats, mattress protectors, etc. for donation to the Grace House. The Grace House staff and residents were also very happy.

It was discussed at the September meeting that information would be shared regarding department programs/financials. Dana is currently working on a monthly report that will be shared with members.

Dana asked members for ideas on how to engage providers for the MAT trainings. We need to hold (2) trainings by the end of the grant period (6/30/19). We would like to inform providers about MAT to promote attendance at the upcoming trainings. Discussion regarding how we can inform providers, how do we talk about the stigma surrounding addiction, and why is MAT used as a treatment? How do we reach physicians and mid-levels during the work week? As part of the grant, we also hope to coordinate trainings for those individuals working at the jail, along with EMS, Town Justices, families etc. Space at various office buildings was suggested – inquire as to where information can be posted. Dr. Terrence asked how long the MAT waiver training is. This is an (8) hour training, (4) hours onsite and (4) online. Although the complete (8) hour training can be done online, we will offer the hybrid training to allow for questions and discussion. Dr. Terrence suggested addressing individuals at already scheduled departmental meetings. Suggested shortening the timeframe of the synopsis presentation and use it as Public

Health Detailing. Also suggested a brown bag lunch presentation at the Canton Office Building. Dr. Healey suggested the quarterly medical staff meeting, but the next one is not until May.

Dana shared she had a meeting with the Housing Authority regarding the grant budget. They have been doing lead abatement with the planning office for years - we will collaborate and meet on a regular basis to coordinate our efforts.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

No Other Business.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session.

#### **ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2019 at 6:00 pm.**