

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

January 15, 2019

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Andrew Williams, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, Dr. Kathleen Terrence

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nancy Potter, Gregory Healey, Todd Wells, Kevin Acres

OTHERS PRESENT: Dana Olzenak McGuire, Director; Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant; Brigitte Sanderson, Kindra Cousineau, Renae Johnson (Public Health Staff); Ann McLaughlin; Frank McLaughlin (Public)

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Andrew Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Due to lack of quorum, the minutes from the December 11, 2018 meeting will be approved at the February 19, 2019 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ann and Frank McLaughlin, 892 Butternut Ridge Road, were in attendance for public comment. Ann is a small business owner (massage therapy practice) and wanted to discuss marijuana legislation. She noted there is an interest in cannabis as a viable source of industry and there are individuals who are passionate about this plant who want to see this industry thrive. Stated cannabis is not alcohol, not smoking, not gambling, not prescription drugs. Shared this substance is gentle, kind and the effects are good – it calms and alleviates. Shared individuals are looking to feel better – noting the main feature is it relieves stress. She feels this would be good for people and good for the economy. Her concerns are that county health officials do not support this legislation. She urged members to educate themselves on the use and benefits of cannabis use and suggested the board convene a consumer advisory board. Referred members to read “Assessment of the Potential Impact of Regulated Marijuana in New York” that is located on the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) website.

http://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/regulated_marijuana/docs/marijuana_legalization_impact_assessment.pdf

Opioid Task Force Update:

The Opioid Task Force held their first meeting on December 15, 2018. There were approximately (40) individuals present from all sectors: schools, VA, Sheriff and community partners. Introductions were made and discussions of why each felt it this was important. Although the presenter for “Chasing the Dragon” was unable to make the meeting, the short

trailer was played. Individuals on the task force that have attended these events talked about how to get this to more schools and how important it is. The Potsdam School Superintendent attended and discussed what kind of education can they provide to parents to navigate this and be in front of their kids so they know what is going on. Dana has an upcoming meeting (January 16, 2019) with (3) superintendents, along with the Potsdam Central superintendent. She will be talking with those who have held the events and discuss other events that can be brought in. An overarching theme of the first taskforce meeting as to tailor efforts to each community.

The Coroners meeting was held yesterday with law enforcement. Randy Thayer was in attendance and gave a presentation on OD AP for our county. ODMAP pinpoints areas where overdoses are happening and movement of drug activity. With the use of the application, we will be able to see activity nationally and in our neighboring counties; others will be able to see our activity as well.

Dr. Williams asked about death certificate registries – where does the data come from? It was noted if cause of death is unknown at the time of death, the coroner decides whether or not an autopsy is needed. Toxicology is ordered if needed as well. Dr. Williams shared he knows they have just changed to electronic death reports. The topic of autopsy classification will be discussed at the next meeting.

Dana noted the media often asks about overdose rates. The department is only able to share deaths related to overdose based on coroner cases. Shared Jefferson County has communication with the hospitals to get additional data when coroners are not called on overdose cases.

Next Opioid Task Force meeting on Friday, January 18, 2019 and will discuss data sharing. Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization (FDRHPO) will provide an update of their work and Randy Thayer will provide a basic presentation on ODMAP. They will leave time for everyone to share upcoming events. Currently, there are (35) individuals scheduled to attend the meeting. Noted Todd Wells is a member. Dana shared she is looking to form an advisory board to develop a mission statement and infrastructure for the group. She is hoping to get (10) people to guide the efforts of the taskforce.

Influenza Update:

Kindra shared the flu activity in St. Lawrence County has risen. There have been (3) cases from September 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 and from January 1, 2019 to January 14, 2019 we have (34) lab confirmed cases (29 flu A, 5 flu B). The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated the most common flu virus nationwide is H1N1. In the southern States they are seeing H3N2. There is no information at this time on the efficacy of the current vaccine. There is currently no notification of any vaccine shortages – Public Health still has approximately (80) doses. Dr. Williams noted some practices have run out.

Reportable Disease Update:

Kindra noted we are seeing a lot of GI (gastro-intestinal) illnesses – significantly more since the use of Biofire at hospitals (CHMC/Potsdam).

- In 2016 – (76) cases
- In 2017 – (54) cases
- In 2018 – (119) cases

Syphilis:

- In 2016 - (8) cases
- In 2017 – (5) cases
- In 2018 – (10) cases

Chlamydia:

- In 2016 – (250) cases
- In 2017 – (250) cases
- In 2018 – (350) cases

Gonorrhea:

- In 2016 – (19) cases
- In 2017 – (21) cases
- In 2018 – (41) cases

Kindra shared there is a wave of increasing STD's across the state – people are not protecting themselves. There are local providers prescribing PREP, but we do not have a list because these physicians are not taking new patients specifically for this treatment. Shared we refer individuals to Dr. Soule and Dr. Duah.

Hepatitis C Chronic cases:

- In 2016 – (104) cases
- In 2017 – (27) cases
- In 2018 – (35) cases

Hepatitis C Acute cases:

- In 2016 – (10) cases
- In 2017 – (10) cases
- In 2018 – (0) cases (there were changes in the case definitions)

Lead update:

Kindra noted in December, 2018 we had (1) child with a lead level over 20 micrograms per deciliter (mcg/dl) and (2) with levels over 10 (mcg/dl). January, 2019 we have (28) children on caseload. Currently (10) children with levels over 10 (mcg/dl). There are (18) children on caseload between the 5-9 (mcg/dl) lead levels. Of these (18) children, (4) were over 20 (mcg/dl). Nursing visits are currently being offered for those over 10 (mcg/dl) level. Those with lead levels of 5-9 (mcg/dl) receive education via phone, education packets are mailed, and are recommended to speak with their pediatrician about lead risk reduction.

Dana shared we were awarded \$1 million along with the Planning Office and the Housing Authority from HUD for lead abatement and community outreach. There were 50 awards given nationally. Approximately three quarters of the funding will be directed toward housing rehabilitation and \$200,000 for education and outreach. The kick off meeting for all grantees will occur after the furlough.

Activities to be included with respect to community outreach and education:

- HEPA vacuums will be purchased and loaned to the community members for cleaning up dust due to renovations and repairs of homes.

- Billboards and brochure will be designed with simple messaging
- Lead Care 2 machines will also be purchased for lead testing on site at the provider's offices, public Health Department or WIC. Kindra noted Dr. Healey uses a Lead Care 2 machine regularly due to patients not going to the laboratory to have the bloodwork done, particularly in children.
- Partner with hardware stores for DIY projects
Ideas mentioned during this discussion included reaching out to contractors (Terrence) and educating on years house was built (before 1978) (Scillieri Smith)

2016-2018 CHA/CHIP Summary: this cycle has ended and a summary of work and progress was provided.

- Please see attached summary sheet of the CHA/CHIP priority areas, focus areas, along with the goals and objectives.

For the next cycle we will be working with area hospitals for one joint CHA/CHIP submission for the next (3) years. We will maintain the two focus areas of Obesity and Mental Health, and continue to work on related goals.

Migrant/Seasonal Farmworkers:

Dr. Williams shared he attended a county coalition that is looking at serving migrant/seasonal farmworkers. It was noted there are challenges to serving this population. There is a lack of interpretive services and these individuals are now underground and not seeking healthcare out of fear – healthcare seeking has changed drastically for this population. There has been discussion of providing outreach to area farms. Dr. Scillieri Smith shared she has an active list of area farms where information can be given.

Amish Vaccination Update:

- In 2016 – (16) Amish received (20) vaccines
- In 2017 – (42) Amish received (42) vaccines
- In 2018 – (14) Amish received (18) vaccines

The goal was to have Amish families complete the series of vaccinations. Letters were sent to (42) Amish families. We received responses from a couple families that said thank you, but they were not interested. There was (1) family (13 members) that said yes – (9) have completed Tdap and Dtap. They do have a (1) year old child and we will go out to complete the vaccinations for this child. Another family came to the clinic with (3) children under the age of 3 and agreed to have combination vaccines (Polio/MMR/Varicella).

Door to door outreach has not been done as we had planned, but with a new nurse on board we will pursue.

Legislation: Tobacco and E-cigarette Raise the Age and Marijuana Legalization:

1. NYSACHO did a survey regarding the legalization of marijuana related to increased resources needed at the local level.
2. The Tobacco 21 Law was not passed in prior years – since then, several counties have passed this law. Noted this has now been proposed by the Governor.

Other Items:

New Public Health Staff:

Tricia Storie, Sanitarian on December 17th;

Jim McNamara, Secretary I for the Early Intervention Program on December 31st;

Kailey Kingsley, Registered Nurse for the Immunization/STD programs on December 31st

Open positions: Coordinator of Quality Assurance and Improvement and Registered Nurse. A job offer has been made to fill the Senior Account Clerk position that will handle the grants – hoping they will begin on January 29th.

Retirements: possibility of at least (5) upcoming retirements.

Immunization Coalition meeting was held today. Discussed developing a message that can be shared with everyone (providers, schools, pharmacies, etc.). We are going to try in May to have a “Don’t wait to Vaccinate” campaign to get kids vaccinated early. Dr. Williams asked if we knew the rate of non-vaccination which the department does not. It was noted children who are homeschooled have to follow the same immunization rules once they enter school.

OTHER BUSINESS

No Other Business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2019 at 6:00 pm.