

# ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

## June 18, 2019

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, June 18, 2019, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

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

### CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Andrew Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:23 pm.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Upon motion by N. Potter, and seconded by K. Acres, the minutes from the May 21, 2019 meeting were approved.**

### PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

**TB Direct Observation Treatment:** Dana Olzenak McGuire

There have been no changes in status since the last meeting. Individual's next medical appointment is scheduled for July 1, 2019 – Communicable Disease Nurse will be attending.

**Measles Outbreak Update:** Dana Olzenak McGuire

There are a total of (932) cases since October 1, 2019. Locations and number of cases: NYC (588), Rockland County (267), Orange County (49), Westchester County (18), Sullivan County (new to the list) (8), Greene County (1) and Suffolk County (1).

There was a discussion on the new legislation that will eliminate non-medical exemptions from school vaccination requirements. Information was received Friday, there have not been any calls thus far. A discussion will take place regarding what the department will be advising individuals when they do call to inquire. This legislation is not only for public schools, it will include daycares, and private and parochial schools. Kevin noted colleges will most likely require documentation also. Dana shared that BOCES can post this information on their online system for parents to see – along with a frequently asked questions information sheet. School Nurse Teaching Day is June 26, 2019 – this information will be shared and discussed. Dana noted she would like to get out immunization rates for the county but has had difficulty contacting the state on this issue.

The CDC guidelines on receiving shots will need to be followed. Dr. Terrence noted she doesn't believe the public is aware of this legislation yet. Her practice is sending letters out to parents to inform them that they need to get these vaccinations done early.

It was noted vaccine supply is going to be an issue – you can only order monthly and it is based on your usage from the prior year. Michele Levac will contact VFC regarding supply so we are prepared prior to clinics. Dana noted the department will continue to schedule clinics weekly on Wednesdays – if need be, they will be rescheduled to a different day within that week. She was recently made aware that the next two Wednesday clinics were canceled and not rescheduled.

**Current Lead Cases and proposed changes:** Dana Olzenak McGuire

We had a child transfer from Pennsylvania with a level of 27 mg/dL – this has slowly decreased in past year. Recently the child went back to Pennsylvania to stay with family for a few months at a lead level of 12 mg/dL. Upon returning for testing a few weeks ago, immeasurable levels of lead were found in the blood. The child's BLL declined by 12 mg/dL between January and June.

As of the last BOH meeting, there have been no cases above 5 added – we have one at 5.4 mg/dL and one at 10.2 mg/dL. Legislation states (as of 10/1/19) we will now have to monitor **and** assess lead levels from 5-15 mg/dL. Currently we offer home visits at 10 mg/dL or greater; children with levels of 15 mg/dL and above must be coordinated and assessed with the district office. We currently have 7 cases at 15 mg/dL or above. However, there are approximately 45 children with levels between 5-15 mg/dL that will be added to our caseload with this new legislation. Visits occur at least monthly, but depend on levels and follow up lead testing. Adding 45 children to our coordinated home assessment work load would increase our caseload by 900%. We will be requesting an additional staff member.

**Sanitary Concerns and Code:** Dana Olzenak McGuire

There have been (4) garbage complaints reported by neighbors and code officers – two may be due to mental health issues. Individuals have received a notice from the Public Health Department. There have been (2) bed bug complaints. Landlords are not returning calls – one individual is trying to sue the landlord. Dana received (2) calls today – one asking if furniture stores can sell used mattresses and one asking if you can sell food that is out of date.

There was a discussion on the draft Sanitary Code. Members were asked at the May 21, 2019 meeting to review and provide feedback. Article 2 was discussed – some changes will be made. Members will be given additional time to review the sanitary code. An email reminder will be sent to members (draft Sanitary Code attached) giving them until Monday, July 15, 2019 to provide feedback. If no response is received, it will be perceived as an approval of the sanitary code as written. The process to adopt this code may take up to 90 days or so to complete. Once approved by the BOH, a resolution for the sanitary code will be submitted for Services Committee, a public hearing will be scheduled and then it will go to the Full Board of Legislators for final approval. Dana is aiming to present a resolution at the August Services Committee meeting on the code.

This draft sanitary code was taken from Clinton County who is a full service county – they have an environmental department (inspect restaurants, beaches, etc.). It has been modified to fit St. Lawrence County as a partial service county and has been reviewed by the county attorney. At this point, without this code, staff is unable to go on the complaint properties – pictures are taken from the road if possible and we have no authority for making individuals comply with code. Clinton County has \$50-\$100 fines to let individuals know that there is a procedure in place and they need to comply. Their final step would be to put a lien on the property of the owner or landlord for non-compliance.

It was noted the SLC Public Health Department does issue a permit to Losurdo Foods in Heuvelton for whey spreading – they provide pictures of the property where the waste is being

spread. Suggestions were made to put this in the hands of Soil and Water instead – this spreading needs to be DEC compliant.

**Walk with a Doc:** Brigitte Sanderson

The next Walk with a Doc takes place in Saturday, June 29, 2019 in Potsdam on the Munter Trail. The Walk with a Doc for Ogdensburg that was canceled due to flooding has been rescheduled to Saturday, August 10, 2019 at the Abbey Piquet Trail. The next (12) walks are being scheduled – a list will go out once all are confirmed. Although there have been up to 40 participants in attendance at a walk, the average walk attendance is 15-20 participants.

Dr. Williams shared that hospital employees and Community Health Center of the North Country employees are going to try to get more patient engagement through the patient portal via a personal message to invite them to join their provider at the walk. Dana will do the script for the personal message.

**Opioid Update:** Dana Olzenak McGuire

Since the last BOH meeting (2) MAT trainings took place with a total of (16) providers trained. There is an online portion of the training that also needs to be completed – email should have been received last Wednesday. (Dana will follow up on this). Providers came from various places, including Claxton Hepburn Medical Center, Massena Memorial Hospital, Edwards and Gouverneur. It is noted that 25% of waived providers will prescribe.

Dr. Healey liked the presenter (from Buffalo). Felt his points were valid and he feels comfortable prescribing Suboxone. Feels this connection will make him someone the patient can talk to. Dr. Williams also felt hearing this information from a provider that has a lot of experience with this population was more comforting and his information made a lot of sense. Dana noted she is proud to hear the change in their perspectives!

Three community forums were held – (57) participants – (12) Key Informant interviews were conducted. All quantitative data – how many 911 calls, ER visits, etc. will be merged.

The grant has been extended to the end of August. We have been refunded for (3) more years for \$72,000 each year. The work plan is due August 19, 2019 to include what we want to do for the next round. Will disseminate current year's work to community along with a speaker possibly on what harm reduction is and talk about what harm reduction really means – hoping for this to take place in August (this cycle). The thought for the next cycle is a focus on peer support/peer responders to provide help when being discharged from the ER. An advisory Council meeting is scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup>. No news on the ODMAP. Once up and running, we could send peer responders to areas noted.

MAT survey sent to all area practitioners. Responses from ER doctors indicated “this environment is not appropriate for this treatment.” It was noted ER doctors could refer patients to Dr. Williams or Dr. Healey who have had the training. Dr. Terrence noted some individuals in the ER are in withdrawal and this would be the best time to start Suboxone. Dr. Williams mentioned a mandate surrounding this topic – he will clarify with Jason Lawrence. Even if providers are not waived, they can at least go through the education. Discussed best time of day to have a meeting with ER doctors. Dr. Williams discussed sharing “Chasing the Dragon” with his staff.

The first Narcan Summer Series training took place at the Lisbon Library last night – (5) individuals attended – most were school administration.

Dana received a follow up call from the State - lead person on the grant. She had a question about when Lisa Skill came out – said there was a comment made on “not doing methadone – everyone needs to move towards buprenorphine.” OASAS is upset with the Department of Health over this. The State said all (3) treatments (Buprenorphine, Methadone, and Vivatrol) should be available as there are indications for each. Dana discussed with the state that having Lisa present was very helpful in assisting us to move forward with offering Buprenorphine as an intervention, but that it’s all in the presentation of the information – as each county is in a different state of readiness. Community Services is looking into providing methadone in the future.

**Other Items and Questions:** Dana Olzenak McGuire

Coroners Program: Dr. Livingstone is the Pathologist in Jefferson County who covers the tri-county area and comes here to perform autopsies. Previously, in his absence we have sent cases to Onondaga County. Onondaga County has informed us they will no longer take cases from St. Lawrence County as we do not have a contract with them (last contract 2010-2014). They are short staffed and can only help those counties with a contract. A call has been made asking about renewing this contract. In December we updated a contract with Albany Medical Center (cost is \$2 a loaded mile). Franklin County used Plattsburgh – a call was made, message left and an email was also sent. This same discussion took place about three months ago regarding where we could go – possibly have the hospital pathology department do autopsies. Pathologists at Claxton and CPH were contacted and they are not interested – need to discuss how to recruit people. It was noted a new Pathologist may be coming to Potsdam.

Brigette asked if Dr. Terrence is providing the fluoride varnish to her patients. She has not started yet. Dana noted no training is required. Noted North Country Smiles has funding. Steve Jennings is urging oral health be a priority in the CHA/CHIP. We will add fluoride varnish along with obesity and mental health. Dana mentioned holding a dinner one night, with Martha Clark, to educate practitioners on fluoride varnish. We need 1 or 2 ‘champions’ who are providing fluoride varnish at their practice.

Kevin mentioned the concept of legalization of marijuana, noting the Governor may decide to do this – asked for member’s thoughts. Noted the Village of Canton voted 3-2 in favor. The Albany session may rule tonight. Dr. Williams noted NYSACHO has taken a stand against this. Dana noted it is likely to happen – however more time for development of infrastructure is needed.

The “Be Tick Smart” flyer was shared with members. It was noted a #5 should be added with information about prophylaxis and suggestion of contacting your provider.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

No Other Business.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An Executive Session was requested. It began at 8:00 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2019 at 6:00 pm.**

## **ACTIONS FOR FOLLOW UP**

1. Will schedule a meeting with Soil and Water to discuss when permitting.
2. Dr. Williams will clarify with Jason Lawrence the possible mandate on providing Suboxone in the ER.
3. Modify Tick One pager with prophylaxis information and submit to BOH members for feedback.