

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
March 19, 2019

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Gregory Healey, Nancy Potter, Dr. Andrew Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kevin Acres, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Todd Wells

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

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Andrew Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Due to a lack of quorum, the February 19, 2019 minutes will be approved at the April 16, 2019 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

2018 Annual Report

Dana shared the 2018 Annual Report for the Public Health Department was requested by the Board Office. A copy of the report was provided to members for review. Dana asked if anyone had any feedback on the report. Dr. Williams thought it was very well done – liked the format.

A monthly departmental report will be provided to the BOH that will show monthly stats for programs and financials. She feels this is important to track and will also help with the yearly budget process.

Sanitarian

Tricia has had a busy couple of weeks. There have been lots of calls regarding well water contamination concerns regarding road salt. The numerous meth lab busts are also causing concerns for neighbors. Shared Heuvelton has proposed shutting down their waste water plant. This leads to concerns of what Losurdo Foods Inc. (Cheese Plant) will do with their waste that currently goes to the Heuvelton plant.

Regarding the Sanitation code, information has been gathered from a full service county. We have no county to consult with due to St. Lawrence County being a partial service county. Dana will have a draft of the code by the next meeting.

Dr. Williams asked whose responsibility it is to take care of abandoned buildings in the towns/villages. It was noted the County is responsible to some extent, but it is a process.

Lead Cases:

There are currently (7) active cases greater than 10 micrograms/dL, with (2) above 15 micrograms/dL. There is one child who moved here from Utica that is at 20 micrograms/dL. Noted the District Office's XRF machine is down right now which makes it hard to assess the home. Tricia and Brigitte will be attending a Lead Abatement training on Friday (Renovation, Remodeling and Painting).

Communicable Disease Case Review:

Flu is widespread. A 6 % decrease is noted overall for the state, but not in our county. We have had 160 reports so far this month and are on target to have as much as the month before. There have been (4) pediatric deaths in NYS. Dr. Healey shared he has seen more interest in receiving vaccines.

We had a patient with Encephalitis who tested positive for flu and then became septic, herpes virus was found in the cerebral spinal fluid (CSF).

We have had an outbreak of syphilis. An individual developed rash/lesion and was tested due to a prior history of syphilis. The individual revealed (9) contacts, but could not remember all of them. There were (6) contacts in our county and co-infected with chlamydia. We have had (2) other cases this month and we are waiting to see if they are linked.

Expedited Partner Treatment (EPT) letters were sent to medical providers this month to encourage the use of EPT due to the high rates of Chlamydia. April is STD Month – there was discussion about education to providers about routinely testing for STD's including Syphilis. There was some discussion of the possibility of creating a laboratory panel for providers to select at the hospital, that way the providers would not have to decide which tests to select. It would be prepopulated for them.

Dana shared letters were sent out to all medical providers regarding the measles outbreaks. The letter provided information about vaccination, testing and treatment. Noted Dr. Terrence had showed some concern at the previous meeting regarding this issue. Dr. Williams voiced concern about the Amish community.

Preschool Transportation and Early Intervention Updates:

The first transportation meeting was a small group held in-house with staff and a few outside individuals (Frank Doldo, Transportation and Matilda Larson, Planning Office). Issues with the current transportation service were discussed and what needs to be done moving forward. There were a lot of good suggestions. We currently have (1) student who is not getting to program – there is no way to get him there. The bussing company does not have a bus to transport the child home and the parents don't have transportation. We are looking at options for these unique situations – possibly a contract with another bus system. Contracting with another provider is a process – a driver and monitor are needed. Another option is volunteer drivers, but a parent or someone else would have to be with the child also. We have talked about NYSARC if a child were in a wheelchair. There are (2) bus companies that would entertain conversations regarding transportation services. We plan to meet with the Superintendents from the school districts to see if schools can assist in these unique situations – currently two districts provide transportation for their own students.

There was another bus accident last week, involving the same bus driver (now suspended). The student was taken to the hospital, accompanied by the bus monitor, which is protocol, to be checked out. First Student is working on a process of communication in these circumstances. First Student did not contact the parents, the State Trooper called them. It was noted First

Student sends individuals to Watertown if a breathalyzer test is requested. The use of Uber drivers was suggested – the County Attorney will be consulted on this.

The Early Intervention Program has a new staff member – Michele Earle, Registered Professional Nurse. We are working on filling a temporary Community Health Nurse (CHN) position due to an upcoming retirement in May. Dana noted this is the first time the county has allowed hiring temporarily to cover the gap. There is a caseload of (40) children that will need to be transitioned. After some guidance from the State, the EI Corrective Action Plan has been submitted – no word yet. The questions they had were regarding our Quality Assurance procedure – our Special Instruction and Speech Therapist are contracted, not employed.

Immunization Grant Changes:

Dana recently attended the statewide meeting last week. We can no longer bill clinic time to the Immunization Action Plan (IAP) grant. While we are able to bill through March 2020, we have already transitioned and have no time allocation for clinic time on the grant. AFIX visits can continue through the end of June – IQIP visits cannot begin until after training (scheduled for September).

Dr. Williams asked about school immunizations. Kindra noted the schools were not enforcing the exclusions. We have been providing education to the principals, superintendents, guidance counselors, nurses and providers. We are also educating on what the “catch up” schedule is. We are working with the Immunization Coalition to do early messaging in May – “Don’t wait to Vaccinate.”

Opioid Grant and Activities:

The 3rd Opioid Task Force meeting was held on March 8, 2019 with a presentation by the SLC Jail. It was noted 8 out of 10 inmates have substance use disorder and therefore the jail may not be the appropriate place for them. They help them transition back to the community. It was a good presentation. The next Advisory Board meeting for the Opioid Task Force is March 29 – we will plan the next 3 taskforce meetings and review the brainstorming data from March.

We have until June 30, 2019 to provide (2) waiver trainings. These trainings are for physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants. The trainings are scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 2019 and Saturday, June 1, 2019 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm in the 2nd floor large conference room in the Human Services Building. Dr. Trigg from NYC will be arriving on Friday, May 17, 2019 prior to the Saturday (18th) training to get a perspective on our rural area. Dana would like to get providers and jail staff to attend an afternoon meeting – maybe in the Gouverneur area (hospital?). We hope for participation in the upcoming trainings. Dr. Williams said he could reach out to providers in the community and also noted the two individuals from the Massena area that were interested.

The State will be coming to the area on April 1-3, 2019, to provide public health detailing on the stigma surrounding opioid use and the use of Buprenorphine. They will be here at the Public Health Department all day on April 2, 2019. Dana will arrange a meeting for the Public Health Department staff and hospital leaders who work on the CHA/CHIP. She was also thinking of an evening meeting for providers to attend after office hours – possibly change the Board of Health meeting to April 2, 2019 and have the waiver training presentation. It was suggested attending the Medical Society monthly meeting to speak with providers.

ODMAP: This application has not yet been implemented, but should be in place soon. Coordination of the EMS units for logging the data is still being discussed.

During the next Opioid Task Force meeting there will be a “Bridges out of Poverty” presentation. The Opioid Task Force meeting may be moved to a larger space at the Best Western. The last meeting consisted of brainstorming ideas the task force will work on.

A “Chasing the Dragon” presentation is taking place this evening in Massena at 6:00 pm. There will be another presentation at Clarkson University on April 9, 2019. We will have a student intern coming in June who will assist us in streamlining the detailing process.

Lead Grant and Activities: Working with the Planning Office to finalize the budget. Keith Zimmerman is heading this up along with the Housing Council. This grant is (42) months long. We are developing our outreach and education plan. Some suggestions were: Bus wraps were a possibility however at a cost of \$1500 per month we will use billboards and media. We need to develop a simple message. We are looking at a pre- and post- survey for the community to see what they will have learned from the information provided. The surveys would be targeted to schools, daycares, Head Starts, Office for the Aging, WIC clinics, etc in both online and print formats. We are also hoping to partner with hardware stores for renovations – 73% of homes were built before 1978. We will purchase two lead care machines and discuss loaning the machines to providers. We are working with North Country Now, Watertown Advance and the Ogdensburg Journal to have a regular advertisement of our message – all have online presence. The Public Health Facebook page will also provide information. A student intern could help with Instagram and Twitter accounts.

Tricia: a provider survey was sent out last Thursday to Family Practice and Pediatrician providers on Lead Awareness. Providers were asked to complete the survey and return by the end of the month.

Other Items and Questions:

Walk with a Doc: Saturday, March 30, 2019 in Gouverneur on the outside track. There was a discussion of the future of this program – first year is almost over. There is the possibility the program would be changed from (6) walks to (4) walks a year, eliminating the Madrid-Waddington and Canton areas. It was noted community assistance is needed to maintain the program. The subcommittee is working with partners to have them take over coordinating the walks and recruiting participants in their areas.

OTHER BUSINESS

No Other Business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2019 at 6:00 pm.