

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

November 19, 2019

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, November 19, 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, Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Dr. Andrew Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nancy Potter

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by A. Williams, and seconded by J. Scillieri Smith, the minutes from the September 17, 2019 meeting were approved. (October 15, 2019 meeting canceled)

Jessica Rafter has been appointed for membership to the Board of Health to replace Todd Wells. She provided a background of herself to the group; members introduced themselves as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

There was a discussion on how the Board of Legislators handles their “Public Comment” period. Kevin noted the public is given a specific time frame to provide their comments. The Chair steps in if the individual is taking longer time than the allotted time. Questions of the Board are not allowed.

Dr. Williams suggested if the individuals who wish to give public comment at the Board of Health meetings have not read the guidelines online, we need to make sure they do prior to signing up. A sign in sheet should be used. Also, our guidelines should note individuals are not able to ask questions – only give their statements.

Old Business: Action Items from September 17, 2019

- Update press release for Vaping (sent to members).
 - a. The press release was given to members for review and comment. The release was updated and sent out. The ban for merchants to stop selling vaping products has been lifted at this point.
- Post Board of Health Meeting Public Comment Guidelines on the website.
 - a. The guidelines are available online.
- Review bylaws to be discussed at the next (November) meeting.
 - a. See information below.

Bylaws:

Upon review of the bylaws, members discussed the following sections.

Section 3: Election of Officers

The Board of Health does not meet in July. It was suggested the annual meeting to elect new officers should be changed. The month of October was suggested.

Section 5: Duties of the Board

Budget and Expenditures sections: There was a question on whether or not this happens. Dana clarified that she provided an annual budget report to members last year. The Public Health budget is reviewed and submitted yearly. Kevin shared Ruth Doyle, County Administrator, has a budget team and department heads are scheduled to discuss what their department needs are. Dana noted that rationale is submitted for the proposed public health department needs and budget. There are not many questions asked due to this information being provided. Last month a request for an additional employee was submitted due to the new lead guidelines. Kevin noted the new lead guidelines is an unfunded mandate.

Dr. Healey suggested new wording for “Budget” statement.

Section 6: The Public Health Director

Appointment: The nature of appointing the Public Health Director should be clarified. Dana will discuss with the County Attorney. Dr. Healey believes the Board of Health should be able to recruit, nominate and select the individual. Legislators can choose to attend the interviews.

Duties: Dana noted other partial service counties do not have a Board of Health. St. Lawrence County has one due to having a Sanitarian on staff.

Changes/updates to the Bylaws will be made with “track changes” so members can see what is being changed and/or replaced – revised bylaws will be emailed to members for review prior to the next meeting.

Sanitary Code – Public Hearing Update: Dana Olzenak McGuire/Tricia Storie

This code has been passed, but we currently do not have a process in place for when an issue arises. There still needs to be a discussion with those who will be involved.

There is a property in Hermon that needs to be cleaned up. It was believed that the County had a program to take care of this – there is no program. The primary concern of this property is not garbage, which is Public Health’s concern, but instead it is junk accumulation. This issue is for code enforcement.

Sanitarian Case Update: Tricia Storie/Brigitte Conklin

Bed bug issues are still trickling in from the Massena and Norfolk areas – mostly rentals. Education is provided and referrals to Legal Aid if needed.

A presentation on bed bugs and head lice was recently provided for the North Country Landlords Association. Aaron Hardy, Code Enforcement Office, took a lot of educational information. Dr. Williams asked if funding existed for extermination. There is no funding for this. Brigitte noted the neighborhood centers are offering bed bug kits which includes mattress covers.

Dana and Tricia have met with the Sheriff, Mike McCue, Code Officer, Superintendent and Mayor of Massena to talk about what we could do. The towns pick up old mattresses, etc., mentioned the possibility of a discount day to take these items. Discussed what suits we should

be wearing in these instances. Dr. Williams asked about funding for this. Tricia will do some research on this.

There have been issues with water quality which has required testing, mostly for loans and communicable disease referrals, black mold complaints are ongoing, but we really just provide education for those cases, garbage and septic tank complaints are slowing down for winter. Dana noted an issue with electrical wires being spliced and above ground.

There is a neighbor dispute in Macomb regarding one neighbor's septic tank allegedly contaminating another neighbor's well. The code officer was contacted. The neighbor is fixing the septic tank, but the other neighbor is saying it is not up to code. We can test the septic, but we cannot determine if it is in fact up to code. The one neighbor has a spring well with only a piece of plywood covering the opening. Tricia will be meeting with the district office tomorrow to be sure both neighbors are complying with codes. Noted this might be the case that will need to go through the new sanitary code process.

Pharmacy Naloxone letter: Dana Olzenak McGuire

Draft letter to be sent to pharmacists was distributed to members for review and discussion.

Letter recommends that individuals who receive an opioid prescription automatically will receive Narcan kit. N-CAP cards have been ordered which will pay up to \$40 for Narcan. Dana received an email from Sheena Smith, Community Services, suggesting this type of letter be sent and to try and get more education on how to package Buprenorphine. Education should also be provided on how to store the medication after pick up so children of parents cannot get the medication.

Jessica R suggested two different letters be sent to pharmacists: 1) standing order for Naloxone and 2) suggest dispensing of the film form of this medication in a child proof bottle as opposed to a baggy. Dr. Terrence suggested adding a note inside the baggies to make parents aware of having to be cautious around children, or state this to the individual at the time of pick up that this is not a child safe container. Jessica R noted if the individual asks for the medication to be presented in baggies they could provide this information at time of pick up. Jessica R noted in paragraph 2 regarding "standing prescription for naloxone," there should be verbiage pertaining to "participating pharmacies."

Dr. Williams asked that a draft letter be created. Dana will work with Sheena on this. Dana noted the draft letter has a list of specific individuals to sign the letter. Asked if there were any changes (delete/add) that need to be made to those listed. There was a suggestion to add a line for a legislator to sign also.

HUD/Lead Update: Brigitte Conklin/Tricia Storie

Currently working in partnership with the Planning Office and the Housing Council.

Advertisements are on North Country Now, in the papers, on YES FM radio and online. The billboard that has been up in Gouverneur will be going up in Ogdensburg tomorrow. Brigitte passed around a copy of the current advertisements/billboard information.

They asked members for their advice and insight on purchasing (2) Lead Care 2 Machines with funding. Would it be beneficial to purchase these machines and give to providers or use the funding for additional advertising? Asked who they should talk to about taking the machines. Asked Dr. Terrence if she would use one of the machines at her office. Dr. Terrence noted she has a lot of cases from the Madrid area, but she would have to ask the hospital if she could take one of the machines. Dr. Williams will meet with the lab director regarding this testing. He

noted Dr. Schuessler may get involved in the Gouverneur area and also suggested asking WIC. Brigitte has talked to them, but the state would not allow them take a machine. Dana noted Massena and Ogdensburg would be good areas. It was noted Dr. Gupta is the only private physician in Massena. Jessica S feels it would be a benefit if we could get the machines in provider offices.

Brigitte asked Dr. Terrence how they could arrange to talk and/or meet with pediatricians to get them enrolled in the program and adding informational sheets regarding housing risks at her office. Dr. Terrence noted her department (four or more pediatricians) meets each month. She asked about the criteria for testing – includes having an old house and/or already having a high lead level. Dr. Terrance suggested laminated information sheets for the waiting rooms or for staff to hand out at the front desk when the lab slip is given for testing.

Tricia noted additional items must be provided to the department by providers; a requirement from NYSDOH. To help providers with these additional required items, a Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Provider Checklist was created which includes a nutritional assessment, a risk questionnaire, and a developmental screening tool. We are still trying to decide the best way to get this packet to providers – paper based or by getting it into their client management systems. A copy was provided to members.

Dr. Healey noted some better questions for the informational advertisement might be “What is your child’s lead level?” and “What is my lead level mommy?” Dr. Williams suggested giving numbers of how many cases there are in the advertising.

Tricia provided the October stats for lead level testing: (131) tests were completed – (7) were elevated – only (1) was a new case.

Communicable Disease Update: Dana Olzenak McGuire

The special population – social and behavioral health was chosen as part of the grant. We have partnered with North Country Freedom Homes (NCFH). Any new admissions to their residence is referred to public health for education and testing when needed. Hepatitis A, Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, flu and Tdap vaccinations are provided if needed. We are also partnering with Community Services for the same types of services. They currently have a practitioner from Claxton Hepburn Medical Center (CHMC) who provides evaluation services through DSRIP – these individuals are being sent to the CHMC clinics for further services. Community Services is looking to hire their own practitioner.

There has been (1) case of Hepatitis A in St. Lawrence County. The individual listed a SLC address, but a letter sent to them was returned. Currently unable to make contact with individual.

There have been Hepatitis A outbreaks in Oswego, Onondaga and Jefferson counties in the IV drug using communities. We have contacted St. Lawrence Addiction Treatment Center (SLATC), Gouverneur Hospital detox and CPH rehab units to ask providers to offer Hepatitis A vaccine upon admission. Education has been provided to providers to encourage them to screen and vaccinate patients according to risk factors if seen in emergency departments, urgent care settings or private practice. SLATC is providing Hepatitis A vaccine to their patients.

Year 8 Performance Incentive Program beginning. To receive performance incentive funding for Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) we need to monitor how often we provide a prescription or medicine in hand – this needs to be done 90% of the time to meet benchmark. We also need to provide (2) community education events. Asked how we can get (2) groups of providers (at least 10 each) to these events. Dr. Williams suggested the medical society meeting and medical staff

meetings. Dr. Terrence suggested having the meetings at the Snell building or EJ Noble building and inviting other area physicians to attend.

Other Items and Questions:

Opioid Update: Dana Olzenak McGuire

A “Meet and Greet” with Dr. Updike was held on November 6, 2019. On November 7, 2019 Dr. Updike met with providers at CHMC and CPH. He spoke with emergency room staff, medical providers and pediatricians. A MAT training was held that evening for (10) providers. Dr. Updike may come back in the spring. We are hoping he will be able to speak to the Legislative Board. There was a discussion last night at the Board meeting of a possible location in the Massena area for a methadone clinic and what the process is to have one.

OTHER BUSINESS

No Other Business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

ACTIONS ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

1. Process for reviewing Public Comment Guidelines by individuals prior to signing up for comment.
2. Update Bylaws with track changes for member review prior to next meeting.
3. Dana will speak with County Attorney to clarify appointment of the Public Health Director.
4. Naloxone letter will be updated and a second letter regarding dispensing will be drafted.
5. Tricia will research funding for disposal of old mattresses, etc.
6. Dr. Williams will meet with the lab director to discuss lead testing.