

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

September 17, 2019

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Gregory Healey

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 K Acres, and seconded by J Scillieri Smith, the minutes from the June 18, 2019 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment:

Ann McLaughlin of Pierrepont, NY was in attendance to give public comment regarding the legalization of medical marijuana. She is a cannabis activist. She recently attended an Opioid Task Force meeting where there was a discussion on medical marijuana and the opioid crisis. She had expected to hear more on the health department's approach to treat individuals with medical marijuana. This was not the case. She felt the members of the panel did not really address this. Also felt the video clip shown at the start of the meeting seemed to depict "stoners." Noted the panel was against legalization of marijuana, stating it would cause more problems. Her question is "What is the cost to public health by prohibition vs. cost to public health? What is the threat to public health if we move along with the legalization of marijuana?" Shared when looking at prohibition, this is looking at adult use, not use by children. Her concern: Young people of age or not of age are a victim of prohibition. It is implied that the use of marijuana will contribute to loss of their jobs, not being able to get loans or student loans, and eventually effect their ability to provide for their families or move forward in this world. What are we protecting them from – other than the police? Her appeal to members is to take this issue seriously – it (marijuana) will eventually be legalized in this state. People need to learn how marijuana use effects the body. She is currently offering classes for individuals who want to know how to use it and use it successfully. It does reduce anxiety and analgesia. She has (50) individuals signed up for her class and (27) on a waiting list. People have a right to the correct information. Feels there is not one voice on the advocacy side of this issue.

Jessica noted this issue is a state matter. If passed it would be a state law adopted at the state level. We are a county entity. What would our involvement be? Kevin noted this question was also asked at the Community Services Board (CSB) meeting he attended prior. According to the New York State Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors (NYSLMHD) there would be a

need for more community based substance use disorder treatment (See attached position statement). Shared the county would have a say in whether they legalize the sale of marijuana in the county – this is the only position they would decide on. Noted people are concerned about the strength of marijuana today and public health is looking at it from purely a health issue perspective. Ann McLaughlin noted they are concentrating the oils – it could be very strong. Individuals need to go slow and keep track of their reactions – make adjustments. Asked “What is the threat to public health?”

Old Business: Action Items from June 18, 2019

- Meeting with Soil and Water to discuss why permitting.
 - a. Tricia noted we have one company, Losurdo Foods in Heuvelton, that we issued a permit to for this season. Shared some of the information in their application was not specific. Some of the property lines were outdated as of 2012. There is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, September 18, 2019, with Soil and Water and the DEC. Dana noted they had a meeting a month ago with Soil and Water and their office cannot issue permits. Raeann Delansky feels people need registration from the DEC. Dana is hoping we will be able to update our why permitting process and understand requirements needed
- Possible mandate on providing Suboxone in the ER.
 - a. Dr. Williams shared Dr. Lawrence is the head of ER for St. Lawrence Health System. There has been discussion surrounding a mandate, but there is no mandate yet. There is the possibility it will happen and they are discussing waivers for providers. Dr. Williams felt the MAT training provided by Dr. Updike was good and noted providers would benefit from his trainings. Dr. Terrence suggested training for the OBGYNs – possibly have Dr. Updike and maybe an OBGYN who is currently prescribing. Dr. Terrence feels the model should be all should do this training. Dr. Williams will meet with Dr. Abdulla, the head of OBGYN, and Jamie Smith to discuss this. He will also ask the new head of Anesthesiology. Dana noted for the second year of the grant, MAT training will be offered to the Physician Assistant class at Clarkson University and another training will be held for providers. Additionally, support will be provided for those who have already completed the waiver training through further education opportunities and mentoring.
- Modify Tick One pager with prophylaxis information.
 - a. Tricia provided copies of the updated Tick One pager for members to review. Dr. Terrence asked about posters for medical offices. It was noted the CDC mails laminated information to medical providers also. Members thought the updated information looked good.

Sanitary Code: Dana Olzenak McGuire

There were not many comments received back from members regarding changes to the code. This proposed sanitary code did go through Stephen Button, County Attorney. It was passed through the September Services Committee and will go on to the October 7, 2019 Board Meeting for the public hearing. Kevin noted at this meeting the public is given (10) minutes at the beginning of the meeting to comment – no questions. Ruth presented this at the Department Head meeting. The District Attorney and Public Defender had questions regarding the hearing process. It was noted we have not set a procedure for when the issues gets to the level of going to their office. Dr. Williams suggested asking Clinton County (code models their County) what they do. Dana has spoken to Schoharie County and they do not often go to the hearing process – issues are settled prior to getting that far. Kevin noted this sanitary code will add teeth to help the Code Officers who are struggling right now. Shared legislators voted unanimously in favor

of the code. Said if this code had been in place at the time of the issue with the Madrid residence, Public Health could have stepped in.

Upon motion by J. Scillieri Smith, seconded by A. Williams, and unanimously carried, members are in agreement of recommending the County pass the proposed Local Law A (No.) for “Sanitary Code of the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department.”

Vaping: Dana Olzenak McGuire

This was a hot topic of open discussion at the recent NYSACHO meeting. Dana feels a press release from the Board of Health should go out recommending individuals stop using vaping products. She received a call from North Country Now (NCN) wanting to know what her thoughts were on this issue. She discussed vaping is a new issue and we don't know the effects or what chemicals are used in the products. Education is provided to parents and children that it is not safe to use these products and how they can identify these products. There are currently (71) illness cases reported in our state – only (1) case in upstate New York. A draft press release was given to members for review. Dana asked for thoughts and/or concerns. After member discussion, some modifications will be made. Updated press release will be sent to members for final review.

Bylaws: Dana Olzenak McGuire

A copy of the current bylaws was given to members for review to be discussed at the October meeting.

Bed Bugs: Tricia Storie

There have been numerous calls – busy time for bed bugs, mostly in the areas of Ogdensburg, Massena and Gouverneur. Noted Massena is holding a special meeting regarding bed bugs on Thursday, September 19, 2019. Noted Public Health only provides education to the community. Without a sanitary code we are unable to do anything with landlords. This has been an ongoing problem this summer. Dr. Williams noted the county BOH needs to figure out what the best practice is and provide resources (1 page).

Head lice: Tricia Storie

There have been a couple of cases since the start of the school year. The schools are unsure how to handle it. A brochure has been developed to give out to the schools (copy given to members for review). Parents may be treating the child and not the home itself. Parents are not told there is a child in the classroom with head lice and this is not a reason for students to be out of school. Parents are questioning why they are not being notified of head lice cases.

Other Items and Questions: Dana Olzenak McGuire

Bio Data Sheet for Jessica Rafter, Pharmacist, who is interested in membership on the Board of Health (replacing Todd Wells) was previously emailed to members for review. Dana shared Jessica is also a member of the Bridge to Wellness Coalition. Jessica's information will go through the September Services Committee and then on to the October Board Meeting for approval.

Dr. Williams mentioned the change in immunization laws and was surprised that the low numbers of kids effected, reported by Superintendents of area schools. Dana shared there were approximately (150) kids affected within the county when the guidelines were mandated this summer. There are (40) students requiring vaccination at Holy Name of Jesus Academy in Massena. We are following up with the school and NYSDOH. The only exemption to this new immunization law is homeschooled kids. Dr. Williams asked about the Amish community.

Dana noted if they have schools they should be vaccinated. The Amish community has been a special population focused on for the Immunization Action Plan grant.

Shredding the Stigma event: Dana Olzenak McGuire

Approximately (300) people attended the “Shredding the Stigma” event held on Saturday, August 24, 2019. Tony Hoffman, guest speaker was great – he held a Q&A session also. He spent time after the presentation to speak to individuals one-on-one. There was also a panel of local individuals who spoke. Individuals were open, and felt comfortable to ask questions and share their story. The audience was a large spectrum of individuals and were very engaged for both presentations and involved in the dedication balloon launch at the end of the evening. Narcan training took place at the event and (32) people were certified. Transportation was available, although no one took advantage of it – busses were available at specific locations in Ogdensburg and Massena. The event went well and it was great to see people work together to make it a success. We have the grant for the next (3) years.

Kevin attended the event and noted there was an interesting mix of parents, young people and families. There were people in recovery and some who have lost friends and/or family members.

Jessica noted the public comment period should be held to the required (3) minute limit. Dr. Williams said individuals for public comment need to give their comment and then leave the meeting – there should not be questions to members.

Kevin suggested we find out what has been going on in Colorado where marijuana use is legal. Were the references made to the statistics about the number of auto accidents valid?

The BOH Meeting Public Comment Guidelines will be posted on the website.

OTHER BUSINESS

No Other Business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

ACTIONS ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

1. Update press release for Vaping (send to members).
2. Auto accident statistics from Colorado (marijuana use).
3. Post BOH Meeting Public Comment Guidelines on the website.