

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

December 20, 2022

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Gregory Healey

OTHERS PRESENT: Jolene Munger, Director; Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant; Anne Marie Snell, St. Lawrence Health Initiative

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 N. Potter, the minutes from the November 15, 2022 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

Prior to the start of her presentation, Anne Marie wanted to thank Jolene and the Public Health Department as a whole, for their collaboration with the Health Initiative and providing assistance from the Public Health Fellows. She noted she also has weekly collaboration with the Community Health Educator at Public Health – all collaboration with the Public Health Department is extremely beneficial.

Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan (CHA/CHIP) Presentation: Anne Marie Snell, Executive Director, St. Lawrence Health Initiative.

Anne Marie noted she was here (3) years ago and gave a presentation to the Board. She attends monthly meetings to work on the CHA/CHIP. She provided members a very informative presentation of the CHA/CHIP thus far and will provide the assessment and plan to them in pdf form.

Miscellaneous: Jolene Munger

There was a brief discussion regarding ‘cause of death’ data. Jolene noted the Public Health Department has been tracking cause of death data through our coroner program via death certificates for 2022.

Shared she is a QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) trainer and will co-train all county departments, provide this training to Youth Ambassadors/schools and senior centers. Also shared the Public Health Department will be providing CPR training for county employees – Narcan training will also be looked into to be provided as well with the CPR training.

Review of Bylaws:

Jolene noted the number of members for the Board of Health is (7) with the option for (8). The (8th) member would have to come from the city (Ogdensburg) as a nomination of 3 individuals from the mayor, and the Board of Health would be able to select from those 3.

Upon motion by J. Scillieri Smith, and seconded by K. Terrence, and unanimously carried by members present, the current Bylaws were approved as written with no changes.

Lead Update: Jolene Munger

- (75) lead tests conducted
- (74) cases on caseload as of December 7, 2022.
- (4) discharges – (1) new case

Graphs were printed and put in member's folders.

HEDIS vs. NYS Guidance

- We are working on outreach to all providers advising them that NYS guidance for lead testing may be different from their current HEDIS guidelines.
- NYS requires a blood lead test at age 1 and *again* at age 2.

This guidance will go out to providers.

Call from State Contact

- On 12/5/22, Cheryl Geiler from the State called to discuss some concerns she had regarding the standard of care being provided to patients within our county.
- The reason for her call was that WIC expressed frustration that a number of patients were not getting their required lead tests and were being “turned away” from capillary tests.
- She noted that our blood lead testing rates were quite low (45% for 1 year olds and 52% for 2 year olds).
- She added children were not being evaluated for iron status or hemoglobin or hematocrit.
- Due to these lack of tests, she stated there were “poor standard of care” being provided to patients in our county.

Sanitarian Update: Jolene Munger

Calls for November: (7) total calls

Water Quality: (2) **Septic:** (1) **Housing Complaints (Code):** (4)

The new sanitarian starts December 27, 2022. The position has been vacant for (1) year. The goal for 2023 is to make edits to the current sanitary code. All edits will be brought to the Board for comments and approval, along with other documents being updated.

COVID-19: Jolene Munger

Effective December 31, 2022 we will no longer be reporting COVID-19 data. The last public report will be the first week in January, 2023. We will lose our case count as we switch to just CDESS – COVID-19 will be treated like the flu. We will continue to provide vaccinations, but our clinics will change to Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning January, 2023.

Number of positive cases for November: 346 cases

- **November 23 – November 29** = 60 cases
- **November 30 – December 6** = 96 cases

Number of positive cases as of today: 339 cases

- **December 7 – December 13** = 132 cases
- **December 14 – December 20** = 126 cases

COVID-19 deaths reported for October: 2

COVID-19 deaths reported for November: 2

COVID-19 deaths reported as of today: 0

Jolene will email the surveillance report to members – data is as of last Friday, December 16, 2022. There have been (4) pediatric deaths reported. Flu is rising, RSV is down and COVID-19 is flat.

<http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/surveillance/>

https://apps.health.ny.gov/pub/ctrldocs/alrtview/postings/NYSDOH_Weekly_Flu_Rpt_20221224_1672417219788_0.pdf

OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS

Rabies Bill: Jolene Munger

A new bill was passed, effective as of November 23, 2022. With this new bill receiving reimbursement for rabies post-exposure treatment will be easier for our department. This does not change how we provide rabies vaccination for pets. We have recently partnered with a Veterinarian from the Akwesasne reservation to provide rabies vaccinations – we have held (2) clinics in the last month.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S7501>

Tuberculosis Update:

We have an active case of drug resisted TB in the county – they are receiving treatment (new). There were (7) contacts who were all given PPD tests and chest x-rays. Two of the contacts are receiving window treatment (8) weeks. All contacts will be retested after 8 weeks. We are providing Direct Observation Therapy (DOT) and are working to get medication for the individual. It is unsure of how long the individual has been actively infectious.

Financial Disclosures:

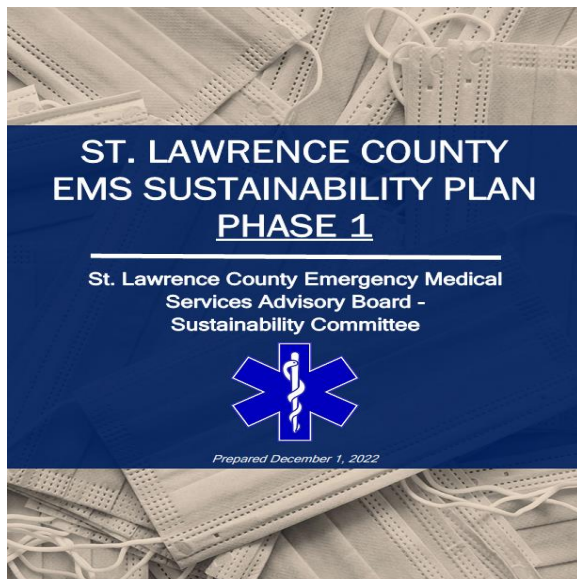
Jolene reminded members these will be sent out to members in January, 2023 for completion.

Title 42 Expiring:

Title 42 is set to expire on December 21, 2022. The borders in Ogdensburg and Massena have concerns of what will happen starting in January, 2023. Public Health is prepared to provide vaccination clinics giving: Hepatitis A, flu, MMR and COVID-19 vaccines. We have provided these two borders with supplies we had on hand. They are looking into bussing information, but are unsure how long they would stay – they can accommodate (30) individuals in their warehouses. Currently, US Border Patrol out of Malone (covers the North Country) sees (100) individuals per day crossing the border illegally.

EMS Advisory Board: Mark Deavers

The Advisory Board has a strategic plan for St. Lawrence County. Phase 1 would be to shift EMS from Emergency Services to the Public Health Department – EMS is geared more towards Public Health (1 position would need to be created). There are other counties who already align with the Public Health Department. Phase 2 would be to address the lack of EMS personnel. The preliminary plan will be emailed to members (double click below).



OLD BUSINESS

Corporate Compliance Training: an email with link was resent to members prior to this meeting for completion. This training needs to be completed by end of the December.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

ACTIONS ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

N/A