

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

March 21, 2023

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rita Curran, Dr. Gregory Healey, Nancy Potter, Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Dr. Andrew Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Deavers, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Carly Zimmermann, Deputy Director; Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant; Pam Charleston, Principal Fiscal Officer; Lori Clark, Professor of Environmental Science, St. Lawrence University.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Andrew Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by N. Potter, and seconded by K. Terrence, the minutes from the December 20, 2022 (January 17, 2023 meeting canceled – February 21, 2023 meeting canceled/rescheduled – February 28, 2023 meeting canceled) meeting were approved with noted updates to be made.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

Lori Clark is a Professor of Environmental Science and will be joining the St. Lawrence University Public Health Department in the fall, teaching both Environmental Studies and Public Health. She is interested in learning more about our county's public health issues, data availability, and networking among public health professionals to help direct and build the Public Health major. She is also interested in forming research collaborations or find out what research projects could be relevant and beneficial to the students and the county.

4th Quarter Financials: Pam Charleston

A handout was provided for members to review.

- The Public Health Department is required, by the NYS Department of Education, to provide the Preschool Program.
- This program provides services (Evaluations, OT, PT, and Speech) for students ages 3-5 with special needs where the school districts are unable to provide the services.
- The contracted transportation provider is First Student, Inc., as some students need to be bussed to different district locations where the needed services are provided.
- Some of the school districts have signed transportation agreements to provide the bussing for students in their own districts.
- The State reimburses 59.5% of the cost of the services, but the issue is receiving payment. They are quite a bit behind on getting reimbursement out, which in turn makes our fiscal situation what it is.
- The majority of students (70%) who receive services are Medicaid eligible and we have (15) months to bill. We are up-to-date on our billing to Medicaid – usually anywhere from \$20,000 to \$30,000 is being billed weekly. We bill very little private insurance.

It was noted there is a lack of providers for some of the needed services. Questioned if there is a waiting list for this program and do other counties also handle the Preschool Program. It was noted recruitment is being done to contract with providers for the needed services. Carly noted NYSACHO is drafting a letter

for a State of Emergency regarding the lack of providers. Rita mentioned reaching out to NYSAC for data and also asked for a list of the Public Health grants that are outstanding.

There was a discussion regarding the process for children transitioning from the Early Intervention Program to the Preschool Program. A presentation on the transitioning process from the Early Intervention Program to the Preschool Program will be added to the April 18, 2023 agenda.

Lead Update: Carly Zimmermann

December, 2022

- (94) lead tests conducted
- (73) Active cases as of January 6, 2023
- (1) discharges – (0) new cases

January, 2023

- (139) lead tests conducted
- (1) discharges – (0) new cases

February, 2023

- (104) lead tests conducted
- (70) Active cases as of March 6, 2023.
- (2) discharges – (0) new cases

Graphs were printed and added to member's folders.

Carly shared a NYSPHC Fellow has been hired for detailing work and will be visiting provider offices to share information regarding lead testing requirements. Dr. Terrence suggested the Fellow ask providers how many tests have been ordered and how many parents have followed up on testing. Dr. Healey asked about the possibility of providers informing the Public Health Department when lead testing has been ordered and then Public Health follow up with contacting the individual if testing has not been done. Carly noted this would logistically be challenging. Dr. Williams noted Point of Care testing in provider office may be the easier solution.

Additional Lead Updates: March, 2023

- The 1st EPA Lead Renovator Training took place on March 14, 2023.
- We had a full class registered – weather prevented (2) individuals from attending.
- (6) Individuals became Lead-Safe Certified through the EPA program.
- A 2nd EPA Lead Renovator Training has been scheduled for March 31, 2023 due to high demand and individuals being on a waitlist.
- Miranda Corbine also became certified, which means the course can be open to (16) individuals for the 2nd training.

Sanitarian Update: Carly Zimmermann

Calls for December: (2) total calls

Water Quality: (1) **Living Conditions/Housing Complaints:** (1)

Calls for January: (11) total calls

Garbage: (3) **Water Quality:** (2) **Septic:** (1) **Living Conditions/Housing Complaints:** (1)

Insects: (1) **Animals:** (1) **Other:** (2)

Calls for February: (13) total calls

Garbage: (5) **Water Quality:** (5) **Septic:** (1) **Living Conditions/Housing Complaints:** (1) **Indoor Air/ Quality (Radon):** (1)

Influenza, COVID-19, RSV: Carly Zimmermann

- [New York State DOH Influenza Surveillance Report](#)
- [New York State DOH COVID-19 Surveillance](#)
- [NYS SARS-CoV-2 Wastewater Surveillance](#) - Wastewater testing is currently provided by Quadrant and performed in the following towns: Massena, Potsdam, Canton, and Gouverneur.
- [CDC RSV Trends](#)

Summary of Community Health Assessment Goals:

This year, ALL hospitals and the Local Health Department (LHD) have joined forces to assess, plan and implement the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Rita noted mental health and addiction services need to have standardization regarding when and how we are providing medication assisted therapy.

Walk with a Doc Update:

Walk with a Doc meetings will take place on the 4th Thursday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2023 at which time planning and scheduling of WWAD events will be discussed.

OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS

Rita shared they have reached out to vendors regarding the potential for making baby formula within the county. The county has the raw materials and the labor force. They are talking with companies regarding investing and there are currently some from California. Anecdotally noted WIC providers have a lack of formula.

OLD BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

ACTIONS ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

N/A