

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

May 16, 2023

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Jolene Munger, Director; Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Andrew Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by R. Curran, and seconded by K. Terrence, the minutes from the April 18, 2023 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

Lead Update: Jolene Munger **April, 2023**

- (129) lead tests conducted
- (76) Active cases as of May 8, 2023.
- (0) discharges – (5) new cases

Graphs were printed and added to member's folders.

Case between 20-45 ug/dL has a long history dating back to 2020. This child's BLL has been steadily declining over the last three tests.

- August, 2022 – 31.7 ug/dL
- November, 2022 – 29.4 ug/dL
- March, 2023 – 22.6 ug/dL

Jolene asked members if it might be beneficial to draft a letter to be sent to providers from the Board of Health encouraging them to follow the regulations for testing at age 1 year and 2 year, as some continue to go by the HEDIS testing regulations (Dr. Williams will draft). Dr. Williams asked if there has been an uptick in testing – there has not been. Dr. Terrence noted an issue with CLIA waivers/licenses was blocking her practice from doing Point of Care testing. Dr. Williams will follow up on this.

Jolene will look into getting posters, etc. regarding Lead Screening for provider offices. Dr. Williams asked that future graphs include a trend line of testing for month-to-month comparisons.

Sanitarian Update: Jolene Munger

Calls for April: (8) total calls

Garbage: (2) **Water Quality:** (2) **Septic:** (1) **Living Conditions/Housing:** (1) **Indoor Air/Quality (Smoking):** (1) **Outdoor Air Quality:** (1)

- Update from last month regarding the trash issue in Norwood – this has been resolved.

- Septic issue (Pitcairn) – report of sewage on the ground from a broken system. CEO is aware and has asked PHD to assist. Site visit done on May 5, 2023, there was no answer at the door – a letter will be sent.
- Outdoor Air Quality issue – report of dog hoarding situation and concerns from a neighbor regarding smell of dog feces. Massena CEO was following up and would contact PHD if they needed assistance. It was noted several dogs were rehomed by DCO.

Walk with a Doc (WWAD) Update:

- Spring Fling WWAD is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, 2023. The St. Lawrence Health Initiative's Cancer Prevention in Action program will be sponsoring the walk and has invited Dr. Hung Chin Ho to speak.
- Saturday, June 10, 2023 the walk will take place at Munter Trail, at the Pride Festival in Ives Park, Potsdam. St. Lawrence Health is sponsoring this walk and has invited speakers from the SLH Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, highlighting the Behavioral Health Department.
- There will be a walk scheduled in September in Gouverneur – details will be forthcoming.

Rita suggested holding walks in more than one location on the same weekend. Also, because no walks are scheduled for July or August, she noted these months would be the best time to hold walks. Jolene shared there is a need for providers to attend the walks to speak. Rita noted she has not been contacted – Jolene will share her contact information with the committee. There was a brief discussion around t-shirts that were provided in past years. Jolene noted there are representatives from the two area hospitals on the committee. Dr. Williams suggested inviting a representative of the committee to attend the next meeting.

Tick Borne Illness Update:

January 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023

- Anaplasmosis (10)
- Babesiosis (5)
- Ehrlichiosis (0)
- Lyme (133)

We are working on getting more tick kits, as the State does not provide them any longer. We are also providing education on what to do if you have been bitten.

Jolene noted at this time we are unable to apply for additional grants. We currently do not have enough fiscal staff to handle the extra grants and are unable to increase our fiscal staff at this point. We do have an Account Fellow coming on board some time the end of July and/or August. He is moving from Long Island and has had some issues securing housing. There was mention of a previous flyer/pamphlet regarding tick information.

Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan:

Copies were added to member's folders.

- This Plan is completed every (3) years.
- There was a discussion regarding the goals and timeframes of completion.
- Epidemiologist Fellow is doing data analysis.

Rita discussed the possibility of a Food Bank. Noted a building was available in Louisville. Discussed the differences between a Food Bank and Food Pantries.

Unfinished Business:

Dr. Terrence mentioned the issue regarding lack of providers for speech evaluations/therapy. During a meeting at St. Lawrence Health, it was noted some individuals have extra spots and could help with evaluations and potentially therapy. She will provide the contact information for Laurie White, who would be the point person, so Renae can contact her.

Rita noted the County is looking at the cost of transportation (Medicaid) for out-of-county travel for dentistry. Suggested this cost could be used for training dentists to practice within the county. Dr. Williams noted Community Health Center has space available.

OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS

Rita shared Ruth Doyle, County Administrator, asked about the Public Health Department having a float in the Norwood parade. Jolene noted staff wanted to walk in the parade and hand out give away items/toss to the crowd (grant funds/CYSHCN). These items have not been ordered, as we have not received permission to attend the parade yet. Rita noted they would need to know what items would be given out.

Rita asked if there was any information regarding immigrants. Jolene stated she has spoken with Border Patrol and there did not seem to be any increased traffic over the weekend. Noted Border Patrol is prepared to assist individuals with transportation to nearby counties to have access to trains.

Rita discussed the need for education on the effects of the use of marijuana by children/adolescents and individuals under the age of 25. The PHD is currently waiting on NYSDOH guidance regarding our role and funding available. Jolene will have some education created for social media. Dr. Williams asked Rita if the legislators could pass an ordinance for the county regarding billboard advertising.

Public Health Department Staffing Update:

Recently filled positions:

Community Health Nurse started today, May 16, 2023

Service Coordinator starts May 30, 2023

Vacancies:

- Public Health Sanitarian
- Public Health Specialist

All NYSPHC Fellow positions have been filled. They are covered by State funding until June 30, 2024.

- (2) Fellows will be with the St. Lawrence Health Initiative (40 hours).
- (1-2) Fellows will be with Seaway Valley Prevention Council – we are still working out the details of what their normal work hours will be.
- Fellows with the SLCPHD can work our normal (35) hours or (37.5) with ½ lunch. They have the option of working remotely as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

ACTIONS ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

N/A