

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

June 20, 2023

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, June 20, 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. Jessica Scillieri Smith, Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Dr. Andrew Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Jolene Munger, Director; Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant; Anne Marie Snell, St. Lawrence Health Initiative; Richard Duvall, CEO, CHMC/Carthage Hospital; Dr. Jayme Smith, St. Lawrence Health

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by R Curran, and seconded by K Terrence, the minutes from the May 16, 2023 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

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

- (130) lead tests conducted
- (77) Active cases as of June 6, 2023
- (5) discharges – (6) new cases

Graphs, the SLCPH Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Newsletter for December, 2022 and the upcoming newsletter for July, 2023, and the information packet provided to new cases was provided to members. Some of the longer term cases have dropped from the 15-20 ug/dL category to the 10-15 ug/dL category. The Lead abatement grant ends October 15, 2023. In NYSIIS, provider offices are able to pull reports by facility. It was noted that Point of Care testing is being done.

Review of Tick Borne Illness:

- a. Case Trends
 - More cases have been reported – unknown what the exact number was for May.
- b. Testing options – upcoming changes
 - There is an antibody screen with results in 2 hrs.
 - Change – sending to reference labs is 1-2 days for Lyme and 1-4 days for the others.
- c. Public Education/Website/Social Media Update
 - The Public Health Department website information was reviewed on screen.

CHMC/Services Update: Richard Duvall, CEO

Richard gave an overview of the changes to take place at CHMC when they merge with Carthage Hospital to become “North Star Health Alliance.” Stressed there will be no changes to the clinical services provided, only the number of beds available. There will however be business structure changes.

Dog Rescue/Animal Shelter – public health perspective: Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith

Slideshow presentation - NYS Agriculture & Markets – Pertinent Regulations to Animal Sanctuaries.

Dr. Smith provided an informative presentation on the specific requirements needed to bring animals into the United States from other countries.

Dr. Williams asked about this facility being a threat to the community. Dr. Smith noted having already lost 2 dogs and taking a week to get them back, noting “do no approach” is an issue. Noted there have been calls regarding fecal management. Dr. Healey asked what assurance we have about these animals going through the proper channels/having required vaccinations – asked if there were any documentation from JFK Airport. This is unknown.

Dental Care – Access Challenges and Strategies: Dr. Williams

- There is a shortage of dentists for pediatric patients – insured/under insured.
- Medicaid or uninsured can be seen at CHCNC (1 dentist left – 4 retired).
- Dentist - 1 FT in Ogdensburg
- Dentist - 1 PT in Canton
- Dentists need to be recruited for our population.
- Rita mentioned the County providing funds for paying off loans and/or pay providers to come here to practice.
- The space is available, staff is what we need.
- CHMC/123 Smile Program – provided mobile dentistry services.

Sanitarian Update: Jolene Munger

Calls for May: (4) total calls

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

The septic issue was in Star Lake – complaint of a strong odor of sewage coming from the property. A letter was sent to schedule a site visit – requested response by June 23, 2023.

Marijuana – review social media education re: adolescent use: Jolene Munger

Handouts added to member’s folders.

- Our 1st post went out last week.
- There is a press release that will be coming to BOH for approval.
- Additional press release regarding poison control – if you have marijuana in your home.

Rita mentioned passing local laws – also removing local billboards regarding marijuana usage. Dr. Williams suggested providing a clear message regarding marijuana usage.

Walk with a Doc (WWAD) Update: Anne Marie Snell

- Last committee meeting was held on May 25, 2023.
- Saturday, June 10, 2023, Heather Rich, Director of Behavioral Health at Gouverneur Hospital, and members of the St. Lawrence Health DEI Committee spoke about their commitment to providing quality and compassionate care to all community members at the Potsdam Pride Days.
- Walks will be scheduled in September and October.
- Spring Fling was canceled due to rain.
- Committee is working on planning walks outside of the main areas of the county – such as Hammond, Star Lake, Clifton Fine, etc.
- Walks are more successful during summer months.
- Looking at possibly pairing walks with other events throughout the year.
- If there are enough organizations/providers willing to do multiple walks on specific days that would be a good idea.

Suggestions/topics:

- Encourage providers to speak about what they are passionate about.
- Provide informational handouts regarding the benefits of exercising.

- T-shirts listing the dates of each walk to improve participation (for next year?). Previously t-shirts were only for the providers.
- Fitbits to handout.

Anne Marie noted there is no budget for Walk with a Doc. Dr. Williams mentioned providing assistance with t-shirts/Fitbits. Rita mentioned funding from the county. Anne Marie noted Walk with a Doc is a combined effort of organizations for the walks/events.

Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan:

Anne Marie Snell provided a presentation on priority topics, planning and the process of the CHA/CHIP. A handout was added to member's folders.

Unfinished Business: N/A

OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS

Legislators asked that a form be created for the community to request services from the Public Health Department. A request was received from Ronnie Roberts/Trail System (Colton). They are having a parade and pickle ball tournament on Saturday, July 15, 2023. Their request asked for immunizations to be provided onsite.

Jolene noted the following:

- We need to consider what vaccines we are able to provide.
- Do we have staff willing to attend – they cannot be mandated to work on weekends.
- Limitations on the department – specific types of vaccines cannot be transported together.
- Patagonia is our new EHR – we do collect insurance for immunizations and copays are required. Cash would need to be available to change.
- Limited staff to provide registration.
- A challenge would be access to immunization records.
- Information on Communicable Disease could be provided.

Suggestions:

- Find out what immunizations he specifically wants. (ask about Tetanus).
- Is it worth the money Public Health would have to spend?
- Option to provide only Mpox and COVID-19.

Public Health recently attended the Pride Parade and provided Mpox and COVID-19 vaccinations, and education on STDs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session began at 8:20 pm.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

ACTIONS ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

N/A