

# ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

## April 16, 2024

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rita Curran, Nancy Potter, Mark Deavers, Dr. Andrew Williams

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Dr. Gregory Healey

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Carly Zimmermann, Interim Director; Samantha Bice, Administrative Assistant; Autumn Thompson, St. Lawrence Health /Clinical Research Department/Clinical Research Assistant;

### CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Upon motion by R Curran, and seconded by N Potter, the minutes from the March 19, 2024 meeting were approved.**

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Autumn Thompson, Clinical Research Assistant from St. Lawrence Health informed members of an Emerging Professionals group, created to build community and retain professionals in the area. The first event will take place on April 24, 2024 as an informal, establishing event to determine what professionals may be interested in the group. Members were provided with an informational flyer.

**Slideshow Presentation (double click below): Carly Zimmermann**



BOH 4\_16\_24.pptx

**Countywide Smoking Policy:** Carly reviewed the proposed smoking policy, based on the Cattaraugus County - 2023 law as discussed at the March 19, 2023 meeting. Members discussed that the policy includes exceptions for “designated smoking areas” and questioned if the St. Lawrence County policy should include such exceptions. After discussion members decided to leave language pertaining to designated smoking areas in the proposed policy.

Mark Deavers suggested including “vaping” in section 2.2, to read ““Smoking’ shall include lighting, smoking, vaping, or carrying a lighted cigarette, cigar, or pipe...” Dr. Williams questioned if the policy should include consequences for violators. Members discussed consequences that may be possible, Rita Curran stated the county cannot require individuals to pay fines. Members suggested the proposed policy contain a statement that violators may be subject to removal from county property and other administrative fees as dictated by the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators. Carly to share the proposed law with County Attorney Stephen Button.

**Respiratory Illness Update:** Carly reviewed levels of respiratory illness activity, noting that cases are decreasing nationwide. New York State is seeing a decrease in influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI) remains steady.

Members discussed the case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5N1) virus, in a patient in Texas, currently the only identified case.

**Board of Health Bylaws Review/Update:** Carly reviewed the proposed changes to the SLCBOH Bylaws. The changes proposed included:

- Section 4 – Quorum – add “Any member who participates at a physical location that is open to in-person physical attendance by the public, whether remotely or in-person, may count toward a quorum and may fully participate and vote in the meeting.”
- Section 4 – Public Comment – add “A.) During the Citizen Participation period, upon recognition by the President. The Speaker will state his/her name, declare any impact the outcome of any debate or vote may have on them or others that they identify as being in unity with, and is limited to three (3) minutes, or the timeframe to be announced. The total Citizen Participation time period shall not exceed thirty [30] minutes, unless extended at the discretion of the President. B.) During limitations of gathering and/or attendance, Citizen Participation by submitting a text, video, or audio submission to [slcpublichealth@stlawco.gov](mailto:slcpublichealth@stlawco.gov) at least forty-eight (48) hours before the start of the meeting. Participation is subject to community standards and file compatibility.”
- Section 7 – Changes – add “Anticipated edits will be made public for two meetings to allow for public comment.”

Nancy Potter questioned the “citizens” verbiage and asked if participation is dependent upon citizenship status. Members discussed the phrasing and determined in the context of the bylaws, “citizen” is used to describe individuals currently residing in the county regardless of citizenship.

Upon motion by Mark Deavers, and seconded by Rita Curran, members approve the updated Board of Health Bylaws.

### **OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS**

**Quarter 1 Lead Updates:** Carly presented data from the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Q1. Tests average around 90 tests per month. A Cover Sheet, which is now faxed to healthcare providers of new CLPPP cases – rather than requesting completed assessments or medical records was presented. The program is requesting practitioners attest that appropriate assessments have been completed via the Cover Sheet (as seen in the BOH 4\_16\_24 slideshow).

Rita Curran asked if the department gathers information on breastfeeding versus formula feeding in elevated lead level cases. Carly noted there likely exists scientific literature exploring the connections of a child being breastfeed and blood lead levels. Additionally Carly stated pregnant individuals should have a lead blood test completed while pregnant as part of routine obstetric care.

Carly also presented lead service lines inventory is being conducted in various locations in the county by local water departments, and displayed the guide to identifying types of water service lines, which had been made available to the public.

**Quarter 1 Sanitarian Call Log:** Carly presented the Q1 Sanitarian Call Log data, which included 10 total calls in January, three total calls in February, and nine total calls in March.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No executive session.

### **ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:35. Next meeting will take place on May 21, 2024 at 6:00 pm.**

### **ACTIONS ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP**

N/A