

# ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

## June 18, 2024

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rita Curran, Mark Deavers, Nancy Potter, Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Mark Deavers, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, Dr. Kathleen Terrence

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Gregory Healey, Dr. Andrew Williams

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Carly Zimmermann, Interim Director; Samantha Bice, Administrative Assistant, Autumn Thompson, McKenna Boula, McKailey Lyndaker

### CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Terrence, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Upon motion by R Curran, and seconded by M Deavers, the minutes from the May 29, 2024 meeting were approved.**

### PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

**Department Highlights:** Carly announced recent acknowledgments: Kevin Crosby was recognized for 10 years of service to the department; Miranda Turnbull was recently recognized by the CNY Regional Environmental Health Director and the department's state representative for the materials she made for the EPA's lead water service line inventory. Carly shared events recently attended by SLCPHD, in addition to upcoming events to which the department has committed.

**H5N1:** Dr. Scillieri Smith provided members with a detailed update on H5N1. Since 2022, by the USDA count, approximately 100 million poultry and 100 dairy farms in the US have been affected. In comparison, the 2014-2015 outbreak was much shorter and had a lesser impact, which was more commercial, whereas the recent outbreak has affected backyard flocks. The dairy farms affected span 13 states, with the closest farm located in Ohio.

In dairy cattle, the virus predominantly affects rumination and lactation, and is shed in high numbers in milk. Some farms have reported death and illness of cats in large numbers, as well as deaths of grackles, pigeons, and sparrows. It is suspected that cats are becoming ill after exposure to infected milk. Some farms can trace the spread to movement of animals between farms. The FDA has instituted movement restrictions, and is requiring PCR testing for lactating cows.

There are four known human cases, three following exposure to dairy cows and one following exposure to poultry. Human cases have been treated successfully with antivirals, while affected chickens have a 90% mortality rate. Deaths in cattle tend to be the result of voluntary cull as the cows do not enter back into production well. Carly shared the department has begun reviewing preparedness plans in relation to H5N1.

**Bylaw Changes:** Carly proposed additions to the SLCBOH Bylaws, to include Public Health Law citations, Roberts Rules, Role of Health Officers, Review of Complaints, Role of SLCBOH in Isolation and Quarantine Order, and Sanitary Code Enforcement. Changes will be advertised with finalization in October, as required by the bylaws.

Members discussed SLCPHD's role as health officer. As a consolidated health district, it is confirmed SLCPHD operates as the health officer for municipalities that do not hire their own officer. Carly presented the qualifications, roles and responsibilities of health officers. Members agreed health officer participation in SLCBOH meetings could be beneficial, given health officer responsibilities include reporting to the BOH.

Carly proposed including in the bylaws complaint review process that addresses complaints within the required five day timeline. Dr. Terrence asked if this process could be completed via virtual meeting or email chain. The bylaws do not indicate a required format.

Carly proposed additional language regarding sanitary code enforcement, which is not currently detailed. Members discussed that some of the health officer related public health law is outdated.

**Policies and Procedures:** Carly proposed implementing procedures for review of complaints, hearings, and citations. Procedures currently in place include meetings and public comments. Dr. Scillieri Smith asked if there are any other nearby county agencies that issue citations, as it could be beneficial to see how other agencies proceed and with what results. Members discussed any verbiage to be included regarding fines should be specific, and questioned the process for enforcing and collecting fines. Carly will review past situations in which fines were issued.

**BOH Orientation:** Members reviewed the SLCBOH orientation document, including past membership.. Carly asked members to consider anything else they would like to include in the document. Dr. Scillieri Smith noted the several director searches that SLCBOH has participated in and that it may be beneficial to define the relationship and processes between the SLCBOL and SLCBOH.

### **OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS**

Carly noted the 2025 budget was being compiled and asked the group if \$200 would be sufficient for the year. The group decided \$200 per meeting would be sufficient for the purchase of refreshments for each meeting, \$2,000 in total.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No executive session.

### **ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm. Next meeting will take place on September 17, 2024 at 6:00 pm.**

### **ACTION ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP**

N/A