

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

October 15, 2024

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Gregory Healey, Nancy Potter, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Dr. Andrew Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rita Curran, Mark Deavers

OTHERS PRESENT: Erin Streiff, Director;

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by N. Potter, and seconded by Dr. Healey, the minutes from the September 17, 2024 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

Mosquito Surveillance: Members discussed the planning of mosquito surveillance with SUNY Potsdam, Clarkson, SUNY ESF, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and St. Regis Mohawk Tribe; the goal of surveillance is early identification, public awareness, and to target potential spraying locations. The plan includes daily collection and species identification of mosquitoes. The collected mosquitoes will be sent to Wadsworth Lab for pathogen testing, including Triple E and West Nile Virus. Logistical challenges related to drawing blood from chickens for serological testing were discussed, particularly the difficulty in obtaining sufficient blood volumes. The potential use of chickens from local fairs for blood collection was considered, emphasizing the need for consent and coordination with local technicians.

H5N1/Seasonal Flu Vaccination To Dairy Farm Workers: An update on the H5N1 avian influenza situation was provided, noting that the state has offered free flu vaccines for dairy farm workers, although uptake has been low.

Rabies Clinics: Feedback regarding a recent Rabies Clinic was shared, noting that 146 animals were vaccinated in just two hours, marking a successful and well-organized event.

Department Updates: An update was given on the transition of the New York Early Intervention System to the EI-Hub, which caused a two-week pause in billing practices. Additionally, the Pre-K program has been and will continue to be unable to bill Medicaid for physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy until approximately December. Erin

noted the Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs Transition Event scheduled for October 24, aimed at supporting families navigating healthcare systems.

The Humans Don't Hibernate Campaign was discussed, highlighting the goals of promoting physical activity, healthy eating, and mental wellness. Participants can submit pictures of their completed Humans Don't Hibernate challenges via social media or QR code. Members were also informed of department efforts to reach at-risk populations for social isolation and loneliness.

Members viewed an advertisement for harm reduction vending machines. The county currently has one location in Ogdensburg.

Lead testing statistics were presented, indicating a slight increase in positive cases despite a decline in overall testing numbers. Challenges related to maintaining accurate lead testing data and the necessity for regular updates were discussed.

Concerns regarding the prevalence of Lyme disease were raised, along with the importance of routine testing in high-risk areas. Members discussed the significance of early diagnosis and treatment to mitigate health risks associated with Lyme disease.

An update was provided on the ongoing sanitary code project, which aims to address jurisdictional gaps and ensure comprehensive coverage in health regulations. Collaboration with state health officials to refine the language of the sanitary code was discussed.

Positive feedback regarding the septic system replacement program was reported, highlighting its success in addressing community needs. The importance of having a robust sanitary code to effectively tackle issues related to sewage management and water contamination was emphasized.

It was noted that COVID-19 positive tests continue to be reported through the electronic laboratory reporting system. Challenges related to tracking COVID-19 cases, particularly due to the lack of systematic reporting and reliance on hospital data, were discussed. The significance of treating COVID-19 with antiviral medications and the need for improved public awareness regarding available treatments were highlighted. It was noted that there has been a significant uptick in COVID-19 cases since late August.

OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm. Next meeting will take place on November 19, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

ACTION ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

N/A