

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

November 19, 2024

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 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: Erin Streiff, Jody Wenzel, Autumn Thompson, McKailey Lyndaker

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:16 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by R. Curran, and seconded by Dr. Terrence, the minutes from the October 15, 2024 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

Department Highlights

Members were introduced to Jody Wenzel, the county's compliance officer. Jody explained his roles as Risk Manager, Compliance Officer, and Safety Manager, and provided an overview of the updated guidance for compliance plans issued by the Department of Justice. The importance of including compliance updates on the agenda for advisory and governing boards was emphasized by members. Members discussed compliance training updates, with Jody reporting minimal HIPAA breaches this year and high completion rates for training. He noted the successful conduct of live training sessions via Zoom and plans to present to department heads and the Board of Legislators. Jody reiterated his availability for guidance and questions regarding compliance matters.

Erin Streiff provided an update on mosquito surveillance efforts. The plan for the 2025 season includes starting with two sites and expanding later. Members discussed the types of traps, the involvement of local universities in the project, the potential hiring of students, and the coordination with public health for sending specimens to Wadsworth.

A review of tick-borne illnesses highlighted an increase in tick-borne illnesses in 2024. Members discussed the challenges of diagnosing and treating these illnesses, variations in Lyme rashes, and the importance of proper diagnosis and treatment, including the need for increased awareness among medical providers.

Members received an update on the previously discussed flu vaccine program for dairy farm workers there were 83 planned vaccinations, with 60 being administered ultimately.

Updates on the early intervention system (EI-Hub) reiterated ongoing concerns regarding payment disruptions and the sustainability of the EI-Hub, including the potential loss of providers.

Members discussed the recent hiring of four vacant positions and the ongoing need for public health nurses. A proposal for an annual employee of the year award was suggested to recognize outstanding contributions. The importance of competitive salaries and union support to address pay disparities were also mentioned.

Members reviewed draft revisions to the sanitary code, including meeting date updates and penalties. The inclusion of a permit section for potential future use was discussed, along with concerns about the potential workload for the sanitarian. The need for flexibility in the sanitary code to address various public health issues was emphasized. Members received updates on the water and sewage sections. Emphasis was placed on defining nuisances as serious threats to health or life. Members discussed the need for policies and procedures to complement the sanitary code. Members also reviewed revisions to the bylaws, including citations of public health law and updates to align with the sanitary code. Discussions included the election of officers and the possibility of rotating positions to ensure broad participation. The involvement and scope of work of the department's medical director was discussed.

OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS

N/A

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session began at 7:37 pm - all non-members were excused.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm. The next meeting will take place on December 17, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

ACTION ITEMS FOR FOLLOW-UP

N/A