

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
February 12, 2020
(rescheduled from February 18, 2020)

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, in the One Stop Career Center – Classroom A, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kevin Acres, Dr. Gregory Healey

OTHERS PRESENT: Dana Olzenak McGuire, Director; Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant; Jolene Munger, Deputy Director of PH; Jenesse Watson, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; Kindra Cousineau, Public Health Nurse; Dr. Christopher Comeau, Medical Director; Madelyn McGuire, RN, University of Massachusetts student.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Andrew Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by J. Rafter, and seconded by N. Potter, the minutes from the January 21, 2020 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

Introductions of BOH members and staff were made for Dr. Comeau, PH Medical Director.

Madelyn McGuire, RN, University of Massachusetts student in the BSN program was in attendance to observe. Shared she graduated from SUNY Canton and moved back to the area last April.

Action Items from January 21, 2020:

Bylaws will be updated with track changes applied and sent to members for final review.

- This was done.

Upon motion by J. Scillieri Smith, seconded by J. Rafter, and unanimously carried, Board of Health members approved updates to the bylaws.

Naloxone letters will be sent to members with track changes applied for final review.

- This was done. See discussion below under “Pharmacy Letters.”

Send email to members about rescheduling the Tuesday, February 18, 2020 BOH meeting to the following week, on Tuesday, February 25, 2020.

- This was done. The meeting was then changed to Wednesday, February 12, 2020.

Dana will compile information for Dr. Williams to share at the medical society meeting regarding the developed pharmacy information.

- This was not done. Dana will compile for the next medical society meeting.

2019 novel Coronavirus: Dana McGuire/Kindra Cousineau

We are updating the Isolation and Quarantine plan. We are working to find quarantine places if needed. Individuals considered “low risk” are those who have traveled in the last (14) days. Individuals considered “high risk” are coming from Wuhan. These individuals are coming through (11) different airports in the United States – they are quarantined off the plane. If individuals have no symptoms, they will be transported back to their counties. St. Lawrence County may get some of these individuals. Quarantine could take place at the individual’s home, but if they cannot remain separate from family members, they will need to be moved to an alternate location. We have called area motels, hotels, and colleges to see if they could help us. There have been few locations that have agreed – (1) motel, (1) Air BNB and possibly one or two rooms on a college campus. Those quarantined would be individuals who are not sick, but would be monitored on a daily basis (temps, etc.). If they become sick, they will be taken to a hospital. There was a discussion regarding negative pressure rooms and portable HEPA units Claxton Hepburn Medical Center (CHMC) has (2) portable HEPA units and Canton Potsdam Hospital (CPH) also has (2) units, (1) in the Emergency Department (ED)/ (1) in the Critical Care Unit (CCU)*See chart below. Once individuals are dischargeable (within 14 days) they would be quarantined. If they are past the (14) days they would not be quarantined. Dr. Williams noted the capacity from a medical standpoint is limited.

Hospital	Number of Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms	Airborne Infection Isolation Room Surge Capacity
Canton-Potsdam Hospital	2	2
Claxton-Hepburn Hospital	2	0
Clifton-Fine Hospital	0	0
Gouverneur Hospital	1	0
Massena Hospital	3	0
TOTAL	8	2
TOTAL NUMBER OF AIIRs + SURGE AIIRs = 10		

We are working with Steve Button to update the Isolation and Quarantine Plan and get necessary contracts together. We are finding out what the borders are doing – we have (2) ports here. Jolene shared there is new guidance, which is the same protocol for screening. Individuals crossing the border from China are being screening for travel dates. They are taken to a private garage where port personnel (equipped with donning protective gear) and asked questions. Their next call would be to us. We are working with Emergency Medical Services agencies in the area to take temperatures. We would receive contact information of travelers – some individuals may not be from St. Lawrence County. The border would contact the public health department. If individuals are from a different county, we would notify that county. If they are going home, we would need to know if there is an appropriate quarantine location. Jolene will be visiting the ports in Massena and Ogdensburg.

There has been a lot of conversations regarding the isolation/quarantine process. We are putting the plan and contracts in place that we did not have. The current isolation and quarantine plan is from 2014-2015. There is an involuntary order which would come from the Board of Health or Designee. We are drafting this for the Board of Health to review. Dana is the current designee. We are using a plan from Onondaga (full service) to draft our plan. We are the only partial service county with a Board of Health.

The following plans/contracts have been sent to Steve Button for review: Isolation and Quarantine Plan, Border Plan, Quarantine Location and Transport/EMS contracts.

Jenesse passed around demographic information on the coronavirus from the World Health Organization. Dr. Williams asked where in the United States people are being housed. Dana noted there are 2 individuals in quarantine, both at their home. Jessica R asked what the protocol is for these individuals. Dana noted the initial contact is to be made directly to assess the individual's residence to make sure they can safely quarantine. We will be contacting them twice daily by phone and Face Time to assess their temperature, cough, and shortness of breath, medications taken (antipyretics), abdominal pain, or any other symptoms. We are responsible to make sure all their daily needs are met, such as food, mental health, etc. The question we still have is what Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is needed. We also have no guidance on a cleaning policy for during or after quarantine.

Individuals requiring isolation/quarantine need to be provided with the following: cable/Wi-Fi, private bathroom, a cooking area and mental health counseling (available through SKYPE).

Over the weekend (22) counties outside of NYC were notified they needed to contact (188) people. Kindra noted with the recent internet/phone outage on Saturday, February 8, 2020, it was difficult to make the needed contact within 24 hours. Noted the current data being provided is not clear. People identified were not necessarily someone with recent travel to China, or from Mainland China. The data has been challenging to get through. We will continue to receive notifications of travelers returning back to the US from Mainland China and will be responsible to make contact within the 24 hours and implement volunteer quarantine with daily monitoring of temperatures and symptoms.

Kindra shared the following data: 44% of patients presented with fever, 90% had a fever at some time during illness, 70% had cough, 70% had lymphopenia, 76% had pneumonia with ground glass opacities and 29% were negative on radiology.

Dr. Williams asked how we are communicating with the universities. It was noted there is (1) student (quarantined on campus) – specimens were sent for testing and the results were negative. The colleges are managing their own students. The NYSDOH provided a webinar for colleges on Friday, February 7, 2020. Clarkson University and SUNY Canton have not gotten back to us with any concerns. SUNY Potsdam and St. Lawrence University have contacted us with questions.

Kindra shared the policy and procedure for conservative measures. It is recommended to remove mask displays and put a sign up that states “if you are ill see the nurse” – then hand them a mask. Dana noted we are on back order for full face shields.

Kindra noted we have received calls from daycares and day habs. The name has been changed to COVID-19. When they refer to the virus it will be called SARS cov-2.

Dr. Williams asked about the emergency plan the Public Health Department will go through. It was noted we will determine resources, etc. Dr. Comeau asked how we are keeping people updated on information. Dana will send an email to the Board of Health members and Dr. Comeau. Noted if Dr. Comeau has information he could send it to the Board of Health members and Dana.

Jessica R noted there seems to be communication county to county, but what about state to state? It was noted for state to state communication it would be provided by the state's Department of Health – for example, the Vermont Department of Health would contact the New York State Department of Health.

Pharmacy Letters

Both letters were discussed. The packaging letter was placed on Board of Health letterhead and the pharmacy letter was placed on the Public Health letterhead. A suggestion was made to increase the size of the font on the pharmacy letter. The font size will be changed. The letters will be printed for signatures.

Upon motion by J. Scillieri Smith, seconded by N. Potter, and unanimously carried, Board of Health members approved the pharmacy naloxone letters.

Sanitarian Case Update: Dana Olzenak McGuire

There are no significant cases to report with the exception of a neighbor dispute where one neighbor used a drone to take pictures of the other's yard. There was an issue with the septic system overflowing into his yard. He showed the video to her and the code officer. Dana told him she would come out again when the snow melted to look at things. Noted the family who previously lived next to him moved away due to him. The new family had the leach field redone.

We received another call regarding roaches at the Gouverneur School. The Health Office reported it being the same student, finding roaches on him and his backpack. Dana asked if there were a caseworker on this situation. No calls have been returned. There have also been calls for heat and nuisance issues.

Dana shared interviews for the PH Sanitarian position have concluded. There were (4) good candidates. An employment offer has been made to one of the candidates. We will know by Friday, February 14, 2020 if she accepts the position.

Emergency Preparedness Drill – February 5, 2020: Jenesse Watson

This year the drill was a full scale asset distribution drill. We partnered with the St. Lawrence County Jail and St. Lawrence University. The drill went well. There was a lot of feedback from those involved. She will be hosting a hotwash on Friday, February 14, 2020. There are a few areas to improve on for the next drill (ex: directions for flow, parking). Inventory was input into an online system called MERITS, which communicates directly with the State. Not many counties have started using this system yet, but trainings are being offered to encourage counties to adapt to this system. She will attend a training to gain knowledge of the program being sent out. Participation in the drill was great. Some individuals commented they were excited about being involved. She will complete the After Action Plan and Improvement Plan, which will be sent to the State. She will continue to work on other deliverables.

Other Items and Questions:

On Thursday, February 6, 2020, the Hepatitis A vaccine was provided to the staff at the SLC Jail. Next Friday, February 21, 2020 it will be provided for the inmates. We will also be holding clinics for county departments, beginning with those who deal with high risk clients: Probation, Sheriff, Dept. of Social Services, Community Services, and Office for the Aging. A press release will be sent out. A presentation on Hepatitis A will be provided for county departments.

Jenesse shared she attended a meeting at Gouverneur Hospital. She brought (4) flyers: Hepatitis A, Handwashing, Lead Poisoning and Novel Coronavirus. Many individuals asked for more

information and education. They asked if someone could come and promote the Hepatitis A vaccine for those working with the high risk population. She discussed with Dana and Jolene on how to persuade administrations at the hospitals to get this one.

Dr. Williams asked if we should be offering the combination vaccine (Hep A and B). Kindra noted we are not using the combination vaccine. The Hepatitis A vaccine is 95% effective after one dose for (11) years. The Hepatitis B vaccine (3 separate doses) requires the individual to come back for at least the 2nd dose.

Dana shared the St. Lawrence County Jail will be set up to be their own provider of vaccines. There was a question regarding what was happening inside the State prisons for vaccinations. Dana will see if she can find out.

Kindra provided statistics for the flu: 17,332 cases reported (49% A and 51% B). This is the 2nd highest week reported – 2 years ago it was 18,000.

There has been discussion of hosting a First Responder night for them to come and be vaccinated. Dana noted if your employment puts you at risk of Hepatitis B your insurance cannot be billed. It was noted some vaccines are required for employment. Public Health requires Hepatitis B, not Hepatitis A.

OTHER BUSINESS

No Other Business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

ACTIONS ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

1. Show NYIIS information on the large screen for members (from January 21st meeting).
2. Draft Isolation and Quarantine plan.
3. What is happening inside State prisons regarding vaccinations?