

# ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

## April 21, 2020

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, April 21, 2020, in the Large Conference Room (via teleconference), Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** (via teleconference) Kevin Acres, Dr. Gregory Healey, Nancy Potter, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Dr. Andrew Williams

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jessica Rafter

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dana Olzenak McGuire, Director; Jolene Munger, Deputy Director of PH; Alivia Sheffield, PH Sanitarian.

### CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Andrew Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Upon motion by G. Healey, and seconded by N. Potter, the minutes from the March 17, 2020 meeting were approved.**

### PUBLIC COMMENT

**No Public Comment.**

#### **Action Items from March 17, 2020:**

Show NYIIS information on the large screen for members. (from January 21, 2020)

- This is postponed for now.

Draft a letter to colleges regarding plans for the return of students to campus.

- This was done.

Provide feedback on information received from colleges.

- We are not invited to their weekly municipality conference call.

Draft a letter for families and service providers for the Early Intervention and Preschool programs.

- This is postponed for now.

#### **2019 novel Coronavirus:**

Update given by Director of Public Health, Dana Olzenak McGuire

- Tomorrow (April 22, 2020) is the 4-week mark.
- Currently have (128) cases, (2) more cases for tomorrow. Since March 25, 2020, we have had new cases every day except for two (April 16 and today).
- Not at peak yet, but with talk of reopening, the public gets mixed messages on what that means.
- Issues with reporting coming through the state Health Commerce System (HCS). The hospitals are getting information first; it may be the lab does the reporting on HCS in batches and some labs do not report to HCS. We are working with labs to fax the information to us and do reporting in HCS when they cannot, so we can get the information in a timely manner.

- Hotlines have begun for individuals to call St. Lawrence Health System (SLHS) and the Public Health Department for testing. This is a change from where we were a week ago – we need to public to understand they can get tested. We need to change the provider’s point of view as well.
- Radio advertisements and signs on county road about social distancing, essential travel only, handwashing, cough hygiene.
- Staffing:
  - All staff are still in the department, spread out on both sides of the hall, working 8 am to 6 pm schedules.
  - We have volunteers from other county departments and two external volunteers (2 BOH members).
  - We have lots of different groups in the department that make it a success – contact tracing, making the first calls, sending orders, quarantine calls, etc., some staff just to make sure everything is being done. Most people are taking on work they have never done before.
- Working with nursing homes and group homes for consultation; trying to get a meeting set up. We want to be on the conference call so we can answer questions we get on a regular basis.

Group discussion on COVID-19 included case clusters, serologic testing, increasing PCR testing, St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center, nursing homes, colleges, testing in surrounding counties, community re-opening, telemedicine, testing anxiety

Additional discussion on where individuals should stay when they are not sick enough for a hospital, but not well enough to go back home.

- Potential places may include an empty facility in Rensselaer Falls and empty United Helpers Adult Home in Ogdensburg.

**Other Items and Questions: N/A**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

No Other Business.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session.

### **ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2020 at 6:00 pm.**  
(via teleconference)

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

1. Add Board of Health to weekly municipality calls.