Those attending: Ms. Cobb Cobb, Richard Edwards, Ruth Fishbeck, Brian Gardam, Edward Goldstein, Bruce Stone, Patricia Ward, Becky Trejos, Susan Britton and Laurie Maki

**Minutes of Previous Meeting (3/13/07):** Revisions to page 4: Section B – End 1st sentence after 1993. Delete the with 5 programs. Revision to page 5 – 3rd full paragraph, 3rd sentence changed to read – Public Health does some services and contracts out for evaluations.

At a 4/23/07 presentation to the Services Committee Mr. Serafin presented several items for their consideration. The following is a review of changes and/or issues since the 03/13/07 Health Services Advisory Board meeting.

1.) Organization Chart: Mr. Serafin distributed copies of a revised Public Health Organizational chart to members present today, noting that the one he inherited was unintelligible. He has determined, and has presented to Services Committee, that an agency this size does not require a Deputy Director position and has recommended that the position be abolished. He has created a Director of Preventive Services position. The staff member receiving this promotion (if recommendation all goes through) has been handling responsibilities equal to those of the Director of Patient Services. He has also proposed that the CHN position be upgraded to Supervisor of Children’s services. He believes this new organizational chart to be totally transparent and is a map of the Public Health Department. He asked members not to place this chart in circular file but to hang on to it for future reference.

2.) Mr. Serafin explained that the Board of Legislators also acts as the Board of Health as outlined in Section 356 of the Public Health Laws. Last time the Board of Health was convened was in the late 70’s when there was a rabies crisis. The Board of Legislators at that time adjourned and went into their session as a Board of Health. At the 4/23/07 meeting he pointed out to the BOL this very important role they have. Especially in this BT era, we have to think out and plan. It may be morbid but necessary to think about what happens if a BT attack or pandemic flu strikes this county, to include temporary morgues and mass burial sites. The County needs to think these things out and get organized. With this in mind, Mr. Ron Heerkens, Regional Director of the NYS Department of Health will be addressing the BOL Services Committee at their June 18th meeting. Mr. Serafin also suggested a subcommittee on Health would be beneficial. A lot of education needs to be provided not only to County Legislators, but Town and Village Officials as well as to the residents of St. Lawrence County.

3.) Grants – Mr. Serafin reported that Ms. Cobb, upon his arrival as Interim Director had flagged some possible grant opportunities for him to review. Public Health is working on a two part grant proposal along with the SLC Health Initiative Program and SLC Chamber of Commerce to be funded in the amount of $20,000. The grant objective is to assist uninsured and under insured residents of SLC. If funded, this grant will bond with area hospitals to help people pay bills. The County Chamber will establish a data base of businesses and contact them regarding insurance coverage for their employees, the County Clerk’s office will provide the chamber with contacts for all new businesses within the county. Provider packets will be
made up and distributed. Our letter of intent needs to be submitted by June 26th.
Grant #2 ties us in with high tech Telemedicine. We wrote a letter of support and we are in. The fiber optic capabilities will be most useful, if the grant is approved.

4.) Scholarship Program: Four applicants will be presented for scholarship awards. 3 Nursing and 1 Dental at a $1,000 per year. The Dental and two of the Nursing awards will be for a period of four years, and one nursing award for a two year period. The main objective of the scholarship awards is to have the students remain in St. Lawrence County upon graduation. A discussion followed on the current State Education Law limitations of the professions that may apply for scholarships. The consensus of the group is that the career fields need to be broadened. Mr. Gruda would like to see a category for pharmacist included in the categories eligible to apply.

5.) Dr. Goldstein noted that, with the shortage of nurses, revamping the scholarship program is important. He expressed concerns regarding the nursing shortage and issues at the SLC County jail. As a provider he does not feel it is a good situation. Pat Ward expressed her concerns on why Public Health should not be supervising the nurses; they are their own medical unit. There was discussion on how Public Health only receives 5.76% reimbursement from the State for the two current positions we have there. Ms. Cobb suggested that a committee be formed to look at the situation especially with a new jail being constructed.

6) PALLIATIVE CARE PILOT PROJECT: Brian explained that Hospice of Central New York and the Onondaga County Department of Social Services want to participate in a Medicaid pilot project for a palliative homecare network. Under this demo project they would be able to provide care for advanced illness for Medicaid clients. They would identify clients with multiple things going on such as congestive heart failure, lung disease, etc. SLC DSS has identified 20 people who are eligible now. The program would take up to 30 participants per year. The State up fronts the demo and county receives a percentage. This would be different from Hospice funds as under Hospice they can not use government dollars for anyone not within last 6 months of life. They are trying to get this bar removed.

7.) PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS.

I. Tobacco Program – Laurie Maki explained that prior to 2000 the St. Lawrence County Tobacco Program piggybacked off of Jefferson County but since 2000 St. Lawrence County Public Health Department has held the tobacco grant independent of Jefferson County. Sue Britton explained that St. Lawrence County is fortunate to have 5 tobacco grants within the county.

Breakdown of the grants is as follows:

1. St. Lawrence County Public Health Department holds the NYS Bureau of Tobacco Community Partnership Grant which we have entitled “St. Lawrence County Tobacco Free Coalition/ Community Partnership”
2. Seaway Valley Prevention Council holds the following tobacco grants:
   - Reality Check
3. The Tobacco Cessation of Northern New York holds the Tobacco Cessation Services Grant and offers cessation services within St. Lawrence County.

The St. Lawrence County Tobacco Free Coalition is the core of county tobacco efforts hosting meetings with our tobacco partners, listed above, as well as many other members representing local school administrators, private citizens, medical professionals, and a lung cancer survivor. We meet monthly from September through July to plan, encourage, and assist one another as we move forward in tobacco education and change.

The St. Lawrence County Tobacco Free Coalition Community Partnership grant is held by our County Health Department and coordinated by Sue Britton. The program is grant funded by the NYS Bureau of Tobacco with the focus on the demoralizing of tobacco in our society. The following are the New York State Bureau of Tobacco Control Program goals in which our work plan addresses.

The Goals:
- Eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Decrease the social acceptability of tobacco use.
- Promote cessation from tobacco use.
- Prevent the initiation of tobacco use among youth and young adults.

The following is a list of accomplishments from August 2006-July 2007:
- Smoke free beach policies signed: Cranberry Lake Beach, Postwood Beach, Sylvia Beach, and Sandstoner Beach
- Municipality Resolutions signed encouraging retailers to reduce their tobacco advertising: Village Boards of Canton, Potsdam, Massena, Heuvelton and the Town of Clifton
- Smoke Free Hospital Grounds Policy: EJ Noble Hospital and Kinney Nursing Home, Claxton Hepburn and Massena Memorial Hospitals planning on going smoke free grounds on 11/15/2007
- Tobacco Sponsorship and Promotion Policies signed: Seaway Valley Prevention Council; 1050 WYBG; Tree of Life Midwifery & Women’s Health; Canton Optical; Kimro’s Medicine Place; Econo Fuels; Edwards Family Health Center; Potsdam Co-op; St. Lawrence County Health Initiative; McDuffs; Phi Kappa Pi Sorority @ SUNY Potsdam College and International Jr. Carp Tournament
- We have also just held our 1ST Annual Community Recognition Event on April 4, 2007 honoring those personal and community tobacco efforts.

In December 2006 our first Community Tobacco Survey of Adult Residents of St. Lawrence County was completed by an independent evaluator with overwhelming support for local community tobacco efforts. Our plan is to repeat this survey in December 2008 to evaluate our efforts once again.

Another important part of our grant is to meet with our local and state elected officials to put a face to our grant, thank them and update them on our progress. These efforts promote grant “sustainability”.
We are currently at the end of another grant year as of July 31st and have a NYS DOH Bureau of Tobacco approved grant and work plan for 2007-2008.

II. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROGRAM:
Becky Trejos explained some of the State mandates for county reporting. There are approximately 140 reportable diseases. Reporting standards vary by diseases. Four local hospital labs have the ability for reporting electronically. Clifton Fine does not.

Better reporting, better testing shows increase in numbers. Becky phones physicians to confirm diagnosis reported from hospitals and then contacts the client. Follow-up is mandated for STD, Rabies, TB and Communicable Diseases to assure they have been treated. A representative from NYS makes contact with STD clients to assure protocol has been followed and clients are treated. Becky reported that approximately 200 letters a year are mailed in regards to Hepatitis C. Follow ups are done on chronic or acute cases for reporting purposes. Public Health is currently promoting Tdap and Pertussis vaccines. Becky pointed out that TB on prisoners is not on our statistic sheets, everything else is.

8) District Department of Health – Mr. Stone explained that the New York State Department of Health located at 58 Gouverneur Street in Canton has 15 operations under its assigned district. They have staff for environmental health: 1 Engineer, and 4 primary sanitarians. NYS DOH Regional staff completes inspections to assure compliance with State Sanitary Codes within its jurisdiction.

9) The next meeting will be on September 11, 2007 in the large conference room of the Human Services Building in Canton.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sherry Cryderman
Recording Secretary