ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
MARCH 21, 2017

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 in the Public Health Department Library, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617

MEMBERS PRESENT:  Dr. Andrew Williams, Nancy Potter, Todd Wells, John Burke

MEMBERS ABSENT:  Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, Dr. Gregory Healey

OTHERS PRESENT:  James Rich, Director of Public Health; Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant; Dr. Kathleen Terrence (prospective member), Kindra Cousineau, Wil Neves, Rochelle Pratt, Michele Levac (Public Health Staff members)

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Andrew Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by J. Burke, and seconded by N. Potter, the minutes from the November 15, 2016 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Tobacco 21: Jim shared he, County Attorney Stephen Button, John Burke and Emma Spencer an intern from Clarkson University have been working with the Seaway Valley Prevention Council on the Tobacco 21 law. A copy of the law resolution was distributed for review. Jim explained the process and duration.

John Burke was asked what he thought the likelihood was of the Tobacco 21 law getting passed at the Full Board Meeting. His response was mixed. There needs to be a public show of support with professional backing. Shared there is a public comment section at the beginning of the Full Board meeting for those who wish to attend and speak (5 minutes per person).

Jim noted this law would not prohibit parents from purchasing cigarette products for their children. It would only prohibit individuals who are under 21 years of age from purchasing cigarette products themselves from businesses.

John Burke shared cigarette smoking has decreased for individuals under the age of 18, but the use of E-cigarettes has increased significantly.

Dr. Andrew Williams shared he will be meeting with Beth Gero, Tobacco Cessation Coordinator, tomorrow and will ask her if she would be willing to attend and speak at the Full Board meeting.

Fiscal: Jim shared this is a tough year fiscally. Noted getting approval to fill vacancies is difficult. No money is to be wasted.
Jim shared the vacant position of Deputy Public Health Director (changed from Director of Preventive Services) vacated last August/2016 was just approved.

Jim shared the 2016 Community Health Improvement Plan/Community Health Assessment can be found on the Public Health Department website. A hard copy was passed around for review. The CHIP/CHA was developed in conjunction with numerous agencies.

There are (3) target areas: Obesity, Opioid Epidemic and tobacco use.

**Obesity:** working to reduce obesity for children and adults. Will meet with school Wellness Committees to look at their wellness policies – focus on intervention and prevention to provide access to the facilities during non-core hours.

**Complete Streets:** Massena has passed their Complete Street policy. Canton does not have a policy, but did follow the Complete Street guidelines when Main Street was redone.

**Opioid Epidemic:** The Seaway Valley Prevention Council sent surveys to approximately 70 agencies regarding the opioid epidemic. They are analyzing the results. They are looking at possibly forming a task force.

**Tobacco:** working with Seaway Valley Prevention Council and Tobacco 21.

Jim shared he is looking at possibly creating a Health Education Coordinator position within the Public Health Department.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the need for pediatric dental services that are kid friendly. Dr. Terrence noted due to not having pediatric dental services available for young children, she sends her patients for services outside the county. Dr. Williams noted his office took over the dental sealant program from the Public Health Department about 3 years ago. They have (4) dentists on staff, and have performed more dental sealant than the Public Health Department did prior.

Dr. Williams shared a “Recess for Success” presentation was given to school superintendents. There was noted improvement of student performance on standardized testing. Dr. Terrence noted Potsdam School is doing a wonderful job with activities – crafts, etc.

John Burke suggested drafting some suggestions. He is struggling with measurability and what the end result would be. Feels the first step is to compile what each district is doing. Jim noted all districts are required to have wellness policies, but some may be outdated. John Burke asked if Jim could have some data by the next meeting. Kindra Cousineau shared Tom Burns would have access this data.

Kindra Cousineau shared the drug problem is a big issue. They have seen an increase in Hep C cases and babies being born addicted, etc.

Rochelle Pratt noted the Public Health Department has lost staff that had a wealth of knowledge. We have no Health Educator. Individuals have taken on roles/duties and are still learning. Taking on more work is huge. There are individuals looking to retire soon. These are things the Public Health Department should be looking at, but we are trying to keep up with the programs we have now. Noted there are very few nurses left. Feels the big issue is the drugs. Hep C cases have increased – there are no needle exchanges – feels we need to fix the drug issues first.
Jim distributed copies of the Total Amish Vaccinated Chart. Noted staff did a good job. Rochelle Pratt shared (14) Amish children and parents will receive tetanus shots tomorrow. Michele Levac noted old records have been found on Amish members who received vaccinations years ago. Letters will be sent to see if they want to receive the shots again.

Upon motion by members present, it was agreed to forward Dr. Kathleen Terrence’s Bio Data Sheet to the Board of Legislators for membership approval on the Board of Health.

OTHER BUSINESS

No Other Business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The regular Board meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm. All non-Board members were excused. Executive Session began at 7:45 pm and adjourned at 8:15 pm.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Upon motion by N. Potter, seconded by T. Wells, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm. Next meeting will April 18, 2017 at 6:00 pm.