ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

June 20, 2017

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Andrew Williams, Nancy Potter, John Burke, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, Dr. Gregory Healey

MEMBERS ABSENT: Todd Wells, Dr. Kathleen Terrence

OTHERS PRESENT: James Rich, Director of Public Health; Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant; Kindra Cousineau, Wil Neves and Michele Levac (Public Health Staff).

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Andrew Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by J. Scillieri Smith, and seconded by J. Burke, the minutes from the May 16, 2017 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

GUEST SPEAKER

Jason Pfontenhauer from the Planning Office gave a presentation on “Complete Streets.” A lengthy discussion followed. Members voiced their concerns and ideas for future plans for “Complete Streets.”

DIRECTORS REPORT

Complete Streets: Jim thought the “rails with trails” (CSX railways) between Potsdam and Canton was a good idea. Noted there was no enforcement of complete streets. Ex: Ogdensburg does not enforce the shoving of the city sidewalks by resident owners. If a fee was charged for non-compliance, this fee could be used to maintain the routes for walkers/bikers. A comparison should be done to see what other towns/villages do in these circumstances. Dr. Healey is against snowmobiles/ATVs using the trails – lots of accidents/deaths have occurred because individuals think they can take the trails to avoid getting a DWI, etc. Dr. Williams feels the trails should be used for walking/biking in the summer and maintained for individuals to ski/snowmobile in the winter.

Members were asked what the BOH felt their role was in this area for a healthier lifestyle? Dr. Healey suggested repurposing the streets. Members will be sent an email with action items to think about and reply with thoughts/ideas.

Early Intervention caseloads are increasing which makes cross training a challenge. Noted a request to abolish the Quality Assurance Coordinator/Corporate Compliance Officer position and create a Community Health Nurse position (budget neutral) to help with the increasing caseloads was presented to
the BOL last week. Jim also requested to fill this position prior to the upcoming retirement/vacancy to have someone trained before losing this individual.

Cross training is taking place with the Rabies Program, but it is a learning curve. The busy time of year for rabies issues is upon us. There has been some redesign in the Rabies program – hospitals are now providing post exposure treatment. Kindra noted a recent issue with a doctor not being able to prescribe medication/treatment for an individual due to not being affiliated with the hospital proving post exposure treatment. Asked if Dr. Williams/Dr. Healey would be able to help out if needed. Dr. Williams agreed.

Immunization Program has made contact with an Amish family of 12 in North Lawrence. On June 26, 2017, the nurses will be administering Tdap/Tetanus shots for these individuals. Jim noted the upgrade of an individual to the Public Health Aide position seems to be going well – helps with the nursing and billing staff.

Immunization Action Plan is to work with the WIC clinics – meeting scheduled for June 30, 2017. Plan is to meet with the parents in attendance at the WIC clinics to see if their children are up-to-date on their vaccinations. A portable printer would be a big help. Dr. Williams noted he could arrange for printers.

North Country Migrant Education Program had about 30 migrant families attend their recent picnic. Information on lead testing rates for children was distributed.

The TB patient is seen for Direct Observation Treatment (DOT) Monday – Friday. Medication is self-administered on Saturday and Sunday. Awaiting results of x-rays for (2) other individuals. If positive, the 12-week DOT therapy will be offered. Dr. Williams asked if cell phones were being used for monitoring? (face-time). Kindra noted this case is in a dead zone and the individual does not speak English. Relani Prudhomme was contacted and facilitated translation. The informational material was given, but the individual did not understand it, due to having only a 3rd grade reading level. Dr. Scillieri Smith shared there are free Spanish translation services available for migrant farm workers – she will send the list to Shannon.

Two employees recently attended the Zika training given in Albany on June 7th and June 8th.

The option of contracting STD services is being explored. Contracting STD services would provide time available for more outreach work. Overall impact to the county and staff will be determined. The law says services need to exist, but at what level? Kindra noted Planned Parenthood is facing budget cuts – noted qualified clinics might be a better avenue. Asked Dr. Williams if his office might be able to help in this area. Jim will create a list of pros/cons of contracting STD services for the BOH’s review.

**Tobacco 21 Update:** Dr. Healey attended the Tobacco 21 Public Hearing on June 5, 2017. He shared the actions and comments of Kevin Acres/Chair of the Board of Legislators. John Burke noted there were others who tried to save face. Shared the Legislators were giving ample opportunity to make changes to the legislation (wording of the law). Ruth Doyle/County Administrator and Stephen Button/County Attorney would have been the enforcing bodies of the law. It was noted 99% of establishments are in compliance, which means very little enforcement would have been needed. It was noted some Legislators were against taking the privilege away, but were in favor of raising the price – interpretation meaning they were not thinking of the individuals, only the money.

John Burke asked if the BOH would be doing anything further on the Tobacco 21 Law? It was noted the State would probably pass the law statewide. Noted 2018 is the next election for Legislators.
Dr. Williams asked if anyone had the statements of Kevin Acres. John Burke shared the meetings are recorded and available on the county website. It was noted Janelle Jacobsen had offered to write a strategy, but this is a busy time of year for her.

Jim asked what members felt the next step should be? Jessica Scillieri Smith noted strategic planning – listing of the top 10 goals. Jim will send out the CHIP to members for review of goals.

John Burke suggested writing letters to the editor regarding Tobacco 21 and other issues. Short letters, but do it often. Felt the Legislators should have done their homework and read the information/statistics that were presented. We should continue to educate the legislators - bombard them with information.

Dr. Healey stated Legislators voted 11-4 against the Tobacco 21 Law – feels individuals need to speak with their Legislators – go directly to the people of the county.

Jim will draft a letter and send it to Dr. Healey and John Burke for review/changes.

OTHER BUSINESS

No Other Business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The regular Board meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm. All non-Board members were excused. Executive Session began at 8:12 pm and adjourned at 8:35 pm.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Upon motion by J. Scillieri Smith, seconded by N. Potter, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm. Next meeting will September 19, 2017 at 6:00 pm.