ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
October 17, 2017

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, John Burke, Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Todd Wells, Nancy Potter

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Andrew Williams, Dr. Gregory Healey

OTHERS PRESENT: Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant; Anne Marie Snell, Health Initiative; Brigette Sanderson and Rebecca Allen (Public Health Staff).

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by K. Terrence, and seconded by T. Wells, the minutes from the September 19, 2017 meeting were approved.

Public Health Director Search Update – Ruth Doyle, County Administrator: County Administrator was not in attendance, but provided a written update that was distributed to members for review. Upon review of the written updates there were some questions/concerns regarding the timeliness of receiving the updates and the lack of actual information in the update. The dates given for the Search Committee to review resumes is short notice (next week). Some BOH members felt the resumes could have been emailed to them for review once the October 6, 2017 deadline was reached. October 23, 2017 seemed to be the best day for the members who were in attendance.

Additional requests not addressed in update:

- Delegating to find 2-3+ individuals to put together a map of positions (vacant also) and responsibilities (organizational chart) for each position before the next BOH meeting.
- Requesting update on what positions are currently vacant and where these positions are in the process of being filled.

Dr. Scillieri Smith noted there needs to be a better staffing update from the County Administrator. Suggested an organizational chart showing the tentative duties being covered by others for the vacant positions, along with a list of items that are getting done and those that are lacking. A list of what is needed and who is doing what. She feels it needs to come from the department as a reflection of the department. John Burke mentioned asking Kindra Cousineau and Renae Johnson to give updates on what is needed.

Village of Potsdam – Fluoridation: Informational paperwork was distributed to members for review and discussion. Included in the paperwork was an email and article sent from the previous director to the BOH members in August, suggesting the consideration of a letter to the village depending on how the BOH members felt about the topic.

After some discussion, members agreed they are in favor of fluoridation and in agreement with drafting a letter to the Village of Potsdam. Dr. Williams was not in attendance. Dr. Scillieri Smith will provide him
an update and ask him to draft a letter. It was also noted the possibility of contacting a local dentist (Dr. Akin) to see if there is something the BOH can do to provide support for them.

In the meantime, members are requesting some statistics/data, if available, on towns with fluoridation vs. towns without and possibly those who have well water. It was noted an Orthodontist from Massena goes into the schools and may have some data.

Anne Marie Snell noted the “Keep the North Country Smiling Coalition” has access to data and advocacy centers. She will make that connection for the BOH members and email Shannon Beldock information. Shared Steve Jennings is the Public Health Educator for Jefferson County. Noted there is a long list of individuals included on the emails when he disperses information. She is unsure how many of these individuals listed are dentists. Brigette Sanderson will work with Anne Marie to acquire statistical information for the letter to the Village of Potsdam.

It was noted the silent majority needs to become vocal. Maybe the staff at CPH who live in Potsdam can be called upon to support fluoridation and contact the village. Dr. Williams may be able to help with this – possibly a List serve of CPH doctors?

Anne Marie Snell shared the Seaway Valley Prevention Council (SVPC) has received a small about of funding to hire a consultant. In December they will be bringing providers together for a (1) day workshop on enhancing our network to better work as a community to provide services.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rebecca Allen, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Brigette Sanderson, Community Health Educator introduced themselves. They are both happy to be here.

During the discussion on needing an update on how the PH Department is functioning, John Burke asked Rebecca Allen if she could elaborate. Rebecca noted that staff members are working hard to stay on top of things. The department is extremely short staffed. Noted employees seemed to be meshing well together and doing what needs to be done. Overall, going very well. Could it be smoother or better – less burdensome – yes it could. Rebecca then deferred the question to Shannon Beldock.

Shannon Beldock gave update on what positions are currently vacant (Financial Investigator, Senior Account Clerk, Account Clerk Typist), noting there are only (3) individuals to provide billing coverage. The RN position has been approved to be filled. Noted individuals have been moved around in an effort to try and cover the responsibilities of the vacant positions to try to keep things up-to-date. This has caused stress and frustration – there is not enough time to cover all responsibilities with the limited staff. The QA/Compliance Officer position was mentioned – this position was abolished. The understanding was the County Administrator was looking at creating a position to cover all county agencies as a whole, not just the Public Health Department and Community Services Department.

During the discussion on the Public Health Director applicants, John Burke said he heard that Rebecca Allen knew one of the applicants. Asked her to share information regarding this individual. Rebecca said she worked with the individual. Noted she has a PH degree/Masters. She has worked many years in Public Health in a variety of settings. She has been working at the State for years – currently in Albany. She feels she is incredibly competent and knows her stuff – a big picture thinker. John asked if she could share the individual’s first name and last initial – Rebecca said Vicky S.

GUEST SPEAKER

There was no guest speaker.
DIRECTORS REPORT

In the absence of a Public Health Director – no Directors Report.

OTHER BUSINESS

John Burke shared information on a pilot project presentation he felt members might be interested in attending that involves the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). John felt it might be nice to have some input into this presentation. He will be attending. Noted the Governor might be attending the first day. Feels this might be an avenue to share a “wish list” for the county – an opportunity to voice our concerns. He stated Public Health and Community Services are distinct entities – he feels they shouldn’t be. Noted Erin Covell, Guidance Counselor, was granted a year leave of absence to work on this project.

Anne Marie Snell provided the flyer for this presentation (emailed to members). The People Project – North Country Communities – Better Together will take place 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on October 31, 2017 and November 1, 2017 in the Knowles Multipurpose Room, 23 Barrington Drive, at SUNY Potsdam.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The regular Board meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm. All non-Board members were excused.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm. Next meeting will has been rescheduled from November 21, 2017 to November 14, 2017 at 6:00 pm.