The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter typed SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 in the 2nd floor conference room of the Human Services Center, Canton, New York.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Gregory Healey, Nancy Potter, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, Dr. Scott Spicer, Todd Wells, RPh, PharMd, and Dr. Andrew Williams

**PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF PRESENT:** Rosemary Brown, Administrative Assistant; Laurie Maki, Director of Preventive Services; Kindra Cousineau, CHN; Katie Field, RN; Rochelle Pratt, CHN; Brandi Wells, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Janine Giglio, SCHN

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting came to order at 6:05.

Ms. Maki introduced herself and welcomed everyone. She thanked them for attending and representing their prospective health facilities. She introduced the Board of Health and staff from the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department who were present. She then asked everyone to introduce themselves giving their health facility affiliation.

**EBOLA PRESENTATION** – Kindra Cousineau

Ms. Cousineau provided a Power Point regarding the Commissioner’s Orders and Requirements for EVC Preparedness Attachment A.

Questions and answers from that presentation were as follows:

1. Do we have anything in place for involuntary quarantine?

   **Ans.** Yes. If there is an issue with voluntary quarantine, the facility should contact the Sheriff’s Department to detain the individual. Once this
is done, contact the Public Health Department who will immediately seek a court order to order the quarantine.

2. If a person comes to the emergency room with a fever and they are asked to wait and they refuse, what do we do at that time?

**Ans.** Again, call the Sheriff’s Department.

Can we legally hold them?

**Ans.** Yes.

3. Is there any training for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

**Ans.** Yes. There is training video available on HCS which is approximately 20 minutes in length that is very good. The link for the training is included in the handouts.

Doesn’t the New York State Department of Health requires a face-to-face training? Is this going to be acceptable training?

**Ans.** Yes, but you will also be required to have an individual at the training to review and demonstrate procedures in the training video.

4. Has Stericycle agreed to transport medical waste for Public Health and other entities other than hospitals?

**Ans.** We have a call out to Stericycle, but have not had a call back at this time.

5. What are we to do with linens if we suspect contamination?

**Ans.** The recommendation is to utilize disposable linen. You may want to set your quarantine area up with disposable linen in the event it is needed. I have also been told that special packets of linen, gowns, etc. are being put together for sale.

6. Are the funeral directors willing to accept bodies?

**Ans.** Yes.
7. Will the funeral directors transport the body?

**Ans.** Yes

8. Was the signage included in the presentation given to the department to distribute and are health facilities required to use it?

Dr. Healey questioned the wording of “international travel”. He felt it should be more specific to the areas of the outbreak.

**Ans.** We were given the sign to distribute, but we will work on changing the wording to be more specific.

9. If we have a patient that ends up at an urgent care facility or off-site clinic, how will we transport them to an emergency room?

**Ans.** We are working on that. If they are identified as high-risk they will need to be isolated and then contact the Public Health Department.

10. Is an out-patient facility going to be required to keep that patient an extended length of time?

**Ans.** The goal is to have the patient transported within two hours, but we need to locate someone to transport as soon as they receive proper PPE.

11. What should be done if a suspect case is identified in an area of the facility where other persons are present?

**Ans.** First you would log all the names of the persons who were in the presence of the suspect case and then ask them to leave the area as long as there wasn’t any contact with the person. You’re main worry would be contact with any body fluids. We are currently waiting for more guidelines on this situation.

12. If a patient calls the hospital or clinic and feel that they may be a high-risk candidate, what do we do?
**Ans.** Take a message and contact Kindra Cousineau at the Public Health Department. We will then contact the person and ask them to self-isolate until they can be transported.

13. Are potential cases to be held locally?

**Ans.** Yes.

14. What is the turnaround time for the blood tests to determine whether the patient is positive for Ebola?

**Ans.** Approximately six hours. There is no specific packaging for transporting blood samples available at this time. They are currently working to develop it.

Dr. Healey voiced his concern that the requirement to comply with directives from New York State within ten days is like trying to comply with a moving target as directives are arriving daily.

15. Has anything been done for animals?

**Ans.** No. The only animals known to contract Ebola are apes and fruit bats and it has never been seen in cats, dogs, or other species.

16. Will the hospitals be responsible for decontaminating their equipment?

**Ans.** We will ask that question.

17. If the patient has a mild fever and traveled to Africa do we keep them at the hospital?

**Ans.** Once they have symptoms, the New York State Department of Health makes the decision of what they want done with the patient.

18. Does everyone know how to get in touch with the Public Health after hours?

**Ans.** There is a directive in the packets distributed at the beginning of the meeting. We have an on-call number to be used outside our usual business hours which are also listed on the directive.
INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made during the Ebola presentation.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2014 MINUTES

Dr. Healey asked if there were any concerns or corrections to the September 16, 2014 minutes. There were none. Dr. Healey moved to approve the minutes as written. Dr. Williams made the motion and Dr. Scillieri Smith seconded.

COMMUNICATION

There were no communications.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

PERSONNEL

Ms. Maki told the Board that the department was struggling to keep up with the billing and to man all of the department’s clinics. The department no longer has a part-time nurse to help with the clinics. The department did hire a full-time registered nurse, but could still use another.

Ms. Maki was asked if there was another vacancy that could be filled and she replied that she thought there was. She stated she would discuss the need with Chris Boulio, Director of Human Resources.

OTHER

Isolation and Quarantine Protocol

Ms. Wells asked the SLCBOH if there were any further questions regarding the Isolation and Quarantine Protocol included in their Ebola packets. There was discussion regarding the outreach to college students. Also discussed was the difference between monitoring and quarantining.


**Public Health Director Position**

Dr. Healey discussed the interviews held on last Wednesday for the Public Health Director position. He asked if anyone had heard anything from Mr. Boulio. No one had. Mr. Boulio was to ask if the applicants were still interested after the interviews and if they were it would go to the next level which would be to be brought back before the Board to make a decision as a whole.

Dr. Healey also told the Board that there was still not an active search going on.

**Vaccination Information**

Dr. Healey asked Ms. Maki if she had gotten any further with Kinney Drugs, Inc. regarding receiving information on the number of flu and pneumonia vaccinations they were doing. Ms. Maki stated that she was told that a report was sent to the State. Dr. Healey asked Mr. Wells if the Public Health Department could get a copy of that report to add the number of vaccinations given to their reports. The department’s reimbursement is determined by the number of adults vaccinated in the county.

A suggestion was made that the department promote getting a flu shot as a social responsibility such as is being currently done with Tdap which is encouraging grandparents and parents to get the Tdap to protect newborns from getting Pertussis. It was felt that this may encourage more adults to get the flu shot.

Ms. Maki stated that a North Country Now reporter was currently working on a story regarding children’s vaccination rates and she may be able to encourage him to push the social responsibility idea in that story.

**eClinicalWorks**

Dr. Williams asked if the department was now utilizing eClinicalWorks. Ms. Maki stated that we were now using eClinicalWorks for all our programs (immunizations, Maternal Child Health, etc.). The department did have some issues with the billing portion (Emdion), but with the
assistance of a very aggressive support person at eClinicalWorks these issues are beginning to be addressed.

In November and December we will begin implementing Messenger and Kiosk.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No executive session was necessary.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:50 pm Dr. Healey asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Williams made the motion and Dr. Scillieri Smith seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemary A. Brown
Administrative Assistant