ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES
For November 19, 2013

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health hereafter typed SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 in Classroom A of the One Stop in the Human Services Center, Canton, New York.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Jessica Scilleri Smith

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF PRESENT: Lorraine Kourofsky, Interim Public Health Director; Laurie Maki, Prevent Supervising CHN; Ben Todd, Tobacco Program Coordinator; Rosemary Brown, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of the President and Vice President, Lorraine Kourofsky called the meeting to order at 6:15.

INTRODUCTIONS

No introductions were necessary.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2013 MINUTES

Due to the lack of a quorum, the approval of the September 24, 2013 minutes were set aside until the next meeting at which time they will be presented for approval.

COMMUNICATION

There was no communication.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Donald Hassig from Cancer Action New York requested the time to present on the dangers of exposure of persistent organic pollutants (POPS) to children.
Although pesticides such as DEET, PCBs, etc were banned, they continue to be present in our environment. The World Health Organization (WHO) wants everyone to be aware of the effects of these pollutants. They can affect the autoimmune system and the heart, to name of few areas of concern. From a study, it was concluded that there was sufficient evidence of serious harm to indicate steps be taken to minimize the effects of these POPS.

Two strategies to reduce the effect of POPS are to clean up contaminated sites and to consume products with little or no animal fat. Once the evidence has become available, Mr. Hassig feels that it is the responsibility of the Public Health Department to provide this information to the public. Mr. Hassig would like this information to be made available on the Public Health website. People can make an educated decision about animal fat consumption if the facts are available to them.

Mrs. Kourofsky told Mr. Hassig that the matter would be presented to the SLCBOH at their next meeting and it would be discussed and a decision would be made as to whether or not the information on POPS would be made available on the Public Health Department website.

REPORTS

**Tobacco – Benjamin Todd**

It was suggested that a letter be sent to pharmacies requesting them to stop selling cigarettes. It was thought this may give the SLCBOH some insight as to how pharmacies would feel about this request.

Mr. Todd stated that he had done some research and found a copy of a letter sent from Andover, Massachusetts to pharmacies there. There have been some issues with the request. There is evidence that not selling tobacco in pharmacies does not hurt their bottom line. A significant number of pharmacies do not sell tobacco.

Mr. Todd felt that the SLCBOH should review the letter for content before it was sent. As there was not a quorum at the meeting, Mr. Todd stated that he could send a copy of the letter to board for their review before the next meeting.
OLD BUSINESS

Community Health Assessment

Ms. Kourofsky told the SLCBOH that the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department’s Community Health Assessment (CHA) has been completed. It has been forwarded to the State for approval, but as of this time we have not heard anything. A few copies of the CHA were distributed for the board’s review. This is what we will be looking at for the next five years. In 2017, it will be necessary to complete another Community Health Assessment.

The Community Health Initiative Plan (CHIP) is focusing on two areas of concern: obesity and chronic diseases. We are directed to work in conjunction with the hospitals and other health care entities in the county to find solutions to these problems.

The hospitals also submit a Community Service Plan and we all work together. We meet and at these meetings the target areas are mental health and readmissions to the hospital.

CHHA/LTHHCP Closure

The Long Term Home Health Care Program (LTHHCP) will close as of December 31, 2013. Beginning yesterday, Health Services of Northern New York started transitioning our 31 clients. They will transition 1 – 2 clients per day.

Janine Giglio has worked very hard to make this happen and has worked very well with Health Services of Northern New York to provide them with everything they need.

We will be losing two more staff as of December 6, 2013.

Strategic Plan

A copy of the draft version of our Strategic Plan was included in the board members’ packets for the meeting. Also included was a spreadsheet of the timeline of when we would like to accomplish each step of each strategy. Most of the timelines will have to be changed. Due to the CHHA and LTHHCP closure, the Strategic Plan has been sidelined. Ms. Kourofsky did a quick overview of the
timeline and what we would like to accomplish. Each strategic issue was discussed briefly.

Staff education was briefly discussed regarding the issue of travel restrictions by the county. We will have to be creative to provide education to our staff.

Accreditation is the new direction. There are three counties in New York State that have been accredited. The process of accreditation is very costly and this will be the biggest hurdle for our department. Accreditation will become mandated in the future and we must prepare ourselves for this. We are starting in the right direction by vamping up our Quality Assurance Program. Measurable outcomes will be very important in the future.

Ms. Kourofsky distributed a NACCHO article entitled “Health in All Policies (HiAP): A Path to Promoting Environmental Public Health”. She felt this article goes along with what the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department and the St. Lawrence County Board of Health are trying to do.

Ms. Kourofsky told the board that there is some grant monies which can be applied for. The application is due by January 2014. The grant is a “match fund” grant that requires any grant monies be matched by the grantee. As there are already issues with funding, we will need to look at other groups to assist with matching the funds.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget – Lorraine Kourofsky

Ms. Kourofsky told the members that she felt the budget for the department would pass without any further problems. We will be in front of the budget committee next Monday.

The CHHA paid for many items such as rent. We are now left with mandated programs that do not provide any or very little revenue.

Public Health Director

There are seven applicants in the running for the position of the Public Health Director. Chris Boulio is currently collecting references and performing phone interviews. We are looking at the first week of December to start interviewing.
Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemary A. Brown
Administrative Assistant