

# ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

## September 17, 2024

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rita Curran, Nancy Potter, Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, Dr. Gregory Healey, Dr. Andrew Williams

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mark Deavers

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Erin Streiff, Director; Carly Zimmermann, Deputy Director; Samantha Bice, Administrative Assistant; Autumn Thompson, McKailey Lyndaker, Brittany Geiler

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Upon motion by Dr. Healey, and seconded by Dr. Terrence, the minutes from the June 18, 2024 meeting were approved.**

### PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

**Department Highlights:** Carly presented department highlights including recent events and community education presentations. The department reached 1,862 people at Back to School events; 562 through Farmers' Market participation; 268 at Potsdam Summerfest; and 173 at the St. Lawrence County Fair. Topics and resources included tick removal kits, first aid kits, food-borne illness, H5N1, and more.

**Arboviral:** EEE - Erin shared that in early August the NYSDOH recommended that the department request an imminent threat to public health declaration from the state Commissioner, due to a spike in EEE cases. At that time it was recommended we spray mosquito adulticide, however it was determined that there is no ideal location, as the county has numerous wetlands spread over a vast geographical area, rather than one particular swamp to target. Mosquito surveillance is being explored for 2025. The board discussed EEE vaccination for horses and outreach to the Amish community to encourage vaccination.

Tickborne Illness - Erin reported that the department is seeing steady levels of Lyme disease, a slight dip in anaplasmosis, and a slight increase in babesiosis.

**H5N1:** Erin presented an informational pamphlet on H5N1 that was designed for the Amish community. The board discussed the department's efforts to coordinate with New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) to provide seasonal influenza vaccinations to agricultural workers, including families living on farms.

**Quarterly Lead and Sanitarian Updates:**

Lead: There are currently 89 active elevated lead cases. Dr. Terrence stated that testing has been ramping up in her office, with an average of approximately 60% of children tested at 1 and 2, up from around 50% previously. The board discussed the ending of the HUD grant for lead remediation and the department's efforts to reapply for funding. The board also reviewed the updated RX lab slips.

Sanitarian - The department is developing an algorithm/decision tree to help determine the appropriate response to complaints. Erin noted that additional procedures for handling sanitarian complaints are in progress. Members discussed the septic replacement fund, as well as education outreach efforts with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

**OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS**

Erin presented information for the upcoming "Next Steps Expo" transition event. Members discussed the possibility of distributing information in pediatrician offices.

Rita Curran asked about the possibility of reclassifying nursing positions to improve hiring and retention, as the current pay is not competitive. The board was supportive of exploring this option.

The board discussed the potential impact of recent flooding events on public health, with Dr. Williams and Dr. Healey noting a slight increase in diarrheal illness.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No executive session was held

**ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm. Next meeting will take place on October 15, 2024 at 6:00 pm.**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP**

N/A