

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

February 18, 2025

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rita Curran, Mark Deavers, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Dr. Andrew Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Gregory Healey, Nancy Potter

OTHERS PRESENT: Erin Streiff, Lara Martin

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Dr. Terrence, and seconded by Rita Curran, the minutes from the January 21, 2025 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS

Lara Martin, the new Sanitarian for the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department (SLCPHD), introduced herself and presented the monthly sanitarian report. The majority of inquiries received were related to water quality, bed bugs, and a category labeled “other” (which does not pertain to garbage, sewer/septic, mold, water quality, air quality, or bed bugs). Notably, 15 of the 23 non-complaint inquiries fell outside SLCPHD’s jurisdiction. Lara proposed the development of educational materials to assist the public in identifying the appropriate agencies for their inquiries and complaints. The board discussed the possibility of adding this information to the SLCPHD website.

Erin provided updates on the development of sanitarian and nuisance complaint policies and procedures. She proposed that the department make publicly available information regarding the distinction between public and private nuisances, as well as the instances in which private nuisance complaints would be addressed by SLCPHD.

Members discussed updates to the Communicable Disease Program. Erin reported that influenza levels are at an epidemic level nationally. The board also reviewed educational materials related to H5N1. Dr. Scillieri Smith noted that while cats are affected by H5N1, they are not becoming ill from interactions with wild birds; rather, the exposure seems to occur on dairy farms through raw milk, with three cat deaths now linked to raw cat food. Additionally, Dr. Scillieri Smith provided updates on positive cases and subsequent depopulations in southern New York State. Nationwide bulk milk surveillance has been initiated, with the Division of Milk Control overseeing this effort in New York State, where no positive

milk tests have been reported to date. Erin mentioned that the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has begun issuing a weekly global update report on Ebola.

Members briefly reviewed the immunization, lead, and rabies reports distributed prior to the meeting. It was noted that the number of cases for Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, and Babesiosis has increased in 2024 compared to previous years, with 46 reported cases of Lyme disease thus far in 2025. Blood lead level testing results have remained stable, and 72 individuals required rabies post-exposure prophylaxis in 2024.

Erin announced the hiring of a Nurse Practitioner and the impending change of the SLCPHD clinic day to Wednesday. She also noted that the New York State Association of County Health Officials has released a small grant for weather and health education, which the department has applied for. Members discussed potential educational topics, including animals and evacuation procedures, as well as carbon monoxide safety. Erin further announced that SLCPHD has been selected to participate in a Quality Improvement project, focusing on assessing job roles and responsibilities in relation to Article Six state aid and public health law requirements.

Rita Curran shared that she has been invited to join the State Board for Opioid Settlement Funds and requested input from the members.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Regular session concluded and executive session was held at 7:09 pm.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm. Next meeting will take place on March 18, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

ACTION ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

N/A