**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**April 15, 2025**

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Andrew Williams, Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Dr. Gregory Healey, Nancy Potter

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Rita Curran (excused; supporting municipal Rabies clinic), Mark Deavers, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith

**OTHERS PRESENT:**Erin Streiff, SLCPHD Director; Lara Martin, SLCPHD Sanitarian; Brandin Cousineau, SLCPHD Accreditation Coordinator; Dr. Zachary Mashaw, SLCPHD Medical Director; Richard Rusaw, St. Lawrence County Emergency Services Interim Director;

 **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 March 18, 2025 meeting were approved.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS**

Lara Martin provided an overview of the sanitarian inquiries for March, highlighting various complaints, including air quality, bed bugs, animal cruelty, and garbage. Calls related to the New York State septic grant were most numerous. In March, St. Lawrence County Public Health (SLCPHD) received 34 inquiries that were not complaints, with 23 outside SLCPHD jurisdiction. Erin Streiff announced that the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators did approve the sanitary code, though legislators have raised questions about the enforcement of laws related to garbage complaints. Erin noted that Norwood codes include language not utilized in other municipalities, which allows for the enforcement of garbage complaints from code officers.

Members were provided with updates on injury prevention, chronic disease, and emergency preparedness via reports distributed prior to the meeting. Erin noted that the Northern Area Health Education Center (NAHEC) supports harm reduction vending machines across the county. SLCPHD is in the process of establishing a data use agreement to look at EMS data to help determine injury patterns in the county, beyond overdose and suicide fatalities. Erin briefly introduced a quality improvement project underway, in collaboration with the New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO), to identify Article Six chronic disease state aid requirements, allowable expenses, and reimbursements. Regarding Emergency Preparedness, SLCPHD received a mini-grant allowing the program to plan and provide an event on extreme weather and health on June 25, 2025. Additional information regarding the keynote speaker and agenda will be provided once available. Members discussed those who may benefit, including health center case managers, dialysis teams, as well as the County Animal Rescue Team (CART).

Erin provided an update on measles, which is not yet affecting the county, with the closest documented cases being in Ontario. Of note, approximately 97% of US cases were in unvaccinated individuals. Members discussed drafting a press release regarding measles and vaccination information, including information accessible to the county’s Amish population.

Erin reviewed the 2024 Coroner Program Report and changes to records management and access in the program. Members discussed that all death certificates, not just coroner cases, will now be logged, and county-wide cause of death data will be recorded.

Erin provided an update on the Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan process. Meetings with hospital CEOs have been held to discuss the planning and process. Hospitals are required to put forth a new plan every three years, whereas New York state requires health departments to submit plans every six years. To maintain compliance with public health accreditation, which requires plans at least every five years, SLCPHD will stick to the three-year schedule required of hospitals. Members discussed services in the county, as well as overlap in services and 211.

Brandin Cousineau shared information on accreditation requirements and SLCPHD’s progress in terms of the accreditation application process. SLCPHD is at 84% complete with the accreditation requirements, with a plan to apply for accreditation in December of 2025. Brandin introduced a proposed ethical decision-making framework for the Board of Health, as a required element of accreditation. Members reviewed the key components and discussed the importance of establishing clear procedures for addressing ethical issues. The framework includes responsibilities, information gathering processes, and communication strategies. Members agreed to review the document further and address it in the next meeting.

Richard Rusaw introduced himself to the board, providing information on his background and experience, as well as updates on the EMS Advisory Board and work in progress to provide additional EMT classes and resources.

**ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm. Next meeting will take place on May 20, 2025 at 6:00 pm.**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP**

**N/A**