

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
January 20, 2026

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Deavers

OTHERS PRESENT: Erin Streiff, Public Health Director; Patricia Hogle, Senior Public Health Educator

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Rita Curran and seconded by Dr. Scillieri Smith, the minutes from the November 18, 2025 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS

SLCBOH Bylaws - Members reviewed the Board bylaws. No changes had been made since the previous review, and the bylaws remain aligned with St. Lawrence County Sanitary Code. Dr. Scillieri Smith motioned to approve the bylaws as presented, motion seconded by Rita Curran. The bylaws were approved by unanimous vote.

Officer Appointments - Dr. Terrence nominated Dr. Williams for President, motion seconded by Rita Curran. Dr. Williams was approved unanimously. Dr. Williams nominated Dr. Terrence for Vice President, motion seconded by Rita Curran. Dr. Terrence was approved unanimously.

Department Highlights - Patricia Hogle presented an overview of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) process. Members were informed that the assessment and planning efforts were completed in coordination with regional partners and hospitals and were submitted within required timelines despite delays in the receipt of state data. Patricia explained that the CHA informs both public health planning and hospital Community Service Plans; Data collection and analysis were conducted through the regional health planning organization, which administered community surveys and compiled county-level data; and the CHIP priorities were selected from options prescribed by New York State.

Members reviewed summary findings from the assessment, including:

- Maternal and child health concerns, including lower first-trimester prenatal care initiation and elevated maternal/infant mortality compared to state rates
- Mental health and substance use concerns, including elevated suicide rates
- Oral health concerns, including low dental utilization among Medicaid enrollees
- Additional social determinants raised: education, access/quality, economic and social factors, and childhood trauma

Members also reviewed areas where county outcomes were favorable, including:

- Breastfeeding rates above the state average
- Childhood immunization coverage meeting state targets
- Strong naloxone distribution and medication access efforts
- Lower rates of asthma-related emergency department visits
- Lower avoidable hospitalizations compared to state benchmarks
- High proportion of adults reporting a regular health care provider

Based on state guidance and local data, the following priorities were selected for the CHIP:

1. Suicide prevention
2. Nutrition security
3. Oral health
4. Prevention of infant and maternal mortality

Patricia outlined planned strategies associated with each priority, including:

- Collaboration with suicide prevention coalitions to expand training and awareness efforts
- Use of media campaigns and school-based programming related to mental health
- Coordination with hospitals to expand screening for social determinants of health related to maternal and infant outcomes
- Partnerships with regional oral health coalitions to improve access and preventive services
- Expansion and evaluation of nutrition programs, including produce prescription initiatives and food access assessments

Members discussed the importance of moving beyond assessment to sustained implementation and measurable outcomes, as well as the need for regular progress updates between three-year assessment cycles. Also discussed were challenges associated with reliance on delayed state-level data; opportunities to improve alignment between county programs, hospitals, and community partners; and the potential use of students and academic partners to assist with data collection, surveys, and analysis, subject to appropriate privacy and research requirements

Members were provided updates on ongoing health education and chronic disease prevention efforts, including:

- A fruit and vegetable prescription program in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension

- Screening initiatives connected to the New York State 1115 Medicaid Waiver focused on social determinants of health
- Community physical activity initiatives, including “Walk With a Doc” and winter walking events

Members discussed the availability of printed resource guides and opportunities to distribute them in clinical and community settings.

Erin Streiff reported on progress toward public health accreditation, including the preparation and submission of a readiness assessment, and the ongoing preparation of required documentation

Members discussed emergency preparedness planning requirements, including updating the public health emergency response plan, planning processes for mass fatality incidents, and coordination responsibilities among public health, emergency services, coroners, and other partners. Erin noted the recent measles tabletop exercise, and the ongoing wastewater surveillance activities in selected municipalities was discussed. Erin noted immunization coverage data limitations due to data suppression and incomplete reporting.

Members reviewed a draft resolution supporting immunization as a critical public health practice. The resolution was prepared at the request of a legislator for submission to the Board of Legislators. Members discussed ensuring the resolution remained supportive and educational in nature. Members approved a list of planned monthly observance resolutions.

Erin provided members with copies of the sanitary code and jurisdictional chart, noting that the Sanitarian program continues to receive many of the same types of phone calls and complaints as reported in past meetings.

Erin discussed plans to improve internal program-level data tracking, including the development of key performance indicators, creation of internal databases to support reporting and evaluation, and phased implementation due to staffing and workload considerations. Members were invited to provide feedback on priority metrics to include. Members also supported having staff present brief annual or periodic overviews of major public health programs at Board meetings.

Erin reported that recruitment efforts for a medical consultant were underway and that an initial application had been received. Members discussed outreach strategies and timing considerations related to credentialing and transition planning.

Members reviewed nominations for a departmental Sunshine Award recognizing positive workplace contributions, and a winner was selected unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm. Next meeting will take place on February 17, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

ACTION ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

N/A