

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

April 21, 2026

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Deavers

OTHERS PRESENT: Erin Streiff, Public Health Director; Amber Crump, Principal Fiscal Officer.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the March meeting minutes, which included a correction identified by Nancy Potter.

Upon motion and second, the minutes were approved as corrected.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

Amber Crump, Principal Fiscal Officer, provided an overview of fiscal operations and performance. The fiscal team currently consists of five staff members. In 2025, the department reached approximately 86% of total projected revenue. This improvement was attributed in part to successful credentialing and contracting with major insurance providers, including Medicare, which has increased reimbursement for clinic services. Significant efforts were made to improve accounting accuracy, including the completion of approximately six years of outstanding journal entries. Additional accomplishments included the implementation of a grant tracking system, development of program procedures, expansion of staff cross-training, and transition to a paperless requisition system. The department will continue to focus on staff development and financial efficiency moving forward.

The monthly sanitarian report was reviewed. A formal nuisance complaint regarding a property in the Town of Lisbon was discussed. Concerns included animals (primarily goats) at large, property conditions, and general neighborhood impact. Board discussion noted that there is limited authority for enforcement under current public health regulations. Previous concerns related to solid waste were referred to the County Solid Waste Department. It was noted that the Town of Lisbon is exploring a local ordinance that may allow enforcement and cost recovery for property cleanup. No formal action was taken by the Board at this time.

Erin presented a preliminary review of birth certificate data, noting a number of home births and delayed reporting, particularly among Amish populations. Discussion highlighted potential underreporting of both births and infant deaths, raising concerns about data accuracy and its

impact on public health planning. Board members discussed opportunities to improve engagement with these communities, including expanding prenatal education, supporting midwives, and identifying potential interventions to improve maternal and child health outcomes. Members discussed surveys in the Amish community with a common answer being prenatal care is needed. Potential collaboration with community organizations and future research efforts were noted.

Erin Streiff provided an update on the department's Strategic Plan and accreditation progress. The plan, developed in 2023, includes four priority areas:

- Data-driven decision making - Developed dashboard for overall view
- Workforce development - Helps prevent staff turnover
- Community outreach and engagement - Incorporating different partners/community entities. Hoping to increase engagement with different community groups going forward including religious leaders and other specialty groups.
- Financial sustainability - Exploring ways to diversify revenue. Primarily dependent on state aid/grants currently

Most objectives are substantially complete or on track. The department is ahead of schedule in preparing for public health accreditation, with over 80% of the required documentation completed or under review. The current goal is to have everything completed by June, 6-months ahead of schedule. Board members will be asked to complete a survey as part of the accreditation process to provide input on strategic planning.

Discussion on financial sustainability and funding updates included potential new revenue opportunities, such as billing for chronic disease self-management programs. Limitations related to certain services, including STI clinic billing, were noted. The County has received settlement funding related to vaping products. Potential uses discussed included prevention efforts and safe disposal solutions for vaping devices, which currently present environmental and logistical challenges.

The Board discussed a forthcoming Rural Health Transformation Grant opportunity. While details have not yet been released, members expressed interest in pursuing funding for maternal and child health, early childhood interventions, and services for children with developmental and behavioral needs.

Staff reported the ongoing need for a suitable location to house a rabies specimen freezer for animal testing. Current limitations include lack of an appropriate facility with adequate protection and accessibility.

OTHER ITEMS AND DISCUSSION

Discussion included concerns about the potential closure of a primary care clinic in Waddington and the broader impact on access to care in rural areas.

Additional discussion addressed emergency response staffing, emphasizing the importance of coordination and support between county departments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session was held at 7:13pm for matters pertaining to the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Next meeting will take place on May 19th, 2026 at 6:00pm