ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
September 15th, 2026

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Andrew Williams, Rita Curran, NP (attended remotely from 9 Green Drive, Massena 13662), Dr. Gregory Healey, Nancy Potter.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Mark Deavers, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith; DVM, Carly Zimmermann; Deputy Director.

OTHERS PRESENT: Erin Streiff; Public Health Director, Dr. Thivisa Rajagopal; Medical Director.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Nancy Potter and seconded by Rita Curran, the minutes from the June 16th, 2026 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

SANITARIAN REPORT

The monthly Sanitarian report was reviewed. The only formal nuisance complaint received was from a Code Enforcement Officer in Ogdensburg regarding an abandoned home with a number of cats. The Sanitarian conducted a site visit and documented the conditions of the home.

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

Public Health Director Erin Streiff provided an update regarding the department's accreditation process. The department has submitted all required documentation, which has been reviewed. Of the 222 total documents submitted, additional feedback was requested on 23 documents.

The department is working with its consultant to address and resubmit the requested documentation. Following resubmission, a site visit will be scheduled. Representation from the Board of Health will be needed during the site visit to speak to the work of the department.

DATA PROJECT

Discussion was held regarding the department's ongoing data project. The project will include data related to tickborne illnesses and overdose statistics.

PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FUNDING

Discussion was held regarding Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) funding. The original federal parameters regarding allowable uses of the funding have recently been updated.

One allowable use of the funding is staff training. The department is interested in using funding to support Board of Health attendance at the National Association of Local Boards of Health conference in October 2027.

Additional potential uses of the funding include strategic planning support and internal staff development.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Discussion was held regarding the department's Mass Fatality Plan. The plan will remain officially in draft status as a working and iterative document; however, it is currently usable and as up to date as possible.

The department recently hosted a Family Assistance Center training. Discussion included the potential need for a Family Assistance Center in the event of a mass fatality incident, such as a building collapse or school shooting, where an extended period of time may be required to identify remains. A Family Assistance Center provides a location where family members and friends can receive support while awaiting additional information or the release of remains.

The next Coroner meeting has been scheduled for the same day as the next Board of Health meeting. The department will have the portable morgue set up so that Board members and others who are interested may view the equipment.

MEASLES

Discussion was held regarding measles activity in New York State. The State recently released a measles dashboard providing current case information and resources for the general public and healthcare providers. As of the meeting date, there were 51 total measles cases identified in New York State year-to-date.

The department is also exploring what a mutual aid Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with neighboring counties could potentially entail. Such an agreement could provide additional support if the department were required to investigate and respond to a large outbreak.

RABIES

Discussion was held regarding increased rabies activity among animals in St. Lawrence County. The number of positive animals has been higher than usual this year.

The department recently identified a positive cat, and another cat at the same address subsequently displayed symptoms. In response, department staff are conducting door-to-door outreach in the area to make residents aware of the positive animals and associated rabies risk.

The department plans to gauge whether there is interest in holding a local rabies clinic for animals. Residents are also strongly encouraged to stay away from wild animals and stray animals due to the risk of rabies.

AMISH BUGGY ACCIDENTS

Discussion was held regarding a serious Amish buggy accident that occurred the previous Sunday and resulted in multiple fatalities.

Dr. Williams proposed engaging a St. Lawrence University student, who is scheduled to begin with the Health Department on Friday, to research Amish buggy accidents. The research would include information such as date, time of day, location, weather conditions, vehicles involved, fatalities, injuries, and other relevant circumstances.

The purpose of the research would be to identify trends and determine what appropriate interventions could potentially be developed to decrease the rate of accidents.

OTHER ITEMS AND DISCUSSION

Discussion was held regarding current department activities and preparedness efforts.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

There was no need for an executive session.

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.