

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
May 19, 2026

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, May 19, 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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Mark Deavers, Dr. Gregory Healey, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Erin Streiff, Public Health Director; Sam Bice, Coordinator of Quality Assurance and Improvement; Gavin Conners, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:58 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed and approved the April meeting minutes with no corrections noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

Sam provided a presentation on the department's Public Health data tracking and automation project. The project was initiated to replace manual monthly data entry processes with a more automated and standardized system. Between November and March, meetings were conducted with each program area to review existing workflows, reporting requirements, and data sources. Challenges identified included variability in data definitions between programs, access limitations to state databases, and staff concerns regarding workflow changes.

The project currently includes 16 program areas, with eight programs having completed coding and formula development. Across those programs, tracked data fields increased from 82 to 191. New metrics include expanded referral tracking, service utilization details, and demographic information. Automated systems are being developed using Google Workspace tools and scripting to allow real-time updates while minimizing duplicate data entry. Examples were provided from Early Intervention, Maternal Child Health, and Coroner program data dashboards.

Board discussion included the use of dashboards and graphical reporting formats, consistency of metrics, data security and HIPAA compliance, and opportunities to use the data for program improvement and reimbursement tracking. Discussion also addressed Early Intervention waitlists, provider shortages, service delays in rural areas, and challenges with telehealth services for young children.

Sample dashboards for children's programs, including Early Intervention, Child Find, and Maternal Child Health, were reviewed. Board members expressed support for dashboard and graph-based reporting formats to provide concise program overviews and trend analysis.

The Board discussed death certificate reporting and the use of mortality data for public health analysis. Staff noted that paper death certificates are still received locally despite electronic state systems. Discussion included concerns regarding accuracy of cause-of-death reporting and challenges involving deaths within Amish communities, particularly around home deaths and coroner involvement. Members discussed opportunities for provider education on completion of death certificates and the potential use of hospice services to reduce unnecessary law enforcement involvement in expected deaths.

The monthly sanitarian report was reviewed. Staff noted that most inquiries received by the department are redirected to other community agencies when outside the department's jurisdiction.

Staff reported that the department is nearing completion of its accreditation submission process. Final accreditation documentation is expected to be submitted the following day, after which the Public Health Accreditation Board may take up to 12 months to make a determination. Board members were asked to complete strategic planning surveys as part of the accreditation process. Accreditation consultants are expected to attend the June meeting to provide additional information and updates.

Discussion was held regarding the Maternal Child Health Committee and the initial planning meeting held earlier that day. Attendance was limited, and Board members expressed concern that key community stakeholders and healthcare providers were not adequately represented. Discussion emphasized the importance of broader participation from healthcare providers, hospitals, midwives, nursing leadership, and community organizations. Members also discussed the need for clearer goals and structure for future meetings, including identifying priority maternal and child health concerns within the county and improving collaboration between organizations.

Board members discussed challenges related to birth and infant mortality reporting, particularly among Amish populations, and concerns regarding incomplete or inaccurate state-level data. Staff noted ongoing efforts to manually collect and analyze local birth certificate data. Members discussed the need for improved public health data collection, promotion of early prenatal care, transportation barriers, and opportunities to strengthen maternal and child health programming across the county.

Additional discussion addressed developmental disability services and barriers to identifying and connecting children and young adults with appropriate support systems. Concerns were raised

regarding gaps in transitions from school-based services to adult developmental disability services and inconsistencies in referrals and evaluations.

OTHER ITEMS AND DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the prevalence of Lyme disease and challenges associated with current testing and reporting systems. Members noted that state reporting systems now primarily reflect positive screening tests rather than confirmed cases, complicating interpretation of local data. Discussion included provider awareness, testing practices, treatment approaches, and the possibility of future provider education regarding Lyme disease diagnosis and management.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting Adjourned at 6:59pm

The next Board meeting will take place on June 16th, 2026 at 6:00 pm. Accreditation consultants are expected to attend.