

St. Lawrence County Board of Health 10/19/10 Meeting

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter typed SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 in the 2nd floor conference room of the Human Services Center, Canton, New York.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dorothea Badenhausen; Benjamin Gruda; Gregory Healey; Elizabeth LoGalbo; and Timothy J. Monroe

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tedra Cobb, Robert Kimmes

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF PRESENT: Susan Hathaway, Director; Myrna Barney, Sanitarian; Robert Santamoor, Administrative Services Manager and Sherry Cryderman, Administrative Assistant.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Donald Hassig, Lew Sheppard

MEETING TO ORDER: Dr. LoGalbo, President called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Mr. Gruda moved the minutes of the 9/21/10 SLCBOH meeting be approved as written. Mr. Monroe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Hathaway suggested that this Public Comment section be added to the agenda. Following the format of the Board of Legislators meetings where members of the public are given the opportunity to speak for two minutes to the BOH. The consensus of those present was to add this section to the monthly meeting agenda.

Mr. Hassig of Cancer Action NY stated a substantive body of scientific literature has accumulated during the past several decades, which provides a solid foundation for an educational endeavor. He noted they are seeking the assistance of local government groups in moving forward with the creation of a NYS program and a federal program of pollutant carcinogen exposure reduction education.

Mr. Hassig stated he was in attendance as a member of the Cancer Action Group. He continued by saying that they worked from 1997 to 2009 on a ban for open burning and now are focused on dumping of solid waste. He stated that the matter of dumping solid waste from households is an issue, especially for renters. According to DEC laws solid waste can be disposed on private property. Farms can legally bury waste. Commercial products are illegal to dispose of on anyone's property. He said the matter of dumping solid waste from households is an issue, especially for renters. He said landlords often dispose of waste improperly by digging a hole and burying it, which can include old paint cans, plastic, etc. He said this is often done close to drinking wells. He pointed out landlords don't tell the tenants or sellers don't tell buyers about this waste being there on

the property. Cancer Action NY would like to see prohibition of any trash burial including farms be prohibited under a sanitary code.

Discussion followed on this board's authority to pass a sanitary law code over and beyond 10 NYCRR. Ms. Hathaway stated the board has the authority to enact a law more stringent than the state code but cannot pass anything that will violate the state code. She will look into the procedure on doing this as well as look into information on Love Canal. Ms. Barney will provide the board with a link for NYS Building Codes. She also explained that some farms must come under the direction of DEC depending on the size of the farm. At that time fields and amount of spreading and disposal are monitored. Nothing can be done regarding the odor of the spreading at this time.

Ms. Hathaway reported that after consulting with legal counsel, based on the information received under the circumstance there are no grounds to seek a restraining order against Mr. Donald Hassig.

OLD BUSINESS

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER: Mr. Gruda provided an abbreviated version of the Roberts Rules of order. A copy of which was placed in each members packet for this meeting.

NALBOH SURVEY: Mr. Neistadt sent a short survey as a follow up to the NALBOH Training conducted last month for BOH members. Ms. Hathaway requested members complete the survey and return it at close of meeting this evening.

BOH SECTION OF WEBSITE: Upon inquiry members are utilizing the private website without problems except for Dr. Badenhausen. Ms. Hathaway will work on the issue with Dr. Badenhausen.

HCS ACCOUNTS: Mr. Gruda signed for his HCS account. Many of the board members already have HCS accounts. Ms. Hathaway noted that she needs their names and month and day of birth in order to set up accounts for any who don't yet have them.

COUNTY CAR POLICY: Ms. Hathaway noted that the new county car policy is in the packets. She pointed out that changes were made per discussion at last month's meeting. Following review and by consensus of the members Dr. LoGalbo, President signed the policy.

NEW BUSINESS

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE PROVISION: Ms. Hathaway described the issues we're having maintaining EI service providers because of changes in regulations and rates. As a result of these changes we now are down to one service provider who supplies 97% of our EI services. Another provider can't be approved as a provider due to their corporate structure whereas a third provider will stop providing services as of

December. There are very few individual providers of therapies in St. Lawrence County. We have informed the Bureau of Early Intervention at the state that we are in a precarious position. Dr. Healey suggested we partner with the hospitals to try and provide some of the therapies.

PRESCHOOL TRANSPORTATION: Ms. Hathaway reported that when the Pre-K Transportation Resolution was presented to the BOL they questioned the cost of the program and suggested that she meet with School Superintendents to see if school districts could assist with the transportation. She reported that she met with the school superintendents and little interest was expressed regarding this endeavor. Districts must provide transportation for those within their districts.

FLU PODS: Ms. Hathaway explained that POD stands for point of dispensing. Through the Emergency Preparedness Grant we are able to offer a free clinic to practice providing group immunizations should there be an emergency situation that requires such action. The State of New York has provided us with free vaccine for those 18 years of age and up. We did not receive any vaccine for children. The PODS will take place at Public Health and at the correctional facility. Employees, their adult family members and inmates will be offered flu vaccine at the jail POD. The inmates are considered special needs patients and assist us with our grant requirements. The free clinics are scheduled for 11/10/10 from 9:30-3:30 at Public Health and on 11/17/10 from 10-4 PM at the correctional facility. Dr. LoGalbo requested posters so that she could put up in her office. Ms. Hathaway will provide the posters.

PERSONNEL POSITIONS: Ms. Hathaway reported that we are losing 3 clerical staff in December due to retirement. The last day worked for each will be 12/10/10 and then they will utilize vacation time through 12/26/10 when their retirement is official. We are unsure if we will be able to fill these positions. We also have a CHHA Supervisor retiring in November. We're in the process of recruiting and filling this position.

REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Santamoor did a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed 2011 Public Health Budget that will be presented by him and Ms. Hathaway to the BOL on October 26, 2010. Each member was provided a copy of the budget to follow along with the presentation. Mr. Santamoor noted that the biggest hurdle is the 73% fringe rate for 2011. He explained that Article 28 relates to the Diagnostic and Treatment Center and Article 36 is CHHA and LTC. He reported that the increase between 2010 and 2011 budgets is \$149,000. We have reduced our expenditures by \$442,000 but fringe costs have increased by \$572,233 during this time period.

NYS has also just announced a decrease in state aid and grant funding for all state grants of 1.1% through the remainder of the current state fiscal year (3/31/11). Counties are required to provide the service then voucher the state. Our vouchered payments will be reduced 1.1% so the county will have to bear the increased financial burden.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT: Ms. Barney did a Nuisance presentation on PowerPoint for members.

Nuisance definition - the unreasonable, unwarranted and/or unlawful use of property, which causes inconvenience or damage to others, either to individuals and/or to the general public. **Public nuisance vs. private** – a public nuisance interfered with the public as a class, not merely one person or a group of citizens. A private nuisance is interference with an individual's peaceful enjoyment of one's property. Public Health Nuisance is anything which is injurious to health, or is indecent, or offensive to the sense, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable or safe enjoyment of life or property of the community, or any portion thereof, or neighborhood therein, is a public nuisance. **Types of complaints:**

- Garbage accumulation
- Rodent/Vermin harborage
- Sewage discharge
- Unsatisfactory water quality
- Insect infestation
- Mold/Air Quality concerns

Ms. Barney's presentation showed photos of each of the above which she has investigated in performance of her job.

DR. DAINES VISIT: Ms. Hathaway reported that Dr. Richard Daines, NYS Commissioner of Health will be visiting St. Lawrence County tomorrow. Ms. Hathaway will be escorting Commissioner Daines to the following sites within the county: Morristown Central School to visit the Public Health Dental Sealant Program in action; Price Chopper in Canton to meet with the Public Health Cancer Services team while they distribute education material on Free Cancer Screenings; Potsdam Water Treatment Plant; Potsdam Building Blocks Day Care; Lawrence Avenue Elementary School in Potsdam; St. Lawrence County Health Initiative in Potsdam and back to Canton to Maplewood Campus facility.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM by motion of Dr. LoGalbo and seconded by Mr. Gruda. Motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Cryderman
Recording Secretary