

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MARCH 13, 2007
MINUTES

PRESENT: Dr. Florence Bero; Benjamin Gruda; Brian Gardam; Ruth Fishbeck; Clive Chamber; Dr. Ed Goldstein; Vic Pisani, Laura Duval; Pat Ward; Diane A. LaRock; William Serafin

1. WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF HEALTH SERVICES

ADVISORY BOARD: Mr. Serafin introduced himself and welcomed members and staff to the meeting. Mr. Serafin then requested that each person introduced themselves. Copies of the Local Health Organization Law Article 3, Section 356, and 357 were distributed with a Health Services Advisory Board membership list. Mr. Serafin pointed out that the staff names listed on the membership list will be removed as they are not members. He noted that during his previous tenure with Public Health in the 70's-80 the Health Services Advisory Board was a very vibrant board. They had group thinks resulting in grant writing, in fact, the Dental Sealant grant that is still active with the agency was one of the successes. He and Mr. Pisani remembered obtaining funding for the sanitarian position within the agency.

Mr. Serafin reported that the Professional Advisory Committee and the Health Services Advisory Board have in the past few years been meeting jointly. These two committees are now separate and have been reconstituted. He is excited about the reconstituted board as under Article 3 of the law they have the opportunity to be very active and creative in looking at and working with leading health issues within the county. One of these issues is the county medical scholarship program to encourage applicants to apply for the scholarship program. Mr. Brining had an idea on this that is worth reviewing.

2.) OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC HEALTH PREVENTION SERVICES:

Pat Ward distributed packets on preventive programs. She presented an overview of the following programs.

- Tobacco Coalition: This program is for the development and support of a community-based Tobacco Prevention Coalition as well as a variety of tobacco, prevention initiatives. The coalition at this time is attempting to reduce advertising of tobacco and removing advertising from places where children would be able to see it. They have been successful in having Postwood Park and Cranberry Lake Beach designated as smoke free beaches.
- Immunization – Immunization clinics are held on a regular basis to decrease the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases within children and adults. There is no charge for children up to 18 years of age. There is a charge for adults.
- HIV – This is a mandated program. We offer a HIV clinic on Thursdays in the Canton office. A Nurse Practitioner and Public Health staff does the HIV testing. We request a \$5.00 donation.
- SCREENINGS – Free Blood Pressure screenings are held at various locations within the county ie. Senior Centers, Kinney's, etc.,
- MOMS – This program assists women, who are medically indigent with prenatal care, delivery and postpartum services. A public health nurse does home visits, provides monitoring as well as education services. This service is based on income.
- LEAD – This program provides screening for children 6 years and under. Lab results done by physicians in the county are sent to public health if a child is 10 years or over and the public health track the child. A case manager works with NYSDOH to find lead source.
- SANITARIAN: Myrna Barney is our sanitarian and is housed within the New York State Department of Health. She investigates mold, septic, private water supplies, etc., does referrals to code enforcement officers and environmental officers. She takes calls and collects dead birds for evaluation of West Nile virus.
- COMMUNITY DISEASE – Provides monitoring (where, when and how to stop) and prevents the spread of communicable diseases throughout the county.

- **RABIES** – By law a rabies clinic is required every 3 months. Several clinics are held throughout the county during the year. We take calls on human exposure to rabies, and coordinate/provide treatment. We have nuisance control officers that we contract with to respond to authorized calls, and to collect specimens for testing.
- **DENTAL SEALANT** – We have two teams that work with the school districts to provide screening and education to 2nd & 6th grade students within the county through the school year.

2B. - HOME HEALTH AND LONG TERM CARE SERVICES:

Deborah Kent, Director of Patient Services provided literature on the programs and went on to explain that the Community Health Agency was started in 1966. 1,400 visits the 1st year has increased to 50,000 visits. It provides skilled nursing, physical therapy, personal care aides, medication management, safety checks, and wound care. The goal is to keep patients at home and out of hospital. OASIS evaluations feed into a national database that allows for comparison reports. Our goal is 32.8% this year. The oasis score for oral medication management statewide is 90% we are now at 37% and have a goal of 50% this year. Our reimbursement for pain management is based on our performance. Our ability to decrease the number of hospital admissions is causing us to look at educating patients on pain control.

LONG TERM HOME HEALTH CARE PROGRAM – 65 clients – Often referred to as Nursing Home without walls. The program provides wavered services, home modifications.

3. TWO PREVENTION UNITS FOR REVIEW:

- A. **Public Health Preparedness** – Diane LaRock gave an overview on how 9/11/2001 has changed our world. Federal funds allocated to St. Lawrence County the first year were in the amount of \$126,931 to support bioterrorism preparedness planning and readiness: To meet the very long list of requirements for each county it was apparent that a Bioterrorism Coordinator was needed to track the requirements and to complete the mandated deliverables.

Counties were required to submit local Terrorism Preparedness and Response Plans. In St. Lawrence County, our plan is an annex to the St. Lawrence County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Public Health works closely with our Emergency Management Department. NYSDOH can now send out alerts to literally thousands of State and local Health Department staff, hospitals, Nursing Homes, Home care Associations, to name a few, within a matter of seconds. By early 2003, we identified smallpox response teams in the Health Department and sent 2 people to be vaccinated and trained to train others in the County. We spent much time working with staff from our 5 hospitals in developing their smallpox plans, vaccinating and training their staff. A St. Lawrence County Emergency Preparedness Workgroup has been formed. This group consists of Diane LaRock, Craig Ballard of the County's Emergency Management Dept, and a preparedness staff member from each hospital in the County. They meet at least monthly to coordinate drills, and discuss current health care/preparedness issues. Communications systems including satellite phones, ham radios, etc have been purchased and put into place for when all modern technology fails ham radios still work. An Isolation and Quarantine plan was in place by 2004. Strategic National Stockpile locations are throughout different parts of the country to receive medical and emergency supplies.

A short video was shown on the proper way to prevent germs from spreading when one coughs and sneezes This video is utilized as an educational tool for educating the public on how they can help prevent the spread of diseases such as the Pandemic Influenza.

B. Early Intervention and Related Programs – Laura Duval explained that Early Intervention started in 1993. Now the program is a Bureau at NYS level.

Federal Physical Handicap Grant dollars provide assistance from birth to 21 years of age for our Children with Special Health Care Needs and Physically Handicapped Children Program. This allows the program to assist families in finding and accessing necessary

services for children with special health needs. We make referrals to physicians, health insurance companies and other agencies that may be able to assist the family.

Under our Child Find program we receive referrals for children that have been identified as at risk for development delays. We do regular screening and refer to Early Intervention.

The Early Intervention program serves children from birth to 3 years of age who have significant developmental delays. Services such as speech, physical and occupational therapy; vision and hearing and social work can be provided in the child's home, or day care setting.

The Preschool Special Education Program (Pre-K) serves children 3 -5 years that have developmental delays. Evaluations and a variety of services are provided to families to assist in maximizing the children's potential. Public Health do some services ~~but~~ contract out for evaluations. A committee decides what services are given to these children depending on what type of development delay they may have.

Dental Program: There was discussion on viewpoints of the use of fluorindation.

COUNTY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: There was a discussion on the current County Scholarship Program and how \$1,000.00 a year not to exceed four years does not encourage the county's young people to apply and set up their practices in St. Lawrence County. Dr. Bero referred to how the Hermon Clinic with Dr. Burke was funded under JI – underserved area and that JI is now non-existent. She noted that practice models are very different at this time. That many medical graduates look at receiving a guaranteed income to begin a practice – they have student loans and living expenses to meet. It needs to be determined “who do we want to target”.

VACANCY – Best wishes and appreciation for years of service on this board were extended to Vic Pisani who is leaving the New York State Department of Health here in Canton as he has accepted employment in Albany. This creates a vacancy on this committee.

CHAIR OF HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE Mr. Serafin noted that we need a Chairperson for this committee and requested that members give some consideration to this. He is excited about the reconstituted board and believes it can be a very vibrant board.

NEXT MEETING He noted that this board meets quarterly. The next meeting will be held on June 12, 2007 from 3-5 pm in the large conference room of the HSC, Canton.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Cryderman
Recording Secretary