

HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD  
09/30/08

The Health Services Advisory Board met in Class Room A of the One-Stop Career Center at 3 PM on September 30, 2008.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tedra Cobb, Richard Edwards, Ruth Fishbeck, Brian Gardam.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Dr. Edward Goldstein

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Deborah Kent, Interim Public Health Director introduced herself. Mrs. Kent also reported that William Serafin, Interim Public Health Director and Patricia Ward, Director of Preventive Services have retired from Public Health. Sandra Worden has stepped into the Director of Preventive Health Services position.

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** Tedra Cobb moved that the minutes of the June 18, 2008 meeting be approved as written. Ruth Fishbeck seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**CQI REPORT:** JoAnn Pfeil, Public Health's Quality Assurance Coordinator/Agency Corporate Compliance Officer explained that CQI stands for Continuous Quality Improvement. Mrs. Pfeil reported that the senior management team reviewed past practice for CQI and made the decision to continue for 2008-09 period as currently established. She distributed a 2 page description regarding this committee and explained that the committee is currently meeting once a month and will eventually hold quarterly meetings when they are comfortable that things are going well. A flow chart has been established for quarterly reviews, currently client complaints and incidents reports are monitored. Program staff review will be re-started to assure that mandated DOH training, mapping, satisfaction surveys, are in compliance. Survey results will be compiled. They do sampling of some of the surveys.

**HEAL GRANT:** Mrs. Kent reported that Bill Serafin and Laurie Maki worked closely with the SLC Planning Department and submitted an application for HEAL NY Phase 9: Local Health Planning Initiatives grant to focus on the implementation of a community-based health planning process called MAPP (*Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships*). Mrs. Cobb suggested that Debby place this on the Services Committee agenda for October so that the committee has this information. (A summary of this grant was provided as a hand out and upon request will be provided)

**COUNTY WIDE HEALTH DISTRICT:** Mrs. Kent reported that we are awaiting a response from the NYS Department of Health that would allow us to go to the next step. Under Section 340.1., (a) of the NYS Public Health Law we need the NYS Commissioner of Health's approval. She stated that Mr. Serafin has been awaiting a response since July 23<sup>rd</sup>, on the protocol regarding this. We will continue the current

system until this is in place. Several communities submitted resolutions to Public Health in favor of the County Wide Health District.

**FLEX/COMPRESSED TIME:** Mrs. Kent reported that Public Health was approved to be the pilot program for Flex/Compressed Work Week. She explained that is different than the four day work week that the county is currently contemplating. We had some bumps in the road in getting off the ground but employees appear to be happier with the schedule flexibility. We currently have coverage from 8-5 on a daily basis. There was a discussion on the benefits of flex time. Mrs. Kent explained that the pilot program will be finished the first week in December.

**JAIL NURSES:** Mrs. Kent reported that the Prevent Supervisor is responsible for the oversight of the Jail nurses. A study is currently being done on issues that impact staffing. Some of the issues include: Determining the level of mental illness issues among the inmates and its impact on duties of the nurses as well as cost to county; Nurses currently are physically at work 12 hours and 4 hours on call; looking at coverage needs regarding the new jail, more foot work. She explained that the Commissioner of Corrections determines the ratio of 2 nurses per 100 inmates. Maybe able to use LPN as 2<sup>nd</sup> nurse. Also under review is the issue of supervision. Mrs. Cobb inquired if contracting for nurses was a possibility. Mrs. Kent also reported they are looking at the possibility of revenues being generated if county could charge for nursing care provided to inmates housed in St. Lawrence County from other counties. As the study is ongoing we have no real data at this time.

**POD:** Brandi Wells, Public Health's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator explained this Influenza Vaccine Point of Dispensing (POD) Exercise. This exercise is a training exercise for Public Health's Emergency Preparedness Program. They have been allocated 500 influenza doses to be administered during this exercise. They will be offering FREE FLU SHOTS to county employees over the age of 18. This exercise is planned for the following two dates: November 20<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Human Services Building and December 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Legislative Chambers in the County Courthouse. Mrs. Cobb suggested that this information be presented to the Services Committee so that County Legislators have the information and may take advantage of this drill as well. There was also a discussion on children now being encouraged to receive flu shot. Children will not be given immunizations at the POD however Public Health does currently administer these shots to children at their clinics. It is felt that it is better if the child's medical provider who has the child's medical history administer the injection. If a child does not have a provider then public health would consider if a referral can not be done to a provider. Public Health currently has not received their shipment of vaccine for children or pregnant woman. The consensus of the group was that more education availability of flue shots for children needs to be done. It was suggested that perhaps school nurses if given the information could send information home and more publicity from Public Health.

**E.coli.0157:H7 Outbreak:** Becky Trejos from the Public Health Communicable Disease Program outlined a recent case of E.coli within the county. She outlined how it was a

very serious scenario and the role that Public Health plans in a situation such as this. She noted that as each case nationwide is reported the system will be able to identify the origin of the E. coli. She also distributed literature that provided general information on E. coli as well as literature on investigation of multistate outbreak of E. coli 0157:H7 infections updated 07/18/08.

Chairman Richard Edwards moved to note in the minutes the recognition of William Serafin's contributions to this board and St. Lawrence County during his tenure as Interim Public Health Director. Ruth Fishbeck seconded. Carried.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the Health Services Advisory Board will be held on December 16, 2009 at 3 PM in Classroom A of the One Stop Career Center, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the HSC building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry Cryderman