



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES March 20, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (Attended In Person):

T. Nytych, DVM, President
W. Simmons, Vice President
T. Hills, DVM
T. Leary, FNP
W. Standinger III, Legislator
R. Kapur-Pado, DO
J. Raftis, DO, FACEP

ABSENT: None

OTHER(S) PRESENT:

H. Vroman, Public Health Director
D. Scherrer, Director of Environmental Health
P. DeWind, Tioga County Attorney
A. Reigelman, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: at 7:29 a.m. by Dr. Nytych.

PRESENTATION: Mr. Scherrer presented on the Tioga County Public Health Water Program (shared PowerPoint). He discussed various aspects of the program including water sources, disinfection methods and source water protection/ treatment, sources of water contamination, enforcement actions (providing examples from this month's listed enforcements, and required reporting sharing examples of lab results and sample schedules. Mr. Scherrer also discussed the purpose of water operators and how we assist in certifying operators and offering continuing education classes for certification as well as various Tioga County updates including:

- A new wellhouse at Crestview Heights
- Aquifer protection plan restarting in Owego
- Finalization of Waverly Infrastructure Project
- Tioga County rest areas are receiving updates (Nichols rest stop is getting a new chlorination system and Owego rest stop currently cannot drink water at so discussions are taking place on how to correct).

Mr. Scherrer answered several questions from the Board regarding septic issues/contamination of water and what is required to be reported to the County, what is used to treat Village of Owego municipal water, Aquifer Protection Program, and status of Nichols new filtration system.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Meeting Minutes (February 2025): Motion to approve prior minutes made by Mr. Simmons; seconded by Dr. Hills, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.
- Enforcements: Ms. Vroman provided details on the different food-related enforcement violations and explained the actions that took place surrounding the enforcement item of the establishment operating without a permit. The Board and Ms. Vroman discussed repeat violations and how to best avoid repeat violations in the future-hoping that with the Food Course now offered without cost that more people within establishments will complete. Public Health is educating and encouraging establishment staff to take the food course.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business items

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Ms. Vroman distributed and shared her Director's Report for March.



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Public Health Information:

- Congress decided to extend budget through September. May see a consolidation of some programming, but no cuts so far. Will keep the board updated if any changes occur.
- Measles Update: Four cases in New York so far, 350 cases in United States. 75% of cases are within unvaccinated children. New York State rate of MMR vaccination is about 81%. Tioga County Public Health is messaging through various media sources, pushing vaccination and early care. An internal team met last week, and a flyer has been created (distributed to the Board for review). Ms. Vroman noted that she would like to discuss how to best reach the Amish communities (Berkshire and Candor).
 - Mr. Simmons stated that he could bring information to the Berkshire Amish community (the bishop would be best contact); also provided contact information for someone involved with Candor Amish community.
 - Ms. Vroman added that Public Health can come to the communities to vaccinate if they would be agreeable. Board members discussed protective timeframe (of two weeks if series is started immediately).
 - Dr. Hills noted that there may be a large population within the older community who have not received the MMR series (also discussed possible immunity if exposed).
 - Ms. Leary stated her concern for the current status of vaccines/ response to diseases- where the world is going. Board members discussed. Also noted Homeschool environments would be another group for outreach.
 - Ms. Vroman explained that the State Health Department sends messages and Tioga County Public Health ensures that our local providers, day care providers and school districts are receiving the same messages. Have regular meetings/calls through NYSACHO and NACCHO.
 - Dr. Raftis complimented the flyer and information included.
- Avian Flu has not gone away. Tioga County Public Health participates in regular calls. On calls it is expressed that it's not new, and still a relatively low risk to humans. We do have State plan if needed. Locally, we have reached out to farming population, but they are not interested in receiving the regular Influenza vaccine.
 - Discussion took place regarding if further outreach is needed at this time to the farming population. Ms. Vroman felt that with flu numbers declining and with completing great outreach already that we can discuss again in the fall with the next flu season.
 - Legislator Standinger inquired about tickborne illnesses and expectations for this year. Ms. Vroman stated that the New York State Department of Health has commented that it is too early to tell what tickborne illness season will look like. In 2024 Tioga County saw a slight tickborne illness decrease in number but saw more types of illnesses. She also noted that Public Health is working on educating providers to run full panel of tickborne illnesses instead of just Lyme. Will continue to do lots of education within the community.

Staffing Updates:

- Project Coordinator- have filled the position with Kylie Holochak, which will be effective starting Monday 3/24/25. Her previous Senior Public Health Educator position will be backfilled.
- An offer was made to a Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, contingent upon background check. Likely it will not start until end of April/early May as the position will require a resolution to fill. This individual has Emergency Preparedness experience.
- Have a vacant Public Health Sanitarian position.
- Speech Therapist position will stay posted or will become unfunded. It has been posted for two years, and we have had no candidates. We have promoted this position with lots of outreach.

Accomplished Activities:

- The Public Health 2024 Annual Report has been completed (distributed copies to Board Members). This is an accumulation of what Tioga County Public Health accomplished in 2024.
 - Legislator Standinger complimented Public Health's report, noted that it is one of the best. Other members complimented and asked Ms. Vroman share with staff.



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

- Dental Van has seen an increase in new patients; but with the Dentist working more hours now, we have been able to accommodate and get back on track.
- Through the Floyd Hooker grant to assist with lead remediation (Lead Free Homes project) have partnered with Home Central and created a voucher for those needing lead encapsulating paint.

In Progress Tasks:

- Guthrie has new "MOM" mobile van (distributed flyer). They received a \$3 million grant to establish a maternity mobile unit, which will be serving 16 counties. Tioga County Public Health has offered to be a host site for their mobile unit, which we just found out will start at our office building next week. Have shared information on our Facebook page and plan to share with other media sources.
- Dental Van is scheduled for a School Based Health Clinic audit on April 8th (audit from New York State Department of Health). Will share results with you after it is completed. This will be a hybrid audit (part virtual and in-person). Ms. Whitmore and Ms. Reigelman have been working on collecting requested documentation.
- Environmental Health Temporary Permit Application will be available on our website soon. Will slowly roll out other department forms in same application. The goal is to eventually go paperless.
- CredibleMind should launch by the end of April or sooner. Will make sure you are informed when it does.
- Focusing on employee well-being. Management staff will be leading monthly (optional) well-being activities for staff.
 - The Board and Ms. Vroman discussed current employee recognition activities hosted by the County and individually by Public Health.
- Nothing new to report on ASAP and Suicide Prevention Coalition proposed merger.
- The 2024 Communicable Disease Annual Report will be rolling out in early April.
 - Ms. Vroman explained that the communicable disease data in the monthly report is only a summary. Some numbers are not shared due to protecting our resident's information (ie. STI numbers). If anything emergent arises, the Board would be notified. Ms. Vroman noted that if anyone has questions pertaining to communicable disease numbers she would be happy to have a conversation. However, those identifiable numbers will not be included in the report as it does get posted publicly.

Other Information:

- The first week of April is Public Health Week. We are advertising and a proclamation was read in March.
- Ms. Vroman notified the Board that she resigned from the Rural Health Network (RHN) Board of Directors due to personal reasons. She added that she still has a good relationship in partnering with RHN.
- Received call saying that individuals might be digging at the foundry site. Staff investigated and it looked clear. Feel it is important to have the County monitor the site, especially in the spring.
 - Brief discussion of follow up with Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).
- Inquired if the Board would like Dr. Zevan (Medical Consultant) to attend a Board of Health meeting and if he does, what would be his expectations for the meeting.
 - The board asked that he provide his background and what he does for Public Health. How does he see himself and the Board working together?
- Next meeting is April 17th. Mr. McCann will be attending to provide fiscal update.

Additional Comments:

- Dr. Nytych inquired on status of Stray Haven and housing stray dogs. Legislator Standinger stated that there is no movement by Stray Haven. Each township will be responsible for housing their own strays. Some are being brought to Chemung and Broome Counties if space is available. Ms. Vroman noted that Tioga County Public Health does not have oversight over the facility; only oversight over rabies control.




TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Adjournment of meeting called at 9:21 a.m. Motion for adjournment made by Mr. Simmons; seconded by Ms. Leary, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman.


Thomas Nytech, DVM, President


Abigail Reigelman, Secretary

Minutes approved April 17, 2025