



# TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

## MEETING MINUTES March 19, 2026

### **BOARD MEMBERS' PRESENT:**

T. Nytch, DVM, President  
W. Simmons, Vice President  
T. Hills, DVM  
J. Raftis, DO, FACEP  
W. Standinger III, Legislator

### **ABSENT:**

R. Kapur-Pado, DO  
T. Leary, FNP

### **OTHER(S) PRESENT:**

H. Vroman, Public Health Director  
A. Reigelman, Secretary  
P. DeWind, Esq., Tioga County Attorney  
E. Myers, Commissioner of Social Services  
S. Begeal, Interim Director of Community Health

**CALL TO ORDER:** at 7:32 a.m. by Dr. Nytch.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve February 2026 meeting minutes made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Dr. Hills. Dr. Nytch made two inquiries regarding the UHS contract for Tuberculosis referred cases, and the Preschool Transportation Program new electronic forms which were referenced in the previous minutes. Ms. Vroman answered his questions. All were in favor of approving the minutes, none opposed, motion approved.

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

### Public Health Information:

- No federal funding impacts to local Public Health currently.
- A federal order was put in place to uphold the original vaccine schedule (no changes occurred for Tioga County Public Health).
- In New York State there have been a total of seven measles cases in 2026 (last month there was only one recorded case). Mostly seeing in downstate (NYC and Rockland County). Cases are mostly younger children, some travel-related.
- Seeing increase in respiratory illnesses. For Influenza, still holding at about 51% of individuals 19 years and younger. Year-to-date have seen approximately 1400 cases, which is lower in trend than last year.
- Already seeing tickborne cases. Have seen a major increase as a whole in the community and nationally. We will be messaging on this.

### Staffing:

- We have filled the Director of Weights and Measures position.
- Speech Language Pathologist was hired and started last week. Not seeing children yet, due to the onboarding process. Will be seeing approximately five to six children due to the nature of the part-time position. But very exciting, it is a high need in our department.

### Accomplished Activities:

- 2025 Communicable Disease Report has been printed and was disseminated to local providers. A copy was provided to Board of Health members during meeting.

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- Ms. Vroman presented Tioga County Public Health Stay Interview process on NYSACHO succession planning webinar.
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Ms. Squair, facilitated an Integrated Preparedness Workshop with external partners including DSS, Mental Health, County Emergency Services, Red Cross, Salvation Army and more. From this meeting, produced a three-year Integrated Preparedness Plan to help incorporate external partner initiatives in Tioga County emergency preparedness efforts. This is also a part of Tioga County Public Health's accreditation process. Ms. Squair blew everyone away and is absolutely excelling in her role.
  - Legislator Standinger noted that Ms. Squair will definitely be a big help in facilitating in an emergency (gave example of 2006 flood, and lack of previous oversight/facilitation when it came to emergency preparedness efforts).
  - Ms. Vroman also mentioned that Ms. Squair has been helping to bridge the gap and align Public Health's relationship with Tioga County Emergency Services.
  - Ms. Vroman stated that when the Integrated Preparedness Plan is finalized it will be shared with members.
- Promoted Children's Dental Health Month by facilitating toothbrush fun activities at the Berkshire Library Story Hour, Family Enrichment Network in Waverly, Candor Library and Inspire S-VE. Our newest Public Health Educator has been doing Storytime, an interactive brushing game and giving out goody bags with toothbrushes.
- Ms. Vroman, Ms. Medina and Ms. Whitmore met with the new S-VE school district superintendent to discuss Public Health programs and collaboration efforts.

### In-Progress Tasks:

- Continue to work on Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The steering committee met and determined top three priorities: (1) Housing Stability and Affordability; (2) Substance Use/Overdose Prevention, Tobacco/E-cigarette Use/Alcohol use, Anxiety, Stress, Suicide, and Depression, and Adverse Childhood Experiences; and (3) Chronic Disease Prevention and Control.
  - Will pull together these priorities and selected interventions and incorporate into the plan. Once plan is finalized, we will have a staff member give presentation on the report and its process.
- In the Dental Program we continue to see a large amount of decay. We are increasing our use of Silver Diamine Fluoride to stop or slow the decay process. In addition, we are doing outreach to primary care provider offices to encourage participation in adding fluoride varnish to well child visits. Ms. Vroman stated that Board Members have received a draft letter and flyer that will be distributed to providers that encourages participation in this NYSDOH endeavor. She asked that the Board of Health endorse this as she feels it will carry more weight if they do.
  - Dr. Nytch asked that the Board be provided with time to review the letter prior to making final decision. Ms. Vroman stated that she hopes to finalize by next month's meeting. She noted that if the Board would prefer not to endorse, that the statement indicating their support would be removed from the letter.
- CLYDE (Community-Level Youth Development Evaluation) Survey Data has been completed, and results are being shared this month with Tioga County school district superintendents. This initiative is being led by ASAP Coalition. Ms. Vroman stated that if the Board is interested, she can have staff members present this data. The Board indicated that they would be interested in hearing the results of the survey.
- Continuously updating forms, making forms electronic to be more accessible, conduct policy reviews, refine workflows and procedures and strengthen our onboarding process.
  - Discussed newly initiated process of sending any policy updates out for full staff review for a five-day period and consider any feedback received.
  - Internal Document Review Tool (brought example to share)- form used to capture document feedback and keep lines of communication open when any newly created or updates occur to form, document, contract, policy, etc.
  - Every member of staff has a common goal on annual evaluations to write workflows of their own duties. This ensures we have procedures in place for succession planning.

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- Onboarding process- Ms. Reigelman coordinates and makes sure all new employees receive welcome binder, welcome email outlining their first few days, welcome letter, and assists in ensuring a workplan is completed by the supervisor.

### Other:

- Public Health Week is the first week of April, which helps to bring awareness to public health and celebrate achievements. This year, we are having staff nominate internal/external individuals, partners, and organizations for Public Health Excellence Awards (awards are for prevention, protection, promotion and an overall Public Health Champion). Nominations will be closing on Friday and will be selecting awardees from the nominations. We will send an invitation to you for the award ceremony.
- Next meeting will be April 16<sup>th</sup> and the full Management Team will be here to share updates.

### OLD BUSINESS- None

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Enforcements: Inquiry regarding Original Italian violation. Ms. Vroman shared reason as to the high fine.
  - Dr. Raftis inquired about status of McDonald's after the previously found violations. Ms. Vroman stated that they have improved.
- Dr. Hills stated that the online food course application is still required to be mailed in, when the rest of the process is fully electronic, and asked if it could be something made electronic. Ms. Vroman stated that this can be reviewed.

**MEET AND GREET:** Ms. Vroman stated that Elizabeth Myers, Commissioner of Social Services and Sarah Begeal, Interim Director of Community Services will be joining to introduce themselves, share their services and communicate ways their departments collaborate with Public Health. Board members received a handout that shares Health and Human Services Departments collaboration efforts as well.

Ms. Vroman introduced Ms. Myers (arrived at 8:38 a.m.). Ms. Myers provided overview of Tioga County Department of Social Services and the various programs they offer (children/ adult services including but not limited to child protective services, foster care, adolescent programs [PINs], adult protective services, money management, temporary assistance)

- Discussed upon inquiry DSS role in housing. Support those who may be eligible to pay rent, assist homeless in being housed. There are rules that must be followed by clients and landlords (DSS can withhold rent if there are code issues). DSS can assist in finding other housing options.
- Work collaboratively with Public Health in lead remediation and they assist with Healthy Homes Program (providing cleaning supplies, fire safety items and rodents issues) to support families.

Ms. Vroman introduced Ms. Begeal (arrived at 8:46 a.m.). Ms. Begeal summarized Tioga County Mental Hygiene's services offered (including but not limited to: out-patient services in Owego and Waverly satellite office, several social workers based in Tioga County school districts, will be taking on social worker who provides services at the jail, opioid overdose program [like PH], oversee court ordered mental health treatment, 24/7 mental health crisis response by phone with next day follow-up, oversee SPOA [Single Point of Access] for adult and children, partner with DSS and PH).

- Inquiries made on services that could be provided to emergency services staff and how to make referrals. Ms. Begeal stated that anyone can call and they can determine the service that may be needed (i.e. mobile crisis unit or in-person sessions). For referrals, can either call and make a referral to the clinic or have the referred individual call or send them directly to one of our locations. Call 687-4000, or if after hours call Tioga County Dispatch 687-1010 and ask for mental hygiene services. There is also the option of 988, which is a regional call center out of Tompkins County for supportive services.
- Legislator Standinger commended their open access. Ms. Begeal stated that they triage, prioritize, and only see about a one to two week waiting period.



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- Discussion of people experiencing homelessness and if there are people that actively seek out those individuals to assist. Ms. Myers stated that there is a program through Catholic Charities who does this work and lets individuals know possible resources that can assist. DSS also has 24/7 on-call staff who can be reached through the Sheriff's office that can assist with housing. Mental Hygiene also has a peer advocate who is out in community to work with individuals as well.

### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/BUSINESS:**

- Discussion of status of the Foundry site, the recently closed apartment in Ithaca and County Attorney DeWind provided some legal advice on the questions from the previous meeting on tenant housing issues with landlord.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Dr. Nytch, all in favor, none opposed, motion approved. Adjournment of meeting called 9:02 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman

  
Thomas Nytch, DVM, President

  
Abigail Reigelman, Secretary

Minutes approved April 16, 2026