



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES April 17, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (Attended In Person):

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

ABSENT:

T. Hills, DVM

OTHER(S) PRESENT:

H. Vroman, Public Health Director
D. McCann, Director of Administrative Services
P. DeWind, Tioga County Attorney
A. Reigelman, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: at 7:32 a.m. by Dr. Nyth. All members expressed their well wishes for Dr. Hills.

PRESENTATION: Mr. McCann provided a fiscal update for Tioga County Public Health; distributed handout. He explained that the County has officially closed out the 2024 fiscal year. Discussed expenditures, outlining expenditure amounts from 2019 to 2024, and explained the department's spending areas (57% to programs, 36% to employee salary, 7 % Infrastructure). Ms. Vroman noted that no positions within Tioga County Public Health are fully grant funded (like in other counties). Seeing some impact of inflation in areas such as advertising costs and Staples supplies. Mr. McCann also broke down funding sources and program fees. He noted that Article 6 State Aid reimbursement was the highest received ever in 2024; TCPH is using money appropriately and we are being reimbursed for it. Also noted and explained a few of TCPH's grants from 2024.

A few items of note:

- Environmental Health fees were the highest since 2012 (fees paid for services rendered).
- Dental services fee revenue was the highest since receiving the new mobile unit in 2019.
- Finished a multi-year overhaul of TCPH's vehicle fleet and now have fully updated fleet of 13 vehicles (some assigned to field staff, others on reserve as float vehicles).
 - Board members discussed particulars of county vehicles, depreciation value, etc. Ms. Vroman noted that TCPH is very fortunate, as some counties do not have vehicles for their staff and do not fund mileage for using personal vehicles.
- TVs have been upgraded in all Health & Human Services Building conference rooms because of Public Health.
- All Public Health staff have received updated laptops and cell phones, which is partly due to Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG).
- With all savings and additional revenues, TCPH has returned \$575K to Tioga County (general fund)-helping to keep taxpayer money down.
- 2025 is going in the same direction so far, happy to report TCPH is in a good place.
 - Legislator Standinger complimented Mr. McCann, stating that he is glad he does what he does and he does his job well.

Mr. McCann also distributed a flyer to Board members and explained that it was created as a result of the Strategic Plan to show TCPH's taxpayer value. This is the first flyer created that will go out to the community, plan to have other versions with more explanation to be available electronically online; will also be sharing/presenting to various community groups.



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- Dr. Raftis inquired if other departments provide this information-Legislator Standinger noted that Public Health is definitely an exception. Ms. Vroman stated that this task was a specific goal to TCPH's Strategic Plan.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Meeting Minutes (March 2025): Motion to approve prior minutes made by Dr. Kapur-Pado; seconded by Legislator Standinger, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.
- Legislator Standinger provided update on the county's issue with housing stray dogs. He stated that the Town of Owego has worked out an arrangement with Broome County Humane Society to house stray dogs for Tioga County townships. Offer has been extended to all towns, each contracting separately.
- Enforcements: Brief discussion of establishments noted as having repeat violations within a 12 month period. Ms. Vroman explained the types of violations seen and stated that Mr. Scherrer has been having staff complete inspections at times of the day where establishments are busier. Believe we are doing this properly now. The focus is on education and trying not to be punitive. Not having an issue with establishments being argumentative. Also discussed frequency of inspections.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business items

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

Public Health Information:

- Federal funding update- TCPH has not been impacted. Proposed cuts made to Public Health across New York State with the Fellowship Program; however, this has been paused. TCPH does not currently have a Fellow and would not be impacted.
- The governor's budget in New York State is on hold. Do not anticipate anything to be impacted locally. Hoping that we see an increase provided to Early Intervention providers (up to 9%). Only have five providers in Tioga County for the Early Intervention Program; hoping this will be passed to help our providers as well as try to gain additional providers.
- Measles outbreak-still only four confirmed cases in New York State, none in Tioga County. New York State put out a travel advisory. TCPH did not put out a travel advisory, and did not want to cause any panic to the community. Have been messaging to ensure children are fully vaccinated to school districts, home school population, daycare providers and have made contact with Amish communities in our area.
 - Mr. Simmons noted that he dropped off flyers to the Berkshire Amish community.
- Avian Flu-virus was detected in four bobcats, with one confirmed death. Live poultry markets in New York City, Westchester and Long Island were temporarily closed for testing. Have not received any new messaging from New York State Department of Health recently- human risk is still low.
- Respiratory illnesses continue to trend down in Tioga County. In last State call, noted that within the next couple of weeks flu will no longer be widespread.
 - Ms. Leary inquired if there has been any news on the flu vaccine for this upcoming flu season-Ms. Vroman stated that she has not heard anything yet but will inform as soon as ACIP shares information.

Staffing Updates:

- Ms. Holochak has assumed the new role of Public Health Project Coordinator and Ms. Bennett was promoted to the Senior Public Health Educator position.
- Currently have vacancy for Public Health Educator, which has been backfilled and will hopefully post vacancy shortly.
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator position has been filled. Mackenzie Squair will be starting June 2nd.



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- Public Health Sanitarian position is still vacant (only received two applications); will be waiting one more week to start interviewing to see if any other applications come in. If not satisfied with candidates, will be looking at creative options-creating a Senior Public Health Sanitarian or another Public Health Technician.
 - Dr. Nytch offered that it may be beneficial to canvas within the military.

Accomplished Activities:

- Ms. Holochak and Ms. Russell presented on a New York State Association for County Health Officials (NYSACHO) webinar discussing Tioga County ASAP initiatives and successes; including Public Access Narcan (PAN) Boxes and advertising methods. They had webinar attendees reach out after with compliments and inquiries.
 - Ms. Vroman explained what PAN Boxes are and how to access. Board members inquired on reporting methods for utilizing Narcan from PAN Boxes. Ms. Vroman stated that some numbers do get reported (and are shared in the Monthly Agency Report), but not accurate as reporting forms are generally not used; also an issue of confidentiality if only limited numbers are reported. Ms. Vroman stated that she will think on methods of reporting to share success stories and get back to the Board.
- Dental Van had a State audit for its School-Based program. Only had one finding from the audit, which she explained was an issue on reporting methods to the State that many counties have been submitting incorrectly. This has been explained and is now corrected. Auditors gave compliments on advertising and QA/QI program. Will share a copy of official results once available.
- Officially launched Municipay (new application for electronic payments) and our new electronic Temporary Food Permit Application. Have received at least one application via this system. We will be launching other Environmental Health applications in the future.
- Hosted Guthrie's new mobile maternity van and will continue to serve as a location in Owego.

In Progress Tasks:

- Management Team has been participating in webinar series on "Empowered Leadership." Feel it has been a great tool for supervisors.
- Security Project for Dental Van Update-moving forward with Tru View who will be installing cameras, swipe doors and panic buttons by the end of this week. This is part of phase one, phase two will be scheduling meetings with school districts to discuss safety plans.
- Community Health Assessment is underway (distributed drafted survey to the Board). Ms. Vroman asked for the Board to review and provide any feedback via email. The survey will be distributed to the community electronically and in hardcopy. Anyone who is a Tioga County resident and over the age of 18 may complete. Goal is to have at least 1000 people complete.

Other Information:

- As a heads up, an ATUPA violation will be coming through next month for Richford Cash and Carry for sale of flavored nicotine vape to an underage person and operating without a permit. As advised by New York State, issued stipulation and delivered in person requesting that they remove all tobacco products from shop. Have recently heard that they closed completely; do not know if they will pay fine. Will keep the Board posted.
- ASAP and Suicide Prevention Coalitions will not be merging at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Five Board of Health Members were in attendance (all members listed above with the exception of Ms. Leary who had to depart early). Ms. Vroman, Mr. DeWind and Ms. Riegelman remained in attendance. Motion made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Dr. Kapur-Pado, to move to Executive Session to discuss negotiables at 9:06 a.m. Motion carried. Motion made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Legislator Standinger, to adjourn Executive Session at 9:11 a.m. Motioned carried.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Ms. Vroman noted that the Village of Owego has begun digging a private well near the Tioga Castings site (about 150 feet away from site). The Department of Environmental Conservation

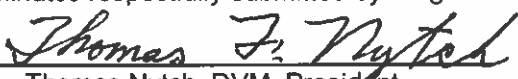
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(DEC) is aware. Mr. Scherrer reached out to the Department of Environmental Conservation to make them aware and are currently waiting to hear back. As soon as we hear anything, we will keep you informed.

- At next month's meeting we will be having the Management Team provide program updates.
- Dr. Raftis inquired about the homeless community in the Village of Owego (has been seeing comments on social media) and who is handling enforcement if trespassing is found on the Tioga Castings Site. Ms. Vroman stated that enforcement is not a Public Health function, but the Owego Police Department has been enforcing. She also noted that Mr. Scherrer has been trying to do regular checks at the Tioga Castings property to see if anyone is trespassing, and has not seen anything recently. Legislator Standinger stated that he has heard that some people are sneaking onto the property at night.

Adjournment of meeting called at 9:18 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman.


Thomas Nytech, DVM, President


Abigail Reigelman, Secretary

Minutes approved May 15, 2025