



Public Health
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Tioga County

Tioga County Public Health Department

Lisa C. McCafferty, R.S., MPH; Public Health Director

INTERNAL MEMO

TO: **Marte Sauerbrey; Chair, Tioga County Legislature**
FROM: Lisa C. McCafferty, R.S., MPH; Public Health Director
CC: Marte Sauerbrey; Chair, Tioga County Legislature
DATE: January 14, 2022
RE: **Public Health Report 2021**

Attached is our agency's report for 2021 which includes bulleted highlights. The information includes 2021 successes and challenges, as well as 2022 goals.

"Tioga County Public Health has done an amazing job in helping manage through these challenging times. They've stayed on top of the ever changing policies, contact tracing, setting up testing and vaccinations, etc. Your roles and community support does not go unnoticed. Keep up the great work. Thank you!"

-Testimonial from Tioga County Community Member to our Department



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Highlights-Summary

- 2021 Coronavirus Epidemic continued with periods of high activity to lulls, maybe even dare say “normalcy,” and then back to enormous surges. Our team persevered through 2021 despite having to overcome continual conflicts dealing with COVID-19 including: the ever-changing rules about COVID-19 vaccinations for various populations; preparing/hosting vaccination clinics, distributing vaccine, changing quarantine guidance, record high caseloads, working with school districts on reopening plans, and state vagaries, mandated/not supported testing requirements for schools with limited supplies, masks, and tests, which are just some among many other items. It felt as though when a process was finally streamlined, we were thrown a curveball, and we would have to rethink the process all over again. Despite the frustration our office faced over the course of the year, each and every challenge we confronted as a team, adjusting and moving forward to next iteration.
- We maintained somewhat normal operations:
 - Communicable disease was busy as ever with an increase in Lyme cases, Lead cases in children, gastrointestinal disease cases, sexually transmitted disease cases (especially in chlamydia and gonorrhea), and a spike in Hepatitis A cases in Tioga County.
 - Environmental Health focused on: permitting and inspecting food establishments/swimming pools/ tanning salons/ fairgrounds/ children’s camps, septic installations, ATUPA checks, water testing, hosting rabies clinics, investigating animal bite reports, etc. Even as they provided support to people under orders.
 - Health Education resumed tabling events, distributing educational material to local community centers, child passenger safety trainings and car seat events, as well as getting back into working on the Cancer grant and Immunization Work Plan.
 - Children’s services saw an increase in referrals to the Early Intervention program and Preschool/Transportation services resumed normal activity.
 - The Dental crew had a definite increase in clientele seeing many with extensive tooth decay. Please to say that the regular school schedule started in September.
 - Administrative Services continued to help the office function smoothly, streamlining processes with focus on customer service, triaging phone calls, cross training, preparing and finalizing grants, handling contracts, and attending various county-hosted trainings to help improve fiscal and contractual practices.
- Our office welcomed some new family members: congratulations to Jason Davis, Kylie Holochak, Heather Vroman and Jessica Lovell!

Successes

- Lisa Schumacher (20), Albert Knapp (15) and Lisa McCafferty(5), were all recognized for their time served during Tioga County’s Employee Recognition Week Pin Ceremony.
- Tioga County ranked 20th place in the State in the 2021 County Health Rankings Report, Laura Bennett gave a superb interview to Fox 40 News on the topic.
- Held a public hearing for the current Community Development Block grant (CDBG) project Tioga Mobile Dental Services to answer questions and concerns from the community.



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- Worked with Board of Health to formulate a position statement regarding the Marijuana Tax Act Regulation.
- Throughout the year we partnered with Stray Haven to host Rabies Clinics, vaccinating a total of 1098 pets!
- Kylie Holochak and Laura Bennett became certified car seat technician proxy's, which allows them to be Senior Checkers at car seat events and oversee/approve other technician's car seats.
- Todd Kopalek was invited to be on the Executive Board for the Conference of Environmental Health Directors.
- New municipal water operators were certified in Tioga County.
- Formulated grant for CDC submittal encompassing well head extensions and covers; disinfections for flood prone areas in Toga County.
- Worked with Gary Hammond, Commissioner of Public Works, to upgrade our vehicle fleet, receiving 4 newer cars and removed 4 older ones.
- Collaborated with local community partners to hold a total of 36 COVID-19 vaccination clinics throughout the year having a total of 4,264 vaccinations (including first and second doses of Moderna and single Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine). In one of our largest clinics, we vaccinated approximately 460 individuals.
 - Clinic Locations Included:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Berkshire Fire Department ▪ Candor School District ▪ Newark Valley School District ▪ Owego School District ▪ Waverly School District ▪ Spencer-Van Etten School District ▪ Tioga County Fairgrounds ▪ Tioga County Sheriff's Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tioga Opportunities Community Center, Owego ▪ Broome Developmental ▪ Washington Gladden Building, Owego ▪ Health & Human Services Building ▪ Tioga Downs ▪ UHS Owego ▪ Racker & Achieve Group Homes ▪ In-home Vaccinations
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- Certificates of appreciation were delivered to local Emergency Medical Service providers for assisting us at our COVID-19 vaccination Point of Dispensing sites (PODs).
- Environmental Health assisted Tioga County Fair with setting up COVID-19 safety protocols as well as provided guidance for local businesses as things opened up.
- Due to New York State Gubernatorial mandate, schools began weekly COVID-19 testing of unvaccinated employees/ contractors starting in late September. Using ELC funding, provided by New York State Department of Health, we contracted with Cayuga Medical Center to support school's testing mandate for employees and contractors.

Challenges

- COVID-19 VACCINES! Setting up vaccination Point of Dispensing sites (PODs), distributing vaccine to other regional partners, ensuring we targeted all Tioga County, dealing with no shows, continuously changing/updating vaccine guidance, boosters, etc. due to conflicting Federal and State messaging overlaps.



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- COVID-19 CASES! Constant ebb and flow of the COVID-19 caseload with investigating and contact tracing, dealing with case surges and reaching a record high new case intake (well over 100 in one day), working with school districts and their own contact tracing efforts, and monitoring school-related caseload.
- We faced challenges in the continuous, conflicting guidance and mandate changes from New York State Department of Health, Governor's office, Federal government, and CDC. We started off the year with a change in quarantine time from 14 days to 10 (Now 5), then the change in masking mandates (masks, no masks, and then back to full masking), changing guidance on the effectiveness of vaccines and in turn needing boosters....The community was upset, confused and frustrated and so were we!!!
- We partnered with Cayuga Medical Center on testing in school districts, with our office managing the pick-ups and drop offs of testing supplies to the schools. Jason Davis was pivotal in transfers!
- Children Services program referrals increased but provider capacity issues such as compensation, geographic location, and services rendered continue to make it difficult to receive timely evaluations and necessary therapies. Preschool Transportation Services dealt with transportation companies not being able to transport because of children having increased medical needs as well as driver shortages and long drive times.

2022 Goals

- Ongoing succession planning, mentoring, 2-3 deep, 24/7, 365 capacity.
- Moving Tioga Public Health forward based on 5-year vision.
- Minimizing political/ "research" impact on communities given 24/7 global messaging and perspectives, conflicting information overload. Our focus is on the basics, the essence of what people can do as part of their daily well-being, their quality of life.

Staff Development

- Laura Schurter hired as Accounting Associate III.
- Maggie McGoff hired on fulltime as a Public Health Educator.
- Angel Conklin and Stephen Mastro hired as temporary Public Health Educators for COVID-19 work.
- Salary increases for Environmental Health Sanitarians and Supervisor arising out of desk audits.
- Todd Kopalek assumed Communicable diseases a secondary backup in our ongoing goal of 2-3 deep role redundancy.

Grants/Awards

- Chlamydia grant (\$2-5K) to help promote Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)
- Awarded over \$13K for Flu vaccination efforts by NYSDOH
- Awarded \$10K for Community Cancer Prevention
- Awarded over \$2.4 million for COVID-19 efforts from various COVID-19 related sources (CDC, NYSDOH, etc.).
- Awarded \$50K for Creating Healthy Schools and Communities Grant



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- Dan Scherrer assisted in obtaining grant for helping elderly community with their animal care awarded from Tioga County Senior Citizens Foundation
- Awarded funding through ELC Public Fellows Grant for contractual Public Health fellowship positions to assist with COVID-19 efforts.

COVID-19 Related Numbers

March 14, 2020-end of December 2021

- **650** Days EOC Activated
- **7,172** Total Confirmed Cases
(Data from NYS CommCare system)
- **19,073** Individuals Tracked
(Data from NYS CommCare system)
- **17,909** Quarantine/Isolation Orders Issued
(Data from NYS CommCare system)
- **23,081** Calls Taken
- **4,290** Household Trips/ Deliveries
- **185** Complaints
- **868** FaceBook Posts
- **3,204** FaceBook Likes
- **39** Media Interviews
- **87** Press Releases



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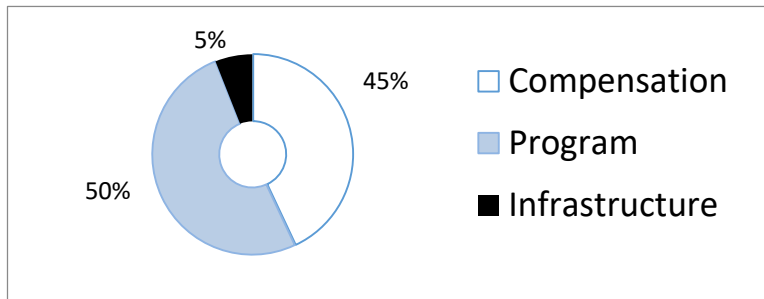


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Financial Snapshot December 2021

	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Budget ²	2021 Budget ^{*1,3}
Revenues					
Fees	742,121	1,100,359	1,112,262	739,661	1,119,950
State/Federal	2,040,481	2,680,110	2,704,275	2,047,275	2,347,657
Local	2,360,036	2,147,623	2,103,208	1,924,103	3,022,708
TOTAL	5,142,638	5,928,092	5,919,745	4,710,796	6,490,315
Expenses					
Compensation	1,721,424	1,734,508	1,728,302	1,889,627	2,214,152
Program Expense	3,206,083	3,671,760	3,661,604	2,518,252	3,928,772
Core Infrastructure	215,131	521,824	529,838	302,917	347,391
TOTAL	5,142,638	5,928,092	5,919,745	4,710,796	6,490,315
FTE: 2021 Approved Headcount of 35 FTE: 31 FT & 4 PT	22.6	23.8	26.3	23.7	29.2

Allocation of Expenses Year-to-date through December 2021^{*1,3}



- *Notes:
1. The "Financial Snapshot" & "Allocation of Expenses" represent figures as of this report date (12.23.2021), and are not the FINAL December 2021 figures.
 2. During 2020, the Legislature required a 10% cut in expenses from all County departments. This was removed from the Expense side of the ledger, but not the offsetting revenue portion, thus inflating the reported "Local Share" of Public Health by nearly \$375K.
 3. COVID Specific funds have been removed from these tables, as they skew the numbers due to their large amounts. Currently over \$2.4 million has been appropriated of Covid funding within Public Health.



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2021 Data Report

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES	Y-E 2019	Y-E 2020	Y-E-12/22/2021
Community Health			
Healthy Neighborhoods Program Visits	327	94	112
- HNP referrals	421	35	0
Communicable Disease	464	618	0
- Respiratory (Legionellosis, Strep)	31	143	4
- Influenza	606	571	49
- Tick caused	57	19	102
- Hepatitis	34	20	49
- Gastrointestinal Disease	16	16	40
- PPD Test Administered	38	5	0
Child Passenger Safety Seats Inspected	84	6	20
- Child Seats FAILED Inspection	72	5	10
PH Interns	5	1	1
Immunizations total child and adult	120	35	0
People Trained w/ Narcan	18	9	2
Dental			
New Clients	637	124	154
Dental Screenings	1850	631	782
- Clients with no tooth decay	499	237	328
- Clients WITH tooth decay	601	116	310
- Clients with EXTENSIVE tooth decay	722	251	128
Extractions	161	91	179
Children Services			
Children w/Special Health Care Needs NEW Referrals	25	11	7
- Current Children being served	n/a	104	92
Environmental Health			
Animal bite investigations	197	119	150
Rabies Clinics	9	2	6
- Number of Animals	1016	391	1098
Food Establishment Inspections	235	81	182
- Establishments with Violation	35	10	26
Temporary Food Inspections	68	2	8
- Clean Indoor Air Act Violations (Smoking)	1	0	0
Mobile Home Park Inspections	30	3	37
Children's Camps	9	5	4
Agriculture Fairgrounds	2	0	2
Nuisance Complaints	25	58	17
Enforcement Actions	48	11	31
Weights & Measures			
Inspection Sites	82	69	115
- Devices Inspected	432	277	495
Petroleum Quality Samples Taken	0	0	0
COVID-19			
* Days Public Health EOC activated from year start		285	364
Total COVID Cases for period			5628
Individuals Tracked		5849	13224
Calls Taken		15257	7824
Quarantine/Isolation Orders Issued		4323	13586
Household Trips/deliveries		2518	1772
COVID-19 Related Complaints		144	41
Vaccination Clinics			36

* EOC originally activated starting 3/14/20