



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES June 15, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (All Attended In Person):

T. Hills, DVM, President
W. Simmons, Vice President
T. Leary, FNP
R. Kapur-Pado, DO (Arrived at 7:35 a.m.)
W. Standinger III, Legislator (Arrived at 7:37 a.m.)

ABSENT:

T. Nytch, DVM
J. Raftis, DO, FACEP

OTHER(S) PRESENT:

H. Vroman, Public Health Director
A. Reigelman, Secretary

GUESTS:

Daniel Scherrer, Public Health Sanitarian (Departed at 7:57 a.m.)
Todd Kopalek, Supervising Public Health Sanitarian (Departed at 7:57 a.m.)

CALL TO ORDER: at 7:30 by Dr. Hills

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

- Brief introduction of guests.

PRESENTATION:

Daniel Scherrer presented on Tioga County Public Health Water Program. Discussed how Public Health regulates public water supplies, different types of water supplies in Tioga County, responsibilities of water supplies and of Public Health. Also informed the Board of the Well Head Extension Program and change of process for submitting sample collections (which is all handled internally now).

- Q&A and discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Meeting Minutes: No discussion; motion to approve prior minutes made by Dr. Kapur-Pado; seconded by Ms. Leary, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.
- Enforcements: no questions, no discussion.
- Rabies Exemption Request: Ms. Vroman recapped the verbal request that was brought to the Board during the May meeting, and stated that the individual has not yet provided a written request. Brief discussion among members.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ms. Vroman informed the Board that if there are areas of concern that a member would like to address in future meetings to let her know.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Legislator Standinger asked Ms. Vroman if Public Health must meet a certain quota of preparedness drills to meet grant requirements. Ms. Vroman responded that, yes Public Health does have to meet a certain quota of practice drills for Public Health Emergency Preparedness. Legislator Standinger noted that the way Public Health runs Rabies Clinics is a good model.
- Ms. Leary inquired if there is County involvement with the homeless encampment located in Owego. Ms. Vroman stated that the Department of Social Services is aware and is providing assistance where they can. These individuals must request for help if they need assistance.

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- Brief discussion of Tioga County Housing shortage and the Emergency Order that was issued in Tioga County.
- The board also discussed unvaccinated populations; rise in certain communicable diseases (ie. Varicella).

INFORMATIONAL:

- Ms. Vroman provided various updates in Public Health:
 - Interviewed a candidate for the Public Health Nurse position last week, and have another interview this afternoon; hope to hire soon. Also interviewed for Public Health Fellow position, which is grant funded through June of 2024.
 - Received email from Scott, Smith & Son (handout to Board) thanking Public Health staff for work done, with special appreciation for a few standout employees.
 - In process of updating Public Health policy and procedures; all Article 28 corrective actions have been completed (from the audit last August).
 - Gearing up for Quality Assurance internal audits, Ms. Medina is chairing the committee. Public Health has not held internal record audits in some time, so this will set the bar for where Public Health needs to go.
 - Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Team (comprised of PHEP Coordinator and Admin Team) are now regularly meeting again; have revised the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). Moving forward staff and community partners, including Board of Health, will be kept informed. Will send out copy of COOP Plan to the Board electronically.
 - NYSACHO has assisted in moving along two bills beneficial to Public Health, hopefully to pass through legislation very soon.
 - One bill amends Public Health Law to remove Public Health Departments from more strict Article 28 requirements that hospitals/Diagnostic and Treatment Centers must uphold; now deeming Public Health departments as "limited health care facilities."
 - The second bill will allow Public Health departments to no longer have to maintain LHCSA licenses to be able to provide in-home services(education/outreach), since this office is no longer a true Home Health agency. Will still give Public Health reimbursement for services.
 - As of May 20th, a New York State Law was passed to require food establishments to display signage to raise awareness for food allergies. Signs must be posted and on menu (for patrons to let food service workers know if they have food allergies). Public Health proactively mailed letters and examples of signs for establishments to post to all permitted food establishments in Tioga County (over 200). This will be enforced by Public Health in the future if establishments do not post signage.
 - All NYS Health Departments have received funding from CDC for Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure and Workforce. This is a 5-year grant. In year 1, Tioga Public Health has determined to use grant money for employee incentives, technology upgrades, and for Employee Recognition Committee funds. Have received approval of funds from County Legislature.
 - Legislator Standinger noted that he was impressed with how Public Health developed the rubric for employee incentives; passed unanimously through the Committee.
 - Public Health is now fully stocked in all VFC and VFA vaccines; have designated Thursday afternoons for vaccine clinic appointments; plan to host a "Back to School" vaccine clinic.
- Ms. Reigelman inquired if the Board would like to have a break in meetings in August (as in previous years). The Board agreed to plan to not meet in August.
- The Board requested Mr. Simmons to inquire if the Bishop of the Amish community in Berkshire would be interested in coming to speak to our Board for the next meeting (July 20th). Mr. Simmons stated that he will ask, and that questions from the Board be collected ahead of time.
 - If he is unable to guest speak, Dr. Hills asked if Public Health could have a staff member speak on Public Health's vaccination clinic and the vaccine schedule for children.

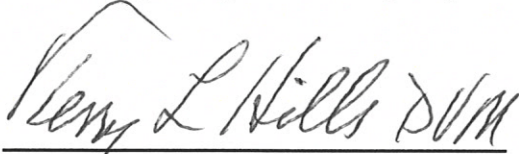


Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Tioga County

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Meeting adjourned at 9:00 A.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman.



Terry Hills, DVM; President



Abigail Reigelman; Secretary

Minutes approved July 20, 2023

