



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES May 18, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (All Attended In Person):

T. Nytych, DVM
T. Leary, FNP
W. Standinger III, Legislator
J. Raftis, DO, FACEP
R. Kapur-Pado, DO (Arrived at 7:36 a.m.)

ABSENT:

T. Hills, DVM, President
W. Simmons, Vice President

OTHER(S) PRESENT:

H. Vroman, Public Health Director
P. DeWind, Tioga County Attorney (Arrived at 7:39 a.m.)
A. Reigelman, Secretary

GUESTS:

Denis McCann, Director of Administrative Services (Departed at 8:06 a.m.)
Susan Medina, Deputy Director of Public Health (Departed at 8:07 a.m.)
Melanie Miller, Director of Patient Services (Departed at 8:07 a.m.)

CALL TO ORDER: at 7:30 by Dr. Nytych (requested to lead meeting by Dr. Hills in advance)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

- Brief introduction of guests; Board welcomed back Ms. Medina and Ms. Miller.

PRESENTATION:

Denis McCann, Public Health Financials Overview- funding, fees, where money is spent, budget schedule/process.

- Q&A and discussion followed; Legislator Standinger commended Mr. McCann and other Fiscal crew for what they do. Ms. Vroman added that Mr. McCann is also part of other State committees, which provides great insight/knowledge beneficial to the work he does for Public Health.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Meeting Minutes: No discussion; motion to approve prior minutes made by Ms. Leary; seconded by Dr. Kapur-Pado, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.
- Enforcements: brief discussion and explanation of higher priced enforcements listed (water-testing and hotel).
- By-Law Review: Subcommittee revised By-Laws per comments from Board at March meeting (revised By-Laws were sent electronically to members prior to meeting). Dr. Nytych asked Board members present if anyone had any further comments.
 - Ms. Vroman noted that she attended a Public Health Conference recently, where it was stated that legislation is being proposed to amend Public Health Law on Board of Health membership, making change of requirement from three physicians being on the Board to a minimum of two mid-level or greater providers. Not something to change in By-Laws yet, but to make note of for the future if legislation passes.
 - Dr. Nytych called for vote to approve the current iteration of By-Laws; motion made by Ms. Leary; seconded by Dr. Kapur-Pado; all members were in favor (by raise of hand), none opposed; motion approved.
 - Ms. Reigelman will send finalized By-Laws to Board of Health electronically.

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ADDITIONAL ITEM:

- Ms. Vroman brought a verbal request to the Board from a community member asking to exclude pigs from needing a rabies vaccine if being showed at the Tioga County Fair, as they previously had pigs die/get very sick from the Rabies vaccine.
 - Members discussed and determined that Ms. Vroman should ask the community member for a formally written request, with evidential proof that the pigs had died/gotten sick from the Rabies vaccine. Once received, Dr. Nytch and Dr. Hills will review and make final determination.
 - Rabies Control Order will not change at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ms. Vroman summarized the New York State “Start at 9” Campaign to Prevent HPV Cancers (informational letter sent electronically to members prior to meeting). TCPH received request for endorsement from Broome County Health Department and the HPV Coalition. Ms. Vroman sent to Dr. Kapur-Pado a month or two previously to inform and raise any questions.
 - Ms. Vroman informed the Board that moving forward she would like to begin to offer the HPV vaccine at the Public Health Clinic, and asked the Board their opinion on endorsing the “Start at 9” Campaign.
 - Board discussed, consensus to endorse the campaign, as the goal is to promote best practice, even though there will probably be some controversy on the matter. Ms. Vroman was requested to notify Tioga County Health and Human Services Legislative Committee at next meeting (in case they receive any pushback from community members).
 - Dr. Nytch called for vote to approve “Start at 9” Campaign endorsement for Tioga County Public Health; Ms. Leary made motion, Dr. Kapur-Pado seconded; all members were in favor (by raise of hand); motion approved.

INFORMATIONAL:

- Legislator Standinger commented that the Public Health Open House was very nice. Ms. Vroman stated that there was a fantastic turn-out, over 100 people attended the event, staff worked hard to put together. Ms. Vroman also thanked the Board for coming to Public Health Week meet’n’greet with staff.
- Ms. Vroman noted the 2023 County Health Ratings (handout provided), Tioga County ranked 22 out of all counties in New York State.
 - Discussion of lack of individuals seeking primary care providers; TCPH offered vaccines (VFA and VFC), and how will TCPH assist in the Emergency Declaration for migrant/asylum seekers.
- Ms. Vroman informed the Board of the increase Public Health is seeing in lead testing for children. Had a very high case (child had to be hospitalized), level has dropped significantly since the initial test and outreach/education by our environmental health staff.
 - Currently following 18 children with high lead levels, all found through routine testing
- Ms. Vroman provided update on the local business requiring a Wellhead Protection Permit. The business has moved forward, following proper channels to secure permit.
 - Because of this case, Public Health environmental health staff were proactive with another local business in need of replacing oil tanks, ensuring they were following proper channels also.
- Ms. Vroman asked the Board to let her know (via call or email) if there are discussion topics they would be interested in having for future meetings.
- Brief discussion of virtual meetings for Board of Health for members who can not attend in person. County Attorney DeWind provided two options for members:
 - Per Open Meetings Law, if a member will not be able to attend the meeting in person but would still like to attend virtually as a voting member of the Board, they would need to disclose the location they will be attending from to be included on the Meeting Notice




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when posted publicly. Reason being, that as an open meeting, their location would be available to anyone from the public who wishes to attend.


- Second option: the Board could pass policy for emergency appearances. The member could attend virtually as a last-minute request, but they would not count toward quorum nor be a voting member of the Board.

Dr. Nytech called for motion to adjourn meeting; motion made by Ms. Leary; seconded by Dr. Kapur-Pado. All were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.
Meeting adjourned at 8:49 A.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman.



Terry Hills, DVM; President



Abigail Reigelman; Secretary

Minutes approved June 15, 2023

