



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES May 19, 2022



BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (All Attended In Person):

T. Hills, DVM, Vice President
W. Standinger III, Legislator
T. Nytych, DVM
W. Simmons
R. Kapur-Pado, DO (Arrived at 7:44 A.M.)

STAFF PRESENT:

L. McCafferty, Secretary
P. DeWind, Esq., County Attorney (Arrived at 7:36 A.M.)
A. Reigelman, Secretary to the Public Health Director

ABSENT:

J. Picco, DDS, President
T. Leary, FNP
J. Raftis, DO, FACEP
K. Millar, CRNA

GUEST:

Laura Bennett, Public Health Educator, Tioga County Public Health (Departed at 7:56 A.M.)

CALL TO ORDER: 7:33 a.m. by Dr. Hills.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Dr. Hills introduced Ms. Bennett, presenting on topic of 2022 County Health Rankings.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve prior minutes made by Mr. Simmons; seconded by Legislator Standinger; no discussion, all were in favor, motion approved.
- Enforcements:
 - Ms. McCafferty briefly explained the ATUPA program, is to regulate the underage sale of tobacco products. (Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act)

PRESENTATION:

- Ms. Bennett presented a concise overview of the 2022 County Health Rankings (electronic presentation, hardcopy handout provided):
 - Background information of the County Health Rankings system (established in 2010),
 - Ranking measurements are standardized using various national and state data sources,
 - Model based on Health Outcomes vs. Health Factors,
 - 2021 vs. 2022 data in areas needing improvement and areas that have improved,
 - How Public Health will target areas for improvement.
- Dr. Nytych inquired about the small percentage changes from one year to the next; and what makes one area's small change significant over another.
 - Ms. Bennett replied that it can depend on the variable itself as what is deemed a significant change.
- Ms. McCafferty added that the system of ranking measurements has been consistent since 2010, making it a useful tool for improvement areas.



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- Ms. McCafferty asked Ms. Bennett to speak briefly on the topic of the Cancer in Action Prevention Grant and Sun Safety, one of Ms. Bennett's areas of focus.
 - Ms. Bennett has worked with Town of Richford, Town of Berkshire, as well as the Boys & Girls Club to adopt Sun Safety policies.
 - The policy allows Public Health to provide funds for locations to help purchase sun safety products. Ex. sunscreen dispensers which are available to the public and tents to provide shade for events, etc.
- Ms. McCafferty advised the Board that Public Health is in process of developing survey questions for the next CHIP/CHA (Community Health Improvement Plan/Community Health Assessment).
 - Offered to send the drafted questions to the Board and if anyone has any comments, or would like to add any other questions can do so.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Tioga County Public Health Stipulation Policy:
 - Ms. McCafferty handed out paper copies of the Tioga County Public Health Stipulation Policy for Environmental Health (last revised in 2010). She explained that the policy is in need of updating, and requested that the Board review the current policy and provide comments/feedback/recommendations.
 - Brief discussion about overlap in jurisdiction in local licensed establishments between New York State Department of Health and Department of Agriculture. There is good relationship/cooperation between all parties.
 - County Attorney DeWind advised to increase the amount for administrative hearings, based on past actions/costs.
 - Legislator Standinger inquired if the discounting of \$100.00 if fine is paid within 30 days has helped to reduce the number of administrative hearings.
 - Ms. McCafferty responded that it has; but asked the Board if the discount is something that we want to continue to provide.
 - County Attorney DeWind inquired if Public Health has the right to call a hearing if an entity is in continuous violation, if not would suggest that it be added.
 - Ms. McCafferty added that enforcement is also tied to the Tioga County Sanitary Code (which is also outdated).
 - Brief discussion of fines as having to do with well/septic complaints.
 - Ms. McCafferty clarified that Public Health is not aggressive or punitive; would rather work with the property owner/municipalities and correct any problems.
 - Some enforcement actions are advised by local policy, and other actions local entities do not have discretion to change as it comes from state level.
 - Ex. Lead regulation/enforcement-discussion on current lead legislation changes taking place in New York State.
 - Ms. McCafferty offered to have Tioga County Environmental Health Sanitarians and Ms. Bennett back to discuss the operation of Tioga County Public Health's Lead program.
 - Dr. Nytch inquired if the fines should be updated per modern economics, as they seem low currently on paper.

INFORMATIONAL:

- Ms. McCafferty stated that the Board received the Agency Report electronically, as well as ASAP letter on Cannabis Legislation and Memo from Office of Cannabis Management keeping the Board informed on status of this topic-which is a slow moving project.
- Ms. McCafferty handed out copies of the current Influenza Surveillance Report from New York State- flu is widespread. New York extended flu season by several weeks.
 - CDC is replicating same kind of map for COVID.
 - Cases in Tompkins and Broome both are increasing.
 - New York State is moving toward personal responsibility (Ms. McCafferty handed out the online Isolation/Quarantine Self Attestations issued by the state).



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- Many still need paper proof to provide to employers to be able to get paid.
- Tioga County Public Health still monitoring PCR positive tests.
- Ms. McCafferty handed out an example of an IHANS health alert that she receives from the state- some are just advisory, others urgent. Many different groups are set up to receive notifications including but not limited to medical providers.
 - Sometimes this is information overload for clinical practices so Public Health sifts through and sends blast faxes to medical providers of important information that comes through the alert system.
- Ms. McCafferty noted the latest Chlamydia outbreak in Australia with its Koala population.
 - Dr. Nytch mentioned COVID being seen in deer populations

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

- Dr. Nytch asked if the Board should respond to a letter that was from a local church official and medical provider accusing the Tioga County Board of Health of making mistakes during COVID.
 - Dr. Nytch made a motion that the Board respond back; motion not seconded.
 - Discussion between Board members took place on whether or not to respond.
 - Several Board members agreed to review the letter again, and respond personally to the individual.
 - Mr. Simmons stated that he would do this, and share his letter with the Board before sending it to the individual-not sending as a representative of the Board, just personally to be able to share his own experience with COVID.

Ms. McCafferty advised the Board that the next meeting will be June 16th. Currently, the emergency declaration is due to end June 14th, could be extended. Inquired if the Board would like to meet in person, or virtually if still able. Consensus in person.

Ms. McCafferty also stated that Public Health Sanitarian, Daniel Scherrer is scheduled to attend the next meeting to present on water systems. If preferred, can change topic to Public Health's Lead program.

Legislator Standinger noted that he has received positive feedback from the community on Public Health's rabies clinics and the use of electronic registration. Mr. Simmons added that he has attended in the past, and they are very well organized. Ms. McCafferty stated that rabies clinics have been a fun activity for Public Health, that is not COVID related. She stated that she would convey the message to the Public Health crew.

Dr. Nytch called for adjournment at 9:14 A.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa McCafferty.



Joseph Picco, DDS, President



Lisa C. McCafferty, R.S., MPH; Secretary

Minutes approved June 16, 2022

