



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES May 16, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (All Attended In Person):

T. Hills, DVM, President
W. Simmons, Vice President
T. Nyтч, DVM
W. Standinger III, Legislator (Arrived at 7:38 a.m.)
T. Leary, FNP
R. Kapur-Pado, DO

ABSENT:

J. Raftis, DO, FACEP

OTHER(S) PRESENT:

H. Vroman, Public Health Director
A. Reigelman, Secretary
P. DeWind Esq., County Attorney (Arrived at 7:42 a.m.)

GUESTS:

Susan Medina, Deputy Director of Public Health (Departed at 7:43 a.m.)
Daniel Scherrer, Public Health Sanitarian (Arrived at 7:41 a.m.)
Erica Kylor, LMSW Senior Clinical Social Worker, Tioga County Mental Hygiene (Arrived at 7:50 a.m.,
Departed at 8:24 a.m.)

CALL TO ORDER: at 7:32 a.m. by Dr. Hills.

NEW BUSINESS:

- TCPH Audit Summary, Quarter 1 of 2024- Ms. Medina provided summary of the last quarterly audit held on April 24, 2024. 122 program records were audited in programs including: Food Service, Mobile Home Parks, Weights & Measures, Animal Bite Investigations, Rabies Post Exposure Treatment, Lead Poisoning Prevention, School Based and Article 28 Dental, Communicable Disease, Immunization Clinic, PPD/Latent TBI, STD Clinic, and Early Intervention.
 - A few things were identified, but no other major issues found.
 - Need to ensure 10 or 10% of records are audited (max of 20 records).
 - Revamp audit summaries to be more comprehensive.
 - Ongoing Quality Improvement Project for Rabies Investigations- We have been updating forms and tracking logs, want to ensure records are thorough and complete and open communication between Environmental Health staff and Nursing staff.
 - Satisfaction Surveys- 30 surveys were returned in the first quarter, all positive. With the dental program seeing children, developed a child's satisfaction survey and started using. Had one return in the 2nd quarter so far.
 - No patient complaints nor sharps injuries to report.
 - Dr. Nyтч inquired if the department is in a good place with the State now after the Article 28 audit. Ms. Vroman stated that it is.
 - Ms. Vroman complimented Ms. Medina in taking initiative in getting the Quality Assurance program back up and running and for the work she has put into the program. She stated that she has really spearheaded the program, having added additional programs to audit including Mobile Home Parks and the Preschool program will be added in this upcoming quarter's audit. Ms. Medina is tech savvy and has created a few electronic forms to be used on our website (including the Animal Bite Report Form) which make our programs more efficient.
 - The Board, Ms. Medina and Ms. Vroman discussed patient complaints and the electronic Animal Bite Form process.



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

OLD BUSINESS:

- Meeting Minutes: No discussion; motion to approve prior minutes made by Dr. Nytch; seconded by Mr. Simmons, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.
- Enforcements: Ms. Vroman provided additional information on the enforcements. Mr. Scherrer explained specific issues found at the facilities.
- Ms. Vroman gave a status update on the tobacco retailer in need of hearing. Another stipulation was issued to this retailer for the sale of tobacco to a minor which was due by April 30th, and it has not been returned. The department is still moving forward with a hearing for this retailer, but in need of an impartial hearing officer. Ms. Vroman asked the Board for any suggestions for this. County Attorney DeWind stated that he can assist in finding an impartial individual.
 - County Attorney DeWind gave background on this retailer.
 - Dr. Hills inquired of process in the case the retailer appealed the hearing decision. County Attorney DeWind stated that the case would then go to Supreme Court. Ms. Vroman explained that in the case of Public Health, if the retailer does not pay the fine, they will not be allowed to permit in Tioga County/points would go on their establishment.
 - Ms. Vroman informed the Board of the New York State Department of Health's latest stance on the selling of flavored vapes.

PRESENTATION: Upon arrival, Ms. Vroman introduced Ms. Kylor from Tioga County Mental Hygiene who presented on the topic of programs and services offered by Tioga County Mental Hygiene. Ms. Kylor provided handouts of their Resource Guide and Mental Hygiene program brochure.

- Tioga County Mental Hygiene offers:
 - An open access clinic Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., can receive a full assessment and can get right in with a therapist if needed.
 - Drug/Alcohol program can provide same day treatment or outpatient services.
 - 24/7 Crisis Hotline (have on call staff, access through calling the Sheriff's if after hours).
 - Create safety plans for suicidal individuals, can offer brochures on how to be safe at home, medicine lock boxes, Narcan kits, gun locks, etc.
 - Also offer case management for adults and children.
 - Offer phone consultation with the onsite doctor and some Zoom /phone intakes.
- Discussed various processes/types of cases they receive and provide assistance in (see children 5 and older depending on maturity level). Informed the Board of other referral sources (Aspect Mental Health in Vestal is a prescriber-only facility).
- Required to be a Tioga County resident to be seen at Tioga County Mental Hygiene. If transients reside in Tioga County, they can be seen.
- Discussed safety measures within the Mental Hygiene Clinic
 - Ms. Leary asked if Ms. Kylor could distribute her Resource Guide to all Tioga County providers, as that is very helpful information to share.

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS:

- Sanitary Code Revision- Ms. Vroman stated that she would like to form a subcommittee including internal Environmental Health staff and Board of Health members. The Tioga County Sanitary Code has never been revised, was briefly reviewed recently by Environmental Health staff. Do not anticipate significant revision. Envision that the subcommittee would meet regularly (possibly bi-weekly), review part by part of the Sanitary Code and compare to other County Sanitary Codes and still meet New York State regulations to see if our Code still meets our needs/is still applicable. Goal would be to have completed by August, and it would need to be approved by the full Legislature. Ms. Vroman inquired if anyone would be willing/interested to be a part of the subcommittee.
 - Dr. Nytch, Mr. Simmons and Legislator Standinger volunteered to act as subcommittee members.
 - Mr. Scherrer provided an example of how the current Tioga County Sanitary Code could change (changing minimum baseline of Chlorine Residual testing levels).



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

- Ms. Vroman stated that she will send an email to the subcommittee letting them know of date/time for first meeting. The Board and Ms. Vroman discussed and decided she would chair this subcommittee.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

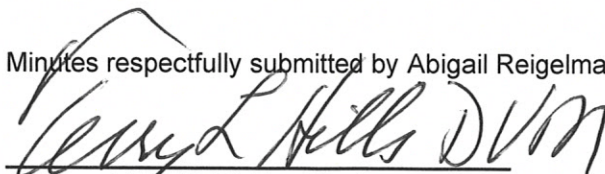
- Rabies Control Order- Dr. Hills distributed the revised copy of the Rabies Control Order and the current Rabies Order. Dr. Hills stated that the issue is still in how to track people who could be exposed. Dr. Hills shared that he spoke with the Tioga County Fair Board President and possibly offered putting up video cameras. Dr. Nytech stated that it is highly unlikely that the goat incident would happen again (all agreed). Dr. Hills stated that the key difference between then and now is that when the incident happened, off label vaccination was not performed; now it is and all animals will have proof of vaccination.
 - Board members, Ms. Vroman, Mr. Scherrer and County Attorney DeWind discussed various concerns, decided:
 - Remain as 14 day minimum of vaccine administration prior to the exhibited event.
 - Part C(2) should read generically as "Market animals." Take out "4H."
 - Language in C(3) to remain the same as in revised copy, confirmed appropriate language on animal surveillance with County Attorney DeWind.
 - Part B(3) language must be revised to include providing proof of vaccination prior to the exhibit.
 - Part D(1) "will" to change to "shall."
 - Discussion of enforcement and how to accurately verify animals with their vaccination records. Mr. Scherrer provided example of the alpaca farm event that occurred, verification was handled appropriately using staff's discretion.
 - Dr. Nytech inquired if there should be a notation of exhibiting wild animals. Dr. Hills agreed that this order is for the purpose of domesticated mammals, not wild animals.
 - Ms. Vroman also noted that in the order "Exhibited mammal" includes animals on "display," should specify for "exhibits with direct contact."
 - Dr. Hills stated that he will revise per comments in this meeting and email out to the Board, with intention to finalize at next meeting. Mr. Simmons noted the time and effort Dr. Hills put into revising the Rabies Control Order. Everyone thanked Dr. Hills.
 - The Board additionally discussed slaughtering standards and USD regulations.

INFORMATIONAL:

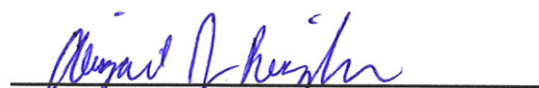
- Ms. Vroman shared that Mr. Scherrer has been officially approved for the Director of Environmental Health position and will be starting in this role May 20, 2024.
- Ms. Vroman noted that there are six public water systems that will be receiving a letter informing them that they will have to newly comply with current reporting/monitoring regulations (they were not on the State's radar when initiated 30 years ago). Mr. Scherrer provided background to this, and added that the State is now requiring our involvement and there will be a timeframe for compliance.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman.



Terry Hills, DVM, President



Abigail Reigelman, Secretary

Minutes approved June 20, 2024

