



## TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

**PLEASE RSVP TO 607-687-8630**

**IF YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING**

TO: Members of the Board of Health

FROM: A. Reigelman, Secretary

DATE: February 13, 2025

RE: Board of Health Meeting - Thursday, February 20, 2025,  
7:30 a.m., **Conference Room B**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Health and Human Services  
Building at 1062 St. Rt. 38, Owego, NY 13827.

### AGENDA

#### Introduction of Guests-

- Susan Medina, Deputy Public Health Director
- Denis McCann, Director of Administrative Services

#### Presentation- Community Partnerships (S. Medina)

#### Old Business

- Meeting Minutes (January)
- Enforcements

#### New Business

- TCPH Audit Summary, Quarter 4 of 2024 (S. Medina)

#### Director's Report

- Agency Updates – January (D. McCann on behalf of H. Vroman)

#### Additional Items

- None

#### Next Meeting Information

- Next Meeting: March 20, 2025

# TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

## MEETING MINUTES January 16, 2025

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (Attended In Person):**

T. Nytch, DVM, President  
W. Simmons, Vice President  
J. Raftis, DO, FACEP  
T. Leary, FNP  
W. Standinger III, Legislator  
R. Kapur-Pado, DO

### **ABSENT:**

T. Hills, DVM, President

### **OTHER(S) PRESENT:**

H. Vroman, Public Health Director  
A. Reigelman, Secretary  
P. DeWind, Tioga County Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER:** at 7:31 a.m. by Dr. Nytch.

**PRESENTATION:** None

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Meeting Minutes (November 2024): Motion to approve prior minutes made by Mr. Simmons; seconded by Dr. Raftis, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.
- Enforcements: Dr. Nytch inquired about high enforcement for Reese's Hideaway Diner. Ms. Vroman explained that the price was due to the number and type of violations. An inquiry was made on the water enforcements, which Ms. Vroman explained are due to water reports not being provided. Brief conversation about the new lead and copper rule for municipalities which the Environmental Health Director is providing oversight on.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- By-Law Review: Ms. Vroman explained that in current By-Laws it states that the Board must review at least annually which is why it is an agenda item. Also due to new law change to allow mid-level providers to serve in lieu of three fully licensed physicians, Ms. Vroman proposed making this change within current By-Laws. Copies of New York State Law were distributed electronically to Board members prior to meeting for reference. Copies of the proposed changes to the By-Laws were distributed to Board members in hardcopy during meeting to review.
  - Dr. Raftis inquired if By-Laws should also reflect law update to allow providers who are residents in contiguous counties to serve as members, or if able to amend By-Laws if/when the need arises. Board members discussed and decided not to make this change at this time.
  - Motion made by Ms. Leary to approve proposed By-Law changes to read as:  
Chapter III  
Membership

*Section 1. The Board of Health shall consist of seven voting members, one of whom shall be a member of the Legislature, selected by the Legislature. At least [three] one of whom shall be a physician licensed to practice in the State of New York, and two shall be a*

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*physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant or any combination thereof licensed to practice in the State of New York, and one veterinarian. Remaining members should reflect varied aspects of the community including geography of the population.*

No further changes recommended; seconded by Dr. Kapur-Pado, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.

- Member Roles and Responsibilities: Ms. Vroman stated that she thought it would be good topic of discussion as Mr. Simmons had mentioned it in the November meeting. The Tioga County Board of Health Reference Manual was distributed to members electronically and in hardcopy for reference. Ms. Vroman stated that this document was in existence before she assumed her role. It references Public Health Law for member roles and responsibilities. Ms. Vroman stated that the applicable laws are 347, 308 and 309 and will send out to Board members after meeting. Ms. Vroman also noted that the current By-Laws reference member roles in Chapter 2, Section 1, 2 and 3; Chapter 5, Section 6 and 7; and Chapter 7, Section 6. Dr. Nytch made note of subcommittee creation and that ensuring it is a cooperative effort between Public Health staff and Board of Health when it comes to requiring orders. Members had no further discussion surrounding reference manual.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- Ms. Vroman stated that she wants to start providing a written report to the Board, which will not be given out ahead of time in case there is anything that needs to be added prior to the meeting. She asked members to let her know if they would like any format changes or if they would like to see different information topics.
- General Public Health Information:
  - On Tuesday, the Governor gave the State of the State Address. There was no notation of Public Health matters; as of now no foreseen burden of local budget. Will provide more information as it is released.
  - Avian Flu- Ms. Vroman thanked Dr. Nytch for keeping her and Board informed with updated information. Since April 2024, 61 human cases; one fatality in Louisiana; no human cases reported in New York. This week, received notice from Regional Department of Health of surplus of seasonal influenza vaccine. Have discussed and will be reaching out to local farmers to see if interested in receiving vaccine with assistance from Cornell Cooperative Extension. Messaging will need to be on point, as this is not targeted at Avian Flu; do not want misconception.
    - Mr. Simmons stated that it might be better to reach out to Pro Dairy Program lead as they have a better connection with larger dairy farms. Dr. Nytch inquired if Mr. Simmons could reach out to his contact to establish connection for Public Health. Mr. Simmons agreed. Mr. Simmons also discussed more frequent milk samples being taken.
  - Illicit cannabis shops- Some counties have implemented local laws through environmental health sanitary codes to regulate. This is just to share and make the Board aware, not something to implement immediately.
    - County Attorney DeWind noted that since New York State already has regulations in place, would not want to challenge.
  - Pertussis is on the rise, Public Health sent out press release to inform the community. Did have outbreak in one school district. Most cases have been fully vaccinated. Cases have been well-mitigated and have not had a case in a few weeks.
    - Dr. Raftis noted that it is difficult to find prophylaxis in certain areas.
    - Mr. Simmons stated that he has warned his connections within the local Amish community of the rise in Pertussis.
  - Flu is widespread in New York now. Have seen increase from last year in number of cases.

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- Inquiry was made about what the majority of cases are being reported as (flu type), and what is the match to the current flu vaccine. Ms. Vroman stated that she believes it is Flu A, but she will verify.
- Staffing Updates:
  - Albert Knapp, Public Health Sanitarian, has retired as of January 3rd. He trained his son, our new Public Health Technician, in the Septic Program.
  - Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator position is still vacant, if members know of anyone who may be interested reach out. This is a paid position. Felt the position needed to be full time.
  - Had to part ways with AmeriCorps member.
  - Excited to report that the current mobile dental unit dentist will be working one extra day a week. Worked with Personnel and Tioga County Legislature to change County policy to allow paid time off for the part time dentist.
    - Legislator Standinger noted that this was a carve out specifically for Dr. Sarnicola, and Public Health made a good case.
- Ms. Vroman wanted to mention that the Agency Report that is sent out with agenda packets via email highlights Public Health's noteworthy tasks each month as well as tracks data trends within the Data Summary on last page of report. Encouraged members to review.
  - Mr. Simmons noted that Stray Haven is no longer taking in dogs. East/North Tioga County has no where for dogs to go. Foresee an issue to come with this. Berkshire dog control officer is looking to approach the County on this matter. Tied this to dog bites/confinements.
  - Ms. Leary inquired if influenza numbers are tied into Communicable Disease total number. Ms. Vroman stated that she believed it was but will confirm.
  - Board discussed RSV and the new RSV vaccine for those over age 50.
- Accomplished Tasks:
  - Hosted Lunch & Learn for Code Enforcement Officers on lead paint hazards, water, septic program, rabies exposures and public health nuisances. It was relationship building.
  - Provided medicine lock boxes to UHS Methadone clinic.
  - In December, a group from Eastern Tennessee University came to evaluate the dental program and learn how the funds received from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) benefitted the program. A report will be coming to us from this visit, and will share when received.
  - Mr. McCann presented on the Public Health Infrastructure Grant to NYSACHO regarding how Tioga County Public Health used the funding, as this department is looked at as a model county for the use of the grant.
  - Ms. Vroman presented to NYSACHO on Tioga Castings.
    - Board discussed cleanup efforts and current state of the homeless community. Noted fire within Ithaca's "Jungle" recently.
- In Progress Tasks:
  - Security on Dental Van is a current Quality Improvement Project. Looking at cameras, locking doors via swipe, panic buttons and how to alert 911 of emergency. Noted recent school lock down, how to handle emergencies of this matter while Dental Van is parked at school districts.
  - Other Quality Improvement Projects include: electronic Environmental Health permit applications and tying to electronic payments, Rabies Investigation Program, Safety features at rabies clinics.
  - Local veterinary office will no longer be participating in Public Health rabies clinics due to Public Health not providing rabies prophylaxis to their staff.
    - Dr. Nytych inquired of issue of rabies vaccine that was noted at end of last year by local veterinarian. Ms. Vroman explained scenario and stated that Dr. Hills had assisted in drafting letter to send to the veterinarian in question.
  - The County Administrator will be coming to Tioga County Public Health to meet with staff for Public Health "orientation days."

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- Strategic Plan is carrying on.
- Assumed leadership of the Suicide Coalition, Ms. Wait is leading. Discussing merger with ASAP coalition.
- Will be launching Credible Mind Platform for electronic mental Health information.
- Will be having a training on de-escalation for all Public Health staff next week.
- Other Information:
  - Legislator Ray Bunce is now a member of the Health and Human Services Legislative Committee, replacing Jake Brown.
  - In December, Ms. Vroman completed her Master's in Public Health degree.
    - Dr. Nytch stated that he would like a proclamation on record and made motion of appreciation for Ms. Vroman's hard work and congratulations from the Board of Health in this endeavor; seconded by Mr. Simmons, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.
  - Decided as of January 1<sup>st</sup> to officially be branded as "Tioga County Public Health" for consistency. In the past, have had various names for the department.
  - Ms. Vroman stated that she will not be able to attend the February Board of Health meeting and inquired if members would still like to have a meeting or cancel. Noted that if they would still like to have meeting, will have Ms. Medina lead on her behalf. Agenda items to include Quality Assurance Report and overview of partnerships and coalitions.
    - Members discussed. Dr. Raftis stated that he will be out of town too but could attend virtually. Mr. Simmons motioned to meet February 20, 2025 for normal meeting; seconded by Dr. Kapur-Pado, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.
      - County Attorney DeWind stated that if Dr. Raftis attends virtually and is not attending as a voting member, address information will not need to be included on the agenda. However, a quorum must be assured.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman.

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Thomas Nytch, DVM, President

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Abigail Reigelman; Secretary

Minutes approved February 20, 2025



February 2025 Enforcements

<u>Business</u>	<u>Type of Violation</u>	<u>Fine Paid/Date</u>	<u>Repeat Violation(s) within 12 Month Period</u>
Stephen and Deb Sanyshyn Metros Restaurant State Route 96 Owego, NY	Water	Report Submitted 1/12/2025	No
Denishkumar Thakor Deep Well Motel 3905 Waverly Rd. Owego, NY	Water	\$500.00 1/13/2025	No
Charles Otto Tioga Downs Racetrack LLC 2384 W. River Rd. Nichols, NY	Food	\$450.00 1/15/2025	No
Margaret Soprano Soprano's Family Deli Inc. 607 Cayuta Ave. Waverly, NY 14892	Food	\$475.00 1/27/2025	No
Sherry Clare Turkey Trott Acres 188 Tubbs Hill Rd. Candor, NY	Water	\$100.00 2/10/2025	No
Sukhwinder Singh Harry's Expressway 1423 State Route 96 Owego, NY	Water	\$100.00 2/10/2025	No



## Tioga County Public Health

Health & Human Services Building | 1062 State Route 38, Owego, NY 13827

Phone: 607-687-8600 | Fax: 607-223-7030 | [ph.tiogacountyny.gov](http://ph.tiogacountyny.gov)

Heather Vroman, MPH, MSEd., Public Health Director



# AGENCY REPORT

December 26, 2024-January 22, 2025

### Highlights

- We said farewell to Albert Knapp, Public Health Sanitarian, and wished him all the best in his retirement. He was honored with a resolution from the Legislature in his 18 years of service with the County.
- Heather Vroman and Kristin Russell both completed their Master of Public Health degrees.
- At the January All Staff Meeting we had an external team provide our staff with De-Escalation Training, which was very well received.
- PHD presented to NYSACHO on the Tioga Castings experience and received positive feedback encouraging to put together an abstract for the NACCHO conference or presenting at a national forum.
- Through the Public Health Infrastructure Grant, we were able to purchase a water bottle filling station for the second floor of the Health & Human Services Building.
- We held our first rabies clinic of the year at Candor Fire Department. It was another successful clinic in the books, providing 167 rabies vaccines and, in partnership with Stray Haven, offered 61 parvo-distemper vaccines. This is the first clinic we have utilized our electronic payment method for rabies donations and had an Animal Control Officer present for added safety.
- Jason Davis was nominated as Team Member of the fourth quarter of 2024.

### Health Education

- At the Tioga ASAP (Advocacy, Support and Prevention) monthly coalition meeting, had representative from NY Matters and caseworker from Tioga County Mental Hygiene present about their programs and services. During the meeting coalition members also provided feedback on 2025 goals.
- ASAP Coalition Coordinator met with Tioga County Sheriff's Lt. Delmage to outline a plan to conduct alcohol compliance checks as part of youth substance use prevention efforts.
- Presented at Spencer Van Etten and Candor Yes Clubs to youth on Tioga ASAP and grant initiatives.
- Public Health Educator interviewed with WENY to discuss the rates of flu and RSV and how to prevent their spread.
- Met with Broome and Seneca County to discuss Suicide Prevention Coalition ideas, initiatives and networking.
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator attended training on Mass Care Sheltering and Relocation Capacity Building as well as Medical Countermeasure Distribution/Public Health Asset Distribution Plan training/webinar.

### Environmental Health

- Director of Environmental Health met with Tioga County Sustainability Manager to review the Tioga County Sanitary Code updates and our various programs and services.
- Two of our new Environmental Health staff members attended the New York State Department of Health Basic Environmental Health course this week, held outside Albany.
- Director of Environmental Health attended the Tioga County Water Quality Committee quarterly meeting at Soil and Water.

### Patient Services (EI, Dental, Clinic)

- Early Intervention Service Coordinators have been doing transition paperwork for the children who are nearing their third birthday so that these children can continue with services at a preschool level. We have also heard from some Early Intervention providers that they have had difficulties billing through the new EI Hub system, which is concerning because some providers are considering no longer being providers for the EI program.



- While the EI Hub application has had multiple challenges, we can report that about 99% of insurance claims submitted through the application have been paid.
- On the dental van, our dentist and dental assistant have started working extra hours to meet patient demand.
- The dental van moved to and finished services at Apalachin Elementary School and West Learning Center. The number of students at Apalachin Elementary doubled and tripled at West Learning Center from last year.
- All licensed staff at Tioga County Public Health have completed/ are working on completing the New York State Mandated Reporter Training.
- As part of our Dental Van Security Quality Improvement project, Ms. Bennett made signage stating that no medication or cash is kept on the dental van. Also, we are still on the lookout for a security system for the dental van that will suit our needs. Have a few security company demos scheduled.

### Administrative Services

- PHD and Deputy PHD met with the Town of Nichols's board members to discuss Public Health programs and services as well as future collaborations and partnerships.
- First Board of Health meeting for 2025 held. Annual review of By-Laws and member roles and responsibilities.

### Ongoing Support/Partnerships

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| - Allies in Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition                  | - Safe Harbor Committee                                  |
| - Child Fatality Review Team                                      | - S2AY Pivotal Partners Finger Lakes                     |
| - Family Enrichment Network (Head Start)                          | - Team Tioga   |
| - Lourdes PACT Advisory Board                                     | - Tioga County Board of Health                           |
| - Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network                            | - Tioga County Commissioner's Advisory Council           |
| - New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) | - Tioga County Council of Governments                    |
| - New York State Association for Rural Health (NYSARH)            | - Tioga County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) |
| - New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC)                  | - Tioga County Mental Health Sub-Committee               |
| - Racker Center   | - Tioga County Non-Profit Network                        |
| - Rural Health Network  | - Tioga County Threat Assessment Management Team         |
|   | - Tioga Opportunities                                    |

### Attachments:

1. Financial Snapshot, YTD thru 11/2024.
2. Photographs: Candor Fire Department Rabies Clinic; J. Davis Team Member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2024, January 2025.
3. Flyer: "What the Health!?", January 2025.
4. Bulletin Boards: "Go Alcohol Free for 31 Days, "Be Bright, Be Seen" Health & Human Services Building, Owego, January 2025.
5. Bulletin Board: "Stay Safe on the Road This Winter," 56 Main Street, Owego, January 2025.
6. Billboards: "Kids Can't Tell the Difference," "Don't Drive High!" "Walking in a Germ-Free Wonderland!" Various Locations, January 2025.
7. Data Spreadsheet December 26, 2024-January 22, 2025.



**Financial Snapshot**  
**Year-to-date through November 2024\*1,2,3,4**

	<b>Budget 2024</b>	<b>Actual YTD 2024</b>	<b>Percentage of 2024 Budget</b>
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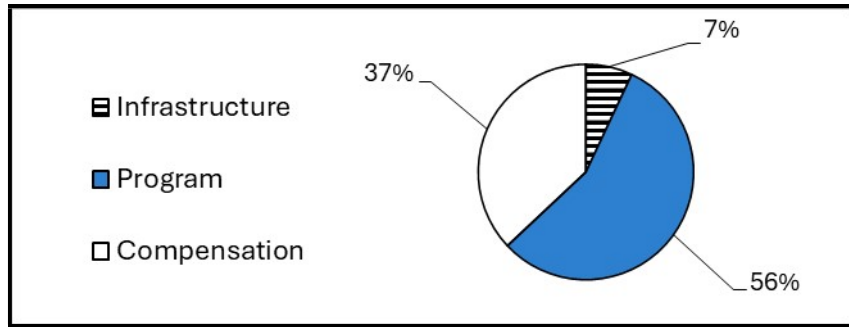
**REVENUES**

Fees	1,076,622	619,763	58 %
State/Federal	3,779,346	2,401,592	64 %
Local	3,399,287	2,616,934	77 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,255,255</b>	<b>5,638,289</b>	<b>68 %</b>

**EXPENSES**

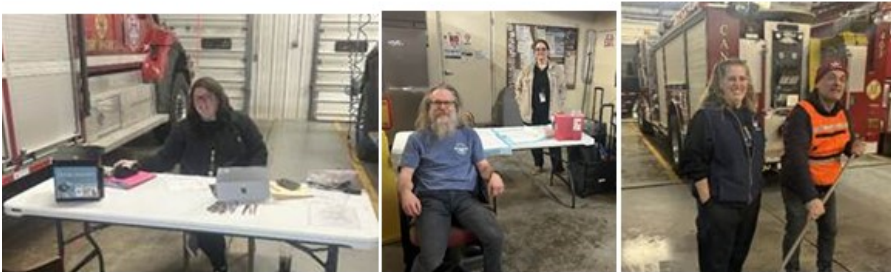
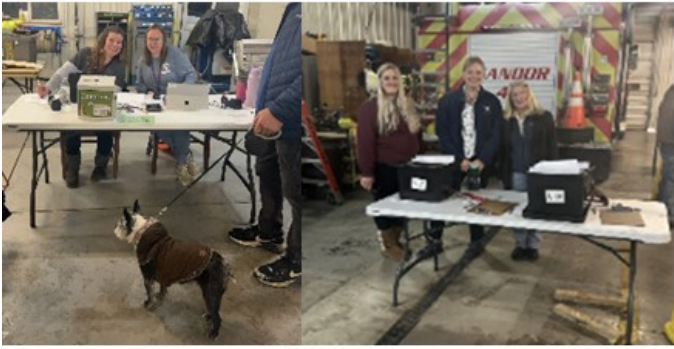
Compensation	2,820,322	2,083,375	74 %
Program Expense	4,906,718	3,160,374	64 %
Core Infrastructure	528,215	394,264	75 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,255,255</b>	<b>5,638,289</b>	<b>68 %</b>

**Allocation of Expenses**  
**Year-to-date through November 2024**



**\*Notes:**

1. Most of January & February revenue are adjusted back to prior year as payments during this time are for services performed in the prior year. State Aid reimbursement is reported a couple months after each quarter ends.
2. These figures represent the most recent 'closed out' month by the Treasurer.
3. Additional funds not including in the reported numbers above are JUUL Settlement Funds & ASAP Coalition grants. These are excluded as they are outside of our County approved budgets and would skew the figures to not being accurate reflections of financial status.
4. December figures are not reported until final reconciliation with the Treasurer's Office.



Rabies Clinic, Candor Fire Department, January 16, 2025

Jason Davis, Team Member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2024, January 2025





# What the Health!?

January 2025

## Be GERM-FREE this Winter!

Get Vaccinated

Sick? Stay Home

Eat a Healthy Diet

Wash Your Hands

Exercise Regularly

## Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

It's estimated that in 2024, about 4,360 women in the U.S. die of cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable and treatable cancers.

### What can you do to prevent cervical cancer?

- Get vaccinated for HPV- anyone can be vaccinated for HPV starting at the age of 9!
- Have regular screening tests- talk to your healthcare provider about your next screening schedule!

## Benefits of Dry January?

- Better Sleep
- Improved mood and energy levels
- Clearer skin
- Decreased risk of health conditions like cancer or cardiovascular disease
- Reduce liver fat and blood sugar



## COOL CATS GET THEIR RABIES VAX!

Join us January 16th at the Candor Fire Station for our first Rabies Vaccination Clinic of 2025!

Pre-Registration is required.

Scan the QR code or visit [ph.tiogacountyny.gov](http://ph.tiogacountyny.gov)

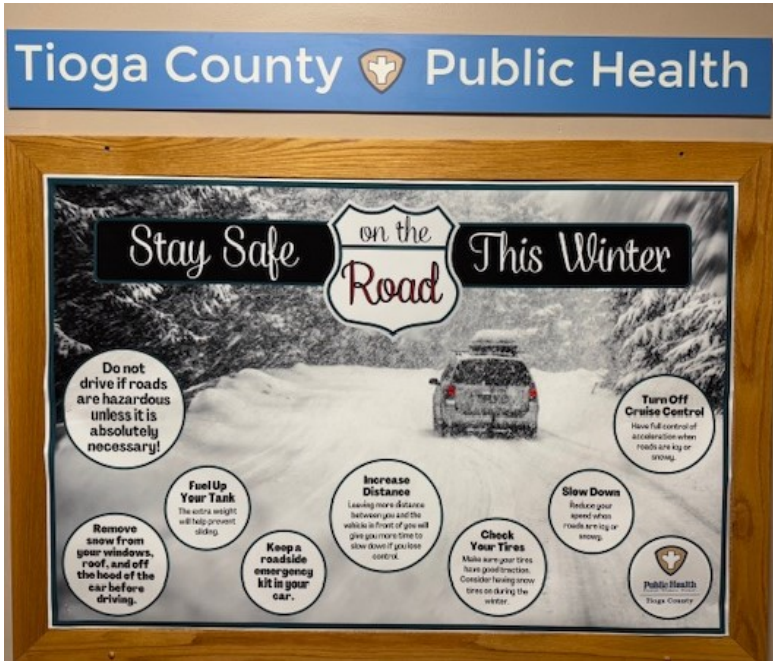
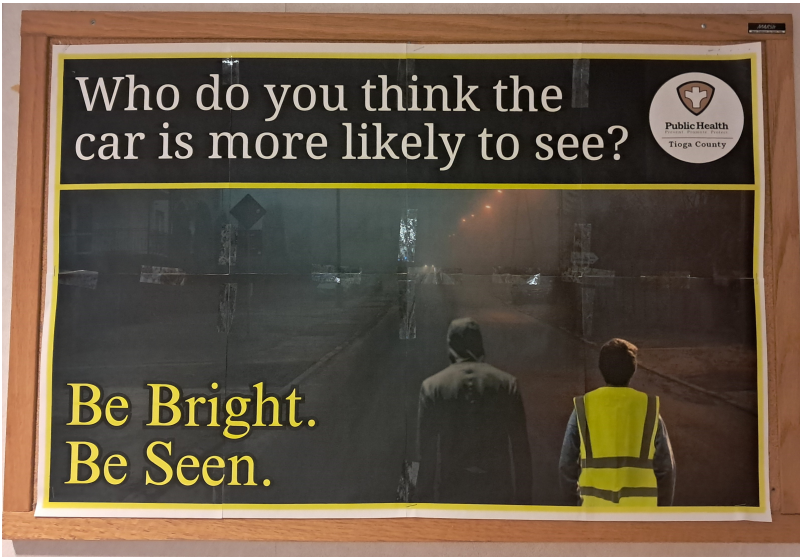
Check out our website for the full 2025 schedule!







(Top & Left) Bulletin Boards: Health & Human Services Building, January 2025



(Left) Bulletin Board: 56 Main Street, Owego, January 2025





Billboard Designs, Various locations, January 2025

# DATA SPREADSHEET

December 26, 2024 - January 22, 2025

<b><u>PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES</u></b>	<b><u>Y-E 2023</u></b>	<b><u>Y-E 2024</u></b>	<b><u>Dec-24</u></b>	<b><u>Jan-25</u></b>	<b><u>Y-T-D</u></b>
<b>Community Health</b>					
Communicable Disease	2438	3082	397	377	377
- General Infectious Diseases (Campylobacteriosis, Salmonellosis, etc.)	61	330	77	86	86
- Zoonotic Diseases (Anaplasmosis, Lyme, etc.)	375	352	17	9	9
- Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (COVID-19, Influenza, etc.)	1897	2281	287	277	277
- Hepatitis	15	17	0	1	1
Child Passenger Safety Seats Inspected	47	49	2	3	3
- Child Seats FAILED Inspection	36	40	2	3	3
Immunizations total child and adult	62	87	12	6	6
Children Lead Tested (6 years and under)	913	812	56	68	68
Newly Identified Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels	22	10	1	0	0
Current Children with EBLL Caseload	N/A	NA	25	24	N/A
- Welcome Baby Packets Mailed	77	298	14	31	31
People Trained w/ Narcan	145	96	0	0	0
<b>Dental</b>					
New Clients	311	325	36	32	32
Dental Screenings	1141	1227	102	93	93
- Clients with Low Decay Risk	374	461	42	40	40
-Clients with Moderate Decay Risk	419	274	23	25	25
- Clients with High Decay Risk	344	493	37	28	28
Extractions	102	170	3	12	12
<b>Children Services</b>					
Early Intervention Referrals	206	195	14	8	8
- Early Intervention CURRENT Caseload *Monthly total	N/A	N/A	27	28	N/A
- EI children waiting for service(s)	N/A	34	4	4	N/A
<b>Preschool</b>					
- Children in tuition based program	N/A	349	22	23	N/A
- Children receiving transportation services under Serafini contract	N/A	223	13	13	N/A
- Children receiving transportation by parents	N/A	126	9	10	N/A

<b>Child Find</b>					
- Current Children being served	N/A	N/A	21	21	N/A
<b>Environmental Health</b>					
Animal bite investigations	198	238	18	19	19
- Individuals requiring Rabies Series (N)	2	51	3	1	1
Rabies Clinics	8	9	0	1	1
- Number of Animals Vaccinated	1098	1377	0	167	167
Food Establishment Inspections	247	228	13	16	16
Temporary Food Inspections	66	62	3	1	1
Clean Indoor Air Act Complaints (Smoking)	0	1	0	0	0
Mobile Home Park Inspections	37	35	7	1	1
Swimming Pool Inspections	11	11	2	0	0
Tanning Inspections	1	2	0	0	0
ATUPA Checks (Underage Tobacco Sales)	108	116	0	35	35
- ATUPA Violations	3	2	0	0	0
Wellhead Replacement Projects In Progress	N/A	60	12	9	9
Wellhead Replacement Projects Completed	N/A	30	1	1	1
Children's Camp Inspections	7	13	0	0	0
Agriculture Fairground Inspections	2	3	0	0	0
Nuisance Complaints	7	25	3	2	2
Enforcement Actions	72	45	7	2	2
<b>Weights &amp; Measures</b>					
Inspection Sites	110	201	14	9	9
-Devices Inspected	604	448	58	26	26
Training Hrs./Equipment Maintenance	27	43	2	0	0