

TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES January 20, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (Attended In Person):

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

ABSENT:

T. Hills, DVM
T. Leary, FNP

OTHER(S) PRESENT:

H. Vroman, Public Health Director
A. Reigelman, Secretary
P. DeWind, Esq., Tioga County Attorney
K. Holochak, Public Health Project Coordinator

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

PRESENTATION: Ms. Vroman introduced Ms. Holochak who presented on the Tioga County Community Health Assessment. Binders with the submitted report were distributed to those present. An electronic PowerPoint was shared with all members after the meeting.

Ms. Holochak explained that the CHA process started at the beginning of 2025. Data was collected and analyzed on a wide range of health trends, behaviors and needs using results from the "My Health Story Survey", key informant interviews with community partners and public health records. All data was compared to New York State, excluding New York City, and where able, indicated how the measures compared to the New York State Prevention Agenda. All data for the final report was collected by August 2025.

Notable Findings:

- Areas of Concern- Chronic Disease, Mental Health and Well-Being, Substance Use, Zoonotic Diseases, Access to Food, and Traffic Safety.
- Community Strengths - Maternal and Child Health, Cancer Screenings, Healthcare, Physical Activity, Laboratory Confirmed Infections, and Access to Mental Health Care.

Next Steps: Have meeting with steering committee later this month, will be reviewing the New York State Prevention Agenda which lists the five domains New York State has identified for 2025-2030. The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) will be due by end of June 2026.

Members commented and made several inquiries:

- Legislator Standinger noted that it is important to capitalize that Tioga County has open access for mental healthcare.
- Dr. Nytch inquired how far the data goes. Ms. Holochak stated that the data gets submitted to New York State for review. They will look more closely at the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to see what interventions we put in place. Ms. Vroman noted that New York State health departments are required to complete and submit the CHA and CHIP, this is the first year it will be a five-year cycle. Also noted the limitations with the data that was received from New York State. The survey we distributed throughout the community has a fairer average than the averages in data supplied by New York State.

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- Received 937 surveys from a population of eighteen and older. Received back about 800 valid surveys.
- Additional discussion of the concern of access to food given the aging population of Tioga County.
- Other inquiries were made pertaining to cancer screenings and vaccinations.

Members thanked Ms. Holochak for presenting the information on the CHA.

Ms. Holochak departed at 8:01 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Dr. Nytch requested follow-up on animal bite investigation and lead management lacking documentation that was noted at November's meeting. Ms. Vroman stated that this notation was part of the Quality Record Audit Summary for the third quarter that Ms. Medina presented on. The lacking documentation was due to the Record Aduit tools needing updating, which has since been done. She also noted that the Quality Improvement Project for Animal Bite Investigations has been wrapped up and follow up on lead residences has improved.
 - Legislator Standinger inquired if lead remediation is enforceable. Ms. Vroman explained the lead program process. Homeowners/ Landlords are given a Notice and Demand and must submit a plan per the Notice and Demand within ten business days of receiving. Some are given paint vouchers through Home Central, or they can use a certified contractor to complete the remediation. Environmental Health must "clear" the property to be able to be removed from our list. For children that are monitored for elevated blood lead levels, they stay on under care coordination until the child receives two blood test results in good measure. Members, Ms. Vroman and County Attorney DeWind additionally discussed process for landlord refusal. County Attorney DeWind noted that Tioga County does have a liability as a municipality if progress isn't seen in lead properties needing remediation.
- Enforcements: Inquiry was made about permitting school districts and repeat violations at Tioga Downs Ms. Vroman explained specifics on violations.
- Meeting Minutes (November 2025): Motion to approve prior minutes made by Dr. Kapur-Pado, seconded by Mr. Simmons; all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Annual Review of Board of Health By-Laws: Ms. Vroman stated that at minimum By-Laws have to be reviewed annually, as stated in the By-Laws. Members were requested to review the current By-Laws prior to the meeting and bring any comments/edits for discussion. Members felt that By-Laws did not need any edits. Motion to approve Board of health By-Laws as written with no further edits made by Mr. Simmons; seconded by Dr. Raftis; all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Ms. Vroman distributed and shared her Director's Report.

Public Health Information:

- Federal funding update- Still no impacts to local public health at this time. Last week we were told one of our larger grants was cut (SAMSA), but then next day they redacted that statement. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid announced that all 50 states are to receive funding for rural health through the Rural Health Transformation Grant. \$212 million being allocated to New York State, which could trickle down to us.
- HHS/CDC has updated childhood immunization recommendations. New York State Department of Health rejects all recent changes to the vaccination schedule, so there will be no changes in New York State. Have some worry about increase in medical exemptions.
- Respiratory illnesses- While we have seen the most numbers recorded in New York State, Tioga County's cases have dropped this past week. Seeing most numbers recorded with kids under nineteen years old at 51%.

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- We have been advocating for flu vaccinations through campaigns.

Staffing Updates:

- Weights and Measures Director position is currently vacant and after looking at other counties and our current needs, we feel it needs to be a full-time position. The resolution will be taken to the Health and Human Services Committee in February.
 - For now Mr. Scherrer has been working with New York State Agriculture and Markets for training purposes. Ms. Vroman noted some specifications on the position.
- County changes:
 - Tracy Monell is now Chair of the Legislature and Legislator Standinger is Deputy Chair.
 - Two new legislators have been elected-Joellen Rose and David Cantella.
 - DSS Commissioner Shawn Yetter retired at the end of the year, Liz Myers is the new DSS Commissioner.
 - Lori Morgan, Director of Community Services, has also announced her retirement, and it is expected that Sarah Begeal will be interim Director. Discussed process for appointing new Director.

Accomplished Activities:

- Completed all milestones in our agency strategic plan (this plan was initiated in 2024).
- Completed and submitted the Community Health Assessment.
- Conducted Stay interviews with all team members in November. Will share data next month.
- NYSDOH has notified us that the Owego Convenience's tobacco license has been suspended for twelve months.
 - County Attorney DeWind noted that this also triggers a loss of lottery license.
- Had document review (informal audit) by NYSOMIG for Preschool Special Education Program, which was done virtually. There were no findings.
- Now using NexStar Media advertising to push commercials out to a variety of streaming platforms specifically targeting Tioga County residents. We will be having a commercial played during the Superbowl- we will send to you for your review.
 - Discussed county process for purchasing advertising space.
- In December, Ms. Vroman attended NYSACHO annual meeting in Albany, she received a tour of the State Capital Building and then has meet-and-greets with state partners.

In Progress Activities:

- Continue to work with New York State Agriculture and Markets to help us in our Weights and Measures Program as we work to assess needs and identify gaps/priorities.
- As of Monday, we received notice of award for the School Based Dental Program for \$350,000. Will be developing a workplan for implementation.
- Project Public Health Ready is underway (for Emergency Preparedness). Our Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator is organizing and leading groups to complete assigned tasks.
 - Legislator Standinger noted that Ms. Squair is very energetic and a great addition to the department.
 - Additionally noted the Employee of the Fourth Quarter-Janice Heyman, Dental Assistant.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Dr. Nytch requested a motion be made to appreciate Ms. Vroman's leadership and would like to reflect all the good work that she and the Public Health Team have done. Motion made by Mr. Simmons; Legislator Standinger seconded; all in favor, none opposed, motion approved.

Additional conversation regarding public transportation in Tioga County.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Dr. Kapur-Pado, all in favor, none opposed, motion approved. Adjournment of meeting called 8:47 a.m.



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Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman

Thomas F. Nytch
Thomas Nytch, DVM, President

Abigail J. Reigelman
Abigail Reigelman, Secretary

Minutes approved February 19, 2026