



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES January 21, 2021

ATTENDEES:

BOARD MEMBERS: J. Picco, DDS, President; T. Hills, DVM, Vice President; W. Standinger III, Legislator, E. Haray-Butcher MS, CHES; R. Kapur-Pado, DO; T. Nytch, DVM; K. Millar, CRNA

ABSENT: J. Raftis, DO, FACEP

STAFF: L. McCafferty, R.S., MPH, Public Health Director

Call to Order: 7:35 a.m.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST

N/A

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

N/A

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Meeting Minutes: Minutes of November 19, 2020 meeting were sent electronically to members for review. Motion to approve minutes made by Dr. Hills, seconded by Mr. Millar; all in favor, motion passed.
- 2) Enforcements: Brief discussion of enforcement; clarification of violation for COVID-19 Executive Order 202.6, complaints of not wearing masks.
- 3) Sub Committee, made up of Mr. Millar, Ms. Haray-Butcher and Dr. Kapur-Pado, gave update on filling vacant Board of Health position.
 - Old resumes are too old; will advertise in local papers. Public Health Educator, Kylie Holochak, assisting in designing ad making it vibrant, with key buzzwords to try to catch the younger population.
 - Idea to post ad on Public Health website and Facebook; possibly other social media (ex.) Twitter, Instagram, etc.
 - Posted by next month.
- 4) Board of Health Calendar 2021: Continue to meet the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 a.m. and have option of Zoom available. No meetings in August and December.
 - Kylie Holochak to present on topic of Public Health Communication Strategy.

PRESENTATION

- N/A

NEW BUSINESS

- N/A

INFORMATIONAL

- Open discussion of COVID-19 and Vaccination Distribution
 - Ms. McCafferty informed the Board that Public Health has been steadily receiving complaints regarding COVID-19, lately related to travelers (especially with Governor's changing guidance).
 - COVID-19 Vaccine Doses
 - Doses controlled by Federal Government, who then allocates to States.
 - Governor Cuomo allocates doses by establishing priority populations. Initially hospitals were sole distributor for vaccine; then State splits allocation between hospitals and health departments. Also holding State-run vaccination sites (13 sites within NYS, with plan for 20).
 - Allocations are determined based on priority populations in each County and on how well an entity distributes doses.
 - Can only vaccinate 'assigned' priority populations (at this point it is 1a-essential healthcare workers, emergency responders and 1b- which includes teachers, law enforcement, etc.)

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- If entity fails to comply with guideline, will be harshly fined.
- 1b has been expanded to 65+ individuals, but can only receive vaccinations from pharmacies or State-run vaccination sites.
- Vaccines not restricted to NYS residents, as they are federally allocated.
- Initially, determine eligibility on State website and register online. Registration site (CDMS), has crashed multiple times due to the amount of people attempting to register.
 - Now, the State registration site will only allow the public to register for State-run clinics; appointments have been pushed out until April.
- Public Health phones have been overloaded with calls requesting information on how to receive vaccinations; have been advertising in papers, media interviews, and Facebook.
 - Dr. Picco inquired if the Board could assist in this process, still seeing much of the public not understanding, feeling that there is lack of communication.
 - Suggested communicating via other types of social media, to answer general questions.
 - Ms. McCafferty posed that any messaging that the Board can spread would be helpful.
 - Ms. Haray-Butcher offered to volunteer to help Public Health with social media, communicating and messaging.
- Public Health has partnered with Guthrie, UHS, and Lourdes for vaccination clinics. They are Public Health clinics, under a public health standing order.
 - TCPH clinics will mostly be closed PODs for specific priority population (1a/1b).
 - Received lots of good feedback on Facebook from first vaccine clinic.
- Mr. Millar inquired if Public Health could update the public regularly with how many residents have been vaccinated.
 - State system tracks; reporting still undeveloped.
 - We do not know how many 1a's received their dose in hospitals, we do not know if people have received in other counties or out of state, nor however many out of state need in NY etc.
 - The system does not capture this information accurately.
- Still lots of unknowns:
 - New York State has not defined immuno-compromised receiving vaccine.
 - People who have been COVID positive, can they be vaccinated? How soon after having COVID? What should people do after receiving vaccine? Continue to wear masks, yes or no? New York State developing guidance, not available
- It is endemic.
 - Some within the community still think COVID is a scam, doesn't exist. Others disagree with State policies.
- Tioga County has had no flu cases!
 - Ms. McCafferty noted that she would be sending the flu report (website) out regularly to the Board as well as state guidance documents.
- Dr. Picco requested that for upcoming meetings, the Board will only respond if they will **not** be in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.; Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa McCafferty. Minutes approved February 18, 2021.

Joseph Picco, DDS; President

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

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