

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: April 10, 2025

RE: Board of Health Meeting - Thursday, April 17, 2025,

7:30 a.m., Conference Room B, 2nd Floor of Health and Human Services

Building at 1062 St. Rt. 38, Owego, NY 13827.

<u>AGENDA</u>

Introduction of Guests

- Denis McCann, Director of Administrative Services

Presentation

- Fiscal Update

Old Business

- Meeting Minutes (March)
- Enforcements

New Business

- None

Director's Report

- Agency Updates – March

Additional Items

- None

Next Meeting Information

- Next Meeting: May 15, 2025



MEETING MINUTES March 20, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (Attended In Person):

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

ABSENT: None

OTHER(S) PRESENT:

J. Raftis, DO, FACEP

H. Vroman, Public Health Director

D. Scherrer, Director of Environmental Health

P. DeWind, Tioga County Attorney

A. Reigelman, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: at 7:29 a.m. by Dr. Nytch.

<u>PRESENTATION:</u> Mr. Scherrer presented on the Tioga County Public Health Water Program (shared PowerPoint). He discussed various aspects of the program including water sources, disinfection methods and source water protection/ treatment, sources of water contamination, enforcement actions (providing examples from this month's listed enforcements, and required reporting sharing examples of lab results and sample schedules. Mr. Scherrer also discussed the purpose of water operators and how we assist in certifying operators and offering continuing education classes for certification as well as various Tioga County updates including:

- A new wellhouse at Crestview Heights
- Aguifer protection plan restarting in Owego
- Finalization of Waverly Infrastructure Project
- Tioga County rest areas are receiving updates (Nichols rest stop is getting a new chlorination system and Owego rest stop currently cannot drink water at so discussions are taking place on how to correct).

Mr. Scherrer answered several questions from the Board regarding septic issues/contamination of water and what is required to be reported to the County, what is used to treat Village of Owego municipal water, Aquifer Protection Program, and status of Nichols new filtration system.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Meeting Minutes (February 2025): Motion to approve prior minutes made by Mr. Simmons; seconded by Dr. Hills, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.
- Enforcements: Ms. Vroman provided details on the different food-related enforcement violations
 and explained the actions that took place surrounding the enforcement item of the establishment
 operating without a permit. The Board and Ms. Vroman discussed repeat violations and how to
 best avoid repeat violations in the future-hoping that with the Food Course now offered without
 cost that more people within establishments will complete. Public Health is educating and
 encouraging establishment staff to take the food course.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business items

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

c/o Tioga County Department of Health ~ 1062 State Rt. 38 ~ PO Box 120 ~ Owego, NY 13827

Public Health Prevent. Promote. Protect. Tioga County

TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Public Health Information:

- Congress decided to extend budget through September. May see a consolidation of some programming, but no cuts so far. Will keep the board updated if any changes occur.
- Measles Update: Four cases in New York so far, 350 cases in United States. 75% of cases are
 within unvaccinated children. New York State rate of MMR vaccination is about 81%. Tioga
 County Public Health is messaging through various media sources, pushing vaccination and early
 care. An internal team met last week, and a flyer has been created (distributed to the Board for
 review). Ms. Vroman noted that she would like to discuss how to best reach the Amish
 communities (Berkshire and Candor).
 - Mr. Simmons stated that he could bring information to the Berkshire Amish community (the bishop would be best contact); also provided contact information for someone involved with Candor Amish community.
 - Ms. Vroman added that Public Health can come to the communities to vaccinate if they
 would be agreeable. Board members discussed protective timeframe (of two weeks if
 series is started immediately).
 - Dr. Hills noted that there may be a large population within the older community who have not received the MMR series (also discussed possible immunity if exposed).
 - Ms. Leary stated her concern for the current status of vaccines/ response to diseaseswhere the world is going. Board members discussed. Also noted Homeschool environments would be another group for outreach.
 - Ms. Vroman explained that the State Health Department sends messages and Tioga County Public Health ensures that our local providers, day care providers and school districts are receiving the same messages. Have regular meetings/calls through NYSACHO and NACCHO.
 - Dr. Raftis complimented the flyer and information included.
- Avian Flu has not gone away. Tioga County Public Health participates in regular calls. On calls it
 is expressed that it's not new, and still a relatively low risk to humans. We do have State plan if
 needed. Locally, we have reached out to farming population, but they are not interested in
 receiving the regular Influenza vaccine.
 - Discussion took place regarding if further outreach is needed at this time to the farming population. Ms. Vroman felt that with flu numbers declining and with completing great outreach already that we can discuss again in the fall with the next flu season.
 - Legislator Standinger inquired about tickborne illnesses and expectations for this year. Ms. Vroman stated that the New York State Department of Health has commented that it is too early to tell what tickborne illness season will look like. In 2024 Tioga County saw a slight tickborne illness decrease in number but saw more types of illnesses. She also noted that Public Health is working on educating providers to run full panel of tickborne illnesses instead of just Lyme. Will continue to do lots of education within the community.

Staffing Updates:

- Project Coordinator- have filled the position with Kylie Holochak, which will be effective starting Monday 3/24/25. Her previous Senior Public Health Educator position will be backfilled.
- An offer was made to a Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, contingent upon background check. Likely it will not start until end of April/early May as the position will require a resolution to fill. This individual has Emergency Preparedness experience.
- Have a vacant Public Health Sanitarian position.
- Speech Therapist position will stay posted or will become unfunded. It has been posted for two years, and we have had no candidates. We have promoted this position with lots of outreach.

Accomplished Activities:

- The Public Health 2024 Annual Report has been completed (distributed copies to Board Members). This is an accumulation of what Tioga County Public Health accomplished in 2024.
 - Legislator Standinger complimented Public Health's report, noted that it is one of the best. Other members complimented and asked Ms. Vroman share with staff.



- Dental Van has seen an increase in new patients; but with the Dentist working more hours now, we have been able to accommodate and get back on track.
- Through the Floyd Hooker grant to assist with lead remediation (Lead Free Homes project) have partnered with Home Central and created a voucher for those needing lead encapsulating paint.

In Progress Tasks:

- Guthrie has new "MOM" mobile van (distributed flyer). They received a \$3 million grant to
 establish a maternity mobile unit, which will be serving 16 counties. Tioga County Public Health
 has offered to be a host site for their mobile unit, which we just found out will start at our office
 building next week. Have shared information on our Facebook page and plan to share with other
 media sources.
- Dental Van is scheduled for a School Based Health Clinic audit on April 8th (audit from New York State Department of Health). Will share results with you after it is completed. This will be a hybrid audit (part virtual and in-person). Ms. Whitmore and Ms. Reigelman have been working on collecting requested documentation.
- Environmental Health Temporary Permit Application will be available on our website soon. Will slowly roll out other department forms in same application. The goal is to eventually go paperless.
- CredibleMind should launch by the end of April or sooner. Will make sure you are informed when
 it does.
- Focusing on employee well-being. Management staff will be leading monthly (optional) well-being activities for staff.
 - The Board and Ms. Vroman discussed current employee recognition activities hosted by the County and individually by Public Health.
- Nothing new to report on ASAP and Suicide Prevention Coalition proposed merger.
- The 2024 Communicable Disease Annual Report will be rolling out in early April.
 - Ms. Vroman explained that the communicable disease data in the monthly report is only a summary. Some numbers are not shared due to protecting our resident's information (le. STI numbers). If anything emergent arises, the Board would be notified. Ms. Vroman noted that if anyone has questions pertaining to communicable disease numbers she would be happy to have a conversation. However, those identifiable numbers will not be included in the report as it does get posted publicly.

Other Information:

- The first week of April is Public Health Week. We are advertising and a proclamation was read in March
- Ms. Vroman notified the Board that she resigned from the Rural Health Network (RHN) Board of Directors due to personal reasons. She added that she still has a good relationship in partnering with RHN.
- Received call saying that individuals might be digging at the foundry site. Staff investigated and it looked clear. Feel it is important to have the County monitor the site, especially in the spring.
 - Brief discussion of follow up with Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).
- Inquired if the Board would like Dr. Zevan (Medical Consultant) to attend a Board of Health meeting and if he does, what would be his expectations for the meeting.
 - The board asked that he provide his background and what he does for Public Health.
 How does he see himself and the Board working together?
- Next meeting is April 17th. Mr. McCann will be attending to provide fiscal update.

Additional Comments:

Dr. Nytch inquired on status of Stray Haven and housing stray dogs. Legislator Standinger stated
that there is no movement by Stray Haven. Each township will be responsible for housing their own
strays. Some are being brought to Chemung and Broome Counties if space is available. Ms.
Vroman noted that Tioga County Public Health does not have oversight over the facility; only
oversight over rabies control.



Adjournment of meeting called at 9:21 a.m. Motion for adjournment made by Mr. Simmons; seconded by Ms. Leary, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman.	
Thomas Nytch, DVM, President	Abigail Reigelman; Secretary

Minutes approved April 17, 2025



April 2025 Enforcements

<u>Business</u>	<u>Type of</u> <u>Violation</u>	Fine Paid/Date	Repeat Violation(s) within 12 Month Period
Simrat Aulach Burger King (Nichols) 305 Stanton Hill Rd. Nichols, NY	Food	\$200.00 3/10/2025	No
Jin Xian Yang Lucky Kitchen NY I 6532 St. Rt. 434 Apalachin, NY	Food	\$375.00 3/17/2025	Yes
McDonald's of Apalachin 7748 St. Rt. 434 Apalachin, NY	Food	\$200.00 3/19/2025	Yes
Charles Otto Coaster's Sports Bar 2384 W. River Rd. Nichols, NY	Food	\$450.00 3/19/2025	Yes
John Politis Blue Dolphin Restaurant 7670 St. Rt. 434 Apalachin, NY	Food	\$550.00 3/26/2025	Yes
Rob Yammine Original Italian Pizzeria 23-25 Lake St. Owego, NY	Food	\$775.00 3/27/2025	Yes
Kevin & Kim Tuttle Weltonville Variety Store 2683 W. Creek Rd. Newark Valley, NY	Water	\$100.00 3/28/2025	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 Heather Vroman, MPH, MSEd., Public Health Director



AGENCY REPORT

February 20-March 26, 2025

Highlights

- 2024 Annual Reports have come in and were distributed to all our affiliates!
- As part of our Strategic Plan effort for Employee Training Needs, we have initiated Public Health program presentation highlights at our Monthly All Staff Meetings. This month we heard from Environmental Health Staff regarding the Food Program. It was a great presentation!
- We have officially launched Municipay (new application for the public to pay for bills and permit fees online) AND our new electronic Temporary Food Permit Application. Both links have been posted on our website!
- We have partnered with Guthrie in hosting their new Maternity Oasis Mobile (MOM) Unit, for maternity
 care and post partum needs as well as other services. PHD attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for
 the new unit.
- ATUPA violation(s) were found at the Richford Cash & Carry including: sale to underage person (under the age of 21), sale of flavored nicotine vape, and the facility did not have a permit to operate from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. Upon consultation with New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), the facility was given a stipulation and removed all nicotine and vape products from their shelves.
- Presented at a New York State Association for County Health Officials (NYSACHO) webinar "Collaborating for Change: County Success Stories in Naloxone Distribution, Youth Prevention, and Harm Reduction" on Tioga County ASAP initiatives and successes; including our Public Access Narcan (PAN) Box program and advertising methods.

Health Education

- Facilitated Toothbrush Fun activity at the Berkshire Library.
- Through the Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC) grant, we were able to purchase a new glass door freezer for Catholic Charities to help them with offering healthy food options to clients that access their food pantry. We were also able to purchase sensory path materials for Newark Valley Elementary and Middle Schools.
- The DFC and CARA Continuation Applications were both submitted to the CDC to ensure the continuation of funding for the ASAP Coalition.
- Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) selected Tioga County ASAP to pilot their new planning tools.
- Attended the Owego Kiwanis Meeting on Black Balloon Day (March 6th) to share what the day is about and provided other updates about initiatives that the Tioga ASAP Coalition is working on. Also presented at the Spencer-Van Etten Safety Symposium sharing youth substance use statistics collected from the 2023 Tioga County CLYDE Survey, educated on products that are being targeted toward youth and shared findings from an environmental scan that was conducted around Tioga County at various gas stations.
- ASAP Coordinators met with Tobacco Free Broome Tioga to discuss the current policy needs and ways to partner on smoke free initiatives, including smoke free housing and school engagement.

Environmental Health

• Delivered our first set of lead remediation supplies through the Lead-Free Homes for Children program to a family on our caseload.

MonthlyReportMarch2025 Page 1 of 9

- Through our Lead Program, we will be able to loan a HEPA Vacuum (special vacuum used to safely clean lead particles) to families needing to utilize one.
- Attended the Tioga County Water Quality Coordinating Meeting where they discussed available rain barrels for residents, stream clean-up events and paint collection event.
- Director of Environmental Health presented to the Board of Health on the Tioga County Public Health Water Program.
- We hosted an AWWA training session for water and wastewater operators which focused on protecting from accidents, including chemical and biological exposures.
- We certified a new water operator for the Newark Valley School District.
- In our efforts to promote increased outreach/education on potential rabies exposures within the County and to ensure proper protocols are followed, Director of Environmental Health presented about responding to animal bites/exposures at the Tioga County Local Emergency Planning Council (LEPC).
- Staff visited UHS Endicott Walk-In to educate providers on the process of reporting animal bites/exposures for Tioga County residents.

Patient Services (El, Dental, Clinic)

- Early Intervention referrals have increased and our Service Coordinators offer support, assisting
 parents to get needed services while still struggling with the continued provider shortage.
- Early Intervention Service Coordinators tabled at the Tioga County Rural Ministries Community Resource Fair. They also visited the Spencer Family Resource Center, discussing child development and distributed sensory bins which were a hit for the child attendees.
- Director of Dental Health Services has been working with representative from Emedny to learn how to bill Medicaid through Epaces provider portal.
- Worked with Newark Valley High School to arrange transportation for students to get follow up care while at Newark Valley Middle School. Dr. Sarnicola's extras days are paying off, he completed over 100 fillings and 29 extractions this month!
- Initiated monthly meetings with our Medical Consultant in addition to routine communication. The meetings have been very beneficial and are a great opportunity to share and receive information that benefits public health.
- Public Health Nurse attended the Immunization Coalition Conference in Albany. There was great discussion on innovative ways to promote vaccines in the community.
- We continue to receive updates from NYSDOH regarding any increased risk of measles in our County.
 We have an open communication line to assure needed measures are in place in case an outbreak occurs. We have done much outreach to providers, schools, daycare facilities and our Amish populations to assure they know the symptoms and the importance of the MMR vaccine.
- We continue to monitor H5N1 (Avian Influenza); the risk for humans remains low.
- We continue to see a decrease in respiratory illnesses (including influenza, COVID and RSV).

Administrative Services

- Management Team has begun participating in a series of webinars called "Empowered Leadership" focusing on well-being for self and staff.
- Senior Management met with the Tioga County Safety Officer to discuss health and safety related concerns, including expectations of Public Health responding to emergencies.
- PHD had a radio interview with WHCU News talk radio regarding COVID response (as we just passed the 5-year anniversary of its start).

MonthlyReportMarch2025 Page 2 of 9

Ongoing Support/Partnerships

- Allies in Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
- Child Fatality Review Team
- Family Enrichment Network (Head Start)
- Lourdes PACT Advisory Board
- Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network
- New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO)
- New York State Association for Rural Health (NYSARH)
- New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC)
- Racker Center
- Rural Health Network

- Safe Harbor Committee
- S2AY Pivotal Partners Finger Lakes
- Team Tioga
- Tioga County Board of Health
- Tioga County Commissioner's Advisory Council
- Tioga County Council of Governments
- Tioga County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- Tioga County Mental Health Sub-Committee
- Tioga County Non-Profit Network
- Tioga County Threat Assessment Management Team
- Tioga Opportunities

Attachments:

- 1. Financial Snapshot, YTD thru 12/2024.
- 2. Photographs: Tioga County Rural Ministries Community Resource Fair & Sensory Bin at Spencer Family Resource Center; Late February-March 2025.
- 3. Flyer: "What the Health!?," March 2025.
- 4. Bulletin Boards: "Black Balloon Day is March 6th," "Poison Prevention-Be Proactive," Health & Human Services Building, Owego, March 2025.
- 5. Data Spreadsheet February 20-March 26, 2025.

MonthlyReportMarch2025 Page 3 of 9

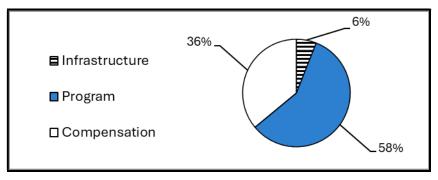
Financial Snapshot Year-to-date through December 2024 FINAL*1,2

	Budget 2024	Actual YTD 2024	Percentage of 2024 Budget
REVENUES			
Fees	1,101,622	708,325	64 %
State/Federal	3,529,346	3,112.077	88 %
Local	3,231,108	2,722,937	84 %
TOTAL	7,862,076	6,543,339	83 %

EXPENSES

Compensation	2,635,486	2,363,127	74 %
Program Expense	4,675,514	3,755,569	64 %
Core Infrastructure	551,076	424,643	75 %
TOTAL	7,862,076	6,543,339	68 %

Allocation of Expenses Year-to-date through December FINAL 2024



*Notes:

MonthlyReportMarch2025 Page 4 of 9

^{1.} These figures represent the most recent 'closed out" month by the Treasurer.

^{2.} 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.



R. Baker, EISC, & J. Carne, Sr. EISC, Tioga County Rural Ministries Community Resource Fair, February 20, 2025.



Example of Sensory Bins Brought to Spencer Family Resource Center by EISCs, March 2025.

MonthlyReportMarch2025 Page **5** of **9**



What the Health!?

March 2025



* 5 Tips for Healthy Eating *

Read the nutrition label Practice portion control Choose water over sweetened beverages

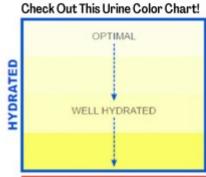
Focus on whole grains

Prepare healthy options ahead of time





Care for Your Kidneys & Stay Hydrated!





This color chart is not for clinical use

POISONING PREVENTION

KEEP MEDICINES, HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS, POISONS AND CANNABIS PRODUCTS UP HIGH AND OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.



Poison Prevention Tips

- Store poisons and cannabis products in their original containers.
- Keep cannabis products in a separate cabinet or container. Consider using a lockbox to store any cannabis products.
- Use child-resistant packaging, but remember nothing is child-proof.
- Read the label and follow the directions on medicines and products.
- Teach children to ask an adult before eating or drinking anything.

MonthlyReportMarch2025 Page 6 of 9





Bulletin Boards: Health & Human Services Building, March 2025.

MonthlyReportMarch2025 Page 7 of 9

DATA SPREADSHEET

February 20-March 26, 2025

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES	<u>Y-E 2023</u>	<u>Y-E 2024</u>	<u>Feb-25</u>	<u>Mar-25</u>	Y-T-D
Community Health					
Communicable Disease	2438	3082	501	273	1380
- General Infectious Diseases (Camplyobacterious, Salmonellosis, etc.)	61	330	81	46	270
- Zoonotic Diseases (Anaplasmosis, Lyme, etc.)	375	352	21	10	45
- Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (COVID-19, Influenza, etc.)	1897	2281	387	213	1042
Child Passenger Safety Seats Inspected	47	49	2	3	8
- Child Seats FAILED Inspection	36	40	1	3	7
Immunizations total child and adult	62	87	1	0	7
Children Lead Tested (6 years and under)	913	812	57	98	223
Newly Identified Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels	22	10	0	1	1
Current Children with EBLL Caseload	N/A	N/A	24	19	N/A
- Welcome Baby Packets Mailed	77	298	39	33	103
People Trained w/ Narcan	145	96	0	0	0
Dental					
New Clients	311	325	51	38	121
Dental Screenings	1141	1227	137	149	379
- Clients with Low Decay Risk	374	461	49	26	115
-Clients with Moderate Decay Risk	419	274	33	50	108
- Clients with High Decay Risk	344	493	56	72	156
Extractions	102	170	18	29	59
Children Services					
Early Intervention Referrals	206	195	11	18	37
- Early Intervention CURRENT Caseload *Monthly total	N/A	N/A	34	41	N/A
- EI children waiting for service(s)	N/A	34	5	8	N/A
Preschool					
- Children in tuition-based program	N/A	349	22	22	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	9	N/A
Child Find					
- Current Children being served	N/A	N/A	21	21	N/A
Environmental Health					

MonthlyReportMarch2025 Page 8 of 9

Animal bite investigations	198	238	12	23	54
- Individuals requiring Rabies Series (N)	2	51	0	2	2
Rabies Clinics	8	9	0	1	2
- Number of Animals Vaccinated	1098	1377	0	82	249
Food Establishment Inspections	247	228	19	20	55
Temporary Food Inspections	66	62	0	1	2
Clean Indoor Air Act Complaints (Smoking)	0	1	1	0	1
Mobile Home Park Inspections	37	35	2	7	10
Swimming Pool Inspections	11	11	0	0	0
Tanning Inspections	1	2	0	0	0
ATUPA Checks (Underage Tobacco Sales)	108	116	0	38	73
- ATUPA Violations	3	2	0	1	1
Wellhead Replacement Projects In Progress	N/A	60	10	10	29
Wellhead Replacement Projects Completed	N/A	30	1	0	2
Children's Camp Inspections	7	13	0	0	0
Agriculture Fairground Inspections	2	3	0	0	0
Nuisance Complaints	7	25	6	4	12
Enforcement Actions	72	45	14	5	21
Weights & Measures					
Inspection Sites	110	201	13	16	38
-Devices Inspected	604	448	28	20	74
Training Hrs./Equipment Maintenance	27	43	6	6	12
Fiscal-Electronic Payments & Applications					
Total Number of Electronic Payments (All					
Programs)	N/A	N/A	2	6	15
Total Dollar Amount of Electronic Payments		.	6305	62.022	ć2 F70
Received (All Programs)	N/A	N/A	\$285	\$2,033	\$3,579
Number of Electronic Applications Received	N/A	N/A	0	0	0

MonthlyReportMarch2025 Page 9 of 9