



# TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

## MEETING MINUTES October 19, 2023

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

T. Hills, DVM, President  
W. Simmons, Vice President  
R. Kapur-Pado, DO (Arrived at 7:45 a.m.)  
T. Leary, FNP  
T. Nytych, DVM  
J. Raftis, DO, FACEP  
W. Standing III, Legislator

### **ABSENT:**

None

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

H. Vroman, Public Health Director  
A. Reigelman, Secretary

### **GUESTS:**

Katie Wait, Public Health Educator/Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator (Departed at 8:19 a.m.)  
Nick Conklin, Public Health Fellow

**CALL TO ORDER:** at 7:31 by Dr. Hills

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** by Ms. Vroman, who stated that Mr. Conklin would just be observing the meeting. Provided background of the Public Health Fellowship program, and requested the Board members introduce themselves and share their professions/roles in the community.

**PRESENTATION:** Ms. Wait presented on the topic of Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) and explained her role as PHEP Coordinator. (Electronic PowerPoint shared with members after meeting)

- Overview of PHEP Deliverables; including main and core deliverables (which are broken into Planning, Training, and Exercise).
- Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers- Tioga County Public Health has about 75-100 volunteers, including both medical and non-medical members. Shared that the MRC volunteers were a big asset during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) consists of about 50-75 committee members- discuss all-hazard planning.
- PHEP Activities:
  - Response Plans: Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Medical Countermeasures Plan (MCM), Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (PHEPR), Public Health Asset Distribution Plan (PHAD), Pandemic Plan.
  - PHEP internal team meets monthly-to review deliverables; are steering committee for PHEP.
  - Call Down Drills-regularly conducted for internal staff; have created new process/form for consistency.
- Dr. Nytych inquired about the County's plan for flood emergency.
  - Ms. Wait/ Ms. Vroman both explained that the plan for flood emergency is covered under the Hazard Mitigation Plan for all of Tioga County, which is currently being updated. Public Health plan for flood emergency would be covered under the PHEPR response

## TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

plan, which would highlight boil-water notices, mold, and various education/outreach in regard to Public Health matters.

- Members discussed animal assistance during flood and the County's use of the Mitigation Plan during the last large flood.
- Dr. Raftis inquired how the county communicates to the community during emergencies quickly.
  - Ms. Wait stated that she knew of two platforms that are used; one being Reverse 911, which Emergency services has access to be able to send out communication.
  - Mr. Simmons noted that Berkshire Fire Dept. will be getting an electronic sign that will be connected to the cloud so that Emergency Services can put messages on it as soon as emergencies come in.
- Ms. Leary inquired what drills Public Health participated in.
  - Ms. Wait/Ms. Vroman listed: asset distribution point of dispensing (PODs), open site PODS, flu clinic POD, and COVID. Also have an upcoming drill scheduled for February which is a Set-Up drill for a POD.
  - Public Health is required to complete one drill per year.
  - Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) must be in place for locations PODs are held (ie. schools, local partners)
  - May have law enforcement, members of the Legislature and MRC volunteers attend (to simulate a real scenario)
- Working on COVID After Action Response from staff now and key members from the community. Will plan to present to the Board upon completion.
- Discussion of Citizen Preparedness Course being offered in November (Ms. Wait handed out flyers after meeting) and train transportation of chemicals.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Meeting Minutes: No discussion; motion to approve prior minutes made by Dr. Kapur-Pado; seconded by Mr. Simmons, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.
- Enforcements: Ms. Vroman gave details on each of the enforcements. Briefly discussed enforcements for Tioga Downs pools.

### **INFORMATIONAL:**

- Ms. Vroman stated that she plans to have a more consistent update approach for Board of Health meetings, broken into:
  - Public Health News:
    - Mobile Dental Van celebrated 20 years of service this month. Press release was distributed and received many compliments from clients in survey that was sent out.
  - Staffing:
    - Our Dentist is booked through April 2024, still looking for another part-time Dentist
      - Last month at Waverly saw lots more decay than usual; working on outreach and education specifically to parents.
    - Also actively looking for Public Health Sanitarian. Supervising Public Health Sanitarian is filling in the gaps in the meantime.
  - Accomplishments:
    - Nurses visited Elderwood and Riverview to reestablish relationships, talked about outreach activities and infection control.
    - Launched Spike 2.0, a community alert application that notifies of overdoses in Tioga County (worked with CASA Trinity, ASAP Coalition, and Sheriff's Office). Will send out number to receive alerts to members after meeting.
      - Discussion of application's benefit. Ms. Vroman explained that it focuses on harm reduction philosophy.
    - Ms. Vroman attended Public Health Leader's Summit the first week of October which she found very informative, lots of ideas to use in-office.





# TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

## NEW BUSINESS:

- Reappointment of Board term for Dr. Nytch; term to end 12/31/2023.
- Dr. Nytch expressed his own concerns; all members discussed. Motion to make recommendation to the Tioga County Legislature for Dr. Thomas Nytch to serve another 6-year term (1/1/2024-12/31/2029) made by Mr. Simmons; seconded by Legislator Standinger, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.
  - Ms. Vroman noted that she will present this recommendation at the next Health and Human Services Committee Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 A.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman.

Terry Hills, DVM; President

William Simmons, Vice President *ak*

Abigail Reigelman; Secretary

Minutes approved November 16, 2023

