



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES April 16, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS' PRESENT:

T. Nytych, DVM, President
W. Simmons, Vice President
T. Hills, DVM
J. Raftis, DO, FACEP
W. Standinger III, Legislator
T. Leary, FNP

ABSENT:

R. Kapur-Pado, DO

OTHER(S) PRESENT:

H. Vroman, Public Health Director
A. Reigelman, Secretary
P. DeWind, Esq., Tioga County Attorney
S. Medina, Deputy Director of Public Health
D. McCann, Director of Administrative Services
M. Miller, Director of Patient Services
D. Scherrer, Director of Environmental Health
N. Whitmore, Director of Dental Services

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

The board expressed appreciation for Ms. Reigelman, who received an award and was selected as Team Member of the First Quarter. Ms. Reigelman thanked the board for their kind messages.

Ms. Reigelman asked for Board permission to use an AI transcription device to record today's meeting to assist in capturing minutes. Members permitted, but concern was raised regarding the retention policy for meeting recordings, especially regarding Freedom of Information requests. A suggestion was made to create a policy to hold recordings for a limited time for the secretary's use. Ms. Vroman stated that meeting minutes are posted to the county website and the recording platform was approved by the ITCS department. It was decided that the records retention policy will be confirmed and ensured that the device would be turned off during executive sessions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve March 2026 meeting minutes made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Dr. Hills. All were in favor of approving the minutes, none opposed, motion approved.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

Sue Medina: Health Education & Coalition work

Highlights-

- A lot of good work with coalitions this quarter.
 - In ASAP Coalition (substance use prevention) worked with Tioga County school districts (grades 7-12) to administer the CLYDE Survey which covered substance use, mental health and bullying. Coalition Chairs met with school districts to review the survey data. Plan to present results to the Board of Health in June.
 - Suicide Prevention Coalition developed a strategic plan focusing on distributing trigger lock boxes/medication lock boxes, conducting QPR

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trainings, and reaching high-risk populations (men), and promoting the CredibleMind platform.

- Community Outreach- Our newest Public Health Educator has been creating lesson plans for families on topics like children's dental health, nutrition and traffic safety and promoting at Family Resource Centers across the county.
- Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Update- Steering Committee has been using the NYS Prevention Agenda and Community Health Assessment survey data to select priority priorities for the CHIP. We are using our new platform, Metopio, to help track all data. The CHIP will be due to New York State by June and then we plan to present to the Board of Health in July or September.

Challenges-

- We have several growing families for Health Education staff, and we are having to work around maternity leaves (two staff will be returning in May). The team has pulled together to help cover and now we have people who are trained in multiple areas which will be helpful moving forward.
 - Members and TCPH Directors discussed the County's maternity leave policy.

Dan Scherrer: Environmental Health

Highlights-

- Tioga County was approved for state-funded PFAS and Dioxin testing for fourteen public water supplies, saving water operators close to \$1,200.00 in 2026.
- Partnered with Adult Protective Services to clean two homes this past quarter, providing garbage bags, cleaning supplies, and rodent traps. Two filled dumpsters were removed from one home and then one dumpster from the second one. We have a great relationship with Adult Protective Services and help each other a lot.
- Also partnered with Child Protective Services on multiple joint visits on open garbage cases and elevated blood lead level cases at the same residence as a CPS case. We supplied lead mitigation kits that were received through the Floyd Hooker Grant.
- Weights and Measures program is moving in the right direction, with process in place to ensure all facilities are inspected in 2026. Our equipment is now certified and we are in process in updating forms. State training has been occurring on a regular basis. Our new Director of Weights and Measures has completely caught on and doing amazing in the position.

Challenges-

- Constant changes in PFAS testing requirements (frequency in testing) creates communication challenges with water operators.
- In garbage complaint investigations, we are seeing large numbers of people unable to afford garbage pickup due to pricing. People are keeping garbage longer on site and bringing it by car to transfer stations because it's cheaper, which makes rodents happy. Noted increase in price for disposing of mattresses which is leading to people improperly disposing, like burning. We have partnered with Sister Mary at Rural Ministry in some of these cases.
 - Discussed process for the PFAS water testing-samples collected by TCPH and TCPH sends out for results at no cost to the water operator, TCPH partnership with Adult Protective Services and garbage services that operate in Tioga County.

Denis McCann: Fiscal

2025 Fiscal Year End Summary- Mr. McCann explained that the county's funding process is driven by "local cost" or "local share"-the gap between expenses and revenue. Public Health returned a total of roughly \$1.1 million in local share to the county for 2025. Key savings included lowered Preschool Special Education enrollment, reduced transportation costs by reimbursing parents for mileage, and grant funding covering program expenses. Additionally, fee-for-service revenues were up across the board, particularly in Dental, Environmental Health, and Early Intervention.

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- Legislator Standinger made note and asked to recognize that the County Administrator, Jackson Bailey, speaks very highly of Mr. McCann's expertise and handling of Public Health's budget. Mr. McCann stated that he is just the face of it, but it is a team approach with Ms. Vroman's and other program director's full involvement and understanding.

2026 Budget – Have made adjustments based on year end of 2025. First quarter shows positive results.

Challenges-

- A new county contract policy was implemented in February and has created some operational challenges, as it requires legal review for many agreements and rescinds a previous policy allowing director signoffs. County Administrator and County Attorney DeWind have met with us to discuss an emergency ordering process to mitigate negative impacts. We appreciate that they are working with us.
- Legal Department delays- The Legal Department is facing significant delays due to high workload. Have suggested creating a new paralegal position to have the authority to review and sign off on routine matters and discussed the possibility of helping to fund it.
 - Discussion of County Attorney's office current staffing.

Mel Miller: Nursing & Early Intervention

Highlights-

- Last year we began contract with UHS Infectious Disease to be able to refer patients for rule-out TB. This year, in early spring, we utilized this service and were able to receive all testing needed for the patient. Bills all came to us and we were able to claim Article Six reimbursement.
- In Early Intervention, we hired a part-time Speech-Language Pathologist, and she is now seeing children. Because she works full-time through BOCES, she is only seeing a limited number of children in our program. We foresee her being able to provide services for six children.
- Public Health Nurse is now cross-training in Early Intervention, to be able to help when needed.

Challenges-

- There is a nationwide shortage for providers in Early Intervention and currently have thirteen children on our waitlist to receive services. Some can utilize our Therapy Room and see a Special Education instructor and a few seek services through Leaps and Bounds and Child's Play.
- Seeing an increase in tickborne illnesses already this year. In 2025 there was a total of 86 cases with anaplasmosis and in 2026 so far we have four cases (also noted Babesiosis numbers). There is also a new Alpha-gal syndrome associated with meat allergies that we are starting to watch for as well.
- Public Health Nurse is having to do additional outreach to correct providers in proper treatment protocols.
 - Additional discussion of tickborne testing panels and testing confusion.
- Already seeing potential rabies exposures and Nursing has had to follow patients for HRIG and rabies dosing. We are struggling to have emergency departments give injections correctly for series. Noted that new outreach material has been made to try to assist with this.
 - Discussed Early Intervention provider shortage and if anything more could be done to help. Ms. Vroman noted that the Governor is aware of the shortage issue and there has been legislation to look at different things they can do such as increase provider rates. TCPH has done things internally to try to mitigate the issue (offering remote sessions, SEIT sessions, etc.), however the issue must be changed at the Governor's level to make a difference. We are still exploring other options.



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Nicole Whitmore: Dental

Highlights-

- Most schools are now using apps to communicate with parents, and they are pushing through our program information through these apps as well. Due to this we are seeing an increase in enrollment numbers. At Newark Valley, we saw 99 kids and had a total number of 256 cavities. It has been difficult to keep up with the decay.
- We are using new product called Silver Diamine Fluoride, which when applied to a tooth with decay, will stop decay, which is good for baby teeth. Have done 73 treatments so far this year!

Challenge-

- We do not have good referral sources-Dino Dental is the only provider at this point that takes Medicaid or state funded insurance. Have lost several referral sources as they are not taking anymore new patients. Some of the referral sources we have are distance away, and many clients do not want to travel for services.
- Did a little survey with kids to see who brushed their teeth before school. 61 said they did not brush before school, and 41 did. She provided examples of some of the reasons why kids did not.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Oral Health Endorsement- Drafted letter to primary care providers was initially shared at last month's meeting, requesting the Board of Health's endorsement in this initiative. All members expressed their endorsement for the initiative electronically via email prior to the meeting. Some had additional questions that Ms. Whitmore answered during the meeting. Ms. Whitmore explained the premise of the initiative as part of New York State's Year 14 Performance Incentive to apply fluoride. She discussed the process of applying fluoride during primary care office visits for children ages zero to six. Ms. Vroman noted that it would be optional for providers as well as for parents. Ms. Whitmore stated that one of the most important things is the provider having the conversation with parents. Ms. Vroman inquired if board members would endorse the initiative and to be able to include that language in the letter to primary care providers. Motion was made by Mr. Simmons that the Board voted unanimously to endorse the fluoride initiative with primary care providers; seconded by Dr. Hills. All were in favor of approving this initiative, none opposed, motion approved.

All TCPH directors departed meeting by 8:58 a.m.

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

Public Health Information:

- No federal funding impacts to local Public Health currently. Other HHS programs are likely to be impacted with potential funding changes to programs such as SNAP, Medicaid & CDC. Additionally, NYS budget negotiations are still underway, but do not anticipate any local changes/cuts.
- In NYS there has been one additional Measles case since last month for a total of eight cases for 2026.
- Respiratory illnesses continue to decline, about 1500 cases total which is slightly less than last year.
- Tickborne cases-50 so far this year with one hospitalization. Seeing a 50% increase from last month.

Staffing:

- Ms. Reigelman was selected as Team Member of the First Quarter for 2026.

Accomplished Activities:

- Public Health Week was the first week of April, we held a lunch and hosted our first Public Health Excellence Award Ceremony (distributed Press Release in hardcopy handouts).



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Legislator Standinger was awarded the Promotion Award, Laura Bennett (Sr. Public Health Educator) was awarded the Prevention Award, the Environmental Health Team was awarded the Protection Award, and Rural Health Ministry was awarded the Public Health Champion Award for their cross-collaboration efforts.

- ATUPA violation at Spencer SurFine. Recently had ownership changeover, so we are working with them to provide education.
- Environmental Health Director and Sanitarian presented Food Safety to 4H Club and will be presenting to more.

In-Progress Tasks:

- PHEP Coordinator is preparing a functional exercise to be able to simulate our emergency response/capability to a disease outbreak. A few members of the PHEP Team have been part of the planning process (but information has not been shared with all). The exercise is planned for the end of the month and will share the outcome at next meeting.
- We have restructured our rabies clinic to include a best practice approach using ICS structure. We are gearing up for one of our largest clinics at Newark Valley next week.
- Quality Improvement Project Update-
 - Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (RPEP) Billing: We are meeting with other counties and looking at contracts with hospitals.
 - Communicable Disease Training Plan: Ms. Squair, our PHEP Coordinator, is our backup who is testing the training plan currently and is almost fully trained.
 - New QIP- Online Food Course: It is not a requirement for counties to have, but we do make it available for food handlers. We are looking to update process and streamline (include form updates).

Board members commended the running of Tioga County Public Health's rabies clinics and use of electronic pre-registration.

NEW BUSINESS:

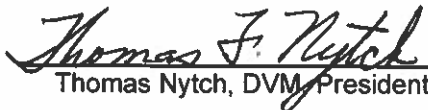
- Enforcements: Brief discussion of the Mobile Home Park enforcement. Ms. Vroman stated that all enforcements were straightforward and issues were addressed.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/BUSINESS:

- Mr. Simmons asked that Ms. Squair, PHEP Coordinator, attend an upcoming meeting to be able to meet and introduce her to the Board.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Dr. Raftis, all in favor, none opposed, motion approved. Adjournment of meeting called 9:13 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman


Thomas Nytech, DVM, President


Abigail Reigelman, Secretary

Minutes approved May 21, 2026

