



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES May 20, 2021

ATTENDEES:

BOARD MEMBERS: J. Picco, DDS, President; T. Hills, DVM, Vice President, R. Kapur-Pado, DO; T. Nytch, DVM; K. Millar, CRNA; W. Standinger III, Legislator
ABSENT: E. Haray-Butcher MS, CHES; J. Raftis, DO, FACEP
STAFF: L. McCafferty, R.S., MPH, Public Health Director; A. Canzler, Sec. to Public Health Director
GUEST: L. Bennett, Public Health Educator

Call to Order: 7:34 a.m.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST

Laura Bennett, Public Health Educator, Tioga County Public Health

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

N/A

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Meeting Minutes: Minutes of April 15, 2021 meeting were sent electronically to members for review. Motion to approve minutes made by Mr. Millar, seconded by Dr. Hills; all in favor, motion passed.
- 2) Enforcements: No questions.

PRESENTATION

- Ms. Bennett presented on the topic of 2021 County Health Rankings, specifically discussing Tioga County's ranking. (handout and presentation sent electronically)
 - County Health Ranking system shows national, state, and local statistics on health status of residents and what influences communities; provides insight into what health areas need improvement and what we are doing well.
 - Tioga County scored 20th in New York State for Health Outcomes, which is a fairly high score.
 - Areas we need to improve in: Motor vehicle crashes and sexually transmitted infections
 - Areas we have improved in: Obesity in adults, drug overdose mortality rates, diabetic adults, mammography screening, teen birth rates, high school graduation rates, adults/children uninsured, children in poverty.
 - Public Health targets areas for improvement through community partnership, advocacy, and prevention.
- Discussed whether we can really use this tool to compare ourselves to other counties, since counties are all made up so differently and some of the factors listed within the tool are out of our control.
 - The tool does standardize how all counties are measured; shows a trend of Tioga County statistics, and depicts a positive picture of Tioga County.

NEW BUSINESS

- Administrative Hearing-River Rock Diner: Ms. McCafferty reviewed the summary of the findings from the Administrative Hearing held on March 23, 2021. The Hearing Officer heard testimony of both sides of case, and assessed a fine of \$500.00.
- Return to Work: Ms. McCafferty provided an overview of how the Tioga County Public Health Department has handled "essential" employees returning to work during the pandemic.
 - Difficult process; , under a Public Health order for quarantine definition of "essential" is not the same as being essential in the phased reopening of the pandemic.



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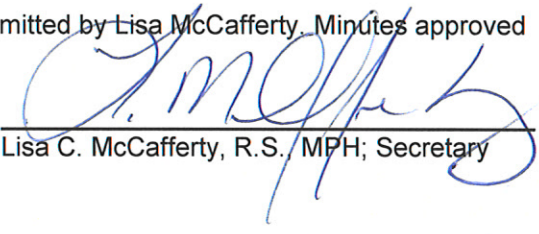
- In the quarantine order, there is a paragraph stating that an individual can petition to the Public Health Officer for a limited release from quarantine, due to being an essential employee.
- Have seen this in the case of sole proprietors; some employers also demand employees to return to work, even if the employee is sick.
- Gov. Cuomo now requiring businesses to have Pandemic Plan.
 - Discussion of Tioga County's Emergency Plan, updated in 2020; Pandemic has been incorporated in the ranking list alongside Natural Disaster and Cyber Security.

INFORMATIONAL

- Ms. McCafferty provided Public Health Agency updates.
 - The Public Health Nurse position was changed into a Public Health Educator position, for more versatility; can train Public Health Educators on Communicable Disease.
 - Mr. Standinger commended Ms. McCafferty on her ability to evaluate the needs for her department appropriately and to successfully make her case to the Legislative Committee.
 - Kudos to the Public Health crew, inching back into normal workload.
 - The State is looking to make COVID-19 a lasting reportable communicable disease, meaning that Public Health will continue with case investigating and tracing.
 - Public Health has multiple staffing back-ups trained to be lead investigators/tracers.
 - Encouraged the Board to look through Public Health's Healthy Neighborhoods Program Annual Report.
- Dr. Picco asked Ms. McCafferty what the main concerns will be at the Health Department in the coming months.
 - Tioga County has been seeing a COVID-19 14-day infection rate of 2.6-2.9%; coalescing through schools (students) who are asymptomatic.
 - Will be new normal and will continue to circulate through.
 - COVID-19 vaccinations, seeing slow down; people within the County having split reactions, some unsure due to vaccines only being Emergency Authorized, others undecided and others vaccinated.
 - Having difficulty filling vaccine clinics now, no one wants Moderna, lack of supply of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson single dose vaccine).
 - Targeted outreach to homebound population
 - Possibly by fall of 2021 the COVID-19 vaccines will gain FDA approval (according to Gov. Cuomo).
- Discussion of what is considered an acceptable percentage rate of infection.
- Vaccine cards- if vaccine is received within the New York State system, then it is recorded electronically. If done outside of State system (Veterans, or out of state [i.e. Guthrie]) will only receive the vaccine card and will need to have Public Health department or a New York primary care provider input record in New York State system.
- Guidance is still constantly changing (still).

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.; Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa McCafferty. Minutes approved June 17, 2021:


Terry Hills, DVM; Vice President


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