



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES March 18, 2021

ATTENDEES:

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

ABSENT:

STAFF: L. McCafferty, R.S., MPH, Public Health Director; A. Canzler, Sec. to Public Health Director

GUEST: K. Wait, Public Health Educator/ Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Call to Order: 7:34 a.m.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST

Katie Wait, Public Health Educator/Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

N/A

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Meeting Minutes: Minutes of February 18, 2021 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- None
- 3) Ms. McCafferty provided update on posting of Board of Health advertisement for vacant position; received letter of interest from two candidates. Ad was reposted to Morning Times and Owego Pennysaver. Will move forward after these postings.

PRESENTATION

- Ms. Wait presented on a general overview of Public Health Emergency Preparedness and gave examples pertaining to Tioga County Public Health and COVID-19 (handout sent electronically).
 - Types of Public Health Emergency: bioterrorism, chemical or radiological emergencies, mass casualties, disasters & severe weather, outbreaks, etc.
 - Public Health's role:
 - Identify community resources and groups at risk, provide education, use resources to implement recommendations to limit morbidity and mortality.
 - Collaborate with partners to ensure health concerns are adequately addressed in planning.
 - Prevent disease by providing health advisories and develop policies designed to reduce public health impact of potential health emergencies
 - Partnerships: Emergency Management, Medical Services/Providers, Local Emergency Planning Committee, Government authorities (federal and local), Non-profit organizations, private businesses, schools.
 - Day-to-day operations include: Public health education, disease control, mass vaccinations, rabies clinics, drills and exercises (improvement planning), hazmat response and follow-up.
 - March 14, 2021 marked one year since we were notified of our first COVID-19 case in Tioga County and one year since we activated our Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC)
 - Cases static; have adjusted our staffing on COVID investigations and contact tracing, monitoring people in quarantine via text and email.
 - Focusing efforts more heavily on vaccine clinics.



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- Restrictions are relaxing as we see this shift from being pandemic to endemic: domestic travelers do not need to quarantine within 90 days of full vaccination (2 weeks post 2nd dose), outdoor and indoor gathering capacity will increase, entertainment venues plan to reopen at 33% capacity.
- Excited broadened our ability to vaccinate all eligible groups within phase 1A and 1B.
- New Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccine approved for Emergency Use on 2/27, only single dose vaccine currently approved and 85% effective.
 - Holding vaccine clinic today at the Health and Human Services building, vaccinating 300 which is Public Health's largest vaccination amount in one clinic.
- Discussion about COVID vaccines and Emergency Use Authorization and general questions about how Public Health has dealt with various hardships during COVID Pandemic.
- Intersect with Community Services Board-Legislator Standinger is on both

NEW BUSINESS

- N/A

INFORMATIONAL

- Ms. McCafferty provided Public Health Agency updates.
 - Potential Hepatitis A event-investigated in less than 24 hours!
 - State now monitoring travelers from several countries for possible Ebola.
 - Lots of media on COVID-19, local health departments are the face of it, dealing with State guidance, lack there of, timeline for.
 - Village of Nichols reported low trace PFOA in community water system.
 - Annual Report; Legislator Standinger politely commented that it was put together very well, and a comprehensive read.
 - COVID-19 vaccination has been tightly controlled thus far; predict that with change in supply more availability via State Clinics. Local health department will target homebound, niche smaller populations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 a.m.; Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa McCafferty. Minutes approved April 16, 2021:



Joseph Picco, DDS, President



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