



# TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

## MEETING MINUTES July 20, 2023

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

T. Hills, DVM, President  
W. Simmons, Vice President  
T. Leary, FNP  
R. Kapur-Pado, DO (Arrived at 7:36 a.m.) (Departed at 8:48 a.m.)  
T. Nytch, DVM  
J. Raftis, DO, FACEP  
W. Standing III, Legislator

### **ABSENT:**

NONE

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

H. Vroman, Public Health Director  
A. Reigelman, Secretary  
P. DeWind, Esq., County Attorney (Arrived at 7:44 a.m.)  
S. Medina, Deputy Director Public Health (Departed at 8:17 a.m.)  
D. McCann, Director of Administrative Services (Departed at 8:17 a.m.)  
M. Miller, Director of Patient Services (Departed at 8:17 a.m.)  
T. Kopalek, Supervising Environmental Health Sanitarian (Departed at 8:17 a.m.)

### **GUESTS:**

Sam Hostetler, Bishop of Berkshire Amish Community (Departed at 8:17 a.m.)  
David Yoder, Member of Berkshire Amish Community (Departed at 8:17 a.m.)

**CALL TO ORDER:** at 7:32 by Dr. Hills

### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

### **PRESENTATION:**

- Q&A session with two high ranking members of the Berkshire Amish Community. Questions supplied by the Board and Public Health management staff prior to the meeting. Mr. Simmons led the Q&A.
  - Provided insight into the Berkshire Amish Community: discussing their background, why they settled in Berkshire, belief system, healthcare practices, interactions/feelings of Tioga County residents, how Public Health can assist.
  - After Q&A, Ms. Vroman thanked Mr. Hostetler and Mr. Yoder, on behalf of the department, for coming to speak and let them know that Public Health would be happy to help in any way.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- After guests' departure, the Board digested the Q&A. Discussing further how the Board/ Public Health can assist the Amish community in Tioga County.
  - Possibly car seat program, Dental Van, share information on renovating and lead.

### **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: no questions, no discussion.



## TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

- Dr. Nytych inquired if there was any new information about the request for rabies exemption. Ms. Vroman responded that she has not received anything further from the individual in question.

### NEW BUSINESS:

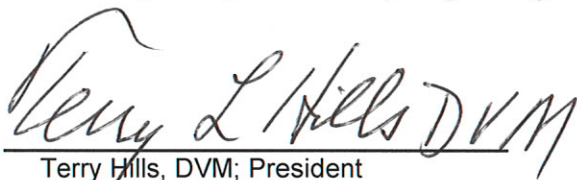
- None

### INFORMATIONAL:

- Ms. Vroman provided various updates in Public Health:
  - Quality Assurance committee has been reestablished. Will be meeting to go over divisional chart audits next Friday. Dr. Kapur-Pado will be in attendance to review, and then will present results to the Board of Health at next meeting.
    - Discussed Quality Assurance vs. Quality Improvement; providing example of Quality Improvement- currently improving animal bite report process, making a fillable online form to assist law enforcement, hopefully long term to send to Emergency Rooms.
  - Public Health has secured a consulting pharmacist, fulfilling Article 28 requirement. Role will be to make sure Public Health is appropriately storing and handling vaccines/biologics.
  - Admin Team met with Director's from Rural Health Network to renew collaboration with them; will be hosting two Americorps members in the fall.
  - Hired a Public Health Fellow, starting July 24<sup>th</sup>; will be working with Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. First project will be to compile COVID after action report, showing how Public Health can improve in future emergency situations.
  - Public Health Nurse starts July 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - Ms. Vroman has been going out with Environmental Health staff on various inspections, to see what they do, get a background. Will also be going to Chenango County Health Department for further background.
- Dr. Raftis inquired if Public Health should expect another Article 28 review. Ms. Vroman replied that the State did not say they would come back but should anticipate a surprise visit. All corrective actions from the audit have been completed.
  - Brief discussion of Article 28 bill that is waiting to be signed by governor (changing regulations for health departments).
- Brief discussion of subcommunities in Tioga County ( Amish being the largest); Migrant Farms/Farmers.
- Dr. Hills reminded the Board that there will be no meeting in August, next meeting will be in September. Trying to have a guest speaker come to discuss the self-organized homeless community in Tioga County.

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 A.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman.

  
Terry Hills, DVM; President

  
Abigail Reigelman, Secretary

Minutes approved September 21, 2023