



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES November 19, 2020

ATTENDEES:

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

Call to Order: 7:36 a.m.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST

N/A

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

N/A

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Meeting Minutes: Minutes of September 17, 2020 meeting were sent electronically to members for review. Motion to approve minutes made by Dr. Nytch, seconded by Dr. Kapur-Pado; all in favor, motion passed.
- 2) Enforcements: Brief discussion of enforcements; complaints being reported through NYS Hotline, Tioga Public Health investigates and enforces any of the businesses they permit. Violations for COVID-19 Executive Order 202.6, for mass gatherings, not wearing masks, etc.
- 3) Credentialing Committee verified credentials of Dr. Sarnicola and Dr. Kapur-Pado and found their credentials satisfactory and approved.

PRESENTATION

- N/A


NEW BUSINESS

- Nomination of Officers for two year term 2020-2022. Opened the floor for nominations.
 - President: Mr. Millar nominated Dr. Picco, Ms. Haray Butcher seconded; all in favor, motion passed.
 - Vice President: Nominations made for Dr. Nytch and Dr. Hills; Dr. Nytch nominated Dr. Hills to finish out term; all in favor, motion passed.
 - Secretary: Ms. McCafferty assumed position by de facto.
- Reaffirmed Ms. Haray Butcher's appointment for another 6-year term to Board of Health. Board was all in favor to recommend Ms. Haray-Butcher to be reappointed through the Legislature.
- Board of Health Vacancy- Ms. Hawley submitted email resignation to Board President and Secretary November 11, 2020
 - Dr. Picco expressed, on behalf of Board of Health, that Ms. Hawley will be sorely missed and disappointed on seeing her leave.
 - Will send Thank You to Ms. Hawley for her participation.
 - Committee, made up of Ms. Haray-Butcher, Dr. Kapur-Pado, and Mr. Millar, established to review past applicants' resumes and interview candidates who might be interested.
 - Possibly advertise for position if necessary.
- 2021 Board of Health Calendar:
 - Possible topics: Emergency Preparedness, Lead, COVID-19, Vaccinations for COVID-19
 - No meetings in August and December

INFORMATIONAL

- Ms. McCafferty provided updates on Tioga Public Health (TPH) and COVID-19

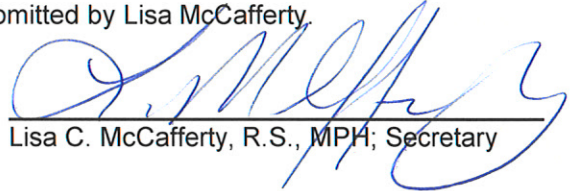
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- Public Health is operating at overcapacity; case investigations range in complexity. Some generate 50 or more contacts. Seeing more people lying to Public Health investigators and tracers, misrepresenting their status. Employers are proving difficult to work with. People are tired of the current situation and are not cooperative.
 - Addressing various complaints.
 - Individuals can be issued Limited Releases from Quarantine under certain circumstances, situationally dependent.
 - TPH submitted plan for COVID-19 Vaccinations to the State
 - Waverly is in the yellow zone, rest of county increased in cases, seemed to start when schools first opened.
 - Hiring temporary Health Educators to act as investigators at TPH; requiring Bachelor's degree or RN, necessary to be able to communicate easily.
 - A Thank You to Dr. Nytch for volunteering with phone calls!
 - Contact tracing has been done all in house, but is losing battle. Have decided to use virtual State Contact Tracers through CommCare so that TPH can focus on the positive cases.
 - TPH hosted rapid testing sites in Waverly and Owego, a shout out to the crew that helped with it. Guthrie assisted with lab license.
 - COVID-19 Open Discussion
 - Dr. Kapur-Pado posed question: "If someone tests positive, when can they return to work?"
 - Ms. McCafferty explained NYS process for quarantining: TPH issues an Isolation Order to the positive case for 14 days. TPH checks in daily with the case. If case is still symptomatic on day 14, quarantine is extended.
 - Finding that people are getting tested continuously.
 - Younger people seem to have more mild symptoms (loss of taste/smell and headaches), older individuals are having much more residual respiratory symptoms.
 - Dr. Picco asked if there was any sense on how to monitor people traveling across Pennsylvania and New York border (due to new PA requirement for travelers to be tested 72 hours before coming into PA).
 - PA only has 5 county health departments that handle contact investigating and tracing and then the rest runs through the state itself. PA does not seem to contact trace like NY.
 - Dr. Picco also questioned the rapid testing taking place at Waverly School District, whether it tests for live or dead virus.
 - Dr. Kapur-Pado explained that there are 3 types of testing: Antibody, Molecular (which takes 3-5 days for results), and Antigen (rapid). The Antigen testing for virus is intended for people who are symptomatic at time of test. Can prove false negatives.
 - Ms. Haray-Butcher inquired about the difference between "investigator" and "tracer."
 - Ms. McCafferty explained that an investigator interviews and collects all information from the positive case. Tracers interview all proximate contacts of positive case.
 - Ms. Haray-Butcher discussed the New York State COVID-19 Alert App, which checks on County Statistics and infection rates. Designed to help with contact tracing.
 - Board of Health extends gratitude to Tioga Public Health for work they are doing.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.; Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa McCafferty.
Minutes approved January 21, 2021:



Joseph Picco, DDS; President



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