

TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES July 16, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS' PRESENT:

T. Nytech, DVM, President
W. Simmons, Vice President
T. Hills, DVM
W. Standinger III, Legislator
T. Leary, FNP

ABSENT:

R. Kapur-Pado, DO
J. Raftis, DO, FACEP

OTHER(S) PRESENT:

H. Vroman, Public Health Director
A. Reigelman, Secretary
P. DeWind, Esq., Tioga County Attorney
M. Squair, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER: at 7:35 a.m. by Dr. Nytech.

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

PRESENTATION: Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) overview presented by Ms. Squair. PHEP supports coordinated emergency preparedness across government levels, with public health staff contributing through illness prevention, disease investigation, education, and regular training. The PHEP team maintains plans, conducts exercises, and collaborates with Tioga County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), Tioga County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and other partners, using after-action findings to strengthen readiness. Local emergencies such as rabies incidents, COVID-19, and an H5 case highlight the need for preparedness across all declaration levels. The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) continues to support local response efforts. Tioga County is advancing through the Project Public Health Ready accreditation process, focusing on mass care, pandemic readiness, and extreme weather. Coordination with Emergency Services is improving, Incident Command System principles are being integrated, and communication gaps are being addressed through infrastructure upgrades and backup systems. Continued collaboration with community organizations remains strong, though dispatch challenges and concerns regarding the Sheriff's limited use of the new dispatch center were noted.

Board members thanked Ms. Squair for presenting and complimented her commitment to her role.

Ms. Squair departed meeting at 8:12 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Legislator Standinger noted that those experiencing homelessness are intermittently returning to the previous encampment property in the Village of the Owego. Village police are monitoring the area. Board members briefly discussed.

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

Public Health Information:

- Federal funding: remains stable and has some increases in core program areas. New York State is expected to receive about \$212 million from the Rural Health Transformation funding (part of

TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

the Big Beautiful Bill). Each county is eligible for up to \$500,000, but local health departments are unable to apply directly (must be CBO or hospital to be eligible to apply). UHS filed two implementation projects via Care Compass Network (CCN) with county support: Paramedicine expansion program to Broome, Tioga and Delaware Counties and Maternal and child health services. There are concerns about CCN's limited local presence and budget allocations.

- Cyclospora Outbreak: A multi-state outbreak (31) with over 4,000 cases likely linked to produce. There are no cases in Tioga County currently. Public guidance is to recognize symptoms and seek evaluation. Noted that washing produce may not remove the parasite. Board members discussed alternative cleansing methods.
- Ebola update: Nearly 1,400 cases, with 438 deaths reported globally, with no confirmed cases in the U.S. Traveler monitoring is ongoing.
- Tick-borne Illnesses: There are roughly 239 tick-borne cases in Tioga County, with anaplasmosis at 45 cases. There have been 20 hospitalizations year-to-date, with hospital stays ranging from 2-10 days. Statewide increases are noted for anaplasmosis, Lyme and Powassan virus.

Staffing:

- An offer for the Office Specialist II was accepted, with a start date of August 10.

Accomplished Activities:

- The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) was submitted to the state, focusing on housing stability, social context, and healthcare access. A full presentation is planned for the September Board of Health meeting. (handout distributed on priority areas)
- In collaboration with Tioga County Mental Hygiene, we submitted and were awarded a grant by NYS Office of Mental Health Suicide Prevention Center of New York for Building Capacity for Rural Suicide Prevention in NYS for \$132,000.
- Public Health Nurse presented RPEP guidelines at UHS to emergency department physicians.
- Conducted drive through rabies clinic at Hickories Park in June and vaccinated 169 pets. There was high public satisfaction, and we are considering the drive-through model for future events.

In-Progress Tasks:

- Ms. Medina is currently at the NACCHO Annual Conference in Kentucky and Ms. Holochak and Ms. Russell are at the CADCA Mid-Year Conference in Orlando. We have a travel expectation policy requiring they present what they learned and will forward their informational material to Board members when complete.
- The department is developing a new strategic plan following county guidelines and National Public Health accreditation standards. Board of Health feedback survey results are being analyzed. Next surveys include Public Health Competency and Training Needs for Public Health staff.
- The 2027 Budget is being finalized and will be presented in August, with a positive financial forecast.
- Staff will be tabling at summer events to provide education and outreach, including Sundaes at the Farm, Newark Valley SummerFest, Tioga County Fair and Back to School Party.

Board Action Items:

- Ms. Vroman asked members to review the information in their member binders. Plan for next meeting to discuss what members would like to see next year, any initiatives, information to be provided, or if anything needs updating.

Other:

- Break in August. Next meeting will be in September, and we will have a presentation on the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

NEW BUSINESS:

- Enforcements: briefly noted, no discussion.
- Ms. Vroman stated that she will be on vacation starting Friday and through next week.



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Legislator Standing, all in favor, none opposed, motion approved. Adjournment of meeting called 8:46 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman



William Simmons, Vice President



Abigail Reigelman, Secretary

Minutes approved September 23, 2026

