



## TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

***PLEASE RSVP TO 607-687-8630***

***IF YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING***

TO: Members of the Board of Health

FROM: A. Reigelman

DATE: March 12, 2026

RE: Board of Health Meeting - Thursday, March 19, 2026,  
7:30 a.m., **Conference Room B**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Health and Human Services  
Building at 1062 St. Rt. 38, Owego, NY 13827.

### AGENDA

Approval of Minutes-February 2026

Introduction of Guests at 8:30 & 9:00 a.m.

- Elizabeth Myers, Commissioner of Social Services
- Sarah Begeal, Interim Director of Community Services

Meet & Greet

- Department Collaboration

Director's Report

- Agency Updates – February (2026)

Old Business

New Business

- Enforcements

Additional Items

- None

Next Meeting Information

- Next Meeting: April 16, 2026

# TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

## MEETING MINUTES February 19, 2026

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

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

### **ABSENT:**

T. Hills, DVM  
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  
S. Medina, Deputy Director of Public Health

**CALL TO ORDER:** at 7:30 a.m. by Dr. Nytych.

**PRESENTATION:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Ms. Medina summarized the fourth-quarter audit which consisted of 129 records, with a detailed breakdown by program included in the hardcopy provided to Board Members. Overall, we continue to see only minor issues and are consistently improving. Adjustments to audit tools are made as needed

- Highlighted Recommendations from Audit:
  - In Animal Bite/Rabies Exposure Program, we identified the need to ensure verification that, for those needing rabies post exposure prophylaxis (RPEP), the incident occurs in Tioga County and the individual has authorization from Tioga County Public Health for RPEP.
  - Currently contract with UHS for referred Tuberculosis cases. Our Director of Patient Services is developing an audit tool to be able to audit these referred cases.
- Quality Improvement Project Updates:
  - Dental Van Security-Now have a badge system and cameras in place on the dental van. Also have proper signage indicating no cash/medications are kept on the van. We have worked with school districts to improve communication by use of two-way radio and have updated our agreements with school districts to be able to initiate this. We have also updated policies regarding dental security.
  - Communicable Disease Backup- Previously, there was no formal training plan for Communicable Disease. We now have a comprehensive, phased training program. Our staff member serving as the backup will now start the final training phase, which includes record auditing. We now have both a primary and a trained backup in place, and we will continue refining the training plan as needed. Several other counties have already expressed interest in using this plan as a model.
  - Preschool Transportation- We've transitioned to electronic forms for families and incorporated feedback from our contracted transportation company. We've also clarified processes with school districts so they can accurately share information with parents. The response so far has been very positive.
  - Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (RPEP) Payments/Billing- We only cover RPEP bills for Tioga County residents exposed to rabies. Our fact-finding shows surrounding counties face similar challenges. We are exploring next steps, including a formal contract

## TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

with hospitals and improved communication with regional facilities. This program is time-intensive for staff, and coordination is difficult because patients use at least five hospitals across three different healthcare systems.

- Weights and Measures- This project is on hold for now until we have filled the vacant Director of Weights and Measures position. Will revisit this project in the future.
- There were no patient complaints or sharps injuries/incidents this quarter.
- Satisfaction surveys received were all highly rated.

Members discussed bidding process for Preschool Transportation program and rabies control as it pertains to animal/dog control.

Ms. Medina departed at 7:50 a.m. Members thanked her for attending and sharing.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Enforcements: Inquiry was made about Owego Kitchen's violation. Ms. Vroman shared violations found at most recent inspection.
- Meeting Minutes (January 2026): Approval of January's minutes occurred after Ms. Vroman shared her Director's report. Motion to approve prior minutes made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Legislator Standing; all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.
  - Going forward, Dr. Nytech requested Ms. Vroman present the Director's Report before Old Business, as it often addresses his questions.

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

### **Public Health Information:**

- Federal funding update- Still no impacts to local public health currently. Governor Hochul's budget "Do No Harm" with no new unfunded mandates. However, we could see some changes at the local level (affecting funding for tickborne and rabies prevention efforts).
- NYSDOH and NYC have joined the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN). This is not the same as being a member of the World Health organization (WHO), but it means NYS will be directly involved in information sharing with WHO.
- Two-chapter amendments have been signed into law. The first relates to NYSACHO-initiated legislation to improve local health official's access to coroner and medical examiner reports and the second amendment updates the recently enacted law prohibiting the sale of Kratom to individuals under age 21 and assigns enforcement to NYSDOH instead of Local health departments.
- Respiratory Numbers are holding steady. Have seen slight uptick in RSV cases. Seeing numbers mostly within adolescents. We are still doing a lot of messaging to promote vaccination.

### **Staffing Updates:**

- Weights and Measures Director position was posted last Friday. The reclassification of the position from part-time to full-time was approved through the Legislature last week.
- Yesterday we interviewed our first Speech Language pathologist. The application came through early February. We are currently assessing if her requests for the position will fit with our needs.

### **Accomplished Activities:**

- You have in your packets, the 2025 Annual Reports hot off the press! Please review at your leisure.
  - Legislator Standing gave great compliments to Public Health Annual Reports.
- We were awarded \$19,000 for last year's Year 13 Performance Incentive project (which was for updating cooling center directory and sharing information on our website about climate change). We can use award on State Aid reimbursable activities. This year's Performance Incentive theme is on oral health which we are very excited about.
- Our School Based Dental Program was awarded \$58,000 annually for the next five years, with minimal restrictions. We were the only program in New York State to receive this funding.

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Planned uses include purchasing a new generator, expanding educational campaigns, and updating equipment.

- Last week Ms. Vroman presented to the Owego Rotary club on Public Health Programs and Taxpayer Value. It was a great opportunity to get out in the community.
- Resumed our Employee Wellness Series. The staff really enjoyed last year, and this year it has been opened to all staff to be able to facilitate activities.

### In Progress Activities:

- Noted QI project on RPEP billing-Ms. Medina covered during her share.
- Our newest Public Health Educator is a certified lactation education specialist and will be able to offer breastfeeding support to the community. We will be launching a new campaign for this.
- The Health Education team has started training in the new Metopio application for data analytics. This platform will allow Public Health to generate data dashboards and reports to track health interventions.
- Project Public Health Ready is underway for Public Health Emergency Preparedness Accreditation. We have a scheduled workshop next Friday with community partners and have planned a point of dispensing drilling for the spring.

### Other:

- Stay Interview Feedback (summary distributed to members). Held Stay Interviews in November for all Public Health staff. Questions were developed by the Management Team, all questions were framed to secure and retain staff. Received very few complaints. We have some things to work on and some things were implemented immediately but overall blown away by the responses. Feel staff was very honest in their feedback. Overall, staff feel valued, supported, and enjoy the family-oriented culture.

### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/BUSINESS:**

Ms. Leary inquired about measles cases in New York. Ms. Vroman noted that staff participate in weekly disease control calls and, at this time, there are no confirmed cases in the state. She will verify this with the Public Health Nurse and email an update to the Board after the meeting

Ms. Vroman noted that the Credentialing Committee met (made up of Dr. Nytch, Dr. Raftis and herself) and approved the credentialing for medical consultants, Dr. Zevan and Dr. Skiff, for another two-year term.

Dr. Nytch referenced the recent Johnson City fire that displaced residents and requested the Board meet with the Social Services Director to explore how Public Health and the Board of Health can help support community needs. He also raised concerns about a local family experiencing heating issues due to a landlord's inaction. Members, Ms. Vroman and County Attorney DeWind discussed possible remedies. Ms. Vroman noted that Public Health programs- such as Healthy Homes- may assist with home safety needs and added that Public Health already collaborates closely with Department of Social Services. She stated that she can invite Liz Myers, the newly appointed Commissioner of Social Services, to attend an upcoming meeting and have her discuss her role and authority.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Ms. Leary, seconded by Mr. Simmons, all in favor, none opposed, motion approved. Adjournment of meeting called 8:42 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman

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Thomas Nytch, DVM, President

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Abigail Reigelman; Secretary

Minutes approved March 19, 2026



March 2026 Enforcements

<u>Business</u>	<u>Type of Violation</u>	<u>Fine Paid/Date</u>	<u>Repeat Violation(s) within 12 Month Period</u>
Sam Obermeister Sunset Mobile Home Park 637 State Route 17C Waverly, NY	MHP	\$325.00 2/24/2026	Yes
Rob Yammine Original Italian Pizzeria 23-25 Lake St. Owego, NY	Food	\$1,125.00 2/27/2026	Yes



## Tioga County Public Health

Health & Human Services Building | 1062 State Route 38, Owego, NY 13827

Phone: 607-687-8600 | Fax: 607-223-7030 | [ph.tiogacountyny.gov](http://ph.tiogacountyny.gov)  
Heather Vroman, MPH, MEd., Public Health Director



### **AGENCY REPORT**

January 22-February 18, 2026

#### **Highlights**

- 2025 Annual Report is available and disseminated to community partners.
- We have welcomed intern, Lauran Fisher, from SUNY Farmingdale who is shadowing in our Dental Health program.
- February marked the launch of our department's new year of the Employee Wellness Series!
- Have begun canvassing for recently approved full-time Director of Weights and Measures.

#### **Health Education**

- The Tioga County Healthy Communities Partnership group met to review the findings from the 2025-2030 Community Health Assessment and have started brainstorming ideas for potential intervention and activities to address poor health outcomes.
- Health Educators tabled at the Tioga Opportunities, Waverly High School and Tioga County Rural Ministries, promoting safe medication disposal and demonstrating how to use Deterra pouches. Additionally tabled at Catholic Charities to get more participants for the Together Time Boxes.
- Created and distributed the first provider newsletter which included updates on immunizations and separately sent a Hep B Birth Dose information flyer to WIC/Family Health Clinic at Tioga Opportunities Inc.
- 120 medication lock boxes were provided to Tioga County Mental Hygiene to distribute to clients in their Owego and Waverly locations.
- To promote Children's Dental Health Month, facilitated toothbrush fun series with Danny the Dragon at the Berkshire Library Story Hour, Family Enrichment Network in Waverly, Candor Library, and Inspire S-VE. Kids listened to a dental story, played "Happy Tooth, Sad Tooth" and played "dentist" on Danny the Dragon and Penelope the Unicorn's teeth. Kids received Danny the Dragon coloring sheets, toothbrushing charts, stickers and a goody bag!

#### **Environmental Health**

- The Lead Poisoning Prevention team, in partnership with Tioga County DSS, has established a process for implementing the Spiegel Act for properties identified with lead paint hazards.
- EH staff collected water samples from numerous community water systems and sent for testing for per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs) under a free program offered by NYSDOH.
- Several staff members met with Tompkins County Health Department to learn more about how they conduct drive-thru rabies vaccine clinics. We were able to exchange information as they were interested in learning more about our promotional flyer for our rabies clinics.

- Director of EH continued training in Weights and Measures with New York Agriculture and Markets Regional Representative, including inspection of a gas station.

### **Patient Services (EI, Dental, Clinic)**

- In the Dental Program we continue to see a large amount of decay. We are increasing our use of Silver Diamine Fluoride to stop or slow the decay process.
- The Quality Improvement Project for Dental Security on the Dental Van is officially completed!
- We have renewed a contract with Binghamton University Children’s Unit for Treatment and Evaluation for Special Education Preschool program eligibility evaluations.

### **Administration**

- PHD presented to the Owego Rotary Club about the taxpayer value of public health work.
- The Quality Assurance Team completed the fourth-quarter 2025 record audit and presented the results to our Medical Consultant. We’re seeing significant improvements in record documentation. A summary of the audit was also shared by the Quality Assurance Coordinator/Deputy Director with the Board of Health during the February meeting.
- We’ve received enthusiastic feedback on our new electronic Preschool Transportation application form, developed through an ongoing quality improvement project. Our Office Specialist III has been sharing the form with school districts, and parents have responded with positive comments.
- In Emergency Preparedness, PHEP Coordinator has been leading the PHEP Team in Project Public Health Ready (accreditation for Public Health Emergency Preparedness). The team has been meeting all together and in work groups to help put together all documentation for various goals/measures in this process.
- PHD, Deputy Director and Director of Dental Services met with new Spencer-Van Etten School District superintendent to discuss TCPH programs and ways to collaborate.

### **Workforce Development**

- Public Health Project Coordinator attended the CADCA Leadership Forum in Washington DC along with Tioga County ASAP Coalition Member. This four-day conference included an opportunity to meet with elected officials during Capitol Hill Day to share successes of the ASAP Coalition that are made possible through federal funds, along with several educational sessions.
- Public Health Nurse has begun a 17-week online course titled Public Health Essentials. This course focuses on implementing programs and policies with the focus to be on improving the health and wellbeing of our community.

## **Ongoing Support/Partnerships**

### **TCPH team members actively serve in leadership roles or participate in the following:**

- Advocacy, Support & Prevention (ASAP) Coalition
- Child Fatality Review Team
- Family Enrichment Network (Head Start)
- Lourdes PACT Advisory Board
- Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network
- New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO)
- New York State Association for Rural Health (NYSARH)
- New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC)
- Racker Center
- Rural Health Network
- S2AY Pivotal Public Health Partnership Early Childhood Committee
- Team Tioga
- Tioga County Board of Health
- Tioga County Commissioner’s Advisory Council
- Tioga County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)
- Tioga County Council of Governments
- Tioga County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- Tioga County Mental Health Sub-Committee
- Tioga Opportunities, Inc.
- Tioga County Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Tioga County Threat Assessment Management Team
- Tioga County Water Quality Committee
- Tioga County Youth Bureau

### **Attachments:**

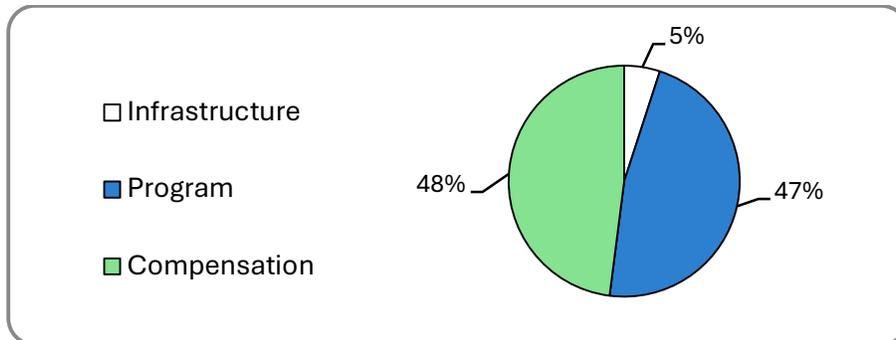
1. Financial Snapshot, YTD thru November 2025.
2. Flyer: “What the Health!?,” February 2026.
3. Bulletin Boards: “Harm Reduction Saves Lives!,” “Make the Right Call Even if the Refs Don’t!,” HHS Building, Owego, NY, February 2026.
4. Billboards: “Don’t Let Drugs Fade Your Game!,” “Make This Year About You!,” Various Locations, February 2026.
5. Data Spreadsheet January 22-February 18, 2026.

**Financial Snapshot  
Year-to-date through November 2025\*<sup>1,2,3</sup>**

	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual YTD 2025</b>	<b>Percentage of 2025 Budget</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Fees	1,015,904	868,865	86 %
State/Federal	3,763,299	2,345,245	62 %
Local	3,330,877	1,761,837	53 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,110,080</b>	<b>4,975,947</b>	<b>61 %</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Compensation	2,862,548	2,369,398	83 %
Program Expense	4,795,132	2,343,055	49 %
Core Infrastructure	452,400	263,494	58 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,110,080</b>	<b>4,975,947</b>	<b>61 %</b>

**Allocation of Expenses  
Year-to-date through November 2025**



**\*Notes:**

1. These figures represent the most recent 'closed out' month by the Treasurer.
2. Most of January & February revenue are adjusted back to prior year as payments during this time are for services performed in the prior year. State Aid reimbursement is reported a couple months after each quarter ends.
3. Additional funds not including in the reported numbers above are JUUL Settlement Funds & ASAP Coalition grants. These are excluded as they are outside of our County approved budgets and would skew the figures to not being accurate reflections of financial status.



# What the Health!?

February 2026

**HELP IS AVAILABLE 24/7!**

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE**

*a new hope center*  
*Making hope real since 1988*

Call: 1-800-799-SAFE  
 Text: "Begin" to 88788

Call or Text  
 607-687-6866

**time to talk day**  
 02/05/2026

Time to Talk Day is a global call to action to open conversations about mental health. By speaking openly about mental health, we can foster supportive environments that encourage people to get the help they need!

Scan for more information: 

**Way to Get Involved:**

Text a friend and ask how they're doing	Ask a coworker to grab coffee and chat
Go for a walk with a family member	Share a supportive post on social media

**HARM REDUCTION SAVES LIVES!**

 Speed Limits	 Seat Belts
 Naloxone	 Fentanyl Test Strips
 Masks	 Clean Needle Exchange
 Condoms	 Designated Drivers

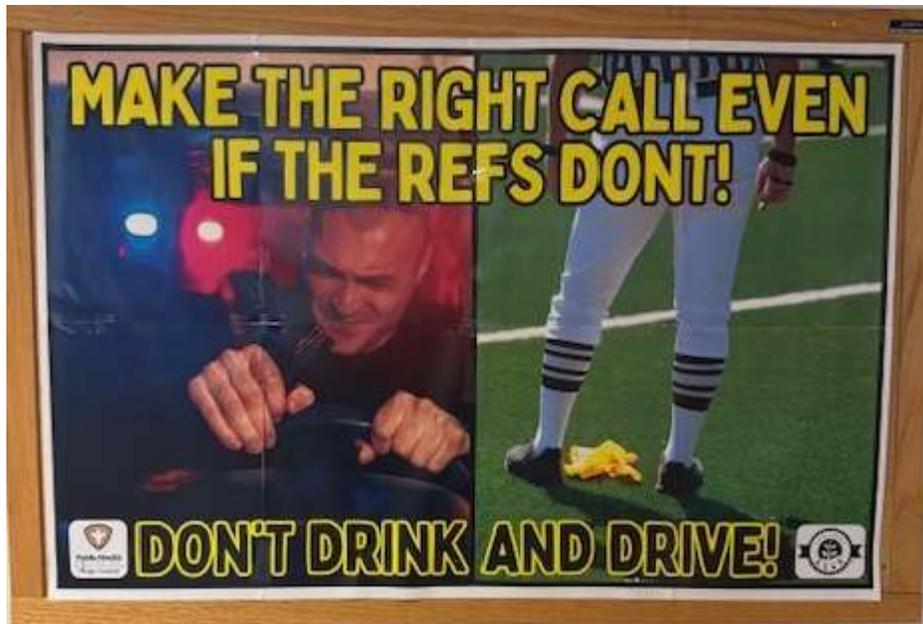
**Tiny Teeth Trivia**

Test your knowledge on children's dental health!

- True or False:** Cavities are the most common childhood disease.
- Children should visit the dentist by their \_\_\_ birthday.
  - first
  - second
  - fourth
  - fifth
- True or False:** Babies teeth start forming before children are born.
- Most children have a total of \_\_\_ baby teeth.
  - 8
  - 20
  - 23
  - 30
- What is not a way to promote good oral health habits in children?
  - daily brushing
  - daily floss
  - serving fruit juice
  - serving veggies

1. True 2. A 3. True 4. B 5. C

Flyer: "What the Health!?", February 2026.



Bulletin Boards: Health & Human Services Building, Owego, NY, February 2026.



Billboard: Various Locations, February 2026

# DATA SPREADSHEET

January 22- February 18, 2026

<b>PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Y-E 2024</b>	<b>Y-E 2025</b>	<b>Jan-26</b>	<b>Feb-26</b>	<b>Y-T-D</b>
<b>Community Health</b>					
Communicable Disease	3082	2643	375	301	676
- General Infectious Diseases (Campylobacteriosis, Salmonellosis, etc.)	330	363	40	68	108
- Zoonotic Diseases (Anaplasmosis, Lyme, etc.)	352	474	11	7	18
- Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (COVID-19, Influenza, etc.)	2281	1710	314	219	533
Child Passenger Safety Seats Inspected	49	39	1	3	4
- Child Seats FAILED Inspection	40	29	1	3	4
- Child Seats Distributed	62	47	1	4	5
CredibleMind Users	N/A	2857	259	24	401
Immunizations: Total children and adults	87	54	4	0	4
Newly Identified Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels	10	13	0	0	0
Environmental Health Assessments due to Child with EBLL	8	9	0	0	0
Current Children with EBLL Caseload	N/A	N/A	19	17	N/A
- Welcome Baby Packets Mailed	298	433	31	35	66
Individuals Narcan Trained (Opioid Overdose Prevention Program)	96	72	0	0	0
<b>Dental</b>					
New Clients	325	383	35	34	69
Dental Screenings	1227	1359	100	133	233
- Clients with Low Decay Risk	461	287	23	24	47
- Clients with Moderate Decay Risk	274	445	52	46	98
- Clients with High Decay Risk	493	619	27	58	85
Extractions	170	205	12	11	23
<b>Children Services</b>					
Referrals for Services (Child Find & EI)	N/A	N/A	15	10	25
Referrals forwarded to Early Intervention (Prev. Early Intervention Referrals)	N/A	N/A	14	8	22
- Early Intervention CURRENT Caseload *Monthly total	N/A	N/A	33	38	N/A
- EI children waiting for service(s)	N/A	N/A	7	8	N/A
- Active EI Providers	N/A	N/A	14	11	N/A
<b>Preschool</b>					
- Children in a tuition-based program	N/A	N/A	25	24	N/A
- Children receiving transportation services under the Serafini contract	N/A	N/A	15	15	N/A
- Children receiving transportation from their parents	N/A	N/A	10	9	N/A
<b>Child Find</b>					
- Current Children being served	N/A	N/A	18	17	N/A

	Y-E 2024	Y-E 2025	Jan-26	Feb-26	Y-T-D
<b>Environmental Health</b>					
Animal bite investigations	238	237	12	8	20
- Individuals requiring Rabies Series (N)	51	39	1	1	2
Rabies Clinics	9	8	1	0	1
- Number of Animals Vaccinated	1377	1140	117	0	117
Food Establishment Inspections	228	240	18	13	31
Temporary Food Inspections	62	64	0	1	1
Clean Indoor Air Act Complaints (Smoking)	1	5	0	1	1
Mobile Home Park Inspections	35	35	3	3	6
Swimming Pool Inspections	11	20	0	0	0
Tanning Inspections	2	2	0	0	0
Children's Camp Inspections	13	14	0	0	0
Agriculture Fairground Inspections	3	2	0	0	0
ATUPA Checks (Underage Tobacco Sales)	116	157	2	1	3
- ATUPA Violations	2	6	0	0	0
Nuisance Complaints	25	51	2	0	2
Enforcement Actions	45	64	5	1	6
<b>Weights &amp; Measures</b>					
Inspection Sites	201	141	0	6	6
-Devices Inspected	448	257	0	41	41
-Failed Inspection	N/A	N/A	0	1	1
-Passed Inspection	N/A	N/A	0	40	40
<b>Fiscal-Electronic Payments &amp; Applications</b>					
Total Number of Electronic Payments (All Programs)	N/A	133	3	9	12
Total Dollar Amount of Electronic Payments Received (All Programs)	N/A	\$25,876	\$235	\$724	\$959
Number of Electronic Applications Received	N/A	47	1	0	3