



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES April 15, 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: M. Sauerbrey, Chair, Tioga County Legislature

Call to Order: 7:34 a.m.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST

Martha Sauerbrey, Chair, Tioga County Legislature

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

N/A

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Meeting Minutes: Minutes of March 18, 2021 meeting were sent electronically to members for review. Motion to approve minutes made by Mr. Millar, seconded by Dr. Hills; all in favor, motion passed.
- 2) Enforcements: Update on River Rock Café administrative hearing regarding mask violations. Hearing held.
- 3) Vacancy Update: Dr. Kapur-Pado updated the board on the candidate review to fill the vacant position. Only received two candidates. Lack of interest right now possibly due to pandemic. Ms. Haray-Butcher is enhancing the advertisement and will post again and send to other social media outlets other than Facebook.
 - Secretary will send letters to the two interested candidates.
 - For the Board: reach out to community members who may be interested; possibly someone with connection to rural poor (4/H, Cooperative Extension, Rural Ministries, Tioga Opportunities, etc.)
 - Committee will hold off for summer, then resume quest to fill Board vacancy in the fall.

PRESENTATION

- Chair Sauerbrey spoke about her [Legislative] side of the COVID-19 pandemic over the course of the last year.
 - With 16 years in County government, and as leader for 8 of those years, all of the Emergency Management trainings that she had previously experienced would never have prepared her for this pandemic.
 - "This was more than a virus, it was an experience." When she declared State of Emergency in Tioga County and everything was shut down, the world stopped and the County was put on hold. Some able to work from home thanks to IT department, but most departments down to half-capacity. Many County entities used telecommunications.
 - Counties lost all decision making power; rules/regulations/behavior all determined by the Governor's office dictated on daily conference calls.
 - Nursing home experience was horrific, not getting enough PPE and equipment from the State as they were supposed to, County had to scavenge to try to find what they could to provide.
 - Witnessed the public's fury and anger from numerous phone calls, social media, and complaints from online tool from Governor's Office.
 - Long lasting fear of mental health of community and employees



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- Chair Sauerbrey thanked Public Health and Ms. McCafferty's leadership as well as the Legislature for doing a great job.

NEW BUSINESS

- N/A

INFORMATIONAL

- Ms. McCafferty provided Public Health Agency updates.
 - No flu in Tioga County
 - New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) provided summary on new Marijuana legislation (handout electronic). Discussion on new legislation from Marijuana Committee and Board members on recommendations for Tioga County might take with the passing of this legislation.
 - County Health Rankings released April 1, 2021
 - Biggest issue in Tioga County's health index is obesity.
 - Vaccination rollout: Can not schedule clinics until vaccine is in hand. Public Health is limited in what they can do due to Governor's office. Discussion on numbers reported via New York State dashboard excluding out of state vaccinations and pharmacy reporting; Johnson & Johnson vaccine being put on hold.
 - Ebola doesn't appear to be an issue as first thought.
- For next meeting: Dr. Picco requested that Ms. McCafferty discuss issues with quarantine with employers in the county.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 a.m.; Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa McCafferty, Minutes approved May 20, 2021:



Joseph Picco, DDS, President



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

