

## 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, Secretary
- DATE: October 12, 2023
- RE: Board of Health Meeting Thursday, October 19, 2023, 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.

## <u>AGENDA</u>

Introduction of Guest

- Katie Wait, Public Health Educator/ Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
- Nick Conklin, Public Health Fellow (Observing)
- Presentation
  - Tioga County Public Health Emergency Preparedness

## Additional Items

## Old Business

- Meeting Minutes
- Enforcements

## **New Business**

- Reappointment of term- Dr. Nytch (1/1/2024-12/31/2029)

Informational

- Agency Updates – September 2023

## Next Meeting Information

- Next Meeting is on November 16, 2023



## **MEETING MINUTES** September 21, 2023

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

T. Hills, DVM, President
W. Simmons, Vice President
R. Kapur-Pado, DO (Arrived at 7:42 a.m.)
T. Nytch, DVM
J. Raftis, DO, FACEP
W. Standinger III, Legislator

## ABSENT:

T. Leary, FNP

## OTHER(S) PRESENT:

H. Vroman, Public Health Director

A. Reigelman, Secretary

P. DeWind, Esq., County Attorney (Arrived at 7:36 a.m.)

#### GUESTS:

Kelly Kelley, Principal Welfare Examiner, Temporary Assistance/Employment Unit, Tioga County Department of Social Services (Departed at 8:19 a.m.)

## CALL TO ORDER: at 7:34 by Dr. Hills

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUEST: by Ms. Vroman

## PRESENTATION:

- Overview of homeless population and housing shortage in Tioga County. Highlighted some of the larger questions/ concerns that usually get asked:
  - How much of a problem is homelessness in Tioga County?
    - At this point, housing only 6 individuals, but by winter could have more. Provided statistics from 2018 to now, seeing a definite increase each year; from 41 people in 2018 to over 100 in 2022.
    - Typically, single men; some women and children.
    - Continue to look for transitional housing that can assist; utilize homeless shelter in Broome County, and local Tioga County hotels, but are in need of more options.
  - Why do people become homeless?
    - Different reasons: mental health, drugs/alcohol, burned bridges, domestic violence, etc.
    - Most do not want help.
    - What happens when the homeless come to us?
      - Screen for assistance, let them know services that can be offered and refer individuals to various programs/ establishments that can assist.
      - Have to be residents of Tioga County to be able to help.
      - Most are resistant to help, do not want to leave Tioga County (if referred to homeless shelter) and do not want programmatic help with drug/alcohol rehabilitation.
  - How do we solve the problem of homelessness?
    - It will never go away, do not foresee a fix. Definitely need more affordable housing/transitional housing options, which Tioga County Department of Social Services is trying to assist with.



- Open discussion among Board members and Ms. Kelley regarding:
  - Organizations that can help (Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, A New Hope Center, Renovation House, A Place Called Home, etc.).
  - Homeless who live in vehicles.
  - Ms. Kelley's visit to the encampment in Owego.
  - By supporting are we enabling?
  - Collaboration with other Counties?
  - Migrant assistance.
  - Fiscal responsibility for low-cost housing in Tioga County.
  - How can the Board of Health/Public Health help with this issue?
    - Ms. Kelley asked to refer people to Tioga County Department of Social Services to be able identify/ refer to helpful services.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- Meeting Minutes: No discussion; motion to approve prior minutes made by Mr. Simmons; seconded by Dr. Kapur-Pado, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.
- Enforcements: Ms. Vroman noted that enforcements covered two months' worth and highlighted that two stemmed from complaints that Environmental Health followed up on.
  - Discussion of enforcements/citations process; two food courses that Tioga County establishments are required to complete.
  - Can view establishment violations on New York State website. (Ms. Vroman to send the Board the electronic link)

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

0

- Quarter's one and two Audit Summary: Dr. Kapur-Pado provided the Board with concise summary of the internal chart audit review of public health programs that took place July 28, 2023.
  - Explained that chart audits have not occurred in 5 years, trying to catch up (that is why quarters one and two were completed at this time.
    - 10% of charts were audited by department heads of programs for:
      - Immunization program, STD clinic, Lead Poisoning Prevention program, Dental program, Food program, Animal bite investigations, and Early Intervention
  - Not many deficits found at this time; need to update chart audit tools to more accurately capture programs.
- Ms. Vroman added that at this audit review, all audit summaries had noted "no corrective actions," but going forward will have corrective action plans in place if problems are found.
- Next Audit Review to be in November 2023.
- Dr. Nytch inquired if the State is happy thus far. Ms. Vroman responded that nothing more has come from the State at this time.

## **INFORMATIONAL:**

- Ms. Vroman stated that she plans to have a more consistent update approach for Board of Health meetings, broken into:
  - Public Health News:
    - Uptick in COVID cases; 100 in August, 137 in September. Have not received any directives from the State. COVID has been removed from the Communicable Disease Red Phone list (as a communicable disease that needs to be reported immediately).
      - New COVID vaccine is coming out, have put in an order for VFC program hopefully to receive by end of month or October.
      - Will continue to monitor.
      - Numbers from positive lab results go to electronic database for communicable disease. Hospitalizations and vaccine information can be found on New York State website (Ms. Vroman to send electronic link).



- County Attorney DeWind noted that free test kits start today.
- Ms. Vroman stated there is a disconnect between state and local government: during the governor's last briefing she stated to stay home if sick. For masks and test kits call the local health department. Tioga County Public Health and Emergency Services are not equipped to give out test kits/masks at this time.
- Legislation is due to approve adding Varicella and RSV as communicable diseases, which will help Public Health to monitor.
- Staffing:
  - Public Health Nurse started July 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - Mid-July Public Health lost an Early Intervention Service Coordinator and recently had a Public Health Sanitarian resign. Main reason is due to pay.
    - Legislator Standinger informed the Board of the proposed raise for employee's with lower salaries, but now at a standstill.
  - Have filled the Service Coordinator position and hoping that we will be able to fill the Sanitarian position internally.
  - Filled the Public Health Fellow position last month, which is a paid position from New York State through June 2024, changed the position description to meet our needs.
  - Received application for another part-time dentist, looking into background now and working on setting up interview.
  - Currently interviewing for an Office Specialist III position, which will be administrative support for the Director of Patient Services, Deputy Director, and Dental Van.
  - Dr. Raftis inquired if Tioga County compares to surrounding counties in salaries. Legislator Standinger responded that a Personnel Salary study was completed recently, and Tioga County is lower than surrounding counties.
- Accomplishments:
  - Animal Bite Investigation online form has been created; sent QR code to law enforcement to be able to use. Hope to roll out to more community members/Emergency Rooms to be able to utilize.
  - Created first commercial (Ms. Vroman sent Board the link when it came out), was distributed to local stations.
  - Resumed outreach to new mothers (Ms. Vroman distributed copies of the New mother Baby Books), which gets sent to all new Tioga County mothers. Health Educator, Laura Bennett, calls new moms who are deemed high risk and refers to services if needed.
  - Lots of tabling at local events providing outreach/education: Sundaes at the Farm, Tioga County Fair, etc.
  - Now have signed contract with a Pharmacist Consultant. She has come into the department, reviewed policies and procedures on vaccine/medication storage and handling and did walk-through of our clinic area.
  - Working hard on Back-to-School Campaign: signage, getting information to schools, getting children, who are due to be excluded, vaccinated.
  - Submitted 2024 budget, which includes positions for Early Intervention Supervisor and Environmental Health Technician.
    - Closing out of 2023 budget; Preschool costs are increasing (transportation/program).
    - Discussion of Preschool program.
- In Progress Tasks:
  - Streamlining procedures in Environmental Health, best practice recommendations from NYSDOH site visits.
  - Provider outreach for adult immunization education/checks.
  - Working on Pandemic Plan and COVID After Action Response.



- Can send out Pandemic Plan once completed or have Emergency Preparedness Coordinator come to speak at future meeting.
- Fellow is working on COVID After Action Response.
- Rabies Quality Improvement: will be ordering a trailer for rabies clinic supplies.
- Alpaca Farm Days event in Spencer this weekend, had Sanitarian inspect, were
  not in compliance with Rabies Order. Dr. Hills was informed of this matter.
  Worked with owner to be able to get plan in place to track people attending event
  and get two alpacas vaccinated for public. Sanitarian will be on site for both days
  of event.
  - Dr. Nytch stated that Agriculture and Markets should be notified.
  - Going forward should contact Farm Bureau to make people aware of the Rabies Order guidelines.
- Discussion of local festivals needing to be permitted for having more than 5 campers onsite.
- County is working on updating its Strategic Plan; each department has a part in it to determine goals that satisfy objectives: workforce, access, technology, community partnerships, taxpayer values.
- Will also be working on Community Health Assessment at the end of this year.
- Ms. Vroman asked the Board to reach out if they would like to hear anything more or areas to focus on. Can also stop by the department any time.
- Dr. Hills asked for update on Ms. Vroman's schooling and how she felt work is going.
  - Completed three courses, taking two classes now. Hope to be finished by next summer.
  - Ms. Vroman stated that work is going very well, couldn't do it without the support of her team.
  - Legislator Standinger noted that he completed Ms. Vroman's performance evaluation and found it satisfactory.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 A.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman.

Terry Hills, DVM; President

Abigail Reigelman; Secretary

Minutes approved October 19, 2023



## October 2023 Enforcements

Business	<u>Type of</u> <u>Violation</u>	Fine Paid/Date	<u>Year to</u> <u>Date</u>
Tioga Downs Racetrack, LLC Tioga Downs Hotel Outdoor Slide Pool 2384 West River Road Nichols, NY	Pool	\$200.00 9/18/2023	First
Tioga Downs Racetrack, LLC Tioga Downs Hotel Indoor Pool 2384 West River Road Nichols, NY	Pool	\$200.00 9/18/2023	First
Charles Otto, Tioga Downs Racetrack, LLC P.J. Clarke's 2384 West River Road Nichols, NY	Food	\$725.00 9/18/2023	First
Sukwinder Singh Harry's Expressway 1423 State Route 96 Owego, NY	Water	\$100.00 9/19/2023	First



## **Tioga County Public Health Department**

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



Phone: 607-687-8600 | Fax: 607-223-7030 | ph.tiogacountyny.gov Heather Vroman, MSEd., Public Health Director

# AGENCY REPORT

## August 24-September 20, 2023

## <u>Highlights</u>

- Denis was recognized for his 20 years of service at the Employee Recognition Pin Ceremony!
- We said goodbye to Adam Ace, Environmental Health Sanitarian, and wished him the best of luck in his future endeavors. And we welcomed Megan Givens, our new Early Intervention Service Coordinator.
- We have resumed maternal/child outreach! Outreach calls are made to "high-risk pregnancy" moms and first-time mothers. The purpose is to check in on the family, offer support, and connect them with community resources. Also, "Welcome Baby" books are being mailed to parents of newborns.
- Kylie organized the first "Save a Life-Free Narcan Day" in Tioga County. We partnered with Mental Hygiene, CASA-Trinity, and Tioga ASAP to hold 6 Narcan trainings in two days across the county. During the event, 84 Narcan kits were distributed!

## Health Education

- Nick, our Public Health Fellow, is organizing WOW's Fall Walking Challenge which runs from October 2-27.
- We partnered with the Berkshire Fire Department to host a Child Passenger Car Seat event.
- Katie reviewed and updated our department's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and Pandemic Plan.
- Kylie assisted Tioga ASAP Coalition with the launch of Spike 2.0 alert, a tool that may be used to alert our community if a spike in overdoses occurs in the County.
- Six municipalities were awarded/partially awarded for their projects through the Creating Health School & Communities Grant.
- Kylie presented at Ithaca College sharing information about the Public Health field, working in Public Health during the COVID-19 pandemic, and more!
- The health education team is in the process of updating the layout of the Public Health website to be more user-friendly!

## Environmental Health

- Dan attended and presented at the Waverly Eater Systems Improvement Meeting. He spoke about water sampling and customer notification of water outages.
- Offered 2 Rabies Clinics in the community including hosting a clinic at Rawley Park in Richford and supporting a clinic conducted by Stray Haven.

## Patient Services (El, Dental, Clinic)

- El staff have been busy transitioning eligible children into the Preschool program. Due to the ongoing provider shortage, we anticipate both El and Preschool wait lists will lengthen for children waiting for services.
- The Tioga Smiles Dental Van moved to Waverly High School this month, marking the start of 20 years of providing dental services to the residents of Tioga County!
- Nicole and Kim attended the Veterans Reserve sendoff event at the Nichols Army Reserve Center. They promoted public health programs and resources available to veterans and their family members.

- Our Lead Care Coordination team met with staff from UHS in Owego to discuss their office's testing rates, reiterate the importance of lead testing, identify barriers to testing, and offer support to their staff.
- In a continued effort to increase lead screening rates, we mailed letters to healthcare providers with information about their office's testing rates in relation to Tioga County's and New York State.
- Sue and Louise attended the 2023 NYSDOH Emerging Infections Program meeting.
- Louise renewed her adult/child/infant CPR and First Aid certification.
- Mel and Katie completed their first Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) visit with Guthrie in over 4 years! (IQIP was postponed due to COVID-19) and not resumed until we had nurses on staff.
- Partnering with Southern Tier Aids Program (STAP) and Tioga Opportunities to plan a Monkeypox vaccine clinic.
- Katie presented the 2023-2024 NYS School Immunization Requirement training to Tioga County school nurses and administration.
- Met with Pharmacist Consultant to review Vaccine policies & procedures.
- We are offering vaccination hours in our clinic on Thursday afternoons. Our clinic team has been very busy vaccinating children at risk of being excluded from school due to a lack of vaccine to date we have had 6 appointments and have provided 7 immunizations.

## Administrative Services

- Heather attended the NYSAC Fall Conference.
- Several employees attended the Institute for Advancement seminar on Stress in the Workplace.
- Actively canvassing and interviewing for the Office Specialist III support position.
- In preparation for the county-wide strategic plan, our Senior Management developed the initial draft of our departments' one-year strategic plan and participated in the facilitated meeting.

## **Ongoing Support/Partnerships**

- Allies in Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
- Child Fatality Review Team
- Family Enrichment Network (Head Start)
- Lourdes PACT Advisory Board
- Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network
- Racker Center
- Rural Economic and Partnership (REAP)
- Rural Health Network
- Safe Harbor Committee
- S2AY Pivotal Partners Finger Lakes

- Team Tioga
- Tioga County Board of Health
- Tioga County Commissioner's Advisory Council
- Tioga County Council of Governments
- Tioga County Immunization Coalition
- Tioga County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- Tioga County Mental Health Sub-Committee
- Tioga County Non-Profit Network
- Tioga Opportunities

#### Attachments:

- 1. Financial Snapshot, YTD thru 8/2023.
- 2. Article: Save A Life-Free Narcan Day in Tioga County, Morning Times, September 7, 2023.
- 3. Flyer: "What the Health!?," September 2023.
- 4. Bulletin Board: "Narcan Saves Lives!," 56 Main St., Owego, September 2023.
- 5. Bulletin Board: "One Size Doesn't Fit All!"," Narcan Saves Lives!," HHS Building, September 2023.
- 6. Billboards: One Size Doesn't Fit All!, Narcan Saves Lives!, Rabies!, Various Locations, September 2023.
- 7. Data Spreadsheet August 24-September 20, 2023.

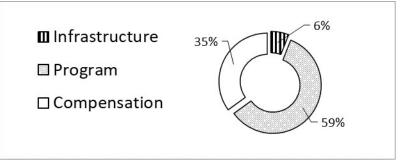
## Financial Snapshot Year-to-date through August 2023

	2023 Budget	Actual <sup>*1,2</sup> YTD 2023	Percentage of 2023 Budget
REVENUES			
Fees	1,054,850	472,750	45 %
State/Federal	3,379,867	1,597,897	47 %
Local	2,960,456	1,564,657	53 %
TOTAL	7,395,173	3,635,304	49 %

## **EXPENSES**

Compensation	2,737,891	1,296,118	47 %
Program Expense	4,132,850	2,132,735	52 %
Core Infrastructure	524,432	206,451	39 %
TOTAL	7,395,173	3,635,304	49 %

## Allocation of Expenses Year-to-date through August 2023



#### \*Notes:

COVID Specific funds have been removed from these tables, as they skew the numbers due to their large amounts. In 2023, over \$1.9 million of Covid funding remains within Public Health. However, very unlikely much of it will be expended.
 Most of January & February revenue are adjusted back to prior year as payments during this time are for services performed in the prior

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.

# Save A Life — Free Narcan Day in Tioga County

#### For The Times

Sept. 14, 2023 will be proclaimed as Save A Life – Free Narcan Day in Tioga County. Tioga County Public Health in partnership with the Tioga County ASAP Coalition, Tioga County Mental Hygiene, and CASA — Trinity will be holding widespread naloxone trainings with Free Narcan kits available across Tioga County on Sept. 13 and Sept. 14, 2023.

Save A Life Day started in 2020 in West Virginia to educate about substance use disorder, opioid overdose, and to provide free Narcan kits. Opioids are one of the most addictive substances in the world and have become more dangerous due to the increase of the synthetic opioid, fentanyl, being mixed into many drugs including heroin, methamphetamines, and counterfeit pills.

Tioga County continues to lose residents every year to opioid overdoses. Rural communities are more at risk for overdose deaths due to extended first responder response times. When administered in time, the lifesaving medication, naloxone, also known as Narcan, can be used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose and help save someone's life. Narcan has become easier to access in Tioga County through Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs, Public Access Narcan Boxes, and pharmacies. Anyone can become trained on how to reverse an opioid overdose.

In response to Save A Life: Free Narcan Day, there will be Narcan trainings and free Narcan available across Tioga County.

Wednesday, Sept. 13:

• 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Tioga Downs Casino & Resort (2385 West River Road, Nichols, NY)

• 3 to 5 p.m. at Bread of Life Food Pantry (1 Water Street, Candor, NY)

Thursday, Sept. 14:

• 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Spencer Food Cupboard (70 N. Main Street, Spencer, NY)

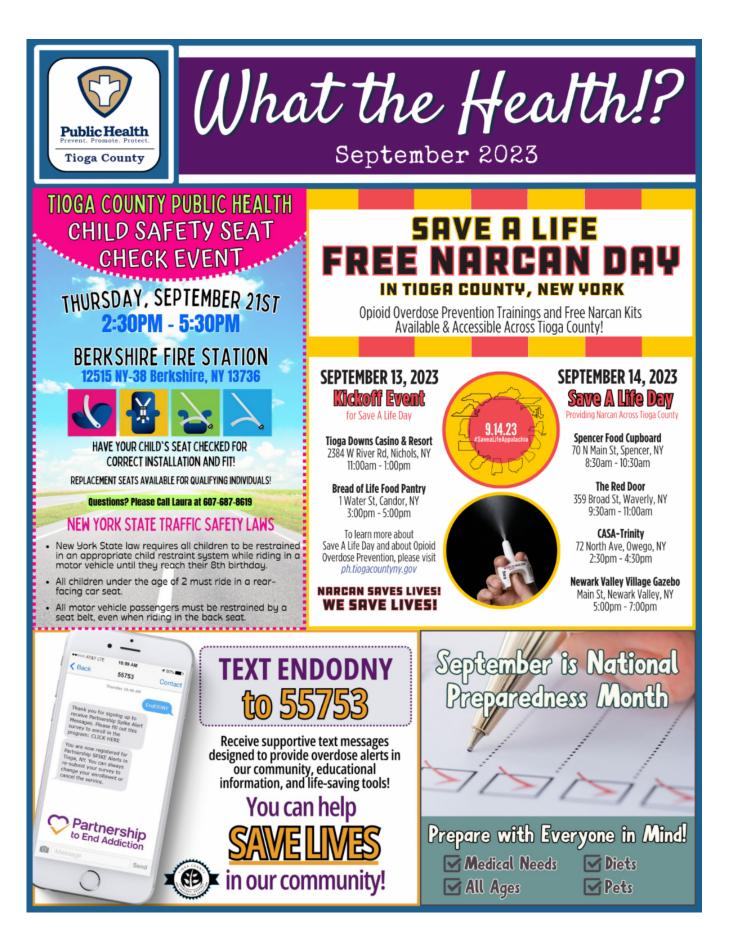
• 9:30 to 11 a.m. at The Red Door (359 Broad Street, Waverly, NY)

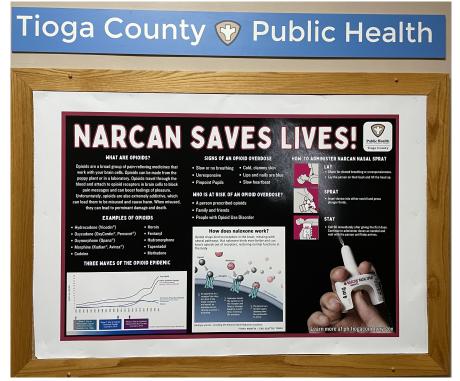
• 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at CASA — Trinity (72 North Ave, Owego, NY)

• 5 to 7 p.m. at Newark Valley Village Gazebo (3 S. Main Street, Newark Valley, NY)

Tioga County residents are encouraged to attend an Opioid Overdose Prevention Training and keep Narcan in your possession, especially if you live with someone who takes prescription pain medications, has a substance use disorder, or is currently in recovery. Those with questions may contact Tioga County Public Health at 607-687-8612.

For more information on this event, please visit Tioga County Public Health on Facebook. Morrig Times 9/7/23

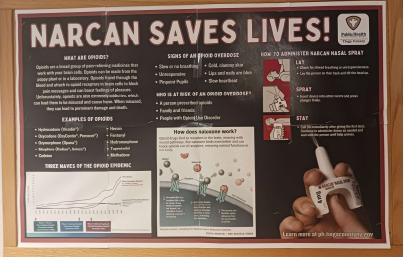




Bulletin Board, 56 Main St., Owego, September 2023



Bulletin Boards, HHS Building, Owego, September 2023











Billboards, Various Locations, September 2023

## DATA SPREADSHEET

August 24-September 20, 2023

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES	<u>Y-E</u> 2021	<u>Y-E</u> 2022	<u>Sep-23</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
Community Health				
Communicable Disease	0	885	154	1588
- General Infectious Diseases (Camplyobacterious, Salmonellosis, etc.)	N/A	N/A	5	44
- Zoonotic Diseases (Anaplasmosis, Lyme, etc.)	105	220	11	306
- Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (COVID-19, Influenza, etc.)	49	400	134	1159
- Hepatitis	53	89	0	12
- PPD Test Administered	0	0	0	4
Child Passenger Safety Seats Inspected	20	40	5	35
- Child Seats FAILED Inspection	10	31	5	27
PH Interns (New interns)	2	2	0	0
Immunizations total child and adult	0	35	7	21
People Trained w/ Narcan	2	1	84	125
Opioid Overdose Reporting Forms received	12	3	0	1
Dental				
New Clients	154	340	12	197
Dental Screenings	782	1120	85	763
- Clients with no tooth decay	328	265	33	204
-Clients WITH tooth decay	310	496	17	342
- Clients with EXTENSIVE tooth decay	128	347	35	215
Extractions	179	100	8	73
Children Services				
Early Intervention Referrals	138	148	20	162
- Early Intervention CURRENT Caseload *Monthly total	59	52	49	N/A
- EI children waiting for service(s)	N/A	N/A	9	N/A
Environmental Health				
Animal bite investigations	150	153	21	156
Rabies Clinics	6	7	2	7
- Number of Animals Vaccinated	1098	1012	276	968
Food Establishment Inspections	182	151	42	162
- Establishments with Violation	26	18	1	11
Temporary Food Inspections	8	57	0	19
- Clean Indoor Air Act Violations (Smoking)	0	0	0	0
Mobile Home Park Inspections	37	12	3	14
Swimming Pool Inspections	14	18	0	7
ATUPA Checks (Underage Tobacco Sales)	102	70	0	108
- ATUPA Violations	3	2	0	3

MonthlyReportSeptember2023

Children's Camps	4	8	0	7
Agriculture Fairgrounds	2	2	0	2
Nuisance Complaints	17	16	1	3
Enforcement Actions	31	29	2	56
Weights & Measures				
Inspection Sites	129	123	9	79
-Devices Inspected	499	475	51	354
Training Hrs/Equipment Maintenance	72	24	2	25

## COUNTY OF TIOGA EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: Opioids are one of the most addictive substances in the world and have become more dangerous due to the increase of the synthetic opioid, Fentanyl, being mixed into many drugs including heroin, methamphetamines, and counterfeit pills; and

WHEREAS: Tioga County continues to lose residents every year to opioid overdoses; and

WHEREAS: In rural communities it may take an extended amount of time for first responders to arrive to the scene of an overdose; and

WHEREAS: When administered in time, the lifesaving medication, Naloxone, also known as Narcan, can be used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose and help with saving someone's life; and

WHEREAS: Narcan has become easier to access in Tioga County through Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs, Public Access Narcan Boxes, and pharmacies; and

WHEREAS: Anyone can become trained on how to identify and reverse an opioid overdose; therefore

THE TIOGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE, County of Tioga, does hereby proclaim September 14, 2023 as:

## SAVE A LIFE. FREE NARCAN DAY

and urges Tioga County residents to attend an Opioid Overdose Prevention Training and keep Narcan in your possession, especially if you live with someone who takes prescription pain medications, has a substance use disorder, or is currently in recovery.

Dated: September 12, 2023

MARTHA SAUERBREY, CHAIR TIOGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE