Ocean County Board of Health  
175 Sunset Avenue  
Toms River, New Jersey  
March 17, 2021  
9:30 AM

The Regular Meeting of the Ocean County Board of Health was called to order on March 17, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. in the Board Room, at 175 Sunset Avenue, Toms River, Ocean County, New Jersey and remote participation, with Chairman John J. Mallon presiding.

1. Reading of “Open Public Meeting Act:”

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

   Mr. John J. Mallon asked everyone to remember our military servicemen and servicewomen who protect our freedom every day.

3. Roll Call:

   Ms. Jennifer Bacchione  
   Ms. Carol Blake  
   Ms. Barbara Jo Crea  
   Dr. Maurice Hill  
   Ms. Veronica Laureigh  
   Mr. Henry Mancini  
   Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro  
   Senator Robert Singer  
   Mr. John J. Mallon, Chairman  

   Daniel E. Regenye, Public Health Coordinator  
   John Sahradnik, Board Counsel

4. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:

   On motion made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, with Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro abstaining, the open meeting minutes from the February 24, 2021 meeting were approved.

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   Mr. John J. Mallon, Chairman, asked for a motion for the consent agenda on Resolutions 91(21) through 114(21) and to follow the abstention list. Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.
5. Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolution 91(21) – Ratification of Finance Committee Report – March 10, 2021 - $65,785.83 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 92(21) – Finance Committee Report – March 17, 2021 - $386,010.76 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, with Dr. Maurice Hill abstaining on Items #21-00279, #21-00349, #21-00445, #21-00460, #21-00505, #21-00606, #21-00607, #21-00608 and #21-00609; Mr. Henry Mancini abstaining on Items #21-00612 and #21-00613; and Senator Robert Singer abstaining on Items #21-00279, #21-00349, #21-00445, #21-00460, #21-00505, #21-00606, #21-00607, #21-00608 and #21-00609, and unanimously approved

Resolution 93(21) – Personnel Committee Report – March 17, 2021 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 94(21) – Authorization to accept the recommendation of the Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse to fund Mental Health Association of NJ – for the provision of Hot Spot Mobile Recovery Support Services – in an amount not to exceed $70,000.00 – for the period April 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 95(21) – Authorization to enter into an agreement with Animal Birth Control, Inc. – spay and neutering services for cats and dogs – in an amount not to exceed $17,500.00 – for the period March 17, 2021 through February 28, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 96(21) – Authorization to enter into an agreement with Garden State Laboratories, Inc. – in an amount not to exceed $17,500.00 – for the period April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 97(21) – Authorization to execute an agreement with Frank Giannantonio & Associates – in an amount not to exceed $200,000.00 – for the period December 24, 2020 through December 23, 2021 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 98(21) – Authorization to utilize AMN Healthcare (dba RN.com) – not to exceed $1,000.00 – for the period February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 99(21) – Authorization to enter into an amended agreement with CureMD – onsite training and incorporate COVID module to the EMR – in an amount not to exceed $230,000.00 – revised total amount not to exceed $400,242.00 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 100(21) – Authorization to accept supplemental funding from New Jersey Association of County and City Health Official – for COVID-19 related response activities – in an increase amount not to exceed $57,161.73 – for a total increase amount not to exceed $255,983.73 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 101(21) – Authorization to apply for the New Jersey Department of Health HIV/AIDS Ryan White Part B Program Grant – in an amount not to exceed $395,496.00 – for the period April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.
Resolution 102(21) – Authorization to enter into Linkage Agreements for the provision of services and/or referral to HIV/AIDS clients – for the period April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, with Dr. Maurice Hill abstaining on RWJBarnabas; Mr. Henry Mancini abstaining on Hackensack Meridian Health and County of Ocean; and Senator Robert Singer abstaining on RWJBarnabas and unanimously approved.

Resolution 103(21) – Authorization to accept the revised IDRC affiliation agreement with Acenda Integrated Health – at no cost to the Ocean County Health Department – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 104(21) – Recommendations to the Ocean County Board of Commissioners for reappointments to the Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (LACADA) – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 105(21) – Recognition of March 30, 2021 as National Doctors Day – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 106(21) – Recognition of April 2021 as National Alcohol Awareness Month – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 107(21) – Recognition of April 2021 as Minority and Multicultural Health Month – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 108(21) – Recognition of April 2021 as National Youth Sports Safety Month – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 109(21) – Recognition of April 2021 as National Distracted Drivers Month – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 110(21) – Recognition of April 2021 as Autism Acceptance Month – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 111(21) – Recognition of April 5-11, 2021 as National Public Health Week – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 112(21) – Recognition of April 18-24, 2021 as National Volunteer Week – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 113(21) – Recognition of April 18-24, 2021 as Administrative Professional’s Week – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 114(21) – Recognition of April 26-May 3, 2021 as National Infant Immunization Week – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

6. Comments: Commissioner Deputy Director Gerry P. Little, Liaison to the Board of Commissioners:

Comments from Commissioner Deputy Director Little: Commissioner Deputy Director Gerry Little, Liaison to the Board of Commissioners was absent from today’s meeting.
7. Other Matters:

COVID 19: Mr. Daniel Regenye, Public Health Coordinator/Health Officer provided COVID-19 update for the time period since the last Board of Health meeting. The COVID-19 testing site at Ocean County College will continue with a change to who will be conducting the testing. Mr. Regenye stated that on the agenda at this afternoon’s Ocean County Board of Commissioners’ meeting is a resolution authorizing the Ocean County College COVID-19 testing site services to be contracted to Immediate Care Walk-In Management, LLC. Mr. Regenye explained the staff would be relocated to a COVID-19 vaccination clinic site. Mr. Regenye stated that a year later, the testing site has been quite an accomplishment at nearly 28,000 COVID-19 tests performed.

Mr. Regenye discussed vaccination strategy noting that Ocean County Health Department has been informed to expect a huge supply of COVID-19 vaccine early April. Mr. Regenye informed the Board of the process of decentralizing the COVID-19 vaccination clinic sites to accommodate the residents of Ocean County which would include in addition to the two clinic sites in Toms River and Stafford, a third site will be in Manchester, a drive-through vaccination site at Ocean County College and holding clinics at various locations.

Mr. Regenye informed the Board that the Ocean County Health Department had received some doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Mr. Regenye explained that the New Jersey Department of Health had specific recommendations for the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine such as for homebound seniors, jail population, shelters, warming centers for code blue to name a few.

Mr. Henry Mancini asked would other providers in the county receive additional vaccine such as the hospitals and some private facilities and would they ramp-up administering the vaccine. Mr. Regenye noted that he along with the Ocean County Board of Commissioners and the County Administrator have made numerous calls between the Governor’s office and the State Health Department to be able to get more providers within Ocean County vaccine supply in order to do a significant number of vaccinations.

Senator Robert Singer mentioned the two FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Centers) within Ocean County, CHEMED and Ocean Health Initiatives. Senator Singer stated that CHEMED has administered many doses of COVID-19 vaccine including 600 teachers of the Lakewood schools. Mr. Regenye noted that the FQHC could not restrict COVID-19 vaccinations to only Ocean County residents. Mr. Regenye added that some providers within Ocean County have facilities in other counties and are able to move vaccine to other areas of the State of New Jersey. Mr. Regenye has urged them not to as there is tremendous need here in Ocean County.

Mr. Regenye referred to the chart in front of each member showing Ocean County only has 14% of our eligible population (meaning 18 and over; the vaccine was not approved for 17 and under) are fully vaccinated which is significantly lower in some cases from other counties. Mr. Regenye referenced another chart showing that Ocean County is third (3rd) highest in the state in terms of the death rate per 100,000 population. The Ocean County Health Department has been advocating with the State Health Department and the Governor’s office for more vaccine because Ocean County has one of the highest senior populations, which are the ones with most severe illness, hospitalizations and mortality.

Mr. Regenye stated that the Ocean County Health Department continues to work with the Ocean County schools especially now trying to get school staff vaccinated. Mr. Regenye added that the Health Department is continuing the model program set up with Ocean County Office of Senior Services, which is going very well. Mr. Regenye stated that a portion of the vaccine is designated at each of the clinics just for seniors who do not have internet or need help scheduling
an appointment so the Health Department is helping them by collaborating with the Office of Senior Services and an organization called Compass 82.

Mr. Mancini asked when librarians would qualify to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Mr. Regenye was not sure but advised that once someone becomes eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination does not mean vaccine supply would match the eligibility list.

Senator Singer informed the Board that the Ocean County Health Department has been reaching out to the very high-risk communities within Ocean County to make sure everyone is protected.

Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department is working with another agency from the state approved provider list to be a vaccinator, Integrity Health or know as Partnership for Health, which provides health services for Toms River and Brick schools. Ocean County Health Department is collaborating with Partnership for Health to vaccinate the teachers in Ocean County and then the residents of Ocean County. The Health Department is working with Partnership for Health on getting vaccine for Partnership for Health from the State of New Jersey or the Federal government.

Mr. Regenye referred to the survey results that had been given to the residents after receiving COVID-19 vaccination at the Health Department clinic. The residents are handed a card with a QR code to complete a survey of their experience going through the clinic. Mr. Regenye stated that the results have been very, very favorable.

Mr. Regenye noted that the seasonal flu activity this flu season has been very low; there has been no flu.

Lastly, Mr. Regenye referred to legislation Governor Murphy signed for COVID-19 Heroes Day. Mr. Regenye stated that there was a lot of chatter from the Public Health Community that Public Health Workers were left out of the Heroes Day legislation during a public health pandemic. Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Officer Association, on behalf of the public health workers, are looking to add them to the certainly well-deserved list of people that were included.

Dr. Maurice Hill inquired when the health emergency executive order would be lifted.

Dr. Hill congratulated Ms. Barbara Jo Crea for the official endorsement of the Ocean County Republican Organization to run for Ocean County Commissioner, and added good luck in November.

8. Comments from the Public: Comments from members of the audience were invited at this time with a limit of five (5) minutes per speaker: Mr. John J. Mallon, Chairman, asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. No one wished to speak.

9. Authorization to Enter Into Closed Session If Necessary: Closed Session was not needed at this time.

10. Adjournment: A motion was made by Dr. Maurice Hill, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and the meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.