Ocean County Board of Health  
175 Sunset Avenue  
Toms River, New Jersey  
August 11, 2021  
9:30 AM

The Regular Meeting of the Ocean County Board of Health was called to order on August 11, 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, Chairman asked everyone to join him in honoring our military servicemen and servicewomen who protect our freedom every day.

3. Roll Call:

Ms. Jennifer Bacchione – participated remotely  
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  
Mathew Thompson, Board Counsel

4. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:

On motion made by Mr. Henry Mancini, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, with Ms. Carol Blake abstaining, the open meeting minutes from the July 14, 2021 meeting were approved.

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Mr. John J. Mallon, Chairman, asked for a motion for the consent agenda on Resolutions 214(21) through 237(21) which includes the add-on of 235(21), 236(21) and 237(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 214(21) — Ratification of Finance Committee Report — July 28, 2021 - $88,200.69 — Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 215(21) — Finance Committee Report — August 11, 2021 - $298,334.27 — Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, with Dr. Maurice Hill abstaining on Items #21-01651, #21-01652, #21-01653, #21-01772 and #21-01827; Mr. Henry Mancini abstaining on Items #21-01576, #21-01728, and #21-01815; and Senator Robert Singer abstaining on Items #21-01651, #21-01652, #21-01653, #21-01772, and #21-01827, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 216(21) — Personnel Committee Report — August 11, 2021 — Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 217(21) — Authorization to enter into Memorandum of Agreement with the Communication Workers of America, AFL-CIO — for the period April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2024 — Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 218(21) — Authorization to enter into Memorandum of Agreement with Office and Professional Employees International Union — Local 32 — representing Professional Personnel and Para-Professional Personnel — for the period April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2024 — Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, with Ms. Jennifer Bacchione abstaining, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 219(21) — Authorization to accept the recommendation of Connor Strong and Buckelew for acceptance of the proposal from UnitedHealthcare Group Medicare Advantage (PPO) — for the provision of retiree (over 65) medical plan benefits — Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 220(21) — Authorization for a one time change on the accumulation and usage of vacation leave time from 2021 — Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 221(21) — Authorization to procure a Customer Satisfaction Survey and Data Analysis System from Qualtrics, LLC — to improve the agency’s provision of COVID-19 services — in an amount not to exceed 10,390.00 — for a one year period beginning on or about August 15, 2021 — Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 222(21) — Authorization to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the New Jersey Department of Human Services’ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired — at no cost to the agency — for the period August 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022 — Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 223(21) — Authorization to enter into an agreement with Southern New Jersey Regional Early Intervention Collaborative — for use of over the phone interpreting — at no cost to the agency — Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.
Resolution 224(21) – Authorization to negotiate insurance contracts with private health insurers and managed care plans – for reimbursement of clinical services – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 225(21) – Authorization to accept HRSA grant funding from CHEMED – to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts – in an amount not to exceed $300,000.00 – for the period July 31, 2021 through July 30, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 226(21) – Authorization to apply for the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Alternative Approaches to Pain Management for Older Adults – in an amount not to exceed $75,000.00 – for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 227(21) – Authorization to waive the fee for the seasonal flu vaccinations for the 2021/22 seasonal flu season – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 228(21) – Authorization to enter into Letters of Understanding with organizations to accept and provide referrals and linkages for maternal and child health services supporting the goals and objectives of the Ocean County WIC Program – at no cost to the Ocean County Health Department – for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, with Dr. Maurice Hill and Senator Robert Singer abstaining, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 229(21) – Authorization to participate in Clear The Shelter on September 18 and 19, 2021 – and approve a reduced adoption fee of 50% for dogs and cats adopted in conjunction with this event – Motion made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 230(21) – Recognition of September 2021 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 231(21) – Recognition of September 2021 as National Preparedness Month – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 232(21) – Recognition of September 2021 as National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 233(21) – Recognition of September 2021 as National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 234(21) – Recognition of September 2021 as Fruits and Veggies Month – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 235(21) – Ocean County Board of Health opposition to any production, sale or use of marijuana for recreational purposes within the jurisdiction of the Board – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 236(21) – Authorization to enter into an agreement with Long Beach Island Health Department – to offset some of their costs associated with lead case management and environmental actions – in an amount not to exceed $3,800.00 – for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, with Mr. Henry Mancini abstaining, and unanimously approved.
Resolution 237(21) – Authorization to accept the Special Child Health Services Grant – in an amount not to exceed $145,000.00 – for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 – 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 stated that the most current data and information regarding COVID was supplied in the Board packets. Mr. Regenye noted that the number of positive COVID test results continues to increase but the severity of illness and the higher-level issues of concern do remain to be on the lower end. In addition, the number of COVID vaccinations is slightly increasing. Mr. Regenye stated that with the increase interest in COVID vaccination and testing, the clinics, which were being held at Sunset Avenue, would return to Ocean County College as a drive through. Mr. Regenye noting that Ocean County is still on the lower end of all the counties in New Jersey for eligible population fully vaccinated.

Mr. Regenye discussed several topics relating to COVID. Mr. Regenye informed the Board of the Tuesday weekly virtual meeting with the New Jersey Department of Health and multiple local, county and state partners. Mr. Regenye stated that the Ocean County Health Department continues to monitor and assist the long-term care facilities in Ocean County. Mr. Regenye briefed the Board on the benefits of the COVID vaccination, preventing severe illness and hospitalization. Mr. Regenye covered the topic of break-through cases and defined what classifies as a break-through case. Mr. Regenye discussed preparing for the opening of schools in Ocean County and meetings with Ocean County Superintendents and two New Jersey Department of Health personnel to help with the some of the guidance.

Mr. Regenye stated that there is still so much going on with COVID from an agency response. Mr. Regenye asked if any member had questions. Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro inquired about children and COVID. Mr. Regenye responded that it has been consistent as what has been seen in the past, children who were exposed and test positive, it is a mild illness and many times may be asymptomatic; the overall severity of the illness is low to moderate. Mr. Regenye added that the Ocean County Health Department encourages everyone to take the necessary precautions with family and friends who are high risk. Mr. Regenye stated there are actions to prevent or minimize COVID that are pharmaceutical and there are also effective non-pharmaceutical actions such as handwashing, social distancing, and stay home when sick. Mr. Regenye added that these non-pharmaceutical precautions have been the message forever in Public Health with any disease, not just COVID.

Dr. Maurice Hill asked about anything being done from a scientific standpoint with medications that would fight the symptoms once the person contracted COVID. Mr. Regenye stated that during the last 17 months, the medical community has learned how to manage the disease; the hospitals have improved treatments for COVID patients resulting in better outcomes, and consult your physician for information for the best course of action to manage the disease. Senator Singer noted that many of the current COVID patients in the hospitals have not been vaccinated.
Chairman Mallon stated that there was a report about Ocean County Health Department working with VNA on having mobile COVID vaccination sites. Mr. Regenye confirmed that the Ocean County Health Department and VNA held a mobile vaccination clinic at Lowes in Toms River.

Ms. Carol Blake questioned what the thought was on the booster. Mr. Regenye answered that the Ocean County Health Department is waiting for guidance from the CDC and the State of New Jersey. Mr. Regenye added that at some point there would be boosters.

Ms. Jennifer Bacchione inquired about possible new guidance for the schools regarding quarantine. Mr. Regenye responded that new guidance is expected. Mr. Regenye stated that the Governor had mentioned that schools would be in person. In addition, Mr. Regenye noted that if that is true, should someone become infected or exposed and isolation or quarantine be required, the school should be able to provide a remote option. Mr. Regenye stated that the Ocean County Health Department is waiting for additional guidance.

**West Nile Virus:** Mr. Regenye referred to a report included in the Board packets pertaining to West Nile Virus. Mr. Regenye stated that West Nile Virus is circulating and there were positive pools.

Mr. Regenye stated that other Public Health matters continue to require action and these programs/issues are managed diligently, one Public Health program discussed at a previous Board of Health meeting was recreational bathing. Mr. Regenye added that the Health Department is very active in non-COVID activities and stated that the team is doing a great job.

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 Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Mr. Henry Mancini, and the meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.