

Ocean County Board of Health  
175 Sunset Avenue  
Toms River, New Jersey  
January 5, 2022  
9:30 AM

The Reorganization Meeting of the Ocean County Board of Health was called to order on January 5, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. in the Board Room, at 175 Sunset Avenue, Toms River, Ocean County, New Jersey.

### **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  
Dr. Maurice Hill  
Ms. Veronica Laureigh  
Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro  
Senator Robert Singer  
Mr. John J. Mallon

Daniel E. Regenye, Public Health Coordinator  
John Sahradnik, Board Counsel  
Commissioner Gary Quinn, Liaison to the Board of Commissioners

### **4. Reorganization – Ocean County Board of Health – Election of Officers:**

On a motion made by Senator Robert Singer, and seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, Mr. John J. Mallon was nominated for Chairman of the Board. Additional nominations were requested. Motion was made by Dr. Maurice Hill, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh to close nominations for Chairman. The Board unanimously elected Mr. John J. Mallon as Chairman.

On a motion made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and seconded by Dr. Maurice Hill, Senator Robert Singer was nominated as Vice-Chairman. Additional nominations were requested. Motion was made by Dr. Maurice Hill, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh to close nominations for Vice-Chairman. The Board unanimously elected Senator Robert Singer as Vice-Chairman.

On a motion made by Senator Robert Singer, and seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, Ms. Veronica Laureigh was nominated as Secretary-Treasurer. Additional nominations were requested. Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro to close nominations for Secretary-Treasurer. The Board unanimously elected Ms. Veronica Laureigh as Secretary-Treasurer.

### 5. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:

On motion made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, the open meeting minutes from the December 8, 2021 meeting were approved.

Name	Bacchione	Blake	Hill	Laureigh	Mancini	Scaturro	Singer	Mallon
Ayes	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Abstain								
Nays								
Absent					X			

Mr. John J. Mallon, Chairman, asked for a motion for the consent agenda on Resolutions 01(22) through 30(22) and to follow the abstention list. Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

### 6. Adoption of Resolutions

**Resolution 01(22)** – Adoption of Year 2022 Temporary Budget – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 02(22)** – Authorization to Pay Bills Emergent in Nature – Year 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 03(22)** – Authorization to execute an agreement with Conner, Strong & Buckelew for Insurance Broker Services – on a when and as needed basis beginning January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 04(22)** – Ratification of Finance Committee Report – December 22, 2021 – \$232,403.42 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 05(22)** – Finance Committee Report – January 5, 2022 – \$141,490.83 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, with Ms. Jennifer Bacchione abstaining on Item #21-03111; Ms. Carol Blake abstaining on Item #21-03110; Dr. Maurice Hill abstaining on Items #21-02860, #21-02997, #21-03025, #21-03026, #21-03028 and #21-03029; Ms. Veronica Laureigh abstaining on Item #21-02806; Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro abstaining on Item #21-03108; and Senator Robert Singer abstaining on Items #21-02860, #21-02997, #21-03025, #21-03026, #21-03028, #21-03029 and #21-03107, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 06(22)** – Personnel Committee Report – January 5, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 07(22)** – Authorization to establish on-call procedures within the Communicable Disease Unit – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 08(22)** – Authorization to execute an amended agreement with Purplegator – in an amount not to exceed \$125,000.00 – for the period January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.



**Resolution 09(22)** – Authorization to enter into an agreement with Purplegator – Stigma Awareness Plan Media Campaign – in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00 – for the period January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 10(22)** – Authorization to enter into an agreement with Purplegator – Community Stigma Awareness Telephone Survey – in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 – for the period January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 11(22)** – Authorization to enter into an agreement with New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission – for sole purpose of retrieving driver abstracts for those citizens ordered to attend Ocean County Intoxicated Driver Resource Center – at a cost not to exceed \$150.00 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 12(22)** – Authorization to accept the DHST22HIV – DHSTS State Comprehensive HIV Services Grant – in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 – for the period January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 13(22)** – Authorization to accept the New Jersey Department of Health 2021 Expand and Integrate Overdose Fatality Review Teams (OFRTs) Across New Jersey Grant – in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 – for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 14(22)** – Authorization to accept the increase of \$50,300.00 for the New Jersey Department of Health’s Division of Community Health Services Diabetes Prevention and Control Program Grant – for a new total not to exceed \$81,300.00 – for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 15(22)** – Authorization to accept donation of billboard sign space to promote adoption of shelter animals – donation value \$25,000 – for the period February 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 16(22)** – Authorization to accept the bequest from the Estate of John S. Hoover – in the amount of \$2,500.00 – for the use of the Ocean County Animal Facilities – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 17(22)** – Authorization to rescind resolution 261(21) with Preferred Behavioral Health Group to provide social work and counseling services – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously.

**Resolution 18(22)** – Authorization to enter into an amended agreement with Transact-EDI, Inc for insurance billing services – flu shot claims for the period June 22, 2021 through May 31, 2022 – COVID-19 vaccine administration for the period December 24, 2021 through December 23, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 19(22)** – Appointment of Ocean County Board of Health Risk Manager – Brian Rumpf – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.



**Resolution 20(21)** – Appointment of the Affirmative Action Officer – Brian Rumpf – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 21(22)** – Appointment of Qualified Purchasing Agent – Oren Thomas – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 22(22)** – Authorization for Acceptance of Bids – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 23(22)** – Appointment of Compliance Officer – ADA – Brian Rumpf – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 24(22)** – Appointment of Assistant Secretary – Brian Rumpf or in his absence, Daniel Regenye – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 25(22)** – Adoption of Cash Management Plan – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, with Senator Robert Singer abstaining, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 26(22)** – Designation of Bank Depositories – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, with Senator Robert Singer abstaining, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 27(22)** – Appointment of the Public Agency Compliance Officer – Oren Thomas – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 28(22)** – Appointment of Cancer Ad Hoc Committee – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 29(22)** – Appointment of Ombudsman for Home Health Services – Karen Barish – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Resolution 30(22)** – Appointment of Ocean County Health Department HIPAA/Compliance Officer – Andrew King, MD – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

**Comments from Commissioner Gary Quinn:** Commissioner Gary Quinn stated that it was an honor to be able to replace Commissioner Gerry Little who has looked extremely fondly on the Ocean County Board of Health. Commissioner Quinn stated that he looks forward to working with everyone. Commissioner Quinn commended the Ocean County Board of Health for all the hard work over the last two years with COVID, adding that the Ocean County Health Department staff is the best. Commissioner Quinn added that the Ocean County Board of Commissioners are very proud of the Board of Health. Chairman Mallon stated that the Board of Health looks good because the Health Department staff makes us look good. Commissioner Quinn agreed. Chairman Mallon inquired if today the Board of Commissioners would appoint a new member to the Ocean County Board of Health since Ms. Barbara Jo Crea no longer serves as a member. Commissioner Quinn responded not yet.



## 7. Other Matters:

**COVID-19:** Mr. Daniel Regenye, Public Health Coordinator/Health Officer provided an update on COVID and stated that included in the Board packet contains the COVID information. Mr. Regenye stated that the numbers of positive COVID cases are intensely high, approaching 1,500 a day and hospitalizations have increased. Mr. Regenye stated that the Ocean County Health Department continues to work with the Ocean County hospitals. Mr. Regenye added that the Ocean County Health Department continues to work with all the different partners, noting that schools and businesses are going through a very difficult time with staffing struggles. Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department maintains a liaison to every Ocean County school and maintains a seven-day operation. Mr. Regenye informed the Board that the Health Department created an electronic reporting system for the schools to get information to the Health Department. Mr. Regenye stated that the Long Term Care facilities has 42 facilities in Ocean County in outbreak status but mortality does remain low in long-term care facilities. Mr. Regenye added that the vaccinated with break-through cases are experiencing a much less severe illness therefore the vaccine is very effective in preventing severe illness and mortality.

Mr. Regenye stated that a major topic being reported in the news is COVID testing. Mr. Regenye stated that the Ocean County Health Department has been working with the County of Ocean and all of our partners regarding COVID testing. Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department has stepped in with some of the Health Department's staff last week to assist Immediate Care at the COVID-19 testing site. The days of operation at the testing site at Ocean County College last week increased from two days to four days. Mr. Regenye stated that this week and next week the testing site would operate six days, then assessing for the last two weeks of January depending on the need to determine the number of days of operation. Mr. Regenye stated that in excess of 500 tests a day are being performed and the wait time to be seen is about four hours, which is consistent with other testing facilities. Mr. Regenye pointed out a major concern with getting the test results is having a long turnaround time of 5-7 days.

Mr. Regenye reported there is an increase in the demand of COVID vaccinations with many first dose vaccinations administered. In addition, Mr. Regenye stated that the pediatric COVID vaccination clinic at the Ocean County Health Department building exceeded the capacity and would move the pediatric COVID vaccination clinics to Toms River High School North RWJBarnabas Arena on Monday nights.

Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department would continue holding COVID vaccinations clinics at Southern Regional Middle School and the RWJBarnabas Arena at Toms River High School North given the current demand. Mr. Regenye stated that some of the new guidance regarding isolation and quarantine are based on vaccination status including receipt of booster.

Mr. Regenye stated that the agency continues to monitor Omicron variant that is now in circulation, which is more contagious but appears to be less severe in illness. In addition, Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department continues to work with all the partners. Mr. Regenye praised the staff for continuing to do an outstanding job noting many of the staff are very tired and exhausted entering into nearly two years of COVID response. Mr. Regenye stated that there has been discussions about different ways to recognize the staff going into the new year.

Chairman Mallon stated that New York is reporting that a lot more children with COVID problems and asked if it is the same here. Mr. Regenye responded that children are testing positive for COVID and for the most part recover quicker and either have mild symptoms or asymptomatic. Mr. Regenye added that the schools have been working very closely with the Ocean County Health Department to find the safe middle ground of keeping the children in school while doing it in a safe efficient manner for both the students and teachers.



Dr. Maurice Hill asked about oral therapeutics for once you get COVID-19 to treat the symptoms so you can manage the illness at home. Mr. Regenye stated that a lot of conversation has been taking place and the State of New Jersey is starting a therapeutic call. Mr. Regenye did inform the Board that there is a shortage of the monoclonal antibodies and the hospitals are at a point of rationing for the sickest of the sick. Mr. Regenye added that you do have antivirals that assist as well.

**Seasonal Influenza:** Senator Robert Singer stated that the flu vaccines do not match the main circulating flu virus strain. Mr. Regenye stated that flu activity level in New Jersey is very high which is included in the Board packet on the weekly flu activity report. In addition, Mr. Regenye provided an updated report for the COVID-19 activity level from the activity level report included in the Board packet. Mr. Regenye stated the activity level has increased from orange to red for the northern part of New Jersey and remains orange for the southern part of New Jersey. Mr. Regenye added that there is a very high uptick in other respiratory viral illnesses. Senator Singer commented that this is normal for this time of year. Mr. Regenye confirmed.

**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:**

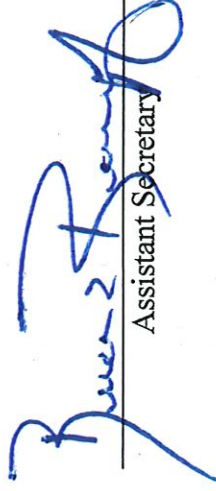
Mr. John J. Mallon, Chairman asked for a motion to open to the public. Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro.

No one wished to speak.

Mr. John J. Mallon, Chairman asked for a motion to close to the public. Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Bacchione.

**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 Ms. Jennifer Bacchione, and the meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

  
Assistant Secretary