

Ocean County Board of Health
 175 Sunset Avenue
 Toms River, New Jersey
 January 19, 2022
 9:30 AM

The Regular Meeting of the Ocean County Board of Health was called to order on January 19, 2022 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
 Ms. Carol Blake
 Dr. Maurice Hill
 Ms. Veronica Laureigh – participated remotely
 Mr. Henry Mancini
 Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro
 Mr. John J. Mallon, Chairman

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

4. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:

On motion made by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, with Mr. Henry Mancini abstaining, the open meeting minutes from the January 5, 2022 meeting were approved.

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

Mr. John J. Mallon, Chairman, asked for a motion for the consent agenda on resolutions 31(22) through 42(22) and to follow the abstention list. Motion was made by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

5. Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolution 31(22) – Finance Committee Report – January 19, 2022 - \$308,675.56 – Motion was made by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, with Dr. Maurice Hill abstaining on Item #21-03242; and Mr. Henry Mancini abstaining on Item #22-00073, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 32(22) – Personnel Committee Report – January 19, 2022 – Motion was made by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 33(22) – Authorization to enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement with the Ocean County Board of Social Services – 2022 Hepatitis B Program and Influenza Immunization Vaccine – Motion was made by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 34(22) – Authorization to execute an agreement with Versatile Physicians Solutions (VPS) – to provide insurance billing and coding – in an amount not to exceed \$17,500.00 – for the period March 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023 – Motion was made by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 35(22) – Authorization to execute an agreement with Linda Dziejdzic, DVM, LLC – to provide veterinarian services – at a rate of \$85.00 per hour – in an amount not to exceed \$17,500.00 – for the period March 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023 – Motion was made by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 36(22) – Authorization to execute an agreement with the Friends of the Southern Ocean County Animal Shelter – in an amount not to exceed \$6,000.00 – and authorization to execute an agreement with The Volunteer Auxiliary for Animals, Inc. – in an amount not to exceed \$6,000.00 – for the period March 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023 – Motion was made by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 37(22) – Authorization to execute an agreement with Falasca Mechanical for HVAC preventative maintenance for the Barnegat facility – in an amount not to exceed \$4,200.00 – for the period March 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023 – Motion was made by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 38(22) – Authorization to execute an agreement with Falasca Mechanical for HVAC preventative maintenance for the Lakewood facility – in an amount not to exceed \$900.00 – for the period March 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023 – Motion was made by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 39(22) – Authorization for CPR training to staff and residents of Ocean County with Oceanside CPR – in an amount not to exceed \$7,000.00 – for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 – Motion was made by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 40(22) – Authorization to accept donated rapid HCV tests from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Pathology – for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 – Motion was made by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 41(22) – Recognition of February 2022 as American Heart Month – Motion was made by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 42(22) – Recognition of February 2022 as National Children’s Dental Health Month – Motion was made by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, seconded by Ms. Carol Blake, and unanimously approved.

6. Comments: Commissioner Gary Quinn, Liaison to the Board of Commissioners:

Comments from Commissioner Gary Quinn: Commissioner Gary Quinn, Liaison to the Board of Commissioners had no comments at this time.

7. Other Matters:

COVID-19: Mr. Daniel Regenye, Public Health Coordinator/Health Officer provided an update on COVID-19 noting that the Board members have received a full COVID report in their Board packets. Mr. Regenye stated that at this time COVID testing demand is still very significant. Mr. Regenye believes that we are beyond some of that surge seen before the holidays. Mr. Regenye stated that the numbers are still high but nowhere near what it was, also the wait time to be tested has decreased drastically. Mr. Regenye informed the Board that this week the Ocean County College COVID testing site is open six days, working with Immediate Care, the County of Ocean and the Ocean County Sheriff Department. In addition, Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department is assessing the need for next week, which is currently scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday at the Ocean County College COVID testing site.

Mr. Regenye continued and discussed COVID vaccinations, noting the demand for vaccinations has decreased significantly. Mr. Regenye stated that discussions took place for realignment of some of the staff to keep them active and meeting the demand of the agency response. Mr. Regenye informed the Board of holding a testing site in Lacey Township on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons to help meet the needs of the residents at the southern part of Ocean County.

Mr. Regenye stated that the vaccine demand does continue to go on the decline making it a possibility of eliminating one of the days at both our two fixed COVID vaccination sites. In addition, Mr. Regenye noting having a conversation with VNA, who is staffing the Manchester site on Mondays and Fridays, regarding the vaccination need.

Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department continues to work with the Ocean County schools. Mr. Regenye stated that at the superintendent roundtable meeting yesterday a big issue moving forward relates to some of the health and mental health needs of some of the students. Mr. Regenye stated that internal dialogue has begun with blending some of the Health Department's programs and working with community-based agencies to get ahead of the curve. A planning committee will be formed in the near future to discuss.

Mr. Regenye reported that the Long Term Care facilities continue to be on the Health Department's radar. Mr. Regenye stated that 51 facilities are in outbreak status and this trend continues on a steady incline. Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department would continue to work with the Long Term Care facilities to help meet their needs.

Mr. Regenye discuss the omicron variant, stating that the numbers are still very high but they are on the decline, noting on the weekly call yesterday it was the opinion we are over the hump. Mr. Regenye stated that there was a lot of conversation related to the variant while it is highly contagious for the most part people are recovering quickly with mild to moderate illness.

Chairman Mallon questioned where the data is coming from that is used regarding the numbers reported for positivity. Mr. Regenye explained that under New Jersey Administrative Code 8:57, anyone testing positive is reportable to the local health agency of where the person resides regardless of where they were tested, it is based on the residency of the individual not where the test was performed.

Chairman Mallon asked the comparison of booster shots given to the demand of getting the initial COVID vaccination shot. Mr. Regenye responded that many booster shots were administered noting that a week ago a good number of people were coming to the Southern Regional Middle School site for the primary dosage. Mr. Regenye referred to the chart included in the Board packet.

Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro had questions regarding home tests, testing positive and reporting positive results. Mr. Regenye stated that there is a recommendation they should be calling and reporting testing positive. Mr. Regenye added that if it happens there are many unknowns, not knowing who they are, not knowing that they tested. Mr. Regenye stated that at the schools, if a child test positive, the school nurse would be notified, who would report it to the Health Department. Mr. Regenye stated that there is guidance that these individuals would be documented a probable case.

Mr. Henry Mancini asked if there is any tracking on the percentage of break-through cases. Mr. Regenye replied that part of the challenge with that is the redefining of fully vaccinated now and while it is not being outright said, the booster is included with the CDC guidance when defining isolation and quarantine guidance. Mr. Regenye explained it is the function of contact tracing but the number of positivity was so high, it had to be prioritized focusing on children and the senior population. Mr. Regenye added that contact tracing is the only way to know because information is not collected and documented at the time of testing.

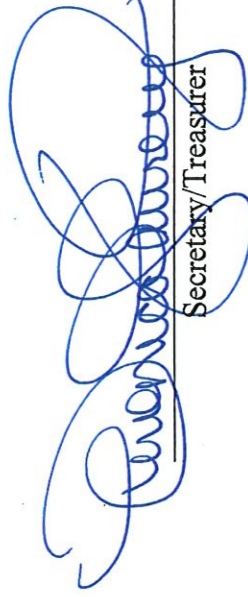
Mr. Mancini stated that there is a reluctance with news media saying there is so many break-through cases, while we are still trying to encourage people to get vaccinated. Mr. Mancini believes the break-through cases are the minority not the majority of cases out there. Mr. Regenye agreed, stating that is the experience of what the Health Department is hearing in the vast majority. Mr. Regenye stated the vaccine is effective because the illness is a more mild case and those within critical care, ICU are more of an unvaccinated population.

Ms. Jennifer Bacchione asked about the accuracy of the home tests. Mr. Regenye responded that the home tests that are being issued are reliable if they are administered properly and correctly, typically a healthcare clinician administers the test. Mr. Regenye continued that the person doing the test may not swab properly or may not go far enough up the nasal passage. Mr. Regenye stated that the concern is if not done properly, the result could be negative when it really is a positive and then what is done with the information, is it reported. In addition, Mr. Regenye stated that if an individual tests positive, that person should take the proper precautions, either wear a mask, stay away from family who are at risk, stay home from school or work to try to prevent further spread.

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 Mr. Henry Mancini, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and the meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.



Secretary/Treasurer