

Ocean County Board of Health
 175 Sunset Avenue
 Toms River, New Jersey
 February 2, 2022
 9:30 AM

The Regular Meeting of the Ocean County Board of Health was called to order on February 2, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. in the Board Room, at 175 Sunset Avenue, Toms River, Ocean County, New Jersey, 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.

Oath of Office: Chairman Mallon welcomed the new Board of Health member, Dr. Theresa Kubiel and asked Dr. Kubiel to take the Oath of Office.

Board Counsel, Mr. Mathew Thompson administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Theresa Kubiel. Dr. Kubiel was sworn in and Mr. Thompson congratulated the new member of the Board on her appointment.

3. Roll Call:

Ms. Jennifer Bacchione
 Ms. Carol Blake
 Dr. Maurice Hill
 Dr. Theresa Kubiel
 Ms. Veronica Laureigh
 Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro
 Senator Robert Singer
 Mr. John J. Mallon, Chairman

Daniel E. Regenye, Public Health Coordinator
 Mathew Thompson, 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. Jennifer Bacchione, with Dr. Theresa Kubiel and Senator Robert Singer abstaining, the open meeting minutes from the January 19, 2022 meeting were approved.

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

Mr. John J. Mallon, Chairman, asked for a motion for the consent agenda on resolutions 43(22) through 54(22) and to follow the abstention list. Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

5. Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolution 43(22) – Finance Committee Report – February 2, 2022 - \$653,407.87 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 44(22) – Personnel Committee Report – February 2, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, with Ms. Jennifer Bacchione abstaining on Item #16, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 45(22) – 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 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 46(22) – Authorization to enter into an agreement with Chamberlain University – to accept Public Health students for practical experience in various health field activities – at no cost to the agency – for the period February 2, 2022 through December 31, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 47(22) – Authorization to distribute and provide, at no cost, any expiring COVID testing kits or other supplies which the Ocean County Health Department will not be able to use prior to the expiration date – Motion was made by Senator Robert, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 48(22) – Recognition of March 2022 as National Colorectal Awareness Month – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 49(22) – Recognition of March 2022 as National Nutrition Month – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 50(22) – Recognition of March 7-11, 2022 as National School Breakfast Week – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 51(22) – Recognition of March 13-20, 2022 as National Flood Safety Awareness Week – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 52(22) – Recognition of March 20-26, 2022 as National Poison Prevention Week – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 53(22) – Recognition of March 21-27, 2022 as National Drug & Alcohol Fact Week – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 54(22) – Recognition of March 24, 2022 as National World Tuberculosis Awareness Day – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, 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 welcomed Dr. Theresa Kubiel to the Ocean County Board of Health. Commissioner Quinn stated that Dr. Kubiel would be a great asset to the Board of Health through her personal experience and her professional experience at the hospital. Commissioner Quinn thanked Mr. Daniel Regenye, Public Health Coordinator/Health Officer; Mr. Brian Rumpf, Director of Administration and Program Development; the Board of Health and the entire Ocean County Health Department staff for their hard work and dedication to help the residents of Ocean County reduce the spread of COVID. Commissioner Quinn stated that the positivity rate has declined and it is hopeful by spring start some sort of normalcy. Commissioner Quinn added that he looks forward to working with everyone at the Health Department.

7. Other Matters:

Fear Strikes: Mr. Daniel Regenye, Public Health Coordinator/Health Officer asked everyone to look at the flyer in the Board packet entitled "Fear Strikes." Mr. Regenye stated that the flyer addresses multiple end of the world crisis beginning in the year 2000. In addition, Mr. Regenye stated that most of them are public health or healthcare in nature. Mr. Regenye explained that the Health Department has been involved with these public health emergencies, noting in 2001 with Anthrax relying on the implementation of the public health emergency planning that is still being utilized to this day. Mr. Regenye provided more details of actions taken by the Health Department with several of the public health outbreaks listed. Mr. Regenye stated that there are indications of a resurgence of vaccine preventable diseases in coming decades. Mr. Regenye stated that the Ocean County Health Department is working to address this.

COVID-19: Mr. Regenye confirmed Commissioner Quinn previous statement that the COVID positivity numbers are decreasing. Mr. Regenye referred to the weekly activity report and the region (Ocean, Monmouth, Middlesex and Union Counties) has shifted from red (very high) to orange (high). Mr. Regenye noted that even with the numbers going down, the numbers are still at a higher level than preferred.

Mr. Regenye stated that the Long Term Care facilities remain at 52 facilities in outbreak status. Mr. Regenye stated that Ocean County Health Department continues to work with the Long Term Care facilities. Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department has COVID antigen tests that are going to expire at the end of this month and the Long Term Care facilities are in need of the testing kits. Mr. Regenye stated that on today's agenda was a resolution to authorize to offer the testing kits and other COVID supplies before they expire. Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department has provided PPE and other supplies early on in the pandemic in March/April/May of 2020. In addition, Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department has these supplies and wants to get them out into the community, offer them to the Long Term Care facilities and any healthcare provider in Ocean County that would need them.

Mr. Regenye stated that the vaccine demand continues to be on a decline. Mr. Regenye continued that changes will be made to the schedule at the fixed facility sites, RWJBarnabas Arena at Toms River High School North and Southern Regional Middle School, because the number of vaccinations administered is extremely low.

Mr. Regenye informed the Board of the Ocean County Health Department being audited. Mr. Regenye stated representatives from the State of New Jersey are scheduled to come to the Ocean County Health Department on March 3, 2022 to conduct an audit of our practices administratively going back to December of 2020 when the Health Department started the first COVID-19 vaccination clinic on Christmas Eve.

Mr. Regenye discussed the Health Department looking to restructure the COVID vaccination clinics from an incident command structure moving back to the seasonal flu model

within our nursing department. Mr. Regenye stated that looking at the future COVID response will be integrated into our vaccination program, which has been in place for many decades.

Mr. Regenye stated that seasonal flu vaccination demand was up and seasonal flu activity remains high. Mr. Regenye referred to the New Jersey Department of Health Respiratory Virus Surveillance weekly report included in the Board packet.

Mr. Regenye reported that COVID testing numbers are down. Mr. Regenye stated that the Ocean County College COVID testing site days of operation decreased from six days to three days and will probably be adjusted again soon. Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department would continue to access the need as we have since March of 2020.

Mr. Regenye stated that the COVID information line has been receiving fewer calls, 559 calls were received last week mostly related to testing, third dose and booster shots. Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department continues to educate the community about these topics.

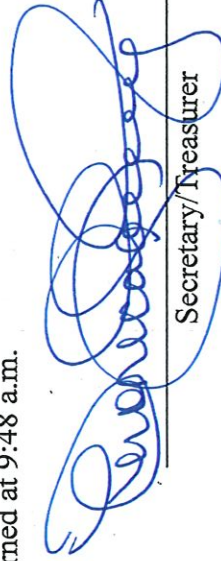
Mr. Regenye discussed the Ocean County schools noting that the school volume has eased a little bit with some of guidance with having multiple options and still being in compliance. Mr. Regenye stated that the Ocean County Health Department continues to work with the schools. Mr. Regenye informed the Board that the focus at the schools is what to do in the aftermath of COVID and there are many unintended consequences of COVID with all the restrictions. Mr. Regenye stated that for the last two years, the Health Department has been working with the schools and seeing a significant amount of public health concerns of mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence and cognitive development of some of the students. Mr. Regenye discussed actions to get ahead of the curve and address this next major public health emergency.

Ms. Jennifer Bacchione talked about adults with anxiety needing help; many adults are suffering. Ms. Bacchione asked if the Health Department could provide any references. Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department has provided to the Superintendents research directories. Mr. Regenye informed the Board that on yesterday's school call it was stated that they are seeing three to four times the rate of referrals from last year due to mental health and substance abuse issues in the school community. Mr. Regenye also stated that the medical examiner remarked that there are 90 more overdoses as of yesterday than this time last year. Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department could provide information and referrals. Mr. Regenye offered to forward to Ms. Bacchione the same information that was sent to the Superintendents. In addition, Mr. Regenye explained that this is going to be an active group and if she would like to participate from the school side to let him know. Mr. Regenye stated six schools are participating along with many other organizations and agencies. Mr. Regenye stated some of the participating agencies. Mr. Regenye stated that a coordinated response is needed to address this serious issue.

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 Senator Robert Singer, and the meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.



Secretary/Treasurer