

Ocean County Board of Health
 175 Sunset Avenue
 Toms River, New Jersey
 June 22, 2022
 9:30 AM

The Regular Meeting of the Ocean County Board of Health was called to order on June 22, 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 service members who protect our freedom every day.

3. Roll Call:

- Ms. Jennifer Bacchione
- Dr. Maurice Hill
- Dr. Theresa Kubiell
- Ms. Veronica Laureigh
- Mr. Henry Mancini
- Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro
- Senator Robert Singer
- Mr. John J. Mallon, Chairman

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

4. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:

On motion made by Dr. Theresa Kubiell, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Bacchione, with Mr. Henry Mancini abstaining, the open meeting minutes from the June 8, 2022 meeting were approved.

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

Mr. John J. Mallon, Chairman, asked for a motion for the consent agenda on resolutions 156(22) through 164(22) and to follow the abstention list. Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

5. Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolution 156(22) – Finance Committee Report – June 22, 2022 - \$514,068.73 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, with Ms. Jennifer Bacchione abstaining from Item #22-01214; Dr. Theresa Kubiel abstaining on Items #22-00867 and #22-01225; Ms. Veronica Laureigh abstaining on Item #22-01244; Mr. Henry Mancini abstaining on Items #22-01214, #22-01244 and #22-01383; and Senator Robert Singer abstaining on Items #22-00867 and #22-01225, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 157(22) – Personnel Committee Report – June 22, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 158(22) – Authorization to enter into an agreement with Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey – for the provision of employee and retiree medical plan benefits – for the contract period of July 1, 2022 through and inclusive of June 30, 2023 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 159(22) – Authorization to enter into an agreement with Express Scripts (ES) with the Conner Strong & Buckelew Pharmacy Coalition – effective July 1, 2022 through and inclusive of June 30, 2023 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 160(22) – Authorization to enter into an agreement for the Employee Assistance Program with Saint Barnabas E.A.P./Division of the Saint Barnabas Management Services – for the period of August 1, 2022 through and inclusive of July 31, 2024 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, with Dr. Theresa Kubiel and Senator Robert Singer abstaining, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 161(22) – Authorization to accept additional funding of \$63,380.00 for the New Jersey Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Program 2022 Activity C Grant – for a new total amount not to exceed \$583,380.00 – for the period April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 162(22) – Authorization to apply for the ARCH/State Opioid Grant – in an amount not to exceed \$102,500.00 – for the period July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 163(22) – Authorization to apply for the Comprehensive Status-Neutral HIV Services for Focus Populations – in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 – for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 164(22) – Authorization to apply for the New Jersey Department of Health, Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program Grant – in an amount not to exceed \$3,097,676.00 – for the period October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 – Motion was made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, 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 was absent from today's Board of Health meeting.

7. Other Matters:

Rabies: Mr. Daniel Regenye, Public Health Coordinator/Health Officer stated that a cat recently tested positive for rabies in Manchester. Mr. Regenye informed the Board that there are six people on post exposure prophylaxis. Mr. Regenye stated that the Ocean County Health Department is working with that community and the township.

Senator Robert Singer asked how the cat was infected. Mr. Regenye explained that he is not sure but there is a TNR colony within that complex that may not have been managed properly. Mr. Regenye further explained that a big concern with TNR colonies is not keeping up with the rabies vaccinations.

Dr. Maurice Hill asked what TNR is. Mr. Regenye responded that TNR is Trap, Neuter, Return, where the colony is managed inclusive of rabies vaccine. Mr. Regenye stated that a good TNR program would re-trap those cats, have a census of who those cats are, and then would return the cat after revaccination. Senator Singer stated that the program is very time consuming and very expensive.

Mr. Regenye added that at this time no other animals, wildlife or domesticated, have shown any signs or symptoms of a concern but should there be any issues, it should be reported to their ACO (Animal Control Officer).

Monkeypox: Mr. Regenye stated that in Ocean County, there were a couple of suspect cases of Monkeypox and everything has come back negative. Mr. Regenye added that New Jersey did confirm its first case in Hudson County; now New Jersey is one of 23 states and the District of Columbia with cases of Monkeypox; but none in Ocean County. Dr. Hill asked if the Monkeypox case was able to trace where it came from. Mr. Regenye answered that it was a combination of international travel, as well as local exposure.

COVID-19: Mr. Regenye stated that the Board members have received the COVID updates in their Board packets. Mr. Regenye added that Ocean County still maintains in a good place. Mr. Regenye stated that the Ocean County Health Department would be starting with COVID vaccine for the youngest children, six months up to five years of age, starting on Monday, June 27, 2022. Mr. Regenye noted that even though the Health Department has received a few calls regarding COVID vaccination for the six months to five years old age group, it is anticipated the demand will be low.

Repercussion of COVID: Mr. Regenye informed the Board that the Ocean County Health Department has been discussing and addressing the "unintended consequence of COVID." Mr. Regenye introduced Ms. Kimberly Reilly, County Alcoholism Coordinator to talk about some of the work the Ocean County Health Department has done with substance abuse, the mental health, and the work with the Ocean County schools.

Ms. Reilly stated that early on with COVID there were concerns of how COVID would impact our community. Ms. Reilly reported that mental health problems are significantly rising. Ms. Reilly noting to compound the situation is there are just no capacity and lack of counselors

in the mental health non-profit agencies. Ms. Reilly stated that recently the Health Department learned that one of our health providers from the southern part of Ocean County would be closing their doors because they do not have enough staffing.

Ms. Reilly informed the Board that there is a drastic increase with substance abuse. Ms. Reilly stated that during the pandemic alcohol consumption was high but we are also seeing increase use of opioids and heroin. Ms. Reilly also stated that fentanyl is added in many of the products coming in. Ms. Reilly added that the New Jersey State Police has confirmed that people are not aware they are getting fentanyl when getting their bags of heroin or opioid pills.

Ms. Reilly stated that there are more overdoses and an increase in suicides, not only adults but also our youth population. Ms. Reilly continued that we met with the Superintendent Roundtable and our children are so impacted by the pandemic with stress, anxiety and isolation.

Ms. Reilly updated the Board that in the schools, not only the students are stressed but also the teachers and staff are burnt out. Ms. Reilly stated that the Ocean County Health Department has developed a Teachers Tool Kit for over the summer with all resources for our teachers and school staff to take care of themselves. Ms. Reilly talked about the list of resources for the school staff to let them know we support their work. Ms. Reilly also stated that the Ocean County Health Department is looking to bring in training next year for our teachers with CIACC, which is Children InterAgency Coordinating Council through Ocean County Human Services. Ms. Reilly stated that in addition, the Ocean County Health Department will continue to collaborate with Ocean County Human Services to provide more opportunities for training, education and information for our teachers on self-care.

Ms. Reilly discussed helping our youth. Ms. Reilly stated that the Ocean County Health Department prevention staff continues to go into the schools and offer our programming. Ms. Reilly states that our programming is not just on substance use, other topics covered include communication, identifying at-risk behaviors, and coping skills.

Ms. Reilly stated that Ocean County Health Department is also helping our providers in the mental health field and substance abuse field who have also been overwhelmed with high caseloads and not enough staff. Ms. Reilly stated that Ocean County Health Department is offering a free training to our behavioral professional health community on August 12, 2022 called "The Loneliness Epidemic." Ms. Reilly invited the Board of Health members to attend this training regarding how social isolation has so impacted us, our mental health and the state of our health over the past two years.

Ms. Reilly discussed the spike in overdoses. Ms. Reilly stated that emails are sent to our affiliated partners to encourage our partners to take action, to talk to the more at-risk clients, inform staff, and alert the hospitals. Ms. Reilly stated that we are monitoring substances and educating our partners. Ms. Reilly informed the Board that xylazine, a veterinarian tranquilizer, is being cut into the drug, making it not responsive to Narcan. Ms. Reilly continued that we are working with our Chiefs of Police to let them know so they would be able to respond appropriately.

Ms. Reilly concluded that there are many things going on and post-pandemic we are providing education, information and resources to all our partners, to our students, to our teachers, to our behavioral health providers, to our residents. Ms. Reilly asked the Board members if there is anything in the mental health/behavioral health realm the Health Department should do, to please contact her.

Ms. Veronica Laureigh asked if Ocean County or the Ocean County Health Department is due to receive any owed opioid settlement money. Mr. Regenye responded that Ocean County is to receive money and the municipalities are also getting some money as well. Ms. Laureigh suggested the Ocean County Health Department partner with the municipalities because the money has to be used in a specific way; 70% of the funds has to be used on

prescribed guidelines, part of it is training and education. Ms. Laureigh stated that collectively, as municipalities get together with our agency, do something together instead of going out on our own and not get enough resources to do it.

Senator Singer informed the Board that he has a bill up for a vote tomorrow, June 23, 2022, which is going to allow a pilot program, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson, to allow them to convert adult beds to juvenile beds if needed. Senator Singer stated that is very important, this is a big problem, in Ocean County there are no juvenile beds. Senator Singer added that the pilot program is for two years.

Senator Singer discussed studies regarding young people using marijuana had MRI's taken of their brains and found there are areas of the brain that are dead. Senator Singer stated that with recreational marijuana, the Health Department needs to promote strong notice to the Superintendent Roundtable, the school districts that young people under the age of 18 using marijuana is not just against the law but creates permanent damage.

Ms. Jennifer Bacchione stated that a couple months ago was a report of a young toddler getting into the edibles. Ms. Bacchione continued that she did bring that up at the Berkeley Township Board of Education Elementary Schools meeting. Ms. Bacchione feels that the parents need to realize there are many mental problems that start if you are younger. Ms. Bacchione asked if there is a tool kit for teenagers for the summer, resources and activities for them.

Dr. Theresa Kubiel commended Ms. Reilly and the Alcohol and Drug Department for all that is being done because it is incredible work that Ms. Reilly puts out every day for all the providers; it is important work.

Dr. Kubiel advised the Board that in addition to those younger children who are often very stressed by the fact that their parents are using substances and the children are now being raised by their grandparents. Dr. Kubiel continued that the affordability of grandparents on a fixed income, as most of them are retired, raising grandchildren is just astonishing. Dr. Kubiel stated that we do see stress and isolation as a result of that.

Dr. Kubiel informed the Board that the DEA (United States Drug Enforcement Administration) is currently running a campaign, "One Pill Can Kill," making parents and legal guardians aware of how the communication occurring by people who are seeking these drugs and many times it is happening through emoji's through snapchat. Dr. Kubiel stated that we would need to spend time educating ourselves so we would be able to educate the parents and legal guardians of this to know what to look for.

Ms. Reilly discussed the Older Adult program. Ms. Reilly stated that the Health Department is holding Older Adult Fairs this summer to target our older adult population, getting Narcan, training to administer Narcan, and resources on behavioral health for them.

Senator Singer addressed a major problem seen after proms in Seaside, there are fights breaking out, they are unruly, they do not respect the police at all. Senator Singer stated that the Chief of Seaside commented that he has never seen it like that ever. Senator Singer blames it on alcohol use and marijuana use. Ms. Reilly feels that the aftermath of the pandemic played a part in the teenager at-risk behavior. Senator Singer stated that it is more; he thinks because they are unaccountable for their actions. Senator Singer mentioned Long Branch and the pop-up party where 5,000 people came. Senator Singer added that it is impossible to handle 5,000 people at one time. Senator Singer stated that he had been told the marijuana was so bad in the streets, you could not see.

Mr. Regenye thanked the Board because a number of years ago, the Health Department did a restructuring that elevated many of the issues that we are seeing on substance abuse/mental health and created a whole department to address some of those areas. Mr. Regenye emphasized

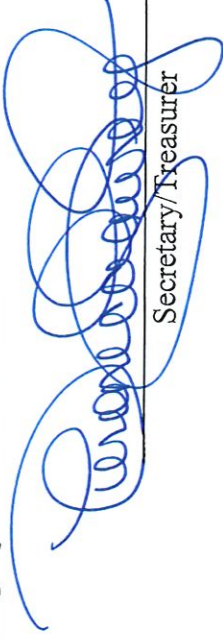
that progress was made in this field and Ms. Reilly has done a great job representing the agency at the county, state and national level.

Thank you: Ms. Patricia High, Assistant Public Health Coordinator, thanked the Board for the condolences that were provided; it was really appreciated.

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 Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and the meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.


Secretary/Treasurer