

Ocean County Board of Health
 175 Sunset Avenue
 Toms River, New Jersey
 September 27, 2023
 9:30 AM

The Regular Meeting of the Ocean County Board of Health was called to order on September 27, 2023 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. Avinash Gupta
 Dr. Theresa Kubiak
 Ms. Veronica Laureigh
 Mr. Henry Mancini
 Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro
 Senator Robert Singer
 Mr. John J. Mallon, Chairman

Dr. Maurice Hill entered the meeting after the vote at 9:36 am

Daniel E. Regenye, Public Health Coordinator
 Mathew Thompson, Board Counsel
 Commissioner Deputy Director Gary Quinn, Liaison to the Board of Health

4. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:

On motion made by Senator Robert Singer, seconded by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, with Mr. Henry Mancini and Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro abstaining, the open meeting minutes from the August 30, 2023 meeting, with amended abstention list, were approved.

| Name | Bacchione | Gupta | Hill | Kubiak | 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 252(23) through 276(23) and to follow the abstention list. Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

5. Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolution 252(23) – Ratification of Finance Committee Report – September 13, 2023 – \$61,917.18 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 253(23) – Finance Committee Report – September 27, 2023 – \$623,773.20 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, with Dr. Avinash Gupta abstaining on Items #23-02066, #23-02081 and #23-02419; Dr. Theresa Kubiel abstaining on Items #23-02066, #23-02081 and #23-02419; Ms. Veronica Laureigh abstaining on Items #23-02145 and #23-02147; Mr. Henry Mancini abstaining on Items #23-02124, #23-02145, #23-02147, #23-02220 and #23-02433; and Senator Robert Singer abstaining on Items #23-02066, #23-02081 and #23-02419, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 254(23) – Salary range resolution in compliance with state regulations and Collective Bargaining agreements – effective September 1, 2023 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 255(23) – Personnel Committee Report – September 27, 2023 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, with Ms. Jennifer Bacchione abstaining on Item #5, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 256(23) – Authorization to enter into an agreement with New Hope Integrated Behavioral Health Care, Inc. – for Intoxicated Drivers Resource Center 12 hour program – in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00 – for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 257(23) – Authorization to award the 48 Hour IDRC component to New Hope Integrated Behavioral Health Care, Inc. – for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 258(23) – 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 – and to pay the annual administrative fee – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 259(23) – Authorization to enter into an agreement with Clarion Hotel – to host the presentation “Youth Mental First Aid” – in an amount not to exceed \$4,606.11 – on Friday, November 17, 2023 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 260(23) – Authorization to enter into an agreement with Clarion Hotel – to host the quarterly meeting Partnership for a Healthier Ocean County – in an amount not to exceed \$2,436.95 – on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 261(23) – Authorization to accept the New Jersey Department of Health County Health Infrastructure Funding (CHIF) – in an amount not to exceed \$1,435,662.00 – for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

- Resolution 262(23)** – Authorization to accept the New Jersey Department of Health Local Core Capacity for Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program Grant – in an amount not to exceed \$435,822.00 – for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.
- Resolution 263(23)** – Authorization to accept the County of Ocean, Department of Human Services Opioid Prevention Consulting Services – in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 – for the period October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, with Mr. Henry Mancini abstaining, and unanimously approved.
- Resolution 264(23)** – Authorization to accept the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services Alternative Approaches to Pain Management for Older Adults Grant – in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 – for the period October 1, 2023 through September 31, 2024 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.
- Resolution 265(23)** – Authorization to accept the Addiction Policy Forum Anti-Stigma Initiative selection – at no cost to the agency – for the period beginning March 2024 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.
- Resolution 266(23)** – Authorization to enter into an agreement with Stockton University – to accept Public Health students for practical experience in various health field activities – at no cost to the agency – for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.
- Resolution 267(23)** – Authorization to apply for the New Jersey Department of Health Division of Community Health Services Diabetes Prevention and Control Program Grant Funding for Diabetes Subject Matter Expert – in an amount not to exceed \$93,806.00 – for the period December 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.
- Resolution 268(23)** – Authorization to apply for the New Jersey Department of Health Division of Community Health Services Diabetes Prevention and Control Program Grant Funding for Diabetes Self-Management Education Capacity Building – in an amount not to exceed \$133,333.00 – for the period December 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.
- Resolution 269(23)** – Recognition of October 15-21, 2023 as International Infection Prevention Week – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.
- Resolution 270(23)** – Recognition of October 23-31, 2023 as Red Ribbon Week – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.
- Resolution 271(23)** – Recognition of October 2023 as National Dental Hygiene Month – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.
- Resolution 272(23)** – Recognition of October 2023 as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 273(23) – Recognition of October 2023 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 274(23) – Authorization to utilize the Ocean County Cooperative Contracting System for overhead garage door repair and installation with New Jersey Overhead Door – in an amount not to exceed \$140,000.00 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 275(23) – Authorization to amend the contract with DiPersia Technology Solutions – in an amount not to exceed \$140,000.00 – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 276(23) – Authorization to accept an extension to December 31, 2023 with Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR) – Motion was made by Ms. Veronica Laureigh, seconded by Ms. Ruthanne Scaturro, and unanimously approved.

6. Comments: Commissioner Deputy Director Gary Quinn, Liaison to the Board of Health:

Comments from Commissioner Deputy Director Gary Quinn: Commissioner Deputy Director Gary Quinn, Liaison to the Board of Health stated that last month the animal shelters was discussed. Commissioner Deputy Director Quinn thanked the Board of Health, Mr. Daniel Regenye, Public Health Coordinator/Health Officer, Mr. Brian Rumpf, Director of Administration and Program Development and the animal facilities staff for providing an outstanding service with forever families for the animals. Commissioner Deputy Director Quinn explained that he received half-dozen calls from people who adopted the animals during the Clear the Shelter promotion. The callers expressed their happiness, impressed by the cleanliness of the buildings, liked the location of the shelters, and praised the staff. Commissioner Deputy Director Quinn stated that the callers had said that the Ocean County Animal Facilities had a loving situation.

Commissioner Deputy Director Quinn stated that he is happy to see the Health Department is moving forward with getting the Barnegat shelter updated. Commissioner Deputy Director Quinn asked to extend his gratitude to the animal facilities staff. Chairman Mallon noted that people are surprised by the number of animals that go through our shelters. Chairman Mallon stated that people approach him asking about pet adoption from the Ocean County Animal Facilities.

7. Other Matters:

Animal Facilities: Mr. Daniel Regenye, Public Health Coordinator/Health Officer continued the discussion regarding the Ocean County Animal Facilities. Mr. Regenye stated that it is a great partnership with the County of Ocean providing that resource with the Health Department. Mr. Regenye recognized the phenomenal job of the animal facilities staff and volunteers.

COVID: Mr. Regenye provided an update regarding COVID. Mr. Regenye stated that the activity report from last Friday indicated an increase in COVID cases. Mr. Regenye added that the State of New Jersey has been green for many months and now Cape May and Atlantic

have been elevated to yellow. Mr. Regenye stated that he has had communications with hospital representatives and with representatives from the New Jersey Department of Health regarding the increase in the cases of inpatient and people testing positive. Mr. Regenye added that many are asymptomatic or have low-level illness. Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department would continue to monitor and work with all the partners across the whole spectrum to address ongoing COVID matters.

Mr. Regenye informed the Board that the Health Department is looking at getting the new COVID vaccine. Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department is still waiting on some of the seasonal flu vaccine order.

100 Year Anniversary: Mr. Regenye stated that the Health Department is planning ahead for next year, which is going to be our 100-year anniversary of the Health Department. Mr. Regenye informed the Board that some aerial photos via drone would be taken at Sunset Avenue, both animal facilities, the Lakewood site and Barnegat. Mr. Regenye stated that the photos will have the staff and Board members out front following the Board of Health meeting. Mr. Regenye continued that the plan is to have the pictures enlarged and displayed around the building.

Ambulance Response Time: Dr. Avinash Gupta stated that a neighbor was having a seizure, called 911 and it took the ambulance to respond 20/25 minutes later in Toms River. Ms. Veronica Laureigh commented that there is an issue with the volunteer squads with regard to EMS. Ms. Laureigh also stated that the County of Ocean is looking at something through the Sheriff's Department with possibly assisting these communities. Commissioner Deputy Director Quinn informed the Board that the Ocean County Board of Commissioners are in the final stages of putting a program in place. Commissioner Deputy Director Quinn continued that there would be county ambulances and have staff available to handle EMS. Commissioner Deputy Director Quinn stated that the ambulances would be available at different locations throughout Ocean County to assist when needed.

Dr. Maurice Hill requested additional details of the call. Dr. Hill stated that he will research and see why there was that much of a delay in responding.

Senator Robert Singer stated that the Lakewood EMS have doctors and paramedics volunteering. Senator Singer added that Lakewood is the only EMS squad in the State of New Jersey with paramedics riding on every ambulance.

Southern Ocean Medical Center: Senator Singer provided information regarding Southern Ocean Medical Center. Senator Singer stated that Southern Ocean Medical Center called him to notify him that they are in an outbreak situation with COVID and all visitors would be required to wear a mask when coming to the hospital. Senator Singer added that later he received another call stating that the hospital is over the hump and the cases were not serious.

Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program: Chairman Mallon stated that the recreational water-sampling program (Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program) is ending. Mr. Peter Curatolo, Coordinator Community Health Services, stated that the program concluded yesterday with about a 2.24 exceeded rate and just under 1,000 samples collected. Mr. Curatolo stated that there were no injuries in the last three (3) years, no incidents and adhered to all safety protocols. Mr. Curatolo informed the Board that since 2019 five (5) people

from the Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program team became full time employees at the Ocean County Health Department. Mr. Curatolo thanked Mr. Regenye, Mr. Rumpf and Mr. John Protonentis, Environmental Health Coordinator for their support.

Beach Closure: Senator Singer discussed the closure of the beach at Jenkinsons. Senator Singer explained the danger at the beach with 12-foot waves. Senator Singer continued that there were complaints about the closure and state approval was necessary to close the beach. Senator Singer stated that there should be some safety mechanism to allow the beaches to be closed when it is dangerous; otherwise, the volunteers or first responders are at risk.

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 9:46 a.m.


Assistant Secretary