

MONMOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION NO. 1

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 24, 2019
(Open Session: 58 min. 17 sec.)

CALL TO ORDER:

President Giles called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. He then led the Regional Board of Health in the salute to the flag. President Giles next read the "Open Public Meeting Act Statement".

ROLL CALL:

Brielle – Jim Langenberger, Fair Haven – Theresa Casagrande, Highlands – Bill Brunt, Jr., Little Silver – Dr. Tim Sullivan, , Red Bank – Mike Natelli, Rumson – Therese Wollman, Sea Bright - Dr. Meg Fisher, Sea Girt – Jay Amberg, Shrewsbury Borough – Paul Roman, Spring Lake – Mary Anne Donahue, Spring Lake Heights – Dr. Len Giles, Tinton Falls – John Mack

Upon completion of the roll call, the Secretary reported that a quorum was present.

ABSENT:

Boro of Monmouth Beach, Township of Ocean, Boro of West Long Branch

OTHERS PRESENT:

David A. Henry, Health Officer, Steve Gallagher, CFO, Mickey Weiss, Esq., Heather Frketich, Office Coordinator/Commission Secretary

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

OPEN SESSION:

Dr Sullivan motioned to approve the Open Session Minutes of August 20, 2019, seconded by Mike Natelli.

VOTE: Unanimous of those who were present. Spring Lake Heights, Sea Girt and Brielle abstained.

CLOSED SESSION:

n/a

COMMUNICATIONS:

The Health Officer mentioned the NJDOH letter offering reimbursement for Hepatitis B vaccines which was forwarded to our town Administrators this week. He reminded all that arrangements can be made with MCRHC to provide the immunizations.

A public hearing of the NJDOH electronic smoking device task force is being held in Trenton. The Health Officer met with the Assistant Commissioner to share recommendations toward defining the role of public health in the quickly emerging crisis going forward.

8 NJ cases...50 cases nationwide is the backup evidence

Discussion points and suggestions from Commission members included: vaping legislation – some towns/states already taking action, a statewide amnesty program, our membership advised Mr. Henry they'd interested in sample/template ordinance to ban product on an individual town basis, encouraging high schools to recommend confiscation of any products used while on the premises, forwarding them to CDC. License fees to regulate the sale of tobacco products has been a route taken in some cases and was considered by MCRHC at a point in the past), but with vaping, a product ban might be more important to target. Black markets will continue to exist.

The Health Officer shared the State's vaping intake form with those present. LHDs cannot at this time accept or store these products even briefly. Mr. Henry requested attorney research on what liability or legal ground the MCRHC can take such prohibition action. The evidence we have is 8 deaths and 50 in-state cases currently.

CLOSED SESSION: At 6:18 pm Dr. Fisher motioned to enter Closed Session for the purpose of Contract Negotiations, seconded by Theresa Casagrande.

At 6:38 pm, John Mack motioned to exit Closed Session, seconded by Theresa Casagrande.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT:

The October Health Officer's Corner (reflecting September 2019 activity) was e-mailed and is posted on our website. Also e-mailed to the Commissioners the August 2019 Conferences & Meetings, the August 2019 CDRSS Report, the monthly PHN Report and the 2nd Quarter Vitals Statistics. Please forward any questions to the Health Officer.

Both the Vaccines for Children and Vaccines for Adults in-house immunization programs are up and running. We have received several Bahamian refugees as a result of the recent hurricane devastation in the islands.

Our flu vaccine clinic schedule has been delayed until October as we await vaccine delivery from suppliers. The Health Officer explained that the delay involves a formulation change to include further strains. It is difficult to predict what attendance will be, but there is a review done by Dave and staff every year prior to placing our flu vaccine order and again after the

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT (continued)

clinics have been held. As in recent years, MCRHC will have the quadrivalent dose, but will not carry the high dose for seniors 65 and over. Usually pharmacies, store chains receive their deliveries first, due to the volume they order.

Water quality issues were not an issue at our bathing beaches in 2019 and summer camps did not experience any measles related concerns in the same time period. Very unfortunately, local health was required to submit a fatality report to NJDOH from a Labor Day drowning off of Spring Lake beach.

Per the Health Officer we are averaging 15 lead cases a year.

Surprisingly fewer than expected cases reported of vector-borne disease (West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, etc.) were reported even with lots of rain this summer.

The Health Officer announced he is working with the online grant program which will allow MCRHC the ability to not be a "subcontractor" to the MCHD for the next fiscal year.

Our long-awaited new mcrhc.org is now live and compatible with most mobile devices. Many thanks to the tireless work of staff and City Connections, LLC. In the not too distant future Dave and Heather plan to incorporate a procedure for the Commissioners to have their own secure access to Board Reports and Meeting Documents.

Dr. Sullivan motioned to accept the Health Officer's Report as presented, seconded by Dr. Fisher.

VOTE: Unanimous

CFO REPORT: Pending contact discussion completed in Closed Session.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Report was previously distributed by e-mail. The Statement of Accounts is for period ending July 31, 2019 and was accepted as presented.

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE: Pending contact discussion completed in Closed Session.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE: The Health Officer stated that a letter has been written and will be forwarded to the Human Resources Committee Chair advising of Gregory Hawriluk, REHS's successful completion of six month probation. The Health Officer commented that he is doing very well.

AUDIT COMMITTEE: 2018 Audit is in process. The CFO hopes to have results to present at the October 2019 meeting. Some field work is still pending.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: No Report

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: A draft of a proposed revision of the Commission Policy Manual has been forwarded to the Committee by Heather Frketich. Vice-President Roman indicated a couple of formal changes made since the last version in 2013 were not incorporated into the draft. He will provide documentation from past minutes. The initial review and edit will be done by President Giles, Vice-President Roman, Treasurer Donahue and member at large, Commissioner Buttiglieri. The document will then be reviewed by the full Commission.

VNA COMMITTEE: Pending contact discussion completed in Closed Session.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

Theresa Casagrande motioned to approve the 2 resolutions listed under the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fisher.

Resolution 2019-43 (Approval to Amend 2019 Budget for a New Item of Revenue re: CLEP Grant)

Resolution 2019-51 (Approval for Payment of Monthly Bills –September)

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Brielle	Yes	Sea Girt	Yes
Fair Haven	Yes	Sea Bright	Yes
Highlands	Yes	Shrewsbury Boro	Yes
Little Silver	Yes	Spring Lake	Yes
Red Bank	Yes	Spring Lake Heights	Yes
Rumson	Yes	Tinton Falls	Yes

VOTE: 12 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain
Motion Carries.

ORDINANCES: None at this time

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Present

OLD BUSINESS:

Contract Town Status Update – The Health Officer passed on the following firm ruling from NJDOH:

- Each municipality needs their own Board of Health or MCRHC is the Board of Health
- They will no longer recognize “Health Officer Services” only.

From his communications with Middletown Township – they are willing to become a full member with Commission representation in 2020.

In order to realign with the state statute:

The Health Officer will forward a letter to all current contract towns informing their Administrators they will all carry membership status as of this coming January as there are no differences in the services they are and have always been provided. They will have the obligation and voting voice privilege to send a Commission representative and Alternate to attend MCRHC Monthly Board meetings.

Accreditation Project Update – As previously mentioned, we have 28 measures to revisit and resubmit to the Accreditation Board by August 2020 as part of our corrective action plan. The Health Officer reiterates how important it is for us to become accredited to work toward the goals of more members and more grants. Only the NJDOH and 4 other health departments have attained Accreditation status to date.

Dr. Sullivan: Question on Consultants role in getting us where we need to be in the accreditation process. Why is there still a lot of work to be done?

Vice-President Roman responded: they came on late in the game and could not get to everything. The Community Health Assessment and the Community Health Improvement Plan were obstacles out of our control. A new Community Health Assessment plan (CHA) is expected to be released in October that will assist all Monmouth County health departments going forward to meet PHAB standards. Mr. Henry is reviewing/coordinating with Hackensack Meridian for ideas on the formation of a new strategic plan.

Theresa Casagrande: requested the Health Officer to update the Commission monthly or periodically on MCRHC’s progress and status in relation to PHAB.

The Health Officer agreed to provide the above and added that we have a PHAB liaison to consult with as we work on the requested areas.

VNA Contract: was earlier discussed in Closed Session.

NEW BUSINESS:

Communicable Disease Grant Application Approval Request – The Health Officer introduced a grant opportunity where the NJDOH will provide funding to build up Communicable Disease outbreak response capacity at the LHD level. It is a competitive offer, wherein 21 LHDs will receive up to \$95,000 and the deadline to submit applications is very soon – October 4, 2019.

The grant funding is in response to the very unfortunate Wanaque Children's Hospital outbreak wherein young immunocompromised patients died. The State had to step in and take over due to the serious lack of health department and communicable disease staff to investigate and monitor at the time.

The Health Officer requests the Commission's approval to apply for the above. He has received letters of support from the Long Branch and Colts Neck health departments as part of the Monmouth Public Health Consortium. The population currently covered by MCRHC/MPHC is 260,000. The participating Consortium towns are Colts Neck, Long Branch, and Manalapan.

The Health Officer's proposed plan will provide stipends to four positions (CD Investigator, Public Health Nurse, Health Officer and Contract Health Educator) as well as supplement staff, with a per diem public health nurse and a per diem public health communicable disease case investigator. Formation of the MCRHC's own Infection Control Assessment and Response Team (ICAR) team is also earmarked.

It was stated that the grant monies awarded would need to be expended first by the awardee and then submitted for reimbursement.

Concern was expressed by several present. President Giles asked "What about the time needed to continue work toward PHAB accreditation? Grants also require a lot of work and strict deadlines. Can you do both?"

Commissioner Casagrande also asked if the two projects might be too ambitious.

The Health Officer absolutely assured he could guarantee this. His further comments being: Many aspects of the Communicable Disease Grant will compliment PHAB requirements. The PHN will be added into the Consortium (at no additional cost to MCRHC/MPHC), CD Investigator will temporarily move to the position of Acting Epidemiologist. The grant period is November 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Grants are many times renewable, but this is not a given. Should there be no further grant opportunity, MCRHC would not retain temporary salaries/stipends or per diem positions.

The Health Officer has great interest in expanding our Consortium by marketing our services to other towns and possibly provide consultation and assistance to pediatricians.

Another Commissioner inquiry from Bill Brunt, Jr. "What if MCRHC runs into an overload situation which will take the entire staff's energy? (similar to the landfill odor complaint of earlier this year).

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

The Health Officer responded he will have to develop a backup plan and that the CD Investigator and per diems will be dedicated to performing the grant work and that those positions were not affected by the landfill situation. The rest of the staff handled it.

At this point, Dr. Fisher motioned to approve/support MCRHC's application for the Communicable Disease Case Investigation Grant, seconded by Dr. Sullivan.

VOTE: Unanimous

The Health Officer promised to provide monthly updates and keep the Commission involved going forward.

Without any identifying detail, the Health Officer quickly made note of the department's involvement in the investigation of 2 legionella cases in a facility in one of our towns. The Commissioner and Administrator have been briefed. The facility has been cooperative and all involved have been very diligent. This is not a disease MCRHC sees frequently. Investigation is complex and can be long term to follow through with testing to determine a confirmed source. There are 47 cases statewide.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm on a motion by John Mack, seconded by Dr. Fisher.

VOTE: Unanimous

Next Regular Meeting of the MCRHC #1 Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. at the Regional's headquarters located at American Red Cross building 1540 West Park Avenue – Suite # 1, Tinton Falls, New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather L. Frketich

Heather L. Frketich
Office Coordinator/Commission Secretary

Reviewed by

David A. Henry

David A. Henry
HEALTH OFFICER