

MONMOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION NO. 1

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 23, 2021
(Open Session: 59 min. 23 sec.)

CALL TO ORDER:

President Giles called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.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:

Allenhurst - Donna Campagna, Deal – Stephen Carasia, Little Silver – Dr. Tim Sullivan, Village of Loch Arbour – Marilyn Simons, Ocean Twp. – Vinnie Buttiglieri, Rumson – Therese Wollman, Sea Bright – Dr. Meg Fisher, Sea Girt – Diane Anthony, Shrewsbury Borough – Paul Roman, Spring Lake – Mary Anne Donahue, Spring Lake Heights – Dr. Len Giles, West Long Branch – Stephanie Dollinger

ABSENT:

Boro of Brielle, Boro of Fair Haven, Boro of Interlaken, Middletown Twp., Boro of Monmouth Beach, Boro of Tinton Falls

Upon completion of the roll call, the Secretary reported that a quorum of 12 members was present.

OTHERS PRESENT:

David A. Henry, Health Officer, Bruce Padula, Esq., M. Weiss, Esq., Heather Frketch, Commission Secretary/Office Coordinator, D. Astino

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

OPEN SESSION:

February 23, 2021 Regular Meeting

Mary Anne Donahue motioned to approve the Open Session Minutes of February 23, 2021, seconded by Diane Anthony.

VOTE: Unanimous by those who were in attendance.

CLOSED SESSION:

February 23, 2021 Regular Meeting

Dr. Sullivan motioned to approve the Closed Session Minutes of February 23, 2021, seconded by Mary Anne Donahue.

VOTE: Unanimous by those who were in attendance.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION 2021-38

This vote is conditional pending CFO review and approval

Mary Anne Donahue motioned to pay the March 2021 bills in the amount of \$149,761.50. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fisher.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Allenhurst	Yes	Sea Girt	Yes
Deal	Yes	Sea Bright	Yes
Little Silver	Yes	Shrewsbury Boro	Yes
Loch Arbour	Yes	Spring Lake	Yes
Ocean Twp.	Yes	Spring Lake Heights	Yes
Rumson	Yes	West Long Branch	Yes

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

RESOLUTION 2021-39

CLOSED SESSION – Dr. Sullivan motioned to enter Closed Session at 11:37 am, seconded by Dr. Fisher.

VOTE: Unanimous

At 11:43 am, the Commission exited Closed Session on a motion by Dr. Sullivan, seconded by Dr. Fisher.

Dr. Giles informed all that David Henry was Rice Noticed for this meeting and requested discussion in Open Session. In regard to his contract negotiation, the MCRHC attorney replied to Mr. Henry's Attorney and a reply from Mr. Henry's Attorney is pending.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The Health Officer referenced an article in the Coast Star about the Administration at HW Mountz Elementary School being appreciative and trusting in Covid-19 guidance from MCRHC staff on quarantines and isolations on which they have determined remote vs. in-person scheduling. There was another mention in the Asbury Park Press referencing school closings. The Health Officer reminded everyone that these consultations occur 7 day a week.

Lead Screening event scheduled for today – no attendees, but future (possibly monthly) screenings are planned. MCRHC will work with VNA and CARC to perform screening for all Monmouth County towns to incorporate testing of toys/household items.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT:

The February 2021 Conferences & Meetings & Professional Trainings, the March HO Corner, the February 2021 CDRSS Report, the PHN Monthly Report, were previously mailed/e-mailed.

January and February have been long months of activity including Communicable Disease/Covid-19, Grant work, consulting work, climate change meetings

Introduction of Cinthia Weaver, Consulting HO VPOC Lead for MCRHC/Manalapan

Presented overview/update of Grant work. On an aggressive timeline set by the NJDOH. Survey and assessment of towns VP needs

Purpose: Investigate, trace, contain, mitigate Covid-19 spread in regard to those groups at greater risk due to lack of access, increased morbidity/mortality and linking these populations to resources – outreach to towns and agencies, groups identified...over 65, Hispanic/Latino, those in Senior Living and Assisted Living facilities. Some of the issues mass transit, improper housing, language barriers

The Commission members thought it would be significant to know how many seniors do not have younger family in this area as support. The effect was seen with the pandemic – no access to computers to accomplish vaccine registration. Police departments and some community groups attempted to help in this regard. 800 # helplines have been operational.

Progress reports on Lead and VPOC Grants will be submitted after March 31st.

Board Member Orientation signoff will be needed for the state and for Accreditation. This information has been emailed a couple of times to give members ample time to review.

The Health Officer is still working on completing application and expenditures upload toward FEMA reimbursement (separate from CARES funding and NJACCHO's Grant Funding). The Health Officer's Association reports funds received from the State have not been spent. He has requested \$12,000 to be applied toward staff OT and consideration of Middletown staff hired to help with Covid-19 daily operations.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT (continued)

2019 ANNUAL REPORT (data is gathered). Format is being worked on. The Health Officer expects to present this to the Commission and the public by the April meeting.

The Health Officer reported on High Covid-19 activity in some areas of some of our towns, resulting from congregating in large groups such as sports and parties outside of school facilities. 17 Contact Tracers remain in place for our jurisdiction. This point/plateau in the County needs to be broken, State guidance will continue at every step. Public health precautions are still needed.

He remarked that he and nursing staff are looking into options to vaccinate later this year.

Dr. Fisher motioned to accept the Health Officer's report, seconded by Therese Wollman. Anthony.

VOTE: Unanimous

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE:

President Giles and the CFO have been coordinating on town assessment methods. An Excel spreadsheet will be distributed when ready for review. The next Zoom meeting to discuss methodology will take place next month.

CFO REPORT:

Not Present. No Report

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Statement of Accounts for period ending February 28, 2021 was previously emailed. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

REHS-1 Otilia Dos Santos has resigned for a new opportunity. Per the Health Officer, she has been a great help and resource for the MCRHC.

Vice-President Roman motioned to accept the resignation of REHS Otilia Dos Santos effective March 19, 2021, seconded by Dr. Fisher.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Allenhurst	Yes	Sea Girt	Yes
Deal	Yes	Sea Bright	Yes
Little Silver	Yes	Shrewsbury Boro	Yes
Loch Arbour	Yes	Spring Lake	Yes
Ocean Twp.	Yes	Spring Lake Heights	Yes
Rumson	Yes	West Long Branch	Yes

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

Upon the Health Officer’s recommendation to the HR Committee, Mr. Greg Hawriluk, REHS-1, who was laid off due to a reduction in force on 12-31-20 and rehired in January 2021 in a FT VPOC position will be reinstated as a FT REHS-1. The Health Officer is keeping him on in the VPOC position to complete the first quarter. His effective date to return to REHS duties will be April 5, 2021. Per the Health Officer, Greg was a great help as a VPOC and the MCRHC looks forward to having him back on the REHS staff.

There was no required posting as Mr. Hawriluk was number one on the rehire list, per the Union contract.

Vice-President Roman motioned to approve the reinstatement/rehire of REHS Gregory Hawriluk as an REHS -1 effective April 5, 2021, seconded by Vinnie Buttiglieri.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Allenhurst	Yes	Sea Girt	Yes
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VOTE: 12 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain
Motion Carries.

The Health Officer intends to advertise to fill the VPOC vacancy now created for the course of the next installment April 1, 2021 through June 30th 2021. Another possibility would be to increase the hours of the current PT VPOC Grant personnel.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE (continued):

Attorney Padula questioned any contractual regulation per Union contract to post the VPOC position vacancy/vacancies. Health Officer Henry stated there are no Union Contract regulations for Part-time positions. Full-Time positions require posting. Vinnie Buttiglieri, Human Resources Chair reminded the Health Officer that any new or revised position resolutions must be prepared for the April 27th Board meeting.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: Revisions to the Commission Policy Manual are still pending.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: Diane Anthony, Chair reported that quotes are still in process Two new vendors were passed on to Dave in the last few days. She understands that there is current concern of vehicle damage/theft in the area of the MCRHC. She suggested the Health Officer and Board address this fairly long pending item sooner than later as there appears to be additional reason to increase building security, although it may not be inexpensive. We can attempt to obtain a quote from the American Red Cross's security system vendor that would enhance the security already in place. Commissioner Campagna will forward additional security contacts info from her Borough.

AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Vice-President Roman reports that the 2019 MCRHC Audit was drafted by Suplee, Clooney, LLC. An exit briefing was held. Management letter indicates no notable deficiencies.

RESOLUTION 2021-34

Vice President motioned for the Commission to certify the 2019 Audit document, seconded by Mary Anne Donahue.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Allenhurst	Yes	Sea Girt	Yes
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VOTE: 12 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain
Motion Carries.

The 2020 Audit process needs to move ahead due to state (grant) requirements.

CONSENT AGENDA – no items this month

Note: *(2021 Freehold will not renew their MPHRC contract with MCRHC at this time).

ORDINANCES:

No Pending Readings, Introductions or Adoptions

OLD BUSINESS:

ACCREDITATION:

Deadline: September 30, 2021.

Work performed under the parameters of the VPOC Grant (ex. community assessment surveys) and LEAD Grant may be used to fulfill some of the domain measures. Last month, the Health Officer advised that the Accreditation Board (PHAB) has relaxed the timeframe from which applicable documentation can be drawn. We can go back to 2013. The Health Officer researched the possible to extend our submission deadline of modified items with our PHAB liaison due to continuing Covid-19 workload. It would mean an additional year's payment. Several assignments have been handed out and work has been done on Domains 1, 2, 6, and 11.

FLEET VEHICLES SALE: No update

AFTER HOURS CALLS:

Related to Accreditation, the Health Officer stated he is initiating a change to the 24/7 Call Response system as a Continued Quality Improvement (CQI) effort. Each REHS and CD Staff will take the phone 1 night a week after hours in order to share the load on a more equal basis with the Health Officer. The Board was provided with an excerpt from the State Practice standards in description of this requirement. The Union had items to address with the Health Officer/Board.

The Health Officer also reviewed MCRHC's operation as a State Lab drop off/pickup site which was instituted about 6-7 years ago. This has been a very successful CQI project. The opportunity was given for questions or comments.

NEW BUSINESS:

PROCLAMATION OF NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

The President and Health Officer introduced a proclamation recognizing National Public Health Week to be celebrated between April 5th and April 11th. The 2021 Theme “Building Bridges to Better Health”

Rutgers will offer a Webinar recognizing this week.

Vice-President Roman motioned to adopt the 2021 Public Health Week Proclamation, seconded by Vinnie Buttiglieri. Thank you to the MCRHC Staff and ALL Public Health Workers worldwide.

VOTE: Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

No Public Comment made.

STAFF SERVICE AWARDS

Congratulations to three employees receiving plaques for reaching milestones with the MCRHC.

Dominick Astino, Sr. REHS	15 years
Michael Kowal, Sr. REHS	10 years
Stephen Gallagher, CFO	10 years

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Giles advised he has been working as a part of the County’s Medical Reserve Corps. and representing the MCRHC at the County Covid-19 clinic site at Brookdale College. He complimented the smooth operation and specifically the care in not allowing a single dose to go unused.

Vice-President Roman continued the report touching on the topics of:

- 1) American Rescue Plan of 2021. Congressman Kim of Burlington County reviewed to see where money will be directed. Public Health and Local Governments are slated to receive funds.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued):

- 2) Senate Bill S-1 sponsored by Senate President Steve Sweeney and co-sponsored by Senator Vin Gopal. Highlighted is an item in the NJ statutes proposed to repeal Title
- 3) N.J.S.A. 26 required protection to take on public health professional staff in the situation of a consolidation. Both Vice-President Roman and the Health Officer have been corresponding with Senator Gopal's office. The NJHOA has also voiced their opinion against this legislative action.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:38 pm on a motion by Stephanie Dollinger, seconded by Dr. Sullivan

VOTE: Unanimous

Thank you for attending this morning and Happy Holidays to All!

Next Regular Meeting of the MCRHC No. 1 Commission will be held (via Zoom) on Tuesday, APRIL 27, 2021 at 11:30 A.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
COMMISSION SECRETARY

Reviewed by

David A. Henry

David A. Henry
HEALTH OFFICER