

MONMOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION NO. 1

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 27, 2021  
(Open Session: 55 min., 22 sec.)

CALL TO ORDER:

President Giles called the meeting to order at 11:31 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, Fair Haven – Theresa Casagrande, Little Silver – Dr. Tim Sullivan, Loch Arbour – Marilyn Simons, Middletown Twp. – Rich DeBenedetto, Ocean Twp. – Vinnie Buttiglieri, Rumson – Therese Wollman, Sea Bright – Dr. Meg Fisher, Sea Girt – Diane Anthony, Shrewsbury Boro – Paul Roman, Spring Lake – Mary Anne Donahue, Spring Lake Heights – Dr. Len Giles, Tinton Falls – Doreen Hoffmann, West Long Branch – Stephanie Dollinger

ABSENT:

Boro of Brielle, Boro of Deal, Boro of Interlaken, Boro of Monmouth Beach

Upon completion of the roll call, the Secretary reported that a quorum of 14 members was present.

OTHERS PRESENT:

David A. Henry, Health Officer, Bruce Padula, Esq., Sal Alfieri, Esq., Heather Frketich, Commission Secretary/Office Coordinator

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

OPEN SESSION:

June 22, 2021 Regular Meeting

Stephanie Dollinger motioned to approve the Open Session Minutes of June 22, 2021, seconded by Mary Anne Donahue.

VOTE: Middletown, Fair Haven and Loch Arbour abstain.  
Unanimous by those who were in attendance.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

June 22, 2021 Regular Meeting

Mary Anne Donahue motioned to approve the Closed Session Minutes of June 22, 2021, seconded by Dr. Meg Fisher.

**VOTE:** Middletown, Fair Haven and Loch Arbour abstain.  
Unanimous by those who were in attendance.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

April 27, 2021

These are pending.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

**RESOLUTION 2021-59**

Theresa Casagrande motioned to pay the July 2021 bills in the amount of \$31,050.76. The motion was seconded by Mary Anne Donahue.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Allenhurst	Yes	Sea Bright	Yes
Fair Haven	Yes	Sea Girt	Yes
Little Silver	Yes	Shrewsbury Boro	Yes
Loch Arbour	Yes	Spring Lake	Yes
Middletown	Yes	Spring Lake Heights	Yes
Ocean Twp.	Yes	Tinton Falls	Yes
Rumson	Yes	West Long Branch	Yes

VOTE: 14 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain  
Motion Carries.

**NOTE: Agenda Revision**

**BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (13a)**

President Giles briefly reviewed the June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting new assessment method presentation by CFO Gallagher. Main purpose to have a competitive stand in regard to county health department services cost.

The spreadsheet displayed at that meeting was forwarded to all MCRHC Town Administrators and Commissioners for review and comment. Bottom line projection: 7-8% increases

Theresa Casagrande motioned for the Commission to proceed with this revised method in assessing town fees for the 2022 budget and to authorize our attorney to provide guidance of

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (continued)

any formal steps relating to the changeover such as Ordinance passage and updated town contracts. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fisher.

Commissioner Casagrande thanked President Giles for his leadership and efforts working alongside our CFO to produce this formulation.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Allenhurst	Yes	Sea Bright	Yes
Fair Haven	Yes	Sea Girt	Yes
Little Silver	Yes	Shrewsbury Boro	Yes
Loch Arbour	Yes	Spring Lake	Yes
Middletown	Yes	Spring Lake Heights	Yes
Ocean Twp.	Yes	Tinton Falls	Yes
Rumson	Yes	West Long Branch	Yes

VOTE: 14 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain  
Motion Carries.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

**RESOLUTION 2021-60**

Dr. Sullivan motioned to enter Closed Session at 11:42 am for the purpose of Contract Negotiations and Human Resources., seconded by Stephanie Dollinger.

Heather Frketich and David Henry exited the meeting.

At 11:56 am, \_\_\_\_\_ motioned to exit Closed Session, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_.

Heather Frketich and David Henry rejoined the meeting.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

We welcome Richard DeBenedetto to the Commission as the newly appointed Middletown Representative and Stacy Krause has been named Alternate Commissioner to the MCRHC on behalf of Middletown.

## COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

Planning for Fall/Winter Free Rabies Clinics in our towns is underway using Covid-safe protocol. Heather Frketich distributed a letter to the towns who have historically participated and has heard back from many. Diane Anthony will advise if Sea Girt might be interested.

Both HW. Mountz School and Spring Lake Heights Elementary sent thanks to the Health Officer and staff for the very numerous covid consultations through this past school year.

Op-Ed Climate Change Action in which the Health Officer partnered was featured in NJ Spotlight

A free Covid-19 Vaccination clinic is scheduled for Wednesday, August 4, 2021 9 am to 1 pm at Spring Lake Heights Elementary in partnership with Walgreens.

### HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT:

The June 2021 Conferences & Meetings & Professional Trainings, the June HO Corner, the June 2021 CDRSS and the PHN monthly Activity Reports were previously mailed/e-mailed.

### NJDOH GRANT UPDATES:

VPOC GRANT: Update given by Cindi Weaver, Consulting HO.

In Phase 1 of grant activity, the VPOC team conducted a mini-Community Health Needs Assessment. (482 responses recorded predominantly from the MCRHC jurisdiction helped to begin determining where focus is needed. They also surveyed the town administrators to obtain their view of resident health concerns. Comparisons to several years of other Public Health partner surveys brought to light the same main areas of needed concentration.

1) mental health, 2) substance abuse, and 3) chronic disease.  
A summary document has been provided to the State.

In Phase 2, which began July 1, 2021, document refinements will be made, grant staff will strive for more input (ex. specific diseases or obstacles to doctor visits) to develop the best strategies to meet the identified vulnerable populations' needs. There will continue to be outreach to community groups/pharmacies within these areas to concentrate on more local vaccine sites and get numbers increased.

Health Officer Weaver asked the Commission if they had any questions or comments. Further info in regard to how homebound individuals are located/reached out to was requested -

A list is received weekly from the State of homebound individuals in need of a Covid vaccination. MCRHC has vaccinated 27 persons in our jurisdiction with the help of the VNA and MCHD. The Health Officer noted the use of our website, blast emails and close communication with the County, VNA and LTCs as methods of learning about and responding to homebound vaccination requests, stating we now have expanded options.

LEAD GRANT: Is proceeding

VACCINE GRANT: Grant funds to be awarded to MCRHC = \$150,000. \$18,000 in addition to cover Colts Neck Township. Covid-19 vaccination clinics have been scheduled in Spring Lake Heights, Monmouth University - others to soon follow for 12 years and older. MCRHC, now a Covid-19 vaccine provider, has received 100 doses of Moderna vaccine and 100 doses of Johnson & Johnson one dose vaccine.

All 3 Grant awards total \$666,000 of possible reimbursable activities/purchases.

As Monmouth County has taken a top spot in Covid activity in the state at this point in time, the Health Officer wants all to spread the message to vaccinate more. We have large gatherings, crowded parties, beaches, sports events and an influx of seasonal visitors to the shore area. characterized by the relaxation of masking and social distancing.

Dr. Fisher also responded to a question of is a mask mandate coming back? How many new cases are being recorded in visitors? There has not been specific determination of visitor cases.

Now: recommendation for unvaccinated to mask up while, vaccinated do not have to mask. She did want to clarify for all present that the recommendation for the unvaccinated to wear a mask was never relaxed. Of course, anyone who is immunocompromised would absolutely be best to stay or go back to previous guidelines.

What is being seen: This variant is more highly transmissible, breakthrough cases are not surprising, and result in a lesser degree of illness/hospitalization.

Another Commissioner question: do antibodies after having the virus boost natural immunity? In regard to follow-up shots – not enough info has been gathered to determine the necessity or effectiveness against variants.

The Academy of Pediatrics' guidance for back to school: ALL teachers and All students be masked regardless of vaccination status. It is very important for children/students to get back to in-person learning. In addition, this ruling makes it much easier for enforcement.

The NJDOH has determined that 69% of the Covid19 strains being seen now in NJ are the Delta variant. How is this tested? and sequenced? A certain segment of positive tests is sequenced/checked for a specific variant status.

FEMA: No update at this time.

The 2019 MCRHC ANNUAL REPORT was just distributed to the Commission members. Comments were received and modifications are being made for the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

VOTE: Unanimous

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE: Given prior to Communications this month.

CFO REPORT:

No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Statement of Accounts for periods ending June 30, 2021 was previously emailed.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

President Giles and the Health Officer will discuss the CFO position.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: After 3 quotes, the Health Officer has a recommendation on the addition of a building security system for the protection of the staff and vaccine supplies. He is completed quote specifics and forwarded to Diane Anthony, Chair and the members of the Operations Committee (Doreen Hoffmann and Dr. Tim Sullivan). The proposed vendor can provide both a security alarm (ADT) and video camera surveillance. Commissioner Anthony reported the proposed cost to be \$7,624.44 with a monthly charge of \$84.99 with a 90-day warranty. It has been verified with the state that the cost of the system as well as the monthly maintenance fee is grant reimbursable for approximately 2 years – the expected life of the VACCINE Grant phase beginning 7/1/21. As it is important for all Commissioners to review the quote specs prior to a vote, this will be distributed and any action deferred to the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: President Giles, Vice-President Roman and Treasurer Donahue have reviewed revisions to the Commission Policy Manual. Next step will be the forwarding of this document within the next month to the full Commission for their review. Currently ON HOLD.

AUDIT COMMITTEE:

No Report

**CONSENT AGENDA**

President Giles stated that Resolutions 2021-64 (Amendment to 2021 Budget for next phase of Lead Grant) and 2021-66 (Health Educator contract extension) will be deferred to August 24<sup>th</sup> as Grant Award Letters have not yet been received.

Vice-President motioned to approve the two following resolutions, seconded by Mary Anne Donahue.

**Resolution 2021-63**

Resolution to Amend the 2021 Budget for a New Item of Revenue and Appropriation Vaccine Supplemental Grant.

\$150,000 for years 2021- 2023

Period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023

In addition, \$18,000 in a separate shared service agreement with the Township of Colts Neck was approved at last month’s meeting.

**Resolution 2021-65**

Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Public Health Nursing Covid-19 Vaccination Services and Homebound Vaccine Services with the VNA of Central Jersey, Inc. for MCRHC and Colts Neck Township

Not to Exceed \$25,000 at a rate of \$90.00/hr.

Period (7/1/21 – 6/30/22)

The Health Officer further described the timeline encompassed by both resolutions as March 2021 – June 30, 2022.

Vice-President Roman motioned to approve the 2 Resolutions under the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mary Anne Donahue.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Allenhurst	Yes	Sea Bright	Yes
Fair Haven	Yes	Sea Girt	Yes
Little Silver	Yes	Shrewsbury Boro	Yes
Loch Arbour	Yes	Spring Lake	Yes
Middletown	Yes	Spring Lake Heights	Yes
Ocean Twp.	Yes	Tinton Falls	Yes
Rumson	Yes	West Long Branch	Yes

VOTE: 14 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain  
Motion Carries.

## ORDINANCES:

No Pending Readings, Introductions or Adoptions

## OLD BUSINESS:

### ACCREDITATION:

Deadline: September 30, 2021.

Weekly Wednesday update meetings to complete the remaining open measures are being held.

The Health Officer was questioned as to what percentage of outstanding work has been completed. He responded 50-60%.

The Commission needs to see a high 90s rate of completion by end of August/early September. A great deal of time and money has been spent and it is the desire of all to see this initial process concluded.

The Commission message is: get it done; see this project to the end.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Both items are deferred.

SLPH/VPOC Grant Budget Amendment is pending as the Award Letter has not been received.

The Lead Grant Award Letter is pending.

In regard to the need for 2 additional Lead Meters

President Giles suggested talking to our town s' Code Enforcement officials for their input on assessing the business need as they see it in their community. Vice-President Roman agreed, but mentioned that not all of the officials may fully know the new statute. The Health Officer stated we have participated in outreach efforts to pediatrician offices.

Dave: There is still a problem. We still have an impact.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Giles continues to work at Monmouth County vaccine site and was very recently afforded the opportunity to meet the Commissioner of Health at a faith- based organization in Asbury Park with the MCHD. It was a good program.

Vice-President Roman reiterated an earlier welcome to newly appointed Commissioner DeBenedetto and thanked Middletown for all of their past collaborations.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued)

Spoke of NJ Gold Star standard for health credits for municipalities participating in the Sustainable NJ Program.

Spoke of new "Docket" App available on Google or Apple for consumer access to Covid-19 vaccine records.

Local Finance Notice 11 (referencing Governments and Counties) – two sections identify public health work that would be eligible for reimbursement, however, NJ Regionals cannot apply for the American Rescue Plan funds because they are not recognized as local governments.

Vice-President Roman wrote to the Federal Government in hopes it might make a difference in the future. Upon Commissioner Casagrande's suggestion, he will forward a copy of his letter to U.S. Representative Chris Smith's office.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

No Public present.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm on a motion by Vinnie Buttiglieri, seconded by Stephanie Dollinger.

VOTE: Unanimous

**Next Regular Meeting of the MCRHC No. 1 Commission will be held (via Zoom) on Tuesday, AUGUST 24, 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*

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Heather L. Frketich  
COMMISSION SECRETARY

Reviewed by

*David A. Henry*

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David A. Henry  
HEALTH OFFICER