1. Call to Order

A special meeting of the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission was held on the above date at Green Brook Town Hall and called to order by President Dr. Jon Fourre by reading the Sunshine Law Statement at 7:00pm.

2. Roll Call

Bound Brook: Ms. Lisa Slater
Green Brook: Dr. Jon Fourre, Dr. Atul Shah
South Bound Brook: Ms. Lillian Barber, Ms. Brenda King
Warren: Mr. Greg Riley, Mr. Mal Plager
Watchung: Ms. Fran Ellis, Mr. Ron Jubin
Others in attendance: Mr. Kevin Sumner, Health Officer

3. Public Portion

Meeting opened to the public - public recognized - public portion of meeting closed.

4. Communicable Disease

   A. Enterovirus D68 – K. Sumner reported on the alleged case of EV-D68 in Bound Brook that turned out to be false. He reported that the school had received a report from a physician of a confirmed case that turned out to not be true. It is unknown where the communication breakdown occurred. As a result of this incident and significant interest by the media the procedure for testing and confirming cases was revealed by the State Health Department and has since been distributed to all local health officers in the state. Essentially the local health officer will be notified by the state health department prior to anyone else being notified. Therefore, in the future we will be able to advise others, without question, if a case is confirmed or not. K. Sumner further advised that this incident also resulted in an appearance by the Health Officer before the Bound Brook Mayor and Council to explain the incident and to discuss Ebola preparedness activities.

   B. Ebola – K. Sumner presented the NJ State Department of Health public information presentation to the members present. In addition, he provided enhanced content relative to Somerset County preparedness activities, the Somerset County Situation Reports and his
involvement in vetting this document, the Commission’s preparedness level and activities, and
the current state of affairs relative to Ebola in New Jersey and the Commission service area. He
expressed that all staff are regularly updated as part of bi-weekly staff meetings and that there are
currently no concerns by staff. He also advised that this incident has provided a ‘wake-up call’
to first responders to assure that their blood borne pathogen plans and personal preparedness
equipment (PPE) and training are up to date. Unfortunately, many agencies have not kept up
with this requirement. Many meetings have been held including a countywide meeting this date
at Raritan Valley Community College for first responders. In addition, several PPE training
sessions are being scheduled to update agencies and their personnel on equipment requirements
and procedures for donning and doffing equipment. K. Sumner reported that some agencies are
hesitant to respond to potential patients but hopefully with the proper equipment and education,
this fear will abate and a plan will be accepted in the unlikely case that something occurs.

    K. Sumner explained the difference between quarantine (separating those who have been
exposed to disease) and isolation (separating those who are ill with disease) and assured the
members that the authority to issue a quarantine or isolation order is present in state statute and
regulation. He further explained that the Health Officer of a local jurisdiction and the State
Health Commissioner are the two entities that have the authority to issue such an order.

    K. Sumner expressed that Ebola is a difficult disease to contract and that direct contact
with a symptomatic patient is required which is highly unlikely. He also advised members about
the current monitoring going on of all individuals returning from one of the three West African
countries making spread of the disease even less likely to occur. He explained that the current
active monitoring program requires identified individuals to report in on a daily basis, by phone
or email, their temperatures as taken twice a day. They also are required to notify the local
health department immediately if symptoms develop. These are all effective steps at stopping
the spread of disease.

    Members asked questions about and discussion was held until all questions were
answered and members were assured that the incident is currently under control.

    There being no further business Mr. Greg Riley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at
9:02 pm, seconded by Mr. Ron Jubin. Vote: All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kevin G. Sumner
Health Officer/Director; Secretary