Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 24, 2014

1. Call to Order

The regular 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: Mr. Alberto Torregroza
Green Brook: Dr. Jon Fourre, Ms. Jean Mazet
Warren: Mr. Greg Riley
Watchung: Ms. Fran Ellis, Mr. Ron Jubin
Others in attendance: Mr. Kevin Sumner, Health Officer
Mrs. Karen Wick, Recording Secretary

3. Public Portion

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

4. Minutes

Mr. Greg Riley made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 22, 2014 meeting, seconded by Ms. Fran Ellis. Vote: All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Greg Riley made a suggestion to amend the November 5, 2014 meeting minutes regarding the Ebola discussion. Mr. Riley asked K. Sumner to add a sentence regarding the distinction between quarantined and isolation.

Ms. Jean Mazet questioned the local Boards of Health action plans relative to communicable disease control. K. Sumner explained the process of reporting of communicable disease as required by state law. Some diseases must be reported immediately to the local health department which prompts an immediate investigation. These procedures are detailed in state law and have been in place for years. K. Sumner also explained that most communication to the public in a case such as Ebola would come directly from the State Health Department. We would not release specific case
information in order to maintain patient confidentiality and utilizing standard state-wide messaging improves communication and assures consistency.

Mr. Greg Riley made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 5, 2014 meeting with the amendment suggested, seconded by Dr. Jon Fourre. Vote: All in favor. Motion passed.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Greg Riley made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for September 2014, seconded by Ms. Fran Ellis. Vote: All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Albert Torregroza asked if the inspectors had cell phones. K. Sumner stated that the inspectors have cell phones under the Commission’s Verizon plan.

Mr. Greg Riley made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for October 2014, seconded by Ms. Jean Mazet. Vote: All in favor. Motion passed.

6. Unfinished Business

A. Red Light Cameras

K. Sumner informed the Commission Members of the phone call he received from Vic Sordillo from the Warren Township Committee stating that he agrees with the commission's findings regarding the Red Light Cameras. Mr. Greg Riley informed the Commission Members that he had separately written Assemblyman Tom Kean regarding Red Light Cameras. Mr. Kean stated that he originally had voted against their use and would vote against it again. Mr. Riley informed the Commission members of how yellow signal times at intersections had been shortened by the Florida Department of Transportation allegedly to increase camera revenue and then subsequently was corrected by Legislation to restore the recommended signal times.

B. Residential Pool Safety Program

K. Sumner informed Commission Members that he submitted the Residential Pool Safety Program to NAACHO as an applicant to be recognized as a Model Practice. K. Sumner informed the Commission Members that the Commission should hear the results in the spring. Mr. Riley informed the Commission Members of a news story regarding the drowning death of an unattended toddler at a daycare due to a koi pond.

C. Clinics- Influenza: October 1, 2014 at Our Lady of the Mount, Warren.

K. Sumner informed the Commission Members that approximately 120 people have been vaccinated at clinics sponsored by the Commission. K. Sumner informed the
Commission Members that Dr. Frank was also able to have clinics for the staff at the Bound Brook schools as done in the past. Dr. Frank, though he operated the clinics with his staff, is attributing the vaccinations to the Commission which will raise our overall vaccination numbers for the season.

D. Clinics- Rabies: November 1 and December 6

K. Sumner informed the Commission Members of the low attendance at the clinics in South Bound Brook and Green Brook. K. Sumner stated that approximately 30 rabies vaccinations were given at the South Bound Brook Clinic and Green Brook had less than 20 rabies vaccinations administered. Commission members commented on the weather conditions that might have deterred pet owners.

E. Strategic Plan Update- Regular Agenda Item

K. Sumner informed the Commission Members that he had asked the employees to look at the plan’s objectives and priorities to see what could be eliminated or added. K. Sumner gave an example of Personal gardening activities which is not being pursued so could be replaced. He asked Commission members to also review the document and make suggestions that are more realistic than the current ones.

F. NACCHO Accreditation Grant

K. Sumner informed the Commission Members that the grant contract for $15,000 was signed off on and returned to NACCHO. K. Sumner informed the Commission Members that Nancy Lanner REHS would be attending training as part of the quality improvement requirements for the grant deliverables and she will then be responsible for assuring the deliverables are met and staff are engaged and trained.

G. MBRHC Domain and E-mail/ Web Host Provider

K. Sumner informed Commission Members that he had spoken to the IT Technician that services Green Brook Town Hall regarding our e-mail/web host provider. IT recommended staying with Network Solutions. K. Sumner renewed a 3yr contract for $511 which includes the domain name and service for web hosting and email. This allows the Commission to use the same website name and email.

H. Far Hills Proposal

K. Sumner informed the Commission Members that the proposal to provide health services was submitted in October and that he has not heard anything from Far Hills. Commission Members suggested K. Sumner follow up with a phone call regarding the status.
I. 2015 Budget- Finance Committee

K. Sumner informed the Commission Members that the Finance Committee approved a proposed 2015 Budget and recommends passage of the budget by the Commission. The budget will result in an increase of 1.8% for each municipality’s contribution to the Commission. The Finance Committee approved a total budget of $458,629. Ms. Jean Mazet made a motion to adopt the 2015 Budget, seconded by Ms. Fran Ellis. Vote: All in favor by roll call vote. Motion passed. Mr. Riley stated he would have gone with the 1.7% salary increase as opposed to the recommended 2% but still voted yes.

7. New Business

A. Ebola

Dr. Jon Fourre commented that when the Health Department runs smoothly nobody notices. It is only when there is a problem that public health is recognized. Dr. Fourre also stated the two biggest gains made by public health throughout history were sanitary sewers and personal bathing, resulting in improved sanitation. K. Sumner informed the Commission Members that currently there are no cases of Ebola in the United States. Commission Members questioned if there were any strides made in Africa against Ebola. K. Sumner stated that the WHO has recognized that improvements are occurring but there is still a long way to go. K. Sumner explained that a volunteer doctor going to Africa typically has two weeks of training before, two weeks in Africa, then if warranted upon entering the United States has a quarantine period of 3 weeks. K. Sumner explained the position of the medical community towards this required quarantine period may not be favorable to the relief effort in Africa and we should be basing our prevention actions on science and knowledge instead of fear and community pressure as it may adversely impact the availability of personnel to travel to Africa to assist.

8. Addendum to Agenda

1. Adoption of New Commission Rule- Quarantine and Isolation

K. Sumner provided background information regarding the Model State Rule for Quarantine and Isolation to prevent the spread of communicable disease. This rule is provided by the state as a model, but we are not required to adopt it. The Health officer maintains the authority to issue quarantine and isolation orders without its adoption, but adopting the ordinance clearly lays out the procedure in writing and is a recommended action. K. Sumner would like to adopt these rules for the Commission. Commission
Members decided to discuss with their local Board of Health before adopting. K. Sumner explained the process that needs to be done in order to adopt for the Commission. Input from the local boards will be addressed at the next Commission meeting and potential action taken at that time.

2. Municipal Alliance and D. A. R. E.

Mr. Jubin communicated to the Commission his concerns about drugs and alcohol at the local High School. Commission Members discussed the roles of the Municipal Alliance and D. A. R. E. programs. Commission Members discussed having a presentation by Municipal Alliance at a Commission annual meeting. K. Sumner will contact the local Municipal Alliances and develop a relationship in hopes of their representatives presenting at our meeting. K. Sumner noted that developing this partnership could be an objective for the Strategic Plan and an example of a possible change to the plan. Mr. Riley informed the Commission Members of a news article regarding a student who had been suspended for possessing an e-cigarette on school grounds. K. Sumner noted that under State law E-cigarettes are viewed the same as tobacco products and this is likely why the student was suspended.

Mr. Alberto Torregroza commended K. Sumner for his work in Bound Brook regarding the Enterovirus D68.

There being no further business Mr. Greg Riley made a motion to adjourn at 8:27pm, seconded by Mr. Ron Jubin. Vote: All in favor. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Wick, Recording Secretary