

Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission
Meeting (via phone)

June 1, 2020

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission was held on the above date via phone and called to order by President Mr. Greg Riley by reading the Sunshine Law Statement at 7:00pm

2. Roll Call

Green Brook: Dr. Jon Fourre, Ms. Jean Mazet, Mr. Bob Longo

South Bound Brook: Ms. Kathleen Bolmer

Warren: Mr. Greg Riley, Mr. Malcom Plager, Ms. Laura Burger (7:35pm)

Watchung: Ms. Fran Ellis, Ms. Julie Gunther

Others in attendance: Mr. Kevin Sumner, Health Officer

Ms. Diane Logan, Watchung Board of Health

Ms. Karen Wick, Recording Secretary

3. President Opening Remarks

President Mr. Greg Riley advised Commission Members that this meeting will follow the similar format as the April meeting, all in attendance will have a turn to speak.

4. Minutes- February, March and April 2020

President Mr. Greg Riley suggested changes to the February 3, 2020 meeting minutes, page 3 Immunization Bill status and page 5 Tobacco Legislation. Dr. Jon Fourre made a motion to approve February 3, 2020 meeting minutes with corrections, March 16, 2020 and April 15, 2020 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Ms. Jean Mazet. Vote: All in favor. Motion passed.

5. Finance Reports

A. January 2020

Mr. Bob Longo made a motion to approve the January 2020 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Mr. Malcom Plager. Vote: All in favor. Motion passed.

Discussion of Robyn Key (gas reimbursement) Automotive Service Claims (maintenance and brakes), Warren Township (gas reimbursement).

B. February 2020

Mr. Malcom Plager made a motion to approve the February 2020 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ms. Fran Ellis. Vote: All in favor. Motion passed.

C. March 2020

Mr. Malcolm Plager made a motion to approve the March 2020 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ms. Julie Gunther. Vote: All in favor. Motion passed.

Discussion of Verizon. K. Sumner informed the Commission Members that the amount has increased due to usage with staff working remotely.

D. April 2020

Dr. Jon Fourre made a motion to approve the April 2020 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ms. Jean Mazet. Vote: All in favor. Motion passed.

Discussion of payroll adjustment, Mary Ann Schamberger (reimbursement for planter), AT & T

6. COVID 19 data report

K. Sumner reviewed the statistical data report for the Commission; there were a total of 851 confirmed cases ranging in age from 5 years old to 105 years old, the percentages that were male and female and how many deaths had been recorded, how many have recovered. K. Sumner stated the importance of long-term care facilities in this statistical data. He compared deaths from 2015 to 2019 for the months of March, April and May and compared them to March, April and May 2020. He stated that deaths had increased by threefold for the same time. He informed the Commission Members that there have been a decline in new cases and the curve is flattening. He informed the Commission Members that he has been fielding questions on steps to reopening; for graduations, camps, pools, beaches, outdoor dining. He stated that the CDC guidelines are generic and there is little guidance from the state. He informed the Commission Members that local Health Officers are trying to have consistency across towns.

President Mr. Greg Riley opened the meeting for comments and questions.

At this time Laura Burger joined the meeting.

Dr. Jon Fourre commented that routine vaccinations are not being administered. He encouraged all public to get their flu shots in the fall. He stated that due to pandemic social distancing the regular flu season was shortened by six weeks. He stated that currently social distancing is working and encouraged masks to be worn. He encouraged the public if they can stay home to stay home. Ms. Jean Mazet- no comments, Mr. Bob Longo- no comments, Ms. Kathleen Bolmer-no comments, Ms. Laura Burger-no comments, Mr. Malcom Plager-no comments. Ms. Julie Gunter asked if there were cases of Inflammatory Syndrome in the Commission Area. She also asked how this data would be reported.

Mr. Kevin Sumner stated the patient's health care provider and also The Commission would report these cases to the State. Ms. Julie Gunther asked if a COVID 19 vaccine would be given through state or privately. Mr. Sumner stated that previously with H1N1 there was a combined effort although the vaccine was administered mostly through public health. Mr. Sumner stated that there was no timeline for a vaccine. President Mr. Greg Riley stated that there were approximately 60 cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome and 2/3 of these cases have tested positive for COVID 19 and wondered if they were directly linked. Ms. Fran Ellis stated that public should be getting all their immunizations. Ms. Diane Logan- no comments. Mr. Malcom Plager informed the Commission Members of a phase 3 trial that should start in September or October. Dr. Jon Fourre informed the Commission Members of the Moderna vaccination study and it might be ready in 2021. Ms. Jean Mazet asked if there are any "whistleblower" protection laws. Mr. Kevin Sumner stated that there is a link on the state website but it might be for Long Term Care Facilities. Ms. Jean Mazet gave an example of a company making employees coming back to work when not safe or not enough protections. Dr. Jon Fourre informed the Commission Members of the website that has different COVID-19 vaccination studies.

Mr. Kevin Sumner stated that the grants that the Commission had received for communicable disease can be used for COVID 19 response by Health Departments. He stated that he hopes to receive approximately \$10,000 in federal grants. He stated that Public Health Officers are under enormous pressure to open businesses due to the economy. He stated that health workers need support.

There being no further business Mr. Malcolm Plager made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm, seconded by Ms. Fran Ellis. Vote: All in favor. Motion adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Wick, Recording Secretary