

Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission
Reorganization Meeting by Zoom Conference
February 7, 2022

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission was held on the above date by Zoom Conference and called to order by Mr. Kevin Sumner by reading the Sunshine Law Notice at 7:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

Green Brook: Ms. Jean Mazet, Mr. Atul Shah

Warren: Mr. Greg Riley, Ms. Angela Valerio, Mr. Malcolm Plager

Watchung: Dr. Joel Cohen

Bridgewater: Ms. Christine Madrid, Mr. Wells Winegar

Others in attendance: Mr. Kevin Sumner, Health Officer, Ms. Diana Swiderski, Administrative Assistant, Ms. Megan Romanovich, COVID Generalist, Mr. Ronald Jubin, Watchung Council President

Members of the Public: Ms. MC Haller-Franco of Bridgewater Twp.

3. Election of the President of the Commission for year 2022 – Executive Secretary presiding:

Mr. Greg Riley was elected President of the Commission, having been nominated by M. Plager, second by A. Shah. A. Valerio moved to close nominations, second by M. Plager. All were in favor

4. Election of Vice-President of the Commission for year 2022 – Newly elected President presiding:

Mr. Wells Winegar was elected Vice-President of the Commission, having been nominated by M. Plager, second by A. Valerio. M. Plager moved to close nominations, second by C. Madrid. All were in favor

5. Election of Treasurer of the Commission for year 2022

Ms. Angela Valerio was elected Treasurer of the Commission, having been nominated by M. Plager, second by A. Shah. W. Winegar moved to close nominations, second by C. Madrid. All were in favor

6. Appointment of Executive Secretary for year 2022

Mr. Kevin Sumner was appointed Executive Secretary of the Commission, nominated by M. Plager, second by W. Winegar. All in favor

7. Appointment of Commission Physician for year 2022

Dr. Ronald M. Frank was appointed Commission Physician, nominated by J. Cohen, second by A. Valerio. All in favor

8. Introduction of Commission Members

All new and existing members, as well as new Commission employee who serves as COVID Generalist, Megan Romanovich, gave brief introductions of their backgrounds and the roles they serve.

9. Meeting Opened to the Public

G. Riley acknowledged Ms. MC Haller-Franco, a resident of Bridgewater, who had no questions but was appreciative that the meeting was open to the public.

10. Acceptance of the Minutes of December 6, 2021's Meeting

G. Riley suggested three amendments to the minutes. W. Winegar moved to adopt proposed minutes with changes, second by A. Valerio. All in favor

11. Treasurer's Reports – December 2021

W. Winegar moved to adopt the December Treasurer's Reports, second by M. Plager. All in favor

12. Unfinished Business

A. President's 2021 Message

The Message was well received and G. Riley's dedication to the Commission was acknowledged.

B. COVID-19 Update

There is general improvement. New cases are dropping significantly, with schools reporting similarly. Many of our long term care facilities are still facing outbreaks, but also showing a decline in numbers. The general decrease in cases is likely due to the high rates of vaccinations across towns.

Overall, the Commission's vaccine clinics were highly successful, but we are currently putting a pause on clinics in Green Brook Township and Watchung Hills Regional High School due to a recent decline in participation. It is believed most or all residents and students who wanted vaccines have either already received them or are not ready to receive their boosters.

Vaccinations for the 6 month through 4 year old age group, once approved, will not be administered in a public clinic setting. Physicians are uncomfortable doing so due to

the higher risk of allergic reactions in younger children and the required post vaccination holding period.

Governor Murphy will be lifting the mask mandate in schools statewide starting March 7, 2022. It will be up to the school districts to decide how they want to move forward.

C. Commission 2020 Audit

Suplee Clooney & Company matched the price that Samuel Klein and Company charged for our 2019 audit, \$4,700. We will hire them to complete our 2020 and 2021 audits.

13. New Business

A. Newest Employee – Megan Romanovich, COVID Generalist

Ms. Romanovich is a positive addition to the Commission staff, currently working on COVID outbreaks in the schools and other communicable disease investigations.

B. 2022 Holidays for the Commission

We receive 12 holidays according to the Commission personnel policy.

J. Mazet moved to adopt the Commission's 2022 holidays as presented, second by C. Madrid. All in favor

C. 2022 Salary Resolution 2022-01

W. Winegar moved to adopt the Salary Resolution for 2022, second by A. Valerio. All in favor

D. 2022 Health Benefits Waiver Resolution 2022-02

The NJ Statute permits a public employee who defers getting medical coverage to receive extra compensation up to a certain amount. It encourages them to take their spouse's healthcare coverage offered by a private or another public employer. K. Sumner has chosen to have coverage through his wife and thus receives a benefit of up to \$5,000, which is a net savings for the Commission.

W. Winegar moved to adopt the Health Benefits Waiver Resolution for 2022, second by A. Shah. All in favor

E. VNA Contract for 2022

The contract for 2022 includes the same coverage as 2021's without an increase in cost. VNA services include child health services such as pediatric physicals and immunizations, school immunization audits, blood pressure and skilled nursing, clinical sites, and the option of other services, which we have used towards COVID vaccine clinics. These services help to serve under and uninsured children and families.

W. Winegar moved to adopt the VNA Contract for 2022, second by A. Shah. All in favor

F. Resolutions for Member Communities for 2022

Each Resolution affirms each municipality as a member of the Commission, and includes the cost for their participation in the Commission and services provided.

The following figures are the approved budgeted amounts each municipality is to pay to the Commission: Bridgewater - \$111,180, Green Brook – \$103,340, Warren – \$153,552 and Watchung – \$126,989.

M. Plager made a motion to adopt the Resolutions for Bridgewater, Green Brook, Warren and Watchung for 2022, second by Dr. Cohen. All in favor

G. Appointment of Finance and Budget Committee for 2022

Bridgewater – Christine Madrid

Green Brook – Jean Mazet

Warren – Mal Plager

Watchung – Dr. Joel Cohen

H. Approval of 2022 Commission Meeting Days/Dates

The Commission agreed on holding in-person meetings on Mondays rotating through each town.

I. 2022 Local Board Meeting Schedule

Green Brook, Warren and Watchung meeting dates have been established and were provided, Bridgewater's will be forthcoming.

J. Commission Member Contact List

We will forward a member list to everyone once we receive each member's updated contact information.

K. Rabies

Within the last month, there were press releases sent out within Bridgewater and Warren Townships regarding Rabies exposures from raccoons. Both incidents were handled, however we were not made aware of the exposure in Warren until we were notified of the positive test result by NJDOH.

L. Manville – Communications about joining Commission

Manville's new administrator reached out to K. Sumner since their prior contract for Health Services has expired. Kevin is waiting to receive information on what their community needs are.

M. Branchburg – Request for Proposal to join Commission

Branchburg's Health Officer has recently resigned and the town is looking for Public Health Services. They are looking for Health Officer coverage and want to hire a REHS. K. Sumner is working on a proposal for them.

N. 2020 NJ Fatal Motor Vehicle Crash Report

Red-light cameras that were placed at stoplights turned out not to protect the public as advertised. Residents were told that they were put there to prevent drivers from running red lights, and in turn, prevent fatal motor vehicle accidents. In actuality, the 2020 NJ Fatal Motor Vehicle crash report shows that very few fatal accidents were caused by people running red lights, but rather because of drivers crossing over the center line, vehicles leaving the roadway, or hitting pedestrians. The data also shows that many of these accidents occurred because the drivers were under the influence of alcohol or were distracted.

O. Biden vs. Missouri Vaccine Case

There were two cases where the Biden Administration passed emergency rules. One required employees that worked for a facility that received Medicare or Medicaid financing to receive COVID vaccinations. The other was also mandating vaccinations to employees who worked for a company that employed over 100 people. The Supreme Court overturned that rule but approved the one for medical providers. Arguments against these rules stated that medical facilities already had such mandates in place, and that this is a public health issue, not a federal one.

14. Addendum to Agenda

There was nothing further to be added to the Agenda. However, the member of the public present, MC Haller-Franco, inquired about how to be appointed to the Commission, and where the financial documents are posted.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, A. Shah made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, seconded by M. Plager. Vote: All in favor.

Respectfully,

Diana Swiderski, Administrative Assistant