



## **MINUTES OF THE MAY 15, 2019 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**



### **Call to Order:**

The May 15, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 6:35 pm by Chairperson Colleen Labow.

### **Open Public Meetings Act Announcement:**

The Board Secretary made the following announcement: "According to the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been given to the Daily Record. Notice has been posted in the Municipal Building, 204 Flanders-Drakestown Road, Mount Olive Township, New Jersey and notices were sent to those requesting the same."

### **Roll Call:**

*Present:* Colleen Labow, Anita Cooper, Mark Kana, Laura Hawkins and Dr. Miccio (6:48 pm).

*Absent:* Dr. Wallack and Dr. Abrams

The Board Chairperson also recognized the Board of Health Secretary, Michele Doucette; Health Officer, Trevor J. Weigle; Attorney, Roman Hirniak for Peter King, and Deputy Director/Assistant Health Officer, Derrick Webb.

### **Review of the Minutes:**

The minutes of the April 17, 2019 meeting were approved on a motion by Mark Kana and second by Laura Hawkins; all members present were in favor.

### **Written Reports & Correspondence:**

The following correspondence was acknowledged:

- Email from H.O. to BOH; re: correspondence from NJDOH, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter NJ Rabies Cases
- Email from H.O. to Local Veterinarians; re: correspondence from NJDOH, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter NJ Rabies Cases
- Email from H.O. to BOH; re: MMWR Week 13 Influenza Activity Report

- Email from H.O. to BOH; re: correspondence from NJDOH, *Measles Outbreak Clinical Quick Guide*
- Memo to Business Administrator from H.O.; re: March 2019 Monthly Major Activities
- Email from H.O. to BOH; re: MMWR Week 14 Influenza Activity Report
- Email from H.O. to BOH; re: correspondence from NJDOH, *Candida auris in New Jersey: Updates and Resources*
- Email from H.O. to Local Healthcare Facilities; re: correspondence from NJDOH, *Candida auris in New Jersey: Updates and Resources*

### **Written Reports:**

The Health Officer reviewed the Public Health Activities Report for April 2019 with the Board.

Board member Kana asked what caused the Budd Lake fish kill and to what extent. The Health Officer noted there was no determination on the cause. DEP met the Deputy Director at the lake and it was determined the fish kill was due to normal reduction of oxygen in the water which happens periodically. Board member Labow asked if the company that treats the lake was notified. The Deputy Director noted they had been notified and had no comment. Board member Cooper asked the NJDEP Incident Notifications of three underground storage tanks removed with one tank failing. The Deputy Director noted the tank removals on 04/04 and 04/12 were most likely real-estate transactions. The second tank on 04/12 ruptured during a stress test resulting in a clean-up. Board member Cooper noted in the past it was sufficient to pump the tanks and board member Labow responded it used to be but now there is a process for tank removal.

Board member Cooper asked if the Health Department inspects motel rooms the same as apartments. The Deputy Director noted that the health department does not inspect motel rooms. Those inspections are done by the NJ DCA (Department of Consumer Affairs) and that the health department inspects multi-dwellings. The Deputy Director reported that on 04/15 there was a bloodborne contamination incident at the Marriot Residence Inn due to a suicide attempt.

The Public Health Activities report for April 2019 was approved on a motion by Mark Kana and second by Anita Cooper; all present were in favor.

### **New Business:**

The Health Officer made the 2018 State of the Health of the Municipality report; he highlighted the following:

- The Mt. Olive Health Improvement Coalition was created to begin work on a community health assessment (CHA) and community health improvement plan. The Coalition met twice in 2018 and twice in 2019 with the next meeting scheduled for next week. The first goal of the Coalition is to complete a draft CHA. The CHA will prioritize the issues discovered in the health assessment and will work on interventions to deal with those issues.

- A team working on Accreditation meets twice a month. The team has been working on several efforts including a quality improvement plan and quality improvement projects.
- In 2018 the focus was on two quality improvement projects; a customer satisfaction survey, and an animal bite tracking system. The animal bite tracking system is for following up on and ensuring that post bite information is given to the resident in case prophylaxis is necessary.
- The Department continued working on a workforce development plan with the US Region 2 Public Health Training Center, specifically on a core competency survey with the staff. This survey will determine how staff is meeting those competencies and what training staff needs.
- Continued working on updating the strategic plan and populating our performance management system. The performance management system is used to track progress towards different goals and objectives. The Department is also working on a branding policy and various standard operating procedures and standard operating guidelines.
- Administration distributed gifts to 50 children of 24 families for holiday gift program.
- Administration distributed over 60 donated gift cards to needy individuals.
- Administration hosted three interns from local colleges.
- Animal control investigated 13 cruelty allegations with 11 resulting in direct action, including one indictment.
- Animal control investigated 40 animal bite cases, referring nine individuals for emergency post exposure treatment.
- Animal control held two free rabies clinics, vaccinating over 400 pets.
- Environmental Health educated public pool operators/owners on changes to the State bathing code.
- Environmental Health initiated a protocol for surveillance and response to harmful algae blooms on Budd Lake.
- Environmental Health advised the State Health Department on changes to the retail food establishment regulations.
- Public Health Nursing investigated over 230 reports of potential infectious diseases to prevent their spread in the community.
- Public Health Nursing had over 400 residents benefit from free and low-cost clinics and health screenings.
- Public Health Nursing administered 577 influenza vaccinations.
- Public Health Nursing investigated three incidents of measles exposures of travelers from flights into Newark International Airport
- Passed a Resolution on immunization religious exemptions.
- The Health Education had a monthly spot on WNJR radio station. The health educator participated in six interviews on the Mike in the Morning show; unfortunately the show is no longer on the air.
- Health Education conducted key informant interviews and focus groups with township residents to understand the health needs of Mount Olive.
- Senior Transportation more than doubled (110% increase) the number of medical transports for seniors compared to 2016. With 1,000 rides in 2016 compared to 2,099 in 2018.

- Senior Transportation signed up 58 new seniors for transportation services.
- Senior Transportation hosted the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Township Senior Picnic.
- There were 10 fewer cats and 81 fewer dogs licensed in 2018 than 2017 and it is believed that was due to not conducting a census in 2018. Board member Labow asked if the census is mandatory. The Health Officer noted the census is not mandatory in any jurisdiction anymore.
- The numbers did not fluctuate much in Environmental Health for inspections. The totals had a slight decrease in septic plan reviews and an increase in O.P.R.A. requests due to the fluctuation in the housing market.
- The Public Health Nursing activities had a decrease in Influenza Vaccinations due to other facilities getting larger quantities of the vaccine sooner, charging less or nothing and having more convenient hours than the Health Department. It was noted that individual influenza cases are not reported to the Health Department, only outbreaks.
- Financials for 2018 does not include expenses. We will attempt to obtain that information next year.
- When comparing Mount Olive's 2018 causes of deaths to the overall State, both saw Heart Disease as the leading cause of death and Cancer as the second.

The Health Educator Samantha Buna presented the Community Health Assessment Draft on behalf of the Mount Olive Health Improvement Coalition. The presentation included:

- Executive Summary
  - During a 13-month period extending from April, 2018 to May 2019 health assessment of Mount Olive was planned, implemented and reported.
- Process Overview
  - The community health assessment process included 4 distinct phases: 1) Reflect and Strategize, 2) Identify and Engage Stakeholders, 3) Define the Community, and 4) Collect and Analyze Data.
- Demographic Profile and Relevant Health Statistics
  - Mount Olive is a Township in Morris County, New Jersey. The township has a total area of 31 square miles, including 29 square miles of land and 2 square miles of water.
- Analysis of Quantitative Finding of the Community Health Survey
  - This summary presents the responses of people who live in Mount Olive Township (zip codes 07828 and 07836) who completed the 2018 Community Voice Survey and how they compare to responses from across Morris County.
- Analysis of Quantitative findings of Key Informant Interviews and Focus Groups
  - This section summarizes findings and themes obtained from key informant interviews and focus groups conducted in Mount Olive. These are the themes participants believe affect the health and wellbeing of the community (in no particular order): Access to Transportation, Sidewalk Safety, Environmental Issues, Mental Health, Substance Use, Access to Information & Resources, Education and Outreach, Community Engagement, Financial Limitations, Senior Physical Limitations, Social Media, Access to Affordable Housing and Health care Access.
- Conclusion
  - As the analysis and examples in this report have demonstrated, a wide array of factors influence the community's health.

Michelle Lerner one of the co-founders of Mt. Olive Trap, Neuter and Return (MOTNR) program presented the TNR 2018 Annual Report to the Board. Ms. Lerner noted most of the volunteers are Mt Olive residents and all the volunteers present are Mt. Olive residents. Last year was the 9<sup>th</sup> year of TNR making this August our tenth anniversary. As of 2018 MOTNR considered the Township a kitten free zone. There are currently twenty-eight feral cats in town which are all neutered and are mostly senior with some teenagers. The total intake of stray cats either coming off the streets or out of impoundment was twenty-nine. Seventeen were from the pound and seven were strays. In 2008 a year before TNR was started there were there 181 cats impounded and 141 euthanized. As of 2018 there were 18 cats impounded and zero euthanized which is a 90% drop in impoundment and a 100% drop in euthanization. In 2008 before TNR was started the town spent \$20,000 on impoundment and euthanasia. In 2018 the town spent \$4,803, which included some extended boarding so that some cats could be adopted and receive veterinary care. Of the 14 remaining feral cat colonies; eight are down to one cat, one colony has two cats, two colonies have three cats each, one colony has five cats and one has seven cats which started with 21 cats. All cats have had a least one rabies vaccine with most having a second and third. Every spring the volunteers trap and revaccinate as many as possible, they will start this Saturday. TNR helps residents when they lose a cat with trapping and hanging flyers. TNR helps low income residents get their cats spayed and neutered. A recent concern is with Mt. Olive contracting with other towns that do not allow TNR. Ms. Lerner noted that the Mayor informed her that Mt. Olive will not continue with these shared service contracts once they expire. Until the contracts expire TNR will assist the health department with finding barn placements or other placement for the impounded feral cats from those towns. Ms. Lerner thanked the MOTNR volunteers for their work.

Board member Kana thanked MOTNR on a great job. He asked why would a town object to a TNR program and who would be the one to start it. Ms. Lerner noted that ignorance would be why a town would object to a TNR program and either the health department or council could initiate a TNR program.

Board member Labow noted she was reluctant to TNR when Ms. Lerner had first approached her and now Mt. Olive is the model for a TNR program for other towns.

Board member Hawkins congratulated the TNR program on their success.

Health Officer Weigle noted in his twenty five plus years working in the health departments he had only experienced failed TNR programs until Mt. Olive and as the Deputy Director noted, it is a tribute to the good work done by the volunteers.

**Ordinance on First Reading:**

None

**Ordinance on Second Reading:**

None

## **Resolutions:**

### **RESOLUTION NO. BOH 2019-08**

#### **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION CLARIFYING EXEMPTIONS FROM MANDATORY IMMUNIZATIONS FOR STUDENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Health of the Township of Mount Olive provides public health services to the municipalities of Dover, Mine Hill, Mount Arlington, Mount Olive, Netcong, and Wharton, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Health of the Township of Mount Olive has held and continues to hold a position in support of vaccination, and;

**WHEREAS**, on March 5, 2018 the Senate referred Bill No. 2173 clarifying statutory exemptions from mandatory immunizations for students to the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee for consideration, and;

**WHEREAS**, on April 5, 2018 the Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee released from Committee Assembly Bill No. 3818 for consideration by the full Assembly, and;

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2019 Assembly Bill No. 3818 was amended eliminating all exemptions except medical exemptions, and;

**WHEREAS**, vaccines have made it possible to eradicate smallpox worldwide, saving approximately 5 million lives annually, and vaccines have drastically reduced the spread of potentially life-threatening diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, and rubella; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends all states and the District of Columbia use their public health authority to eliminate nonmedical exemptions from immunization requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, encouraging high vaccination rates in New Jersey protect our residents from contracting vaccine preventable diseases that are found in areas with low immunization rates; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Health of the Township of Mount Olive recognizes that a lack of vaccination can cause a true public health crisis, and that there is no credible evidence to suggest that vaccines are not safe; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Health<sup>1</sup> reported that 12,410 religious exemptions were reported for the 2017-2018 school year, an increase of over 2,000 from the prior year, and;

**WHEREAS**, the scientific evidence that vaccines are safe is overwhelming<sup>2</sup>, and;

**WHEREAS**, the proposed legislation does not preclude an exemption when valid medical contraindication is present, and;

**WHEREAS**, the decrease in vaccination rates poses a serious risk to public health<sup>3</sup>, and;

**WHEREAS**, outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases, such as measles, pertussis, and mumps, are on the rise<sup>4</sup>, including recent outbreaks in New Jersey, and;

**WHEREAS**, there is concern that vaccination rates have fallen below the recommended number to provide herd immunity to protect those who cannot be vaccinated.<sup>5</sup>

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Health of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey fully supports the proposed amended legislation and urges the legislature to pass the bills promptly.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that upon passage by the New Jersey State Legislature that the Board of Health of the Township of Mount Olive urges the Governor to sign the bill into law promptly.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the State Legislators representing the municipalities of Dover, Mine Hill, Mount Arlington, Mount Olive, Netcong, and Wharton, the Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, the President of the New Jersey State Senate, and the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health

The Resolution was approved on a motion by Anita Cooper and second by Mark Kana; all present were in favor.

Board member Kana asked for a summary of the Resolution. Health Officer noted the Resolution would support state legislation to remove the religious exemption from mandated child vaccinations. Board member Cooper asked if the exemption would only be for medical reasons. The Health Officer noted yes only medical exemptions. The Health Officer noted the Resolution instructions are to send a signed copy to our State Legislators, the State Health Department and the Governor's office showing support in that effort.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

The Health Officer noted at the last board meeting there was some interest in a discussion about the private well test which revealed an exceedance in gross alpha. The Health department attorney said we must have that discussion in a closed session. That would involve going into executive session which would close the public portion of the meeting. The public would then clear the room. Board member Cooper said she was interested in having the executive session. The Health Officer said it would be put on the agenda for the next meeting so the public would have notice.

#### **Legal Business:**

None

#### **Public Portion:**

None

#### **Board Comments:**

Board member Cooper asked to have a discussion on banning plastic bags in Mt Olive and have it put on the agenda for the next meeting. She noted that the banning of cigarette vending machines fifteen years ago in Mt. Olive started with discussions.

Board member Hawkins noted at the last board meeting an ordinance to ban vaping was discussed. The Health Officer noted that there is already State legislation banning any type of smoking in schools and on school grounds. Board member Miccio asked if there is any age restriction to buying vaping products. Deputy Director noted he is reviewing ordinances attorney Peter King sent him. The Health Officer noted he will reach out to Karen Blumenfeld of NJGASP to schedule a presentation on vaping. Board member Labow asked the Board Secretary to obtain a copy of the smoking ordinance from the Township Clerk and send it to the board members.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm on a motion by Mark Kana and second by Anita Cooper; all members present were in favor.

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**Colleen Labow**  
**Chairperson**

I, Michele Doucette, Mount Olive Township Board of Health Secretary, do hereby certify that the foregoing Minutes are a true and correct copy of the Minutes approved at a legally convened meeting of the Mount Olive Township Board of Health duly held on June 19, 2019.

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**Michele Doucette**  
**Board of Health Secretary**