

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH MARCH 21, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Bloomfield Board of Health, as established by public record in *The Independent Press* and posted on the Public Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building, was called to order on March 21, 2019 at 6:36 p.m. in Room 111 in the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL

Director Lore showed the following members to be present:

Joel Elkins, President	Present
Dr. Ruchi Mehta, Vice President	Present
Antonia Rodriguez, Member	Present
Denise Serbay, Member	Absent
Jody Polidoro, Member	Absent (present at 6:49pm)
Council Liaison Wartyna Davis	Absent

Also present: Karen Lore, Director of Health & Welfare.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, reviewed the February 21, 2019 Re-Organizational and Regular Meeting minutes.

After review, BM Rodriguez noted two corrections to the Regular Meeting minutes. The Director noted the changes and the February Regular Meeting minutes will be placed on Agenda for approval at the April meeting.

The Board unanimously approved the Re-Organizational meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

LICENSES PENDING APPROVAL – FEBRUARY 2019

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, unanimously approved the following licenses for the month of February 2019:

Trade Name	License Class	Application Fee
PURE LOVE PIES	Deli/Café/Market	\$100.00
HOLSTEN'S-BROOKDALE CONFECTIONERY	1 Restaurant G	\$100.00
IHOP #4677	3 Restaurant	\$300.00

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PUPUSAS TO GO	1 Restaurant G	\$100.00
PARKVIEW BOARDING HOUSE	Nursing/Boarding Home	\$30.00
CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL OF COLORADO, LLC	1 Restaurant G Deli/Café/Market-With Seating	\$100.00
HEAVENLY BITES	Deli/Café/Market	\$100.00
HEAVENLY FLAVORS	3 Restaurant	\$300.00
EVERY PARTY WE CATER	BEAUTY/BAR 1-4	\$75.00
MAJESTIC STYLEZ	CHILD CARE FAC	\$30.00
TINY TREASURES	EXEMPT	\$0.00
ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH		

REVIEW OF THE FEBRUARY 2019 COMMUNICATIONS

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, reviewed and unanimously voted to accept the February 2019 communications.

FEBRUARY 2019 FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, unanimously voted to accept the February 2019 Financial Reports.

DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND WELFARE REPORT

The Director provided the following report to the Board:

- The department has been hard at work in preparing for a NJDOH audit scheduled for next week. Our team spearheaded by Assistant HO Jill Scarpa has been working to help ensure a satisfactory audit. Preparations have included conducting an emergency call down drill, developing and updating policy and procedures, cultural competency training for staff, verification of all trainings and licenses, review of community partnership agreements and MOU's, ensuring all plans are updated and all of the other typical audit requirements.
- The Director also commended Jill Scarpa and Mike Fitzpatrick for their hard work in completing the Madison audit with the very favorably outcome of having substantially met requirements.
- Employee performance reviews and development plans have been completed for all of our employees. Supervisors received training on how to conduct the reviews and each employee was responsible to complete a "competency assessment" prior to the review to assist with prioritizing their learning needs.
- The Township of Bloomfield held its Groundbreaking Ceremony for the upcoming Lion Gate Municipal Complex project. Attendees included township officials, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, county, state and local officials. The project will re-purpose the 18.2 acre site creating a soccer field, a children's park and walking paths along Third River. It was noted that by removing a little over four acres of upland historic fill in this densely developed area and converting it to a functioning floodplain wetland, the

project will restore valuable ecological functions, increase flood storage capacity, enhance wildlife habitat and provide additional recreational opportunities for residents.

- The Human Services division along with the Bloomfield College nursing students and NTNN will be hosting their 5th senior extravaganza with the theme “Hollywood comes to Bloomfield” where everyone will be a winner. The event will be held May 3rd at the Knights on Broad Street from 3:30-5:30. Registration is required as the event fills quickly. If you have never attended the event I would encourage you to stop by to say hello. The seniors love it!
- Following the public meeting on lead we were anticipating a surge in requests for filters. So far this hasn’t happened. We are distributing about 10-20 filters per day. We have seen an increase in requests for water testing. The Health Department continues to work to educate people on exposure that is of particular concern with regard to lead, which is paint, household items and other sources not related to water. To date we have distributed 810 faucet attachments, 969 pitchers. Ample supplies are available for any resident still wanting a filter. The Director commended the efforts of Ernest Gonzalez, Lisa McMahan and Janice Fox for their hard work and professionalism while dealing with this situation.
- Along with Engineering Dep’t & DPW we performed water sampling on our three (3) interconnections in Town. Samples collected for THM/Haa5 (Trihalomethanes/halo-acetic acids) for Township purposes and not the required samples for E2 (NJ State reporting). Lab picked up samples on 3-6-19.
- This week our nurses attended the Virtual Dementia Tour hosted by the Suburban Essex Nursing Supervisors Association (SENSA). The Virtual Dementia Tour physically and emotionally enabled participants a chance to live in the shoes of a dementia patient for a few minutes by wearing goggles and headphones that mimic vision and hearing impairments as well as wearing gloves and shoe inserts that mimic arthritis and other neurological ailments. Dementia and Alzheimer’s is a debilitating disease that deteriorates a person’s memory and mental functions. The experience provided valuable insight for caregivers and other professionals.
- BMAC in collaboration with the department will be providing vaping education courses to Bloomfield High School juniors during health classes. The first educational presentation will be on April 1st, 2019 to all 4 junior health classes. Vaping was noted as a topic of interest by the high school administration. We hope to expand the vaping presentations to all grades as well as include presentations to parents and guardians.
- The health education team was invited to attend a training given by the Essex County Prosecutors Office. The presentation “Know Your Rights Immigration and Bias Issues Q&A” supports our current grant with The Center of Excellence for Latino Health. Currently the grant’s focus is to form Latino wellness ministries within our churches that support the Bloomfield Latino

population. Receiving proper and culturally competent training will allow us to enhance the relationship with the Latino community here in Bloomfield.

- Maya Lordo attended the Essex County Governmental Public Health Partnership (GPHP) meeting. This meeting was the first of its kind to be held since 2006. GPHP and Office of Health Services engages local health departments, hospitals, community service providers, local businesses and other partners to assess community and clinical linkages and coordinate resources. Bloomfield Health Department will engage in assisting with the creation of the Essex County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).
- With assistance from Councilwoman Cruz we were able to bring Tony's Kitchen healthy knapsack program to Carteret school. As a result, each week 200 students will receive a backpack full of healthy food items that they can bring home to reduce food insecurities and promote healthy eating. Carteret School was very receptive and the program will start on March 8, 2019 where grades k-2 will receive a knapsack one week and grades 3-6th grade will receive a knapsack on the alternate weeks. Also working with Millennium Strategies, Councilwoman Cruz, and Peggy Healy regarding submission of garden grant to Partners for Health. If accepted, the grant will provide support for Millbank Garden.
- Last year, the NTNN and Human Services collaborated with Knock Knock Sock, Give a Sock to distribute 25,000 pairs of new socks to over 30 agencies that provide services to homeless and low-income residents. The homeless cannot access washing machines and dryers on a regular basis and therefore their socks become wet and soiled. Providing them with multiple pairs, enables them to stay clean and warm. This year, thanks to the help of Councilwoman Davis, the MLK Day of Service will be collaborating with NTNN and Human Services enabling us to increase our reach and distribute up to 50,000 pairs of socks. This project will take place on April 10, 2019 at the New Light Baptist Church thanks to the generosity of Reverend Miller and his parish.
- Preparations are underway outlining spring canvassing schedule for Quality of Life Inspectors. The canvassing of areas throughout town will be to inform residents on property maintenance issues, proper disposal of grease, garbage and rodent related concerns. A template for a door hanger was drafted to distribute when canvassing a neighborhood to let residents know that we have been in the area and ways they can assist to keep the neighborhood well maintained.
- As a follow up on previous reporting on the DCA accepting applications for their lottery. Of the 100 applications submitted to the lottery, we were able to secure 8 vouchers. Residents who were selected were ecstatic as this will enable them to access affordable housing.
- BMAC supported the Bloomfield High School's first ever lock-in event. The lock-in was an event hosted at the high school on February 22, 2019, to encourage healthy relationships among females. The lock-in was an overnight stay and included the high school's two crisis counselors and 10 girls. A speaker

provided an empowering presentation that was well received by the staff and students involved. Dinner, breakfast and giveaways were provided by BMAC.

- The Nurses participated in the Regional Epidemiology Program (REP) Communicable Disease Forum on Tuesday, February 26th 2019. They were provided in-depth training and resources regarding communicable disease outbreaks in daycare centers and school settings, as well as information regarding influenza and other respiratory virus outbreaks. Additionally, awareness and education on the rise of sexually transmitted diseases in NJ, updates on foodborne disease surveillance and information regarding the recent increase in cases of Hepatitis A among homeless and drug using populations particularly in several South Jersey counties. This informative session will assist when educating patients and the public as we continue help prevent illness and disease within Bloomfield.
- The Nurses also held a Memory Assessment screening his week. The screening was provided by the Hackensack Meridian Health Mountainside Medical Center Community Health Division. The Memory Assessment Screening asks a series of questions and has the participant complete a series of pen-and-paper tasks. Each question and task carries a score which is totaled at the end of the assessment to determine risk for memory impairment, if any. The one on one memory assessment can be used to address memory loss, risks and hygiene. Those who scores indicated a possible memory impairment were referred for further evaluation and follow-up.
- The Department has partnered with NJ Shares Network and Mountainside Hospital to host events that focus on education of organ donation for National Donate Life Month in April. We will be having events in March and April to promote education about the program. Two tabling events are scheduled at the library on March 14, 15. A NJ Shares program recipient will also be there to share his/her story on organ donation. .Also stay tuned for The April "Health Beat" show where we will have a guest who has received an organ to tell their story.
- The Bloomfield Health Department and EZ-rides continues its partnership to strive for more award points through NJTPA's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. Oak View school and Watsessing have been participating in collecting data for students travel practices to and from school. SRTS travel tally report and results from Oak View show that ~37-40% of students currently walk to and from school and 0% ride bikes. Watsessing School ~ 38-48% of students currently walk to and from school and 0% ride bikes. We hope you can use this to encourage parents who currently drive to support kids to walk/bike as a means of daily exercise or to carpool as a way to reduce traffic congestion at arrival/dismissal and to reduce pollution to help the environment. We are looking forward to *Walk to School* days that will be starting in April.
- The Department attended its first wellness committee meeting at Watsessing School. Present at the meet was the regional supervisor for SNAP-ED

education Jamie Held. Thanks to their collaboration with us, SNAP-ED now hosts 4th grade nutrition and cooking classes at Watsessing School. Additionally, Partners for Health Foundation has offered \$10,000 in funds to provide Berkeley school with equipment and other necessary tools to implement Breakfast After the Bell. The school has not yet made a decision on implementing the breakfast program.

- Bloomfield Human Services, NTNN, and Bloomfield College Nursing Students have been collaborating over the last few years to provide socialization to seniors. This program was started to help the college students get to know seniors in the community outside of a hospital setting. This has been a highly successful multi-generational program. Numerous agencies have come to consult with our staff on how to implement the program in their communities. In March the students will be working with seniors at Felicity Towers providing a hot of activities where seniors get to socialize with the students and share their life experiences.
- The Bloomfield Department of Health and Human Services (BDHHS) posted information on Twitter about numerous health topics: Patient Safety Awareness Week (March 10-16), National Endometriosis Month, National Colorectal Cancer Month, Sleep Awareness Week (March 10-16), National Nutrition Month, Trisomy Awareness Month, National Kidney Month, the importance of pneumonia vaccinations, vape battery explosions, mindfulness, among other topics. In addition, BDHHS promoted several events on Facebook, Twitter and the website and sent information to local media when applicable. These included a program at the Library on organ and tissue donation (sponsored by Mountainside Medical Center and NJ Sharing Network), the latest episode of the Health Beat radio show, a program on suicide prevention at Bloomfield High School and our upcoming skin cancer and blood test screenings.
- Our first Environmental Hazard Tabling Event was held during Child Health Conference, we spoke to several parents regarding lead prevention and poisoning, lead water tests and environmental hazards. We also developed resident surveys to be completed to help us identify their environmental hazard needs.
- The following lead education and screening events for March are;
03.14.19- Tabling/Screening Event at daycare center at Kiddie World
155 Grove Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003
03.19.19- Lead education session for prenatal workshop Presented in Spanish Kinder Smiles Foundation, 10 Broad Street Bloomfield, NJ 07003
03.28.19- Lead education session for prenatal workshop Presented in Spanish Kinder Smiles Foundation, 10 Broad Street Bloomfield, NJ 07003
- The responsible beverage training held on March 6, 2019 at the civic center had 15 local business members who serve alcoholic beverages at their establishments in attendance. The training is one strategy to help prevent drunk driving fatalities and injuries in our community. The goal is to empower

business owners and equip staff with knowledge of liability and responsibility when serving alcohol. The course was fully funded by our partner ADAPT, Essex County's substance abuse coalition. We are hoping to schedule another training in May, 2019.

COUNCIL LIAISON'S REPORT

No report.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

"Update on Rodent Control Plan/Policy"

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, unanimously voted to open discussion on this topic. Updated Board on meeting held with Sentry pest control to review methods in place to control rodent population and what they are seeing in the area they are baiting. Enforcement and education efforts were reviewed. Discussion ensued on birth control product approved by FDA that cities are considering which is used in the same way as poison. Males that ingest it become infertile and females who take it reach menopause quicker. This causes rats to die of natural causes without giving birth to thousands of offspring. A discussion ensued on the benefits of using this method however this approach is a long term solution to addressing the problem since the rat does not die but it can't reproduce. Reproduction from 1 male and 1 female is 15,000 in offspring in a one year period.

The pest company reported that when baiting they observed properties where garbage was uncovered and overflowing. Any garbage problems observed while baiting will now be photographed and sent to inspector to cite the property owner. Inspectors will also be canvassing the areas and ramping up education efforts. Additional recommendations for residents, will be provided in our rodent management plan. We are also reviewing our current ordinance to make recommendations on how to strengthen it.

"Ordinance – An Ordinance to Amend Salary Ordinance (second reading)"

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, unanimously voted to approve the following ordinance amendment on its 2nd reading:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING TITLES AND ESTABLISHING SALARY RANGES FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH, TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD" IS HERETOFORE AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED

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WHEREAS, certain titles need to be adjusted/created based on additional tasks current employees are performing and in order to be consistent with New Jersey Civil Service titles, it is necessary to amend the Board of Health salary ordinance to create/amend these positions;

NOW AND THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Health of the Township of Bloomfield, New Jersey:

Section 1. That section, "Salary Range Per Annum" of an ordinance entitled "*An Ordinance Adopting Titles and Establishing Salary Ranges for Officers and Employees of the Board of Health, Township of Bloomfield*" is hereby amended and supplemented so that the same shall read as follows: The following positions are hereby created and established in the Civil Service of the Board of Health, Township of Bloomfield and opposite each title and position there is established the salary range for such position.

Position Title	Effective March 21, 2019
Lead Poisoning Inspector/Senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist	\$55,000 - \$81,400
Seasonal Worker (hourly)	\$15.00 - \$15.00

Section 2. All employees hired after January 1, 1977 shall have a salary range of seven steps, except those positions indicated in "Chapter 324, Officers and Employees of the Board of Health."

Section 3. Employees covered under this ordinance terminating their services with the Board of Health, shall be paid one-twelfth (1/12) of their annual salary for each complete month employed by the Board. Such employees working a part of a month shall be paid for the actual days worked in the final month of employment to be calculated at the rate of one-tenth (1/10) of the bi-weekly salary multiplied by the actual number of days worked in the final month of employment.

Section 4. All ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect according to law.

"Discussion – Board of Health Board Member Orientation"

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, unanimously voted to open discussion on this topic.

The Director reviewed the process being considered for new Board member orientation. She distributed logon instructions for the NJLBOH where member can receive free online trainings. It was requested that if members receive a training certificates that it be sent to the administrative staff for our records. Instructions on where to provide the certifications and the information to attach was reviewed. The Director also informed that the logon information discussed would also be email along with additional training opportunities for their consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

“DISCUSSION – SUPPORT ANIMAL IN PUBLIC PLACES”

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, unanimously voted to open discussion on this topic.

Following concern with regard to an increasing amount of animals being taken into food establishments and potential health and safety concerns, The Director discussed 2 articles provided to the Board on the regulation of service animals and ADA protections for services animal vs. animal support animals. Discussion ensued on what steps the Board might consider for enforcement of regulations. It was determined that enforcement would be difficult as the law does not require that an individual provide proof of their animal’s classification as a service dog. Legislation is currently pending to place significant fines on individuals claiming that an emotional support dog is a service dog. However, until such legislation is passes the department will education to inform the public on the law and what types of animals are allowed in public spaces and those that are not.

“ROLL CALL RESOLUTION – HUMAN SERVICES DATABSE PROPOSAL”

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by BM Polidoro, opened discussion on this topic.

Upon discussion, the Board voted as follows:

The Board authorizes the Director of Health & Welfare to enter into a Non-Fair and Open 3 year contract with Social Solutions to provide case management tracking, data collection and other forms of data entry via software for the Bloomfield Board of Health not to exceed \$17,500 per year.

ROLL CALL VOTE

BOARD MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
JOEL ELKINS	✓			
ANTONIA RODRIGUEZ	✓			
Dr. RUCHI MEHTA	✓			
DENISE SERBAY	✓			
JODY POLIDORO	✓			

CLOSED SESSION

The Board, seeing no matters to be discussed in closed session, continued its regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, unanimously voted to adjourn the March 21, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health of the Township of Bloomfield, County of Essex, State of New Jersey at 7:30p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Karen Lore, Director of Health and Welfare
Secretary to the Board