



## **Orange Board of Health Minutes**

January 10, 2022

(Zoom Meeting)

Members in Attendance: Kristy Macci, Michelle Tenney, Scott Rocchio, Anne Jasorkowski, Sanjay Aggarwal, Ron Castillo, and Norman Marieb

Members Absent: Sohail Kayani and Joseph Kim

Staff in Attendance: Amir Mohammed, Brian Slugoski, Lisa Pimenta, Terri Waldron, and Lynn Beckham

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

### 1. 2022-2023 Budget

- Ms. Macci introduced Lynn Beckham, the new part-time Public Health Nurse. Ms. Beckham gave a brief history of her previous work experiences.
- Ms. Macci noted that the 2022-2023 budget was submitted to the Orange Board of Finance with no marked increases.

### 2. Old Business

- There was no old business to discuss at this time.

### 3. New Business

- Ms. Macci reported that the Orange Board of Finance approved \$25k funding from the American Rescue Plan Act for a three-month pilot Covid-19 Mitigation Plan.
- Mr. Slugoski submitted the Annual Report to the Department of Public Health. Dr. Mohammed gave an update on the most recent activities of the Orange Department of Health, which include providing vaccinations to those homebound and offering vaccinations, (including the Pfizer vaccine), to the pediatric population.
- Dr. Roccio and Ms. Tenney discussed proper verbiage and representation for the segment of the Orange population that prefers not to get vaccinated for a variety of personal reasons. Ms. Macci noted that there is currently an Executive Order from the Governor until the end of February regarding mask mandates. A lengthy discussion ensued in which all points of view were heard. Ms. Tenney shared two articles with the Board and asked that the members respectfully read them.

- Mr. Slugoski noted that for the month of February there has been a sharp increase in the numbers of Covid cases, but, at the same time, the severity of the symptoms has been milder, with less people in the hospital. He added that the “breakthrough” cases also have milder symptoms.
- Dr. Mohammed explained that the mechanism used for reporting communicable diseases has been in plan for several decades, and Mr. Slugoski attempted to explain how he conducts the contract tracing and the reporting of cases.
- Dr. Roccio felt that the data coming from the State is incorrect and that social distancing, masks, remote learning, quarantining, and vaccinations have not been successful in combatting the pandemic, but rather, have actually prolonged it. He cited that natural immunity, allowing this respiratory virus to circulate and eventually die out, is the better alternative. Dr. Mohammed, on the other hand, felt that a decrease in mortality is proof that the vaccination rollout is working. Ms. Tenney would like the Orange Board of Health to consider promoting the idea of boosting one’s own natural immunity as a viable alternative to vaccinations.

The meeting concluded at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick  
Recording Secretary