



Approved

Orange Board of Health Minutes

February 21, 2022

Clark Building

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

Members Absent: Sohail Kayani, Sanjay Aggarwal, and Joseph Kim

Staff in Attendance: Amir Mohammed, Brian Slugoski, and Lynn Beckham

Staff Absent: Lisa Pimenta and Terri Waldron

Mr. Marieb made a motion to call the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Castillo seconded the motion and it PASSED unanimously.

1. Staff Reports

- Mr. Slugoski discussed the full scope of his work completed, from COVID updates to restaurant inspections. His staff report was distributed electronically prior to the meeting. He noted that the COVID take home kits are being documented and the overall infection rates are slowly decreasing. He also added that there have been a number of "breakthrough" COVID cases. It was noted that Dr. Byars reported that 82% of the Orange student population has been vaccinated.

2. Mission and Vision Statement for the Orange Board of Health

- Ms. Macci distributed a copy of the Orange Board of Health Mission and Vision Statement, which was drafted about two years ago. She asked that the members review this draft and bring suggestions and feedback to the next meeting. Ms. Jasorkowski will review the Orange Charter Sections 9.5 and 9.6 for better clarification of their specific role as the Orange Board of Health. Further discussion was tabled until their next month.

3. OVNA Report

- In the absence of Ms. Pimenta and Ms. Waldron, Dr. Mohammed spoke on the work being conducted at OVNA, including reporting mandatory communicable diseases as well as PPT testing for the school and jobs. Ms. Beckham reported on their first COVID vaccination clinic held at High Plains Community Center. She stated that there was a good turnout and it was successful. There were balloons and juice boxes for the children coming for vaccinations to replicate a pediatric clinic. A second clinic is scheduled for February 16th.

4. New Business

- Dr. Mohammed noted that with a decrease in the COVID infection rate, coupled with the fact that 50% of elementary school children are vaccinated, his recommendation is that face masks be made optional throughout the school district. It was noted that Dr. Byars reported that 82% of the Orange student population have been vaccinated. While this is his recommendation, the final decision will come from the Orange Board of Education and the Quinnipiac Health District.

5. Building Immunity in our Community – Ms. Tenney

- Ms. Tenney would like to promote an educational approach to boosting immunity and good health. Others on the Board also felt that preventive medicine is being proactive and a wise approach. One suggestion was blood pressure screening. Ms. Tenney spoke about signage she has used in the past to reduce smoking. Dr. Mohammed pointed out that while this approach to boost one's immunity is valuable, it does not guarantee that someone will not become infected with COVID. Ms. Tenney agreed, but she would like to see this information on their website. Mr. Slugoski suggested a handout be available at Town Hall and indicated that he would be willing to make them available at his desk.
- The Recording Secretary advised that the next Orange Board of Health meeting is scheduled for March 14th at the High Plains Community Center cafeteria.

Ms. Tenney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m., seconded by Dr. Marieb. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick
Recording Secretary