

**CITY OF ENGLEWOOD**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING**

**May 13, 2009**

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Health, City of Englewood, Bergen County, was called to order at 8:12 p.m. by Dianna Lachman, President, Board of Health.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dianna Lachman, President; Lisa Levien, Vice President; Bertha-Nora Acosta, JoEllen Bostick, Stephanie Davis, Dr. Earl A. Marsan, and Dr. Lisa Wisotsky.

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Richard A. Lustgarten, Esq., Board of Health Attorney; Nelson Xavier Cruz, Director, Health Services/Health Officer/Secretary to the Board; and Janet Kast, Confidential Executive Secretary.

Mr. Cruz read the O.P.M.A. Statement, as follows:

**O.P.M.A. STATEMENT**

Adequate notice of this meeting was given, in compliance with the Sunshine Law, and published in The Record, The Press Journal, posted on the bulletin board at City Hall, and on the City's web page, all at least 48 hours prior to the date of this meeting. The Secretary of the Board has on file a copy of the notice for appropriate retention.

- 2-7. **Motion to approve Items #2 (Minutes of April 15, 2009 Meeting - Open/Closed); #3 (Receipts - April 2009); #4 (Bills - April 2009); #5 (Employee Reports - April 2009); #6 (Communications - April 2009); and #7 (Digest of Mail - April 2009).**

Cash receipts for the month of April 2009 were \$26,475.00. Vouchers/Orders for Payment for April 2009 were \$5,106.11. Non-budget payments were \$3,371.21.

Motion to approve Items 2-7 together was made by Ms. Bostick, and seconded by Dr. Marsan. Motion was approved 7-0.

8. **Motion to Approve Retail Licenses - April 2009**

Ms. Lachman asked Mr. Cruz if there were any objections to the licenses being renewed. He said there were none. Motion to approve retail licenses for the month of April 2009 was made by Ms. Bostick, and seconded by Ms. Davis. Motion was approved 7-0.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **9. Resolution No. 09-11 - Appointment of Reach & Teach Youth Health Educator**

Mr. Cruz read Resolution No. 09-11 appointing Sheena Stanislaus to the position of Community Youth Health Educator for the Reach & Teach program, effective May 4, 2009, in its entirety. Motion to approve Resolution No. 09-11 was made by Ms. Bostick, and seconded by Ms. Acosta. Motion was approved 7-0.

### **10. Board Liaison Reports**

Members of the Board reported on their experiences at various City board meetings, and questioned the relevance of their attendance. Other methods of staying informed on the issues and activities that might relate to the Health Department were discussed, such as having a point person on each of the boards or reading the minutes of the meetings. It was decided to address this issue at the next Board of Health meeting.

Ms. Lachman remarked that since Mr. Cruz attends regular meetings with the Department Directors, he could inform the Board of any pertinent issues or meetings that Board members should attend.

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Mr. Cruz reported that the City is having a picnic for employees on Saturday, August 15. He also stated that the City budget had been successfully introduced, but not yet adopted. It is expected to be adopted in June, following State approval.

Mr. Cruz talked about the Model Lead Safe Cities Program, which he had introduced to the City Council. The City Attorney had reviewed and approved it, and it is on the Agenda for the Council meeting on May 19, for the Council's review and approval.

Ms. Lachman reported that she and Mr. Cruz attended several Emergency Planning meetings in the past month, which dealt primarily with the H1N1 flu virus. Mr. Cruz had called an emergency meeting on the swine flu virus, attended by the Fire, Police, and Public Works Departments. The emergency plan developed by the Health Department was shared with all departments and discussed. Because there may be unanticipated costs associated with this outbreak, Mr. Cruz emphasized the importance of the participation and training of the City Council members. If they were trained in NIMS, which they are not, the City would be eligible for reimbursement for some of these expenses from the Federal and State Government.

Mr. Cruz gave a brief history of the swine flu outbreak. Efforts had been made to keep everyone up-to-date through e-mail, web postings, press releases, and communications with schools. He remarked that most of the phone calls received at the Health Department were from the private

schools, not the public schools. All schools have been kept well informed through the Department's public health nurse and the school nurses at each school.

Ms. Lachman thanked Mr. Cruz and Dr. Jean-Louis for being proactive during this outbreak, and for all their hard work. She said she was concerned that some people had taken it so lightly, since recent articles show the group largely affected with the most hospitalizations was the 16-30 year-olds. Doctors at the CDC stated there was a perception on the part of the public that the virus was winding down, but that was not true. The virus is actively circulating, and it is not known what will happen in the fall. She said the Health Department would continue to stay prepared, and that over the summer months, the Department would be ready in case the virus mutates. Ms. Lachman said that EVAC had ordered masks and gloves for the Department. Many of the masks and gloves used by the medical community and emergency responders in this country are manufactured in Mexico and China. One of the concerns of the public health officials is that if there was a pandemic, there might be a shortage of these items, since shipments would be scarce. It is her understanding that there is only one manufacturer of masks and gloves in this country, which is a problem that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Cruz stated that there is a possibility that the H1N1 virus would spike in the fall. There is money budgeted for the regular flu vaccine, but the cost of the swine flu vaccine is not known yet. He expects the cost will be much higher than the regular vaccines, and said the other question is, will they be ready for us?

Ms. Lachman said the Department is keeping all the key documentation on everything we spend on this now, so if there is some form of reimbursement later from the federal or state government, we would be ready with the paperwork.

Ms. Lachman stated that there seems to be some kind of immunity in people over the age of 50, which is one positive aspect of the virus.

Mr. Cruz stated that the response to the outbreak could be considered an exercise by the Emergency Responders, and possibly the beginning of more inter-departmental coordination in that regard.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **11. Vital Statistics Reconfiguration Status**

Mr. Cruz stated that the construction project had not passed the first inspection because the two entryways were not wheelchair accessible. He met with Piero Abballe, the Chief Construction Code Official, Jim Fucci, the contractor, and Richard Bennett, the architect, and said this will be corrected. At the moment, he said they were waiting for the permit to continue, which should be available either Friday, May 15, or Monday, May 18.

**12. Englewood FQHC Feasibility Development**

Mr. Cruz reported that Englewood Hospital and Medical Center and the North Hudson Community Action Corporation are now sharing data, and that he had received an e-mail from Ms. Pat Burks, retained Consultant, saying that she is working on the application to submit to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). She is also working on getting the City of Englewood deemed an MUP (Medically Underserved Population), which must be signed by the Governor. Ms. Burks requested that we provide her with any available data that she needs for these requests. The Department has done a simple survey, which we are going to share with her shortly.

**13. Get Fit Englewood**

The Get Fit Englewood program had its kickoff on April 25, with sessions the last two Saturdays. Twelve people are registered for this program at the present time, and others have called in to express their interest. The end date for Get Fit Englewood is June 20.

**14. 2008 Annual Report - Draft for Approval**

Mr. Cruz reminded the Board that the draft for the 2008 Annual Report of the Health Department had been submitted for their review and approval, and asked for their feedback. Board approval was reached by consensus, pending revisions identified by Ms. Lisa Levien.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**15. Swine Flu Outbreak (Covered previously)**

**16. DCA Lead ID & Field Testing Grant**

Mr. Cruz announced that the Englewood Health Department had been awarded a grant from the State Department of Community Affairs in the amount of \$23,395. This will cover the cost of a new lead gun, which is approximately \$19,000. The rest of the money will partially cover training, certification, and risk assessment. Mr. Cruz prepared a press release, which was included in the Board Packets, acknowledging receipt of the grant and the ways the money will be spent in order to inform the public of this additional resource.

**17. HIV/AIDS Testing Center, Hackensack**

Mr. Cruz stated that there had been an attempt, several weeks ago, to close the only HIV testing center in Bergen County. He initiated an emergency meeting of the other Health Officers to discuss this issue. On April 25, at a health fair being held at Dwight Morrow High School, he had an opportunity to talk to Reverend Vernon Walton, the Chair of the Health Services Committee for Bergen County, about this. Rev. Walton's intervention resulted in the continuation of this

service, although it may be moved to another location. Mr. Cruz wrote a letter, thanking the County Executive and the Freeholders and acknowledging the leadership of Reverend Walton.

Ms. Lachman asked for a Motion to open the time for public comment. Motion was made by Ms. Bostick, and seconded by Dr. Marsan. Motion was approved 7-0.

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

### **Dr. Suzie Jean-Louis**

Dr. Jean-Louis requested time to speak of an experience she had had recently with regard to the swine flu. An Englewood resident who had travelled to Mexico on April 6 with three of her relatives had contacted her. She told Dr. Jean-Louis that they all got sick on April 8, and flew back to the United States on April 10. At that time, there was no swine flu outbreak anywhere, so they did not go to their physician. They thought it was the flu, so they stayed home. By the time the news of the swine flu was reported, most of the family had recovered from the illness, except for the woman's mother. The woman's daughter happens to work for the World Health Organization, and administered Tamiflu to her mother. She told Dr. Jean-Louis that she only wanted to inform her of what had occurred. Dr. Jean-Louis then called the State and spoke to Denise, who told her not to do anything about it, because more than three weeks had gone by and no testing was done. The testing must be done within 72 hours.

Ms. Lachman advised her to document any cases like this and monitor the responses received from the state, county, or federal governments, and to follow Department protocol. She said the Department should keep its own tally of flu cases in the fall.

Ms. Levien suggested keeping a cluster tally, by address, location, and point of contact of any Englewood flu cases. She commended the Department for all their work during the swine flu outbreak in keeping the Board and the public informed, and agreed with Ms. Lachman that a tally must be kept of these phone calls and cases reported to us.

Mr. Cruz mentioned that the County does not have an epidemiologist at the present time, and would not be filling that position any time soon. That is problematic not only for Englewood, but for the county as a whole. On the other hand, the State recently hired a new Deputy Commissioner for Public Health, Dr. Susan Walsh, who was instrumental in providing many of the updates we received on the H1N1 flu virus.

There were no further comments or questions from the public. Motion to close the time for public comment was made by Dr. Wisotsky, and seconded by Ms. Acosta. Motion was approved 7-0.

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Mr. Richard Lustgarten, Board Attorney, stated there was no need to go into Closed Session. He gave the Board a brief update on the case status in Open Session.

Concerning the Ortiz and Paster litigation, Mr. Lustgarten said we are administratively answering the interrogatories, and that he would be in touch with the City Attorney to discuss our position in the case.

There being no further questions or comments, Ms. Lachman asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Bostick, and seconded by Ms. Acosta. Motion was approved 7-0. The meeting ended at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelson Xavier Cruz  
Secretary to the Board  
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