



*(Unapproved)*

## **Orange Board of Health Minutes**

June 13, 2022

High Plains Community Center Cafeteria

Members in Attendance: Kristy Macci, Sohail Kayani, Anne Jasorkowski, Norman Marieb

Members Absent: Sanjay Aggarwal, Michelle Tenney, Scott Rocchio, Ron Castillo, and Joseph Kim

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

Staff Absent: Terri Waldron and Lisa Pimenta

### 1. Staff Reports – Mr. Slugoski

- Mr. Slugoski distributed his Staff Report via email prior to the meeting. There were no questions regarding the report.

### 2. Approval of Minutes – May 16, 2022

- Due to a lack of quorum, the approval of the minutes was tabled until the September meeting.

### 3. Update on COVID-19

- Ms. Beckham gave a brief update on the four vaccination clinics and has received positive feedback. She advised the recordkeeping system of VAMS is converting to the CTWIZ system. Individuals will now be able to see their individual COVID vaccination records. The Town continues to supply vaccinations to those who are homebound. Dr. Mohammed reported that 87% of residents have been vaccinated and overall, COVID cases are down.

### 4. OVNA Report – Lisa Pimenta

- There was no report at this time.

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5. Blue Zone Presentation – Ms. Tenney

- There was no report at this time.

6. Vision and Mission Statement of OBOH

- Dr. Mohammed explained at great length his role as the Director of Health. He explained that during a pandemic, he must follow CDC guidelines and both state and federal mandates. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the role of the Orange Board of Health members. It was unanimously agreed that Town Attorney Marino should be invited to their September meeting to further elaborate on their role as members.

7. Suggestions to Promote Better Community Health for Residents

- Dr. Marieb gave a presentation on a future pilot program to aid in the prevention of diabetes. He presented some basic statistics, citing that exercise and weight loss is a major key to prevention of this disease. Diabetes contributes to heart disease, chronic renal failure, blindness, Alzheimer's disease, and a decrease in life expectancy. A 5-7% weight reduction can drastically alter the onset of diabetes. This program, if decided upon, would accept 20 participants and would meet twice a month for the first six months, and once a month for the remaining six months. Target ages would be 18-82.
- Dr. Marieb suggested the printing of a brochure, the hiring of a nutritionist, as well as a clinician to accurately measure waist circumference and keep accurate records. There was also discussion about whether the program should be offered for free or be a cost to participants with a possible partial reimbursement if the patient was successful in the endeavor. After a lengthy discussion, it was suggested to reach out to the OBOH members for volunteerism for this program rather than petition the Orange Board of Finance for funding.
- Several sources of advertising were suggested, which include Facebook, the senior newsletter, the Orange Times, and others. With a twenty person cap on the program, the members felt that electronic advertising would be sufficient. Ms. Beckham also indicated that the OVNA could mention the upcoming program at the Artisan Fair this summer. A classroom at High Plains would also need to be reserved. Dr. Marieb mentioned that he had guest speakers who would be willing to come and speak on the topic for free.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick  
Recording Secretary