

Chair and members of the Board of Health and Township Council. Thank you for your continued support of our department and initiatives to promote a healthy South Brunswick Township. In accordance with NJAC 8:52, Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health in New Jersey, I submit to you this report on the status of our health department activities and goals for the upcoming year.

As you are aware, our department has been subject to turn over of employees over the last year. However, our staff has remained committed to provided quality services under extenuating circumstances. Staff have completed inspection of all retail food operations that prepare and serve to the public. All complaints have been investigated and if necessary, violations issued to attain abatement and ensure that quality of life issues are addressed for our residents. In the past year we have issued more violations and summonses for municipal court, due to the diligence of our inspection staff and the severity of public health nuisances that effect the health and safety of the public. With this increase of enforcement, we have addressed a need to decrease reoccurring complaints regarding individual properties. Our staff was able to successfully navigate the new Recreational Bathing Code amendments, with great cooperation from our regulated community.

The health department continues community outreach and our health fair that is conducted in coordination with National Night Out/Community Unity Day continues to grow. This past August we saw more that 450 residents come through our health fair, where they found opportunities for health screening and education from many of our community partners. I would like to thank the Middlesex County Department of Public Safety and Health, as they continue to provide us with the tent and resources for this event.

I would like to outline a few of the goals for 2019.

- 1) Continue to develop trained and competent workforce. As you are aware, we are in need of a Full Time Community Health Nurse. We are currently advertising this position again and hope to have a candidate soon. Additionally, we need to ensure that our staff are cross trained in the various programs that we provide. Currently we are training additional staff on the state health department's communicable disease registry, which alerts local health departments to communicable diseases that are reported to laboratories or doctors' offices. Using this system allows us the opportunity to contact those ill patients and ensure that we reduce the risk of further transmission.
- 2) Increase collaboration with community partners. Planning community programs in health education and screening services requires the collaboration and cooperation of the community. We need to ensure that we are engaging our community and providing programs that meet their needs in public health. Once we have our full-time nurse on staff, we will be meeting with civic and social organizations with the township s to setup educational opportunities based on our needs. The latest community health needs assessments performed throughout the county indicate increased need for access to care, Chronic Disease testing and education, Behavioral health services and increased outreach to promote physical activity and nutrition education. The SBT health department will increase our community's opportunity to engage in education and outreach in these areas over the next year.
- 3) Fill vacant positions on the Advisory Board of Health. I want to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to our Advisory Board of Health. These community volunteers have a

sincere passion for promoting health and wellness in our community and are a great asset. We currently have one vacancy on the Advisory Board and filling this vacancy is vital, as there are times, we must cancel meetings due to lack of a quorum.

- 4) This is a few of our priority objectives for 2019. In the next month, I will be submitted an updated full version of our department goals for 2019.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a brief summary of our department activities. We are currently working on the Local Health Report and upon completion will provide a copy to the Board and post the document on our website.

I respectfully ask the Board to include this presentation as part of the minutes of this reorganization meeting and approval to post this to our website as well.

Thank you again for your continued support!!

Respectfully Submitted

Lester H. Jones

Health Officer