

ANNUAL REPORT
RUTHERFORD BOARD OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 2018

COUNCIL LIAISON

Frank Nunziato

BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Joseph DeFazio, President
Dorothy Willms, Vice-President
Theresa Gilburn, Board Secretary
Matt Ziemkiewicz, Board Member
Linda Manzo, Board Member
Denise Goumas, Board Member
Michael Sartori, Board Member – Appointed May 2018

2018 STAFF

Brian M. O’Keefe, Administrative Officer/Registrar of Vital Statistics
Linda A. Hricik, Secretary, Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics
Janet Calhoun, RN
Therese Zdanowicz, RN
Dr. Jill A. Garripoli Pedalino, Public Health Physician
Dr. Neil Beeber, Board Veterinarian

RUTHERFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2018

During the 2018 calendar year, the Rutherford Health Department continued to provide a wide variety of services to borough residents. Through various preventive screening programs, issuance of vital statistics documents, investigation of citizen complaints, inspection activities, etc., the Health Department had contact with a large segment of the borough population.

The Health Department continued to increase the level of publicity and public awareness towards state mandated programs and services offered to residents. Press releases and pictures were taken of various programs and screenings offered at the Health Center and submitted to The South Bergenite, and approximately 30 service organizations and houses of worship in the borough.

The environmental health aspect of the department drastically changed in 2018, with the outsourcing of the Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) responsibilities to the county health department. The shared services contract with the county health department was limited in scope and did not encompass all of the responsibilities that the department has been tasked with and services provided by an in-house REHS.

This reporting period marked the 27th year of rabies in land-based animals in Rutherford. This continued to result in an increase in manpower hours being devoted to rabies control measures and follow up on animal related bites to humans and other animals. The department continued to receive excellent service and cooperation by the Governing Body contracting once again in 2018 for a private Animal Control Service. This decision not only realized the borough an increase in field related animal control services, but at a time when it was continually needed with the community in the rabies enzootic area.

The Public Health Nursing Staff continued to provide the residents with numerous preventive health screening programs. 77 residents participated in the Multi-Phasic Blood Screening, 37 residents participated in the annual Skin Screening Program, 11 residents participated in the annual Pap & Breast Screening Program, and 139 residents were vaccinated against the seasonal influenza virus. 110 blood pressures were taken during the weekly walk-in blood pressure program held on Tuesdays.

For the 24th consecutive year, the Board of Health was able to apply for reimbursement for those residents 65 and over who were Medicare patients and were vaccinated against influenza through a shared services agreement with the Bergen County Department of Health Services.

The department continued its role in the School Nursing Program. For the 2017-2018 School Year, the Public Health Nurses continued the School Nursing Services at The Academy at St. Mary and St. Mary High School.

Since 1992, state entitlement per pupil is available for providing nursing services to the non-public school students by the board of health through a shared services agreement with the Rutherford Board of Education. This resulted in reimbursement of \$32,301.00 for the 2017-2018 school year.

By continuing our role in the school-nursing program, it required at a minimum, the Public Health Nurses, when schools are in session, to devote an additional five (5) hours a day on this program. 333 students received our services in the 2017-2018 school year.

During the 2018 calendar year, a number of specific items are in need of noting:

Board members Matt Ziemkiewicz and Theresa Gilburn were appointed to three-year terms on the Board of Health by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Governing Body.

Councilman Frank Nunziato was also appointed as the council liaison to the Board of Health.

The Department Head continued to serve as the bloodborne pathogen coordinator for the Borough.

The Men's and Ladies' Rooms at the health center were open to the public during the summer concert series and other special events held in Lincoln Park and staffed by a park ranger.

The bloodborne pathogen exposure control plan was updated and distributed to Police, Fire, EMS, and the DPW. Bloodborne pathogen training is now available on-line during the year.

The Bergen County Mosquito Control Commission provided excellent assistance to the Department by responding and treating several properties in town, mostly vacant properties, for mosquito activity.

The Department Head participated in the "Community Partnership Committee" set up by Felician University in order to improve communications and relationships with the borough.

The Department provide input on updating the borough's garbage regulations, which now regulates the hours that commercial contractors can remove commercial waste from the borough. Hours are now limited to 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

West Nile Virus activity in the Borough was very quiet in 2018. This was the 12th consecutive year, since 2000 when the virus appeared in the State that we did not have a crow test positive for the West Nile Virus. The Department did reach out to 17 service stations in town regarding the issue of stagnant water associated with discarded vehicle tires.

The Department had to hire a private landscaper to cut overgrowth on several properties in town where the property owners failed to respond to written notices provided. Several liens on the properties for the cost of the clean ups were placed by the Governing Body on the properties in question. Overgrowth on properties were abated by the health department on the following private properties: Ridge Road (twice), Sidney Avenue, West Gouverneur Avenue, Carmita Avenue, second location on Ridge Road, Riverside Avenue (twice).

The health department completed a review of records retention and after approval from the state, we were able to destroy several boxes of records.

Members of the staff donated sick days to two ailing employees in the Department of Public Works.

Two new computers were received by the department.

Influenza vaccination clinics for the 2018 influenza season were held on October 23rd and November 2, 2018 with 298 residents vaccinated against the flu.

The Borough continued to have a larger number of temporary special events throughout the year that required departmental participation in the planning stage and review food safety concerns for food items provided to the public to insure a safe and wholesome food product. Eighty one (81) temporary food applications were reviewed for food safety concerns.

Access to Open Public Records Act requests, known as OPRA requests, increased to 103 requests for 598 pages of health department documents. One resident made 50 requests consisting of 219 pages of documents.

The Department spent a considerable amount of time investigating animal bites to humans and to domestic animals. This was a very time intensive activity. Two animals were sent by the Department to the State Health Department Rabies Lab in Trenton to rule out rabies. While 39 animal bites to humans were followed up on, some of the bite exposures were problematic and did result in six residents receiving the post exposure treatment for rabies, which now involves four inoculations over a 14-day period of time. Since rabies is a fatal disease, proper follow up and documentation in a timely manner is imperative. The circumstances involved residents in the following situations who met the state health department guidelines for follow up medical intervention: four residents involved with a live bat exposure in their homes, one resident bitten by a squirrel, one resident bitten by a raccoon, and one child received one dose of the rabies vaccine prior to the health department locating the dog in question.

Dr. Preethia Ramaswamy, a local dermatologist in town, donated her time and conducted a free skin cancer screening program for residents.

Dr. Consetta Cheatam, a local OB-GYN doctor in town, volunteered her time and conducted a Breast Exam and Pap Smear Program for residents.

Department worked on the issue of a rodent problem in the main sewer line on Feronia Way and Wheaton Place. One resident reported, over a period of time, 10 rats in her toilet bowl and four rats in her home. The main sewer line in two locations were baited by the department with a Department of Environmental Protection restricted use rodenticide. Since our Department's efforts, no further complaints have been received.

The Department Head continued to serve on a host of Borough appointed committees during the calendar year, i.e., Safety Committee, Local Emergency Planning Committee, The Office of Emergency Management, Bloodborne Pathogen and Special Events Committee.

One new establishment opened in 2018. That establishment is located at 82 Park Avenue and trading as Playa Bowls.

Mr. Mike Sartori, former council member and former council liaison to the board of health, was appointed to the board of health in May, bringing the board of health up to a full compliance of seven members.

Pre-paid revenue was received for 2019 food establishment licenses totaling \$21,675.00.

The Department Head interacted with the county health department and arranged for the county health department to accept outside bloodborne pathogen training and to enter our training records into their county database.

The Department provided written comments on a proposed short-term rental ordinance. Based on the comments provided by the Health Department, Bureau of Fire Safety and the Building Department, the governing body ended up prohibiting short-term rentals.

Student Government Day occurred in the Borough in May and two Rutherford High School students were assigned to the department for a portion of the day.

The Department Head interacted with the Borough Administrator who assisted in making changes to Chapter 70 of the borough code dealing with retirement benefits for non-union employees consistent with benefits provided to union employees in the borough.

The Department hired a bee keeper/contractor to remove honeybees from a borough tree on Lincoln Avenue and re-locating the bees and securing the harborage areas on the tree to discourage additional infestation of the bees.

The Registrar and Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics experienced a host of unacceptable marriage licenses for filing purposes during the last half of the year. Numerous errors were observed on returned licenses submitted by the marriage officiants. Amendments to the original document or duplicate original licenses were required to be issued.

The Borough received \$32,301.00 in state aid for the Department providing the nursing services at St. Mary High School and the Academy at St. Mary, covering 333 students. This was accomplished without adding staff.

The following is a breakdown of activities for each component of the Health Department:

2018 VITAL STATISTICS

- 1,651 - Certified Copies of Death, Marriage, Domestic Part., & Birth Records Issued
- 177 - Death Certificates Processed (138 electronic & 39 photocopied)
- 124 - Marriage Licenses Issued
 - 2 - Re-Marriages Occurred in Town
 - 45 - Death Certificates Recorded for Deaths Occurring in Town
 - 67 - Marriage Certificates Filed in Rutherford
- 117 - Residents Died During 2018
- 156 - Births Recorded

\$1,872.00 in revenue was received for certified copies of Marriage, Birth, Death Records, Civil Union, Domestic Partnership Affidavits, Burial Permits and Marriage Licenses plus electronic payments of \$6,605.00 - (Vital Statistics - \$1,872.00 + Electronic Payments - \$6,605.00 = \$8,477.00.

From a budget and finance standpoint, the Board of Health realized a total revenue source of \$66,256.00. The largest sums were in the school nursing reimbursement account totaling \$32,301.00, retail food establishment licenses totaling \$28,597.00, vital statistics revenue totaling \$1,872.00, and electronic vital statistics revenue totaling \$6,605.00.

The vital statistics aspect of the department issued 1,651 certified copies of Death, Marriage, Domestic Partnership, Civil Union, and Birth records that generated \$1,872.00 and \$6,605.00 in electronic payments in revenue totaling \$8,477.00.

BUDGET & FINANCE

- Operating Budget - \$ 26,690.61
- Salary & Wages Budget - \$ 322,000.00
- Capital Budget - \$ 0
- Animal Control Services - \$24,000.00

In the 2019 budget process with the borough, there are two budgetary items that have had an impact on the board of health operating budget and need to be addressed with the governing body. Those two items are:

- 1- Abatement of overgrowth on properties by the health department resulted in charges of \$3,575.00 to the board’s budget. The bulk of these costs are eventually recouped by the borough, yet the board of health budget is not credited accordingly.
- 2- \$5,600.00 was charged to the board of health budget for ambulance corps medical physicals. This activity is not a function and responsibility of the board of health and in 2019, this account should be removed from the board’s budget and inserted into a more appropriate budget category.

The Health Department brought in the following revenue:

| | |
|--------------|--|
| \$ 1,872.00 | Vital Statistics |
| 28,597.00 | Retail Food Establishment Licenses |
| 300.00 | Vending Machine Licenses |
| 36.00 | Store Milk Licenses |
| 32,301.00 | School Nursing Reimbursement (2017-2018 School Year) |
| 3,100.00 | Dedicated Revenue |
| 50.00 | Massage License Fees |
| | |
| \$ 66,256.00 | Total Revenue |

(\$6,605.00-Electronic Payment Total for 2018 not added to above total revenue) (\$66,256.00+ \$6,605.00 = \$72,861.00 2018 Revenue Final Total).

ADULT SCREENING PROGRAMS

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Blood Screening: | April 20, 2018 - 38 – (37 referred) Oct. 19, 2018 - 42 (40 referred) |
| Flu Clinic: | Participants 367 - *January – December 31, 2018 – (*includes three years and older) October 23, 2018 Clinic - 94 Participants November 2, 2018 Clinic – 204 Participants |
| Pap Program: | October 3, 2018 - 11 Participants (2 referred) |
| Skin Screening: | September 27, 2018 – 37 Participants (24 Referred) |
| Rabies Clinic: | April 7, 2018 - (96 Dogs - 3 Cats) Total 99 |

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

| | |
|--|-----|
| Blood Pressures | 120 |
| Communicable Disease Follow-up | 65 |
| Health Risk Assessments | 18 |
| Immunization Audits | 26 |
| Immunization Enforcement Follow-up | 19 |
| TB Testing (6 reactors) | 49 |
| Monitored elevated lead cases and investigated | 13 |
| Cardiovascular Assessments | 34 |
| Nutritional Assessments | 106 |
| Heights and Weights | 76 |
| Diabetic Education | 1 |
| Home visits for lead investigations | 7 |

SCHOOLS

Complete IMM 8's & A45's (immunization charts) for all students according to New Jersey State Department of Health & Senior guidelines.

Provide health screenings according to New Jersey State Department of Health & Senior Services guidelines for the following:

St. Mary High School - 402.75 Nursing Hours 2018
Health/Nursing Protocol for Middle States Accreditation
Facilitate AED/CPR training for faculty and staff
Facilitate Epi-Pen training for faculty and staff

The Academy at St. Mary – 342.75 Nursing Hours 2018
Lice Screening - Students & Staff
Facilitate Epi-Pen training for faculty and staff
Health/Nursing Protocol for Mid States Accreditation

Continuing Education – Seminars & Webinars for Continuing Education Credits throughout the year – 15 Continuing Education Credits for Public Health Nursing & 15 Continuing Education Credits for Nursing Licenses.

Audits and surveys of public and private schools and 13 daycare centers and seven (7) schools in the borough concerning Immunization Compliance with Chapter 14 of The State Sanitary Code.

Complete School Nursing Program at St. Mary High School and The Academy at St. Mary covering over 333 students. Programs cover such things as auditing and maintenance of health records and immunizations, tuberculin testing, health screenings which include vision, hearing, scoliosis, heights and weights, first aid to ill and injured students and faculty, student health counseling, etc. At least five (5) nursing hours are spent each day on programs when schools are in session.

HEALTH COUNSELING

Includes telephone calls, walk-ins, home visits, screenings, follow-ups, etc. – approximately 4,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The bulk of the food related inspections and those of the daycare centers, public recreational facilities, pet shop, tanning establishment, kennel inspections, etc., and plan review and citizen complaints received regarding those establishments were outsourced to the county health department.

CITIZEN COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

The department handled a large segment of the citizen complaints received during this reporting time period. Of the 357 citizen complaints received from the public, 305 of the 357 complaints were followed up and investigated by the Rutherford Health Department. The county handled 46 complaints. The department and the county together handled six complaints. It should be noted that the volume of citizen complaints logged by the department might be lower than the actual number received, since it is unsure if all of the citizen complaints handled by the county health department were logged into the citizen complaint numbering and tracking database maintained by our department.

CLOSING REMARKS

This report is a credit to the members of the Rutherford Board of Health for their insight and support of the Staff in providing a public health program designed to meet the needs of the Community. Board members serve on the Board of Health to fulfill the statutory responsibility of a local board of health and receive no compensation for devoting their time and talent to the Borough of Rutherford.

The Governing Body of the Borough of Rutherford needs to be commended for continuing to provide an acceptable and reasonable level of funding to the Board of Health in order that public health needs and mandates can be successfully achieved.

A special thanks needs to be extended to the Borough Administrator who was instrumental in resolving a host of outstanding board of health issues during this reporting period. His assistance was gratefully appreciated by the staff and board of health members.

As this report concludes the 19th year of the 21st century for the Rutherford Health Department, many major dramatic health threats have been eliminated since the turn of the 20th century which have contributed to the increase in the average life span since the early 1900's by over 30 years, 25 years attributable to advances in public health.

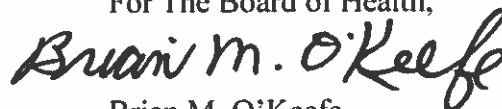
Local public health continues to adjust to changes in the public health infrastructure since the local board of health was created by the Governing Body back in 1901, with all of the powers and duties delegated to the Board by acts of the State of New Jersey Legislature. The Board of Health continues to take the lead by partnering with other governmental agencies in shared services agreements. In 2018, the Board had a shared service contract with the Bergen County Department of Health Services for public health infrastructure and administration, direct nursing supervision, influenza vaccination reimbursement through Medicare Part B and blood borne pathogen training and immunization for employees.

The Board also continued with a shared service contract with the Rutherford Board of Education, providing nursing services to two of the nonpublic schools in town, realizing the Borough a revenue source of \$32,301.00. In addition, the Board continued to encourage the Governing Body by contracting with a private animal control service, providing the borough with additional services.

Special thanks are extended to the members of the medical community who volunteered their time during various screening programs offered at the health center throughout the year, i.e., Dr. Preethia Ramaswamy for conducting the Skin Cancer Screening Program, and Dr. Consetta Cheatam for conducting the Pap & Breast Screening Program. These programs would not have been possible without the willingness of the aforementioned individuals in donating their time and services to our department.

The staff looks forward to working with the board in the 2019 Calendar Year in continuing to provide a sound and robust public health program to the residents of Rutherford. Working with a continued tight budget framework and a continued reduction in staffing, the 2019 year should continue to pose some unique challenges to the Staff and Board of Health.

Respectfully Submitted
For The Board of Health,



Brian M. O'Keefe
Administrative Officer
Registrar of Vital Statistics
Bloodborne Pathogen Coordinator
Rutherford Health Department