



# 2024 Annual Report



**The Contractual Health Agency serving...**

- Bernards Township
- Bernardsville Borough
- Chester Borough
- Long Hill Township
- Mendham Borough
- Peapack & Gladstone Borough

# 2024 BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>LETTER FROM THE HEALTH OFFICER</b> .....	1
<b>MISSION STATEMENT</b> .....	2
<b>HONORING DR. JOHN SALAKI’S 24 YEARS OF SERVICE</b> .....	2
<b>2024 HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF</b> .....	3
<b>2024 CONTRACTUAL BOARDS OF HEALTH MEMBERS</b> .....	4
<b>2024 BTHD ORGANIZATION CHART</b> .....	5
<b>BTHD REVENUE</b> .....	6
<b>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</b> .....	7-40
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL &amp; CONSUMER HEALTH - REHS FIELD WORK</b> .....	7-8
<i>Plan Reviews: Environmental</i> .....	7
<i>Inspections: Food Establishments; Public Health, Environmental</i> .....	7-8
<b>REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS</b> .....	9
<b>ANIMAL CONTROL/ANIMAL CRUELTY SERVICES</b> .....	10
<i>Donation Campaign</i> .....	10
<i>Rabies Control: All Towns</i> .....	10
<i>BT Pet Licensing</i> .....	10
<i>Adoption Program</i> .....	10
<i>Rabies Shots Clinics</i> .....	11
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH IN ACTION</b> .....	12
<i>Bernards Township Mayor’s Wellness Campaign</i> .....	12
<b>2024 HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS</b> .....	13-14
<b>HEALTH MATTERS E-NEWSLETTER</b> .....	15-16
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING</b> .....	17-21
<i>2024 Communicable Disease Reports</i> .....	17-18
<i>Outbreak Monitoring</i> .....	19
<i>Public Health Nursing Partnerships: Zufall 2024</i> .....	20-21
<i>Public Health Nursing Partnerships: Community Visiting Nurse Association (CVNA)</i> .....	22
<i>CVNA Blood Pressure Screening</i> .....	21
<i>School Audits</i> .....	21
<b>2024 CLINICS AND SCREENINGS</b> .....	23
<b>RISK COMMUNICATION &amp; EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS</b> .....	24
<b>NJDOH OLPH – STRENGTHENING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH CAPACITY PROGRAM</b> .....	25-27
<b>NJDOH OLPH – COVID-19 VACCINATION SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING PROGRAM</b> .....	28
<b>NJACCHO ENHANCING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT</b> .....	29
<b>NJACCHO SUSTAINING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT</b> .....	30
<b>MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE/YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION</b> .....	31-41
<i>Municipal Alliance Programs</i> .....	31-34
<i>Ridge Education Action &amp; Community Health (REACH)</i> .....	35-37
<i>Lindsey Meyer Teen Institute</i> .....	38
<i>Grab and Go Teen Outreach</i> .....	39
<i>Creating Opportunities for Positive Emotions (COPE)</i> .....	40
<i>Grant Awards</i> .....	41
<b>BTHD STAFF LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS</b> .....	42-45

## A Letter from the Health Officer

Dear Residents, Colleagues, and Partners,

I am pleased to share the Bernards Township Health Department's **2024 Annual Report** with our communities. Since joining the Health Department in July, it has been an honor and privilege to lead a team of dedicated professionals who consistently strive to provide the best public health services to our nearly 50,000 residents spanning six communities. The past year included many transitions both internally and among our partner agencies. Throughout it all we have remained adaptable and dedicated to continued strategic planning and quality improvement.

Our strong relationships with local organizations, healthcare providers, and community leaders have been instrumental in amplifying our reach and impact. Together we have launched numerous health campaigns, educational programs, and outreach efforts to foster a culture of health and wellness. We are grateful to our community partners and to all residents of Bernards Township, Bernardsville Borough, Peapack and Gladstone Borough (Somerset County) and Chester Borough, Mendham Borough, and Long Hill Township (Morris County). Special thanks to the Community Visiting Nurse Association for quickly and graciously stepping in at the start of 2024 to ensure that residents, especially our elderly and homebound, had no interruption in services while public health nursing contracts were in transition.

Looking ahead, we are excited to introduce new marketing and outreach strategies in the coming year to 'meet people where they are.' The fast-paced daily news cycle and rapidly evolving technology make it more important than ever to quickly and effectively deliver credible health information to address emerging health challenges. We will continue to rely on the most up-to-date local public health data to guide decisions for our programs, screenings, and clinics, ensuring that we respond to the specific needs of our community with precision and impact.

Public health workers were in the spotlight during the pandemic, but much of our essential ongoing work can remain invisible. When disease, injury, or death are prevented by a food safety inspection, a swimming pool safety check, a water quality test, or a community vaccination clinic, these prevention success stories ensure the safety of you, your family, and neighbors. A sustainable public health infrastructure remains an ongoing concern nationwide and in New Jersey, which ranks 40<sup>th</sup> in the nation for public health funding. It's important to recognize that every dollar invested in public health can yield up to \$88 in improved health outcomes, demonstrating that prevention is not only cost-effective but also essential in reducing long-term healthcare costs and improving overall community well-being.

We have been fortunate to have been awarded continued grant funding during 2024 from the New Jersey Department of Health and the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO). This funding will continue through 2025 allowing us to strengthen our outbreak preparedness and emergency response capacities, assure robust workforce development, and align our programs with the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) model. The FPHS was developed to represent a minimum package of public health services to set a foundation for what is needed everywhere for public health to function anywhere.

We are grateful to have received these grant awards but remain concerned about the long-term consequences of an inconsistent funding model in New Jersey. We encourage residents and partners to visit the NJACCHO website to learn more.

I invite you to review our annual report in detail and encourage you to continue to engage with us as we work towards achieving our shared vision of a healthier, safer, and more vibrant community. We aim to build upon partnerships to continue offering high-quality and data-driven services to protect the health of all residents we serve.

Thank you for your trust, support, and commitment to public health.

Sincerely,

*Dawn Marling*

Dawn Marling, MPH, Health Officer



# MISSION STATEMENT

*To provide competent, professional, and efficient public health and environmental services to the residents of our community. Through the delivery of the state-mandated “Chapter 52: Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health in NJ” and the ordinances and policies of the Board of Health, we promote the public’s health by using health education, disease prevention, environmental enforcement, and inspection activities.*

## 2024 BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

<b>John Salaki, MD</b>	President
<b>Karen Ellis</b>	Vice President
<b>Pat Crane</b>	Member
<b>Kelly Brown, DVM</b>	Member
<b>Matthew Majewski</b>	Member
<b>Dr. Shilpa Clott</b>	Member
<b>Jennifer Asay</b>	Township Committee Liaison
<b>Paula J. DeBona, Esq.</b>	Board Attorney

### Honoring Dr. John Salaki’s 24 Years of Service



The Bernards Township Board of Health would like to express its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Dr. John Salaki for his exceptional 24 years of volunteer service, including 11 years as President of the Board.

Dr. Salaki’s expertise in infectious disease proved crucial in his role leading the Board during the H1N1 and COVID-19 pandemics. His guidance and ability to explain complex public health issues have been invaluable. With a deep understanding of Bernards Township’s history, he has consistently made decisions with the community’s safety as the top priority. Throughout his time on the Board, Dr. Salaki remained steadfast in his commitment to its mission, and through numerous challenges, he has left a lasting, positive impact on both the Board and the community.

Recognizing the lasting influence Dr. Salaki has had on the community, the Board of Health, together with the Bernards Township Health Department, extends its heartfelt thanks and wishes him all the best in the future.



## 2024 HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

<b>Dawn Marling</b> (started 7/8/24)	Health Officer
<b>Tricia Cowell</b>	Senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Registrar
<b>Nancy Dowd</b>	Registered Environmental Health Specialist
<b>Sybil Rainey</b>	Registered Environmental Health Specialist
<b>Jaclyn Handwerger</b>	Registered Environmental Health Specialist/COVID-19 Generalist
<b>Deirdre Vogel</b>	Administrative Assistant, Board of Health Secretary, Deputy Registrar
<b>Margaret Keegan</b>	Administrative Associate, Alternate Deputy Registrar
<b>Michelle Santoro</b>	Animal Control Officer/ Humane Law Enforcement Officer
<b>Kate Ferratti, Jody Austin-Dominguez, Katie Morales Patricia Segal</b>	Assistant Animal Control Officers
<b>Kaitlin Cartoccio</b>	Health Educator/Community Program Coordinator/ Municipal Alliance Grant Coordinator
<b>Andrea Huber</b>	Health Educator/Youth Services Assistant, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
<b>Joanna Askey</b> (started 9/23/24 )	Grant Manager/Special Projects Coordinator
<b>Patricia Pane</b> (started 10/6/24)	Public Health Nurse

<b>Lucy A. Forgione</b> (joyfully retired on 3/31/24)	Health Officer/Director of Health/Registrar of Vital Statistics/Health Educator/Youth Services Coordinator
<b>Riya Patel</b> (left 4/30/24)	Local Health Outreach Coordinator/Grant Manager
<b>Robyn Postighone</b> (left 3/22/24)	Public Health Nurse



## 2024 CONTRACTUAL BOARDS OF HEALTH

<b>2024 Bernardsville Borough Board of Health</b>	
<b>Leonard Friedman, DMD</b>	President
<b>Angela Calzetta</b>	Regular Member
<b>James Sasso</b>	Regular Member
<b>Brian Wallace, DC</b>	Regular Member
<b>Lennie Ambelang</b>	Regular Member
<b>Rhonda Simoff</b>	Regular Member
<b>Francine Dello Russo</b>	Regular Member & Recording Secretary
<b>Jena McCredie</b>	Council Liaison

<b>2024 Chester Borough Board of Health</b>	
<b>Eileen Callaghan-Manning</b>	President
<b>Elisa Stelwagon-Buckley</b>	Vice President
<b>Eileen Carey Brown</b>	Regular Member
<b>Mary Beth Infante</b>	Regular Member
<b>Patricia Hill</b>	Regular Member
<b>Thomas Germinario, Esq</b>	BOH Attorney
<b>Virginia Bordonaro</b>	BOH Secretary
<b>Deborah Johnston</b> <i>(Nov '24 - current)</i>	BOH Secretary

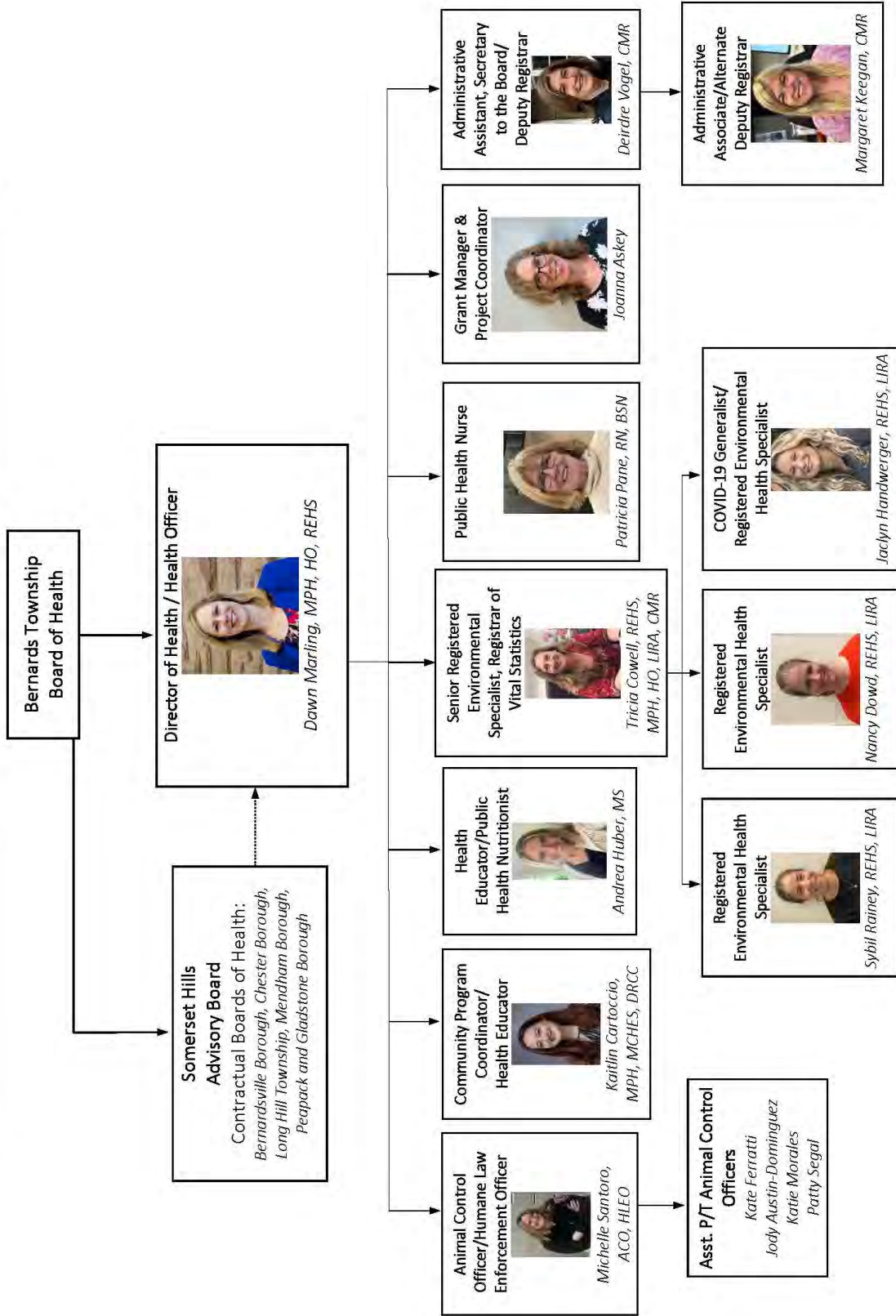
<b>2024 Long Hill Township Board of Health</b>	
<b>Matthew Dorsi</b>	President
<b>Scott Lavender</b>	Regular Member
<b>Guy Piserchia</b>	Regular Member
<b>Aubrey Reichard-Eline</b>	Regular Member
<b>Victor Verlezza</b>	Regular Member
<b>Megan Phillips</b>	BOH Secretary

<b>2024 Mendham Borough Board of Health</b>	
<b>Ed Brooks</b>	President
<b>John Nosta</b>	Vice President
<b>Dr. Marilyn Althoff</b>	BOH Committee Chair
<b>Laura Montenegro</b>	Regular Member
<b>Ted Rostiac</b>	Regular Member
<b>Ken Lordy</b>	Alternate
<b>Lauren McBride</b>	BOH Secretary

<b>2024 Peapack &amp; Gladstone Borough Board of Health</b>	
<b>Jill Weible</b>	President
<b>Mark Corigliano</b>	Mayor/Regular Member
<b>Dr. Jamie Murphy</b>	Regular Member
<b>Eric L. Quartello</b>	Regular Member
<b>Sergio Silva</b>	Regular Member
<b>Julie Sueta</b>	Regular Member
<b>John Sweeney</b>	Regular Member
<b>Nancy Bretzger</b>	BOH Secretary



# Department of Health



## 2024 REVENUE BERNARDS TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT

<b>Interlocal Public Health Services Contracts</b>	<b>\$310,979.41</b>
<b>Program Fees Collected (Clinics/Screenings)</b>	<b>\$2,356.19</b>
<b>Environmental Fees Collected</b>	<b>\$44,185.00</b>
<b>Vital Statistics Fees Collected</b>	<b>\$15,289.00</b>
<b>Animal Control Fees Collected</b>	<b>\$52,342.00</b>
<b><i>Subtotal = \$425,151.60</i></b>	
<b>PREVENTION GRANTS 2024</b>	
<b>Municipal Alliance Grant</b>	<b>\$10,107.42</b>
<b>DMHAS Youth Leadership Grant (Jul '23- Sep '25)</b>	<b>\$4,231.44</b>
<b>Youth Services Commission Annual Grant</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>
<b>Youth Services Commission Competitive Grants</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>
<b>Opioid Settlement Funds</b>	<b>\$96,010.75</b>
<b><i>Subtotal = \$122,349.61</i></b>	
<b>NJDOH/NJACCHO GRANTS</b>	
<b>Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity (Jul '23 - Jun '24)</b>	<b>\$495,411.00</b>
<b>Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity (Jul '24 - Jun '25)</b>	<b>\$74,664.00</b>
<b>COVID-19 Vaccination Supplemental Funding (Jul '21 - Jun '24)</b>	<b>\$120,000.00</b>
<b>Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure (Oct '22 - Jun '25)</b>	<b>\$632,102.00</b>
<b>Sustaining Local Public Health Infrastructure (July '24- Mar '26)</b>	<b>\$168,049.00</b>
<b>Project Firstline Train the Trainer (Jan '23 - Apr '24)</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
<b><i>Subtotal: \$1,500,226.00</i></b>	
<b>Total Revenue and Grants Managed in 2024: \$2,047,727.21</b>	



# **BERNARDS TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

## **- ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSUMER HEALTH -**

<b>BERNARDS TOWNSHIP</b>		
<b>PLAN REVIEWS</b>	<b>BT</b>	<b>TOTAL Municipalities</b>
Septic System plans (new, alterations, repairs, abandonment)	15	61
Septic "As-Built" Plan Review	7	34
Other Plan Reviews (Board of Adjustment-additions, pool locations, site-plans, variance)	6	17
<b>INSPECTIONS</b>	<b>BT</b>	<b>TOTAL Municipalities</b>
ABC license checks	0	10
Cross-Connections	0	8
Kennel/Pet Shop	0	9
New cases of elevated blood lead (Pb)	0	1
CDRSS environmental lead investigations and case follow-up	11	23
Public Health complaints including follow-ups/re-checks	26	99
Rabies Control; Dog/Cat bite investigations; testing of wild animals in contact with humans or animals and follow-ups	21	50
Recreational Bathing	37	59
Retail Food Establishments: Chapter 24 (includes plan reviews, pre-opening, semi-annual, follow-up, re-inspections)	125	415






<b>INSPECTIONS</b>	<b>BT</b>	<b>TOTAL Municipalities</b>
Temporary Retail Food Establishments- # Events/ # Vendors	9/32	26/80
Soil log inspections for septic systems suitability (new, alterations, subdivisions)	12	37
Septic Inspections including new, alterations, repairs, & abandonment	75	370
Well Inspections (includes installations of casing, pitless adaptors, well abandonments, PWTA reports)	7	16
Massage and Body Art Facility Inspections and Plan Review	0	8
Youth Camps	1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted Board of Health Meetings.</li> <li>• Ensured that all environmental inspections, and food inspections were completed.</li> <li>• Managed statistics for monthly Health Officer's Report.</li> <li>• Engaged in client and professional meetings on an as-needed basis.</li> <li>• Participated in <i>Local Emergency Planning Committee</i> (LEPC).</li> <li>• Collected environmental fees for Bernards Township, Bernardsville, and Peapack &amp; Gladstone.</li> <li>• Oversaw and optimized the permit and license issuance process for all environmental inspections (soil logs, septic system, and wells) – Bernards Township, Bernardsville Borough, Peapack &amp; Gladstone Borough, and Long Hill Township.</li> <li>• Managed Food Establishment licensing system - Bernards Township, Bernardsville Borough, Peapack &amp; Gladstone Borough, and Long Hill Township.</li> <li>• Sent Food Establishing licensing letters for Long Hill Township.</li> <li>• Inquiries: OPRA requests regarding location; type of septic system; well water questions; inspection reports for realty transfers.</li> </ul>		



## BERNARDS TOWNSHIP REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

<b>Marriages in Bernards Township</b>	205
<b>Marriage License Applications Completed</b>	98
<b>Certified Marriage Certificates Issued</b>	504
<b>Deaths in Bernards Township</b>	189
<b>Deaths in Lyons Veterans Administration Hospital</b>	66
<b>Certified Death Certificates Issued</b>	114
<b>Birth Certificates Issued</b>	4
<b>TOTAL FEES COLLECTED:</b>	<b>\$15,289.00</b>



	<b>ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER (ACO)</b>  <b>HUMANE OFFICER (HLEO)</b>	
<b>Donation Campaign</b>	Donations for pet adoptions was included on Pet License application, displayed on front office desk, included in newsletter, and displayed at free Rabies Shot Clinics.	\$4,071.00
<b>Bernards Twp Rabies Control</b>		
	10-day quarantine	14
	Bats found in homes and tested	2
	Dogs and Cats in contact with Wildlife: 45-day quarantine	5
	Rabies Testing: - / + Result	All Negative
<b>Bernards Township Pet Licensing</b>	New Dogs Registered	253
	Dogs Licensed	1,922
	Cats Licensed	349
	Dogs License Fees	\$44,441.00
	Cats License Fees	\$3,830.00
<b>Adoption Program Bernards Twp/ Peapack &amp; Gladstone</b>	Dogs and cats that are running freely and for whom no owner is found are captured, kenneled, given a health check, and advertised for adoption.	3 dogs, 17 cats/kittens

## Animal Control Continued

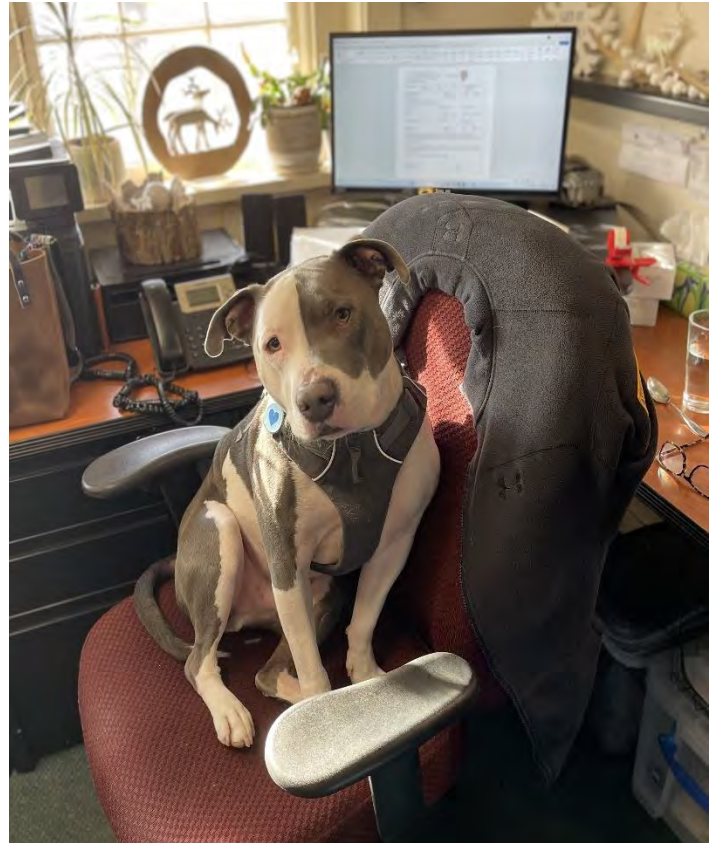
### RABIES CLINICS:

**JANUARY 13, 2024**

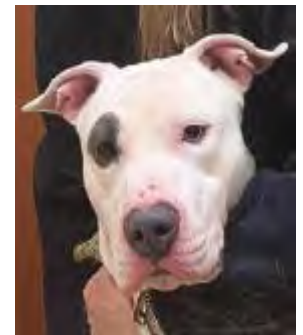
146 DOGS, 51 CATS - 197 TOTAL

**NOVEMBER 9, 2024**

77 DOGS, 17 CATS - 94 TOTAL



### ADOPTED THROUGH BERNARDS TWP ANIMAL CONTROL



# Public Health in Action

2024



## Homebound Covid-19 and Flu Vaccinations:

1 Covid, 3 Flu



## Flu Vaccinations Administered: 100

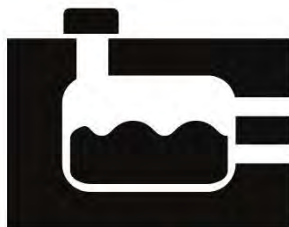


## Communicable Disease Reports:

779 Confirmed,  
524 Probable



## Blood Pressure Screenings: 407



## Septic Inspections: 370



## Food Service Inspections: 415



## Recreational Bathing Inspections: 59



## Health Education Programs: 27



**Total Zufall Clients: 19**  
**Cancer Screenings: 4**  
**Heart Disease Screenings: 10**



## Rabies Control/Animal Bite Investigations: 50



**Mayor's Wellness Campaign** - In 2023, Bernards Township was designated as a "Healthy Town Up and Coming" by the NJ Health Care Quality Institute. As a result of the collaborative efforts from Bernards Township Mayors Jennifer Asay (2024) and Janice Fields (2025), the Bernards Township Clerks Office, Bernards Township Human Resources, the Bernards Township Library, Bernards Township Parks and Recreation and the Bernards Township Health Department, Bernards Township was declared a "Healthy Town" for 2024.



## 2024 HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

<b>Program</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Professional Collaborators</b>
Staying Young at Heart	02/22/24	19	Elisa England and Ellen Petrosinord-Nourish and Thrive
Norovirus Training	3/11/24	Matheny Medical Center Staff	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
Norovirus Training	3/12/24	Fellowship Village Staff	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
Norovirus Training	3/18/24	Holly Manor Staff	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
Norovirus Training	4/3/24	Holly Manor Staff	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
QPR Suicide Prevention Training	4/3/24	2	Empower Somerset
Beyond Calories	4/4/24	13	Elisa England and Ellen Petrosinord-Nourish and Thrive
Norovirus Training	4/25/24	The Residence Staff	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
Infection Control Training	4/25/24	Arbor Terrace Staff	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
The Bernards Township Municipal Alliance: Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention	4/29/24	20 members of Boy Scout Troop 555	Kaitlin Cartoccio
Youth Mental Health First Aid	5/8/24	22	Empower Somerset, Community in Crisis
Mental Health First Aid	5/2/24	24	Empower Somerset, Community in Crisis



<b>Program</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Professional Collaborators</b>
Sugar Shocker	6/12/24	20	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
Sugar Shocker	6/26/24	25	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
Health & Safety Days - Day 1	7/11/24	125	Andrea Huber and Anushka Pophali
Health & Safety Days - Day 2	7/18/24	150	Andrea Huber and Anushka Pophali
Healthy Eats, Happy Kids	7/22/24	3	Andrea Huber
Health & Safety Days - Day 3	7/26/24	125	Andrea Huber and Jaclyn Handwerger
Food Allergies: Knowledge is Power	8/8/24	12	Andrea and Girl Scouts (Anjni Naik and Kaitlyn Steel)
Back to School: Nutrition for Busy Families	9/26/24	8	Elisa England and Ellen Petrosinord-Nourish and Thrive
Understanding Your Risk of Breast Cancer	10/17/24	5	Lynne Tamburrino, APN-Atlantic Health
QPR Suicide Prevention Training	10/17/24	2	Empower Somerset
Portion Control	11/12/24	8	Karen Connelly, RD, RWJUH
QPR Suicide Prevention Training	11/13/24	12	Empower Somerset
Sugar Savy	11/14/24	10	Elisa England and Ellen Petrosinord-Nourish and Thrive
Smart Parenting for Smart Kids	12/9/24	25	Dr. Eileen Kennedy-Moore, Community in Crisis
Sugar Savy	12/10/24	7	Elisa England and Ellen Petrosinord-Nourish and Thrive



## HEALTH MATTERS E-NEWSLETTER

Month	Topics
<a href="#"><u>January 2024</u></a>	Recipe of the Month – Vegetarian Stuffed Mushrooms, BTHD Rabies Vaccine Clinics, Bernards Township Dog and Cat Licenses, National Radon Action Awareness Month, Staying Young At Heart, Screenagers: Next Chapter, Don't Invite Sickness to the Table
<a href="#"><u>February 2024</u></a>	Recipe of the Month – Kale Breakfast Scramble, 7 Strategies to Live a Heart Healthy Lifestyle, Grab N Go, Bernards Township Dog and Cat Licenses, Staying Young at Heart, Love Shouldn't Hurt, Cancer Thriving and Surviving, and GSCYMCA Program Info.
<a href="#"><u>March 2024</u></a>	Recipe of the Month – Healthier Take on a Shamrock Shake, National Nutrition Month, 34 Annual Twilight Challenge 5k, Adopt Ray, QPR Suicide Prevention Training, Colorectal Cancer Month, and What is Trauma Really Program Info
<a href="#"><u>April 2024</u></a>	Recipe of the Month – Mache, Beet and Orange Salad, DEA Rx Takeback Day, 34 Annual Twilight Challenge 5k, Get Cracking, Beyond Calories, Mental Health First Aid/Youth Mental Health First Aid Training, National Public Health Week and Congratulations to Lucy Forgione for Retiring After 41 years in Public Health.
<a href="#"><u>May 2024</u></a>	Recipe of the Month – Deviled Eggs, Become Mental Health First Aid Certified, Tick Check, Twilight Challenge 5k, Finding A Fawn, Skin Cancer Screening (Save The Date), Instagram Pages, and Morris County Health Needs Assessment.
<a href="#"><u>June 2024</u></a>	Recipe of the Month – Greek Potato Salad, Men's Health Awareness Month, "Think Smart Before Jumping In" Waterborne Illnesses, Pride Month – LGBTQ+ Health Resources, Morris County Health Needs Assessment, Somerset County RWJ Barnabas Community Survey, Social Media information and Skin Cancer Screening.
<a href="#"><u>July 2024</u></a>	Recipe of the Month – 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Caprese Salad, Healthy Eats, Happy Kids, Protect Your Pets This Summer, Beat The Heat, H5N1: Bird Flu, Morris County Health Needs Assessment, Somerset County RWJ Barnabas Community Survey, Food Allergy Program, and Social Media information.
<a href="#"><u>August 2024</u></a>	Recipe of the Month – Watermelon, Arugula, and Pine Nut Salad, Food Allergies: Knowledge is Power, National Night Out, Outdoor Movie Night, Healthy Aging Workshops, Understanding Prostate and Ovarian Cancer, and Social Media information.



Month	Topics
<a href="#"><u>September 2024</u></a>	Recipe of the Month – Cheesy Avocado Quesadillas, Back to School: Nutrition for Busy Families, Meet Our New Health Officer, Dawn Marling, MPH, 2024 Flu Shot Schedule, Updated COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Recommendations, Uptick in Pertussis Cases, Upcoming Programs, and Social Media information
<a href="#"><u>October 2024</u></a>	Recipe of the Month – Pumpkin Chili, Understanding Your Risk of Breast Cancer, Children’s Health Month, 2024 Flu Shot Schedule, COVID-19 Clinic Schedule, Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, Trust Your Instincts: A Story of Survival, and Upcoming Programs, and Social Media information.
<a href="#"><u>November 2024</u></a>	Recipe of the Month – Italian Turkey Tortellini Soup, Sugar Savvy, Children’s Health Month, COVID-19 Clinic Schedule, Starting Your Own Food Truck, Rabies Vaccine Clinic, Great American Smokeout, A Tale of Hopes, COVID-19 Test Kit Expiration Dates and Upcoming Programs, and Social Media information.
<a href="#"><u>December 2024</u></a>	Recipe of the Month – Stuffed Spaghetti Squash, Stay Holiday Healthy, Party Smart, Adopt Theo or Ellie, Bernards Twp Dog and Cat Licenses, Smart Parenting for Smart Kids, Free Blood Pressure Screening, Seasonal Affective Disorder Awareness, Mind N Mingle, and Upcoming Programs, and Social Media information.



## PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

### 2024 COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

*Numbers reflect lab reports and disease investigations that have been approved by the New Jersey Department of Health. Final data for 2024 may vary as NJDOH finalizes their review process. To protect privacy, municipal-level data has been combined to reflect disease surveillance across the entire Bernards Township Health Department jurisdiction.*

*For more information about reportable diseases please visit: [www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics](http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics)*

Disease	Somerset County (BT, BV, PG)	Morris County (CB, LH, MB)	TOTAL 2024
<i>Numbers below represent both laboratory Confirmed and Probable cases, designated by a 'P'. In epidemiology, a probable case refers to a suspected case of a disease or health condition that meets specific criteria outlined in a case definition, indicating a higher likelihood of the individual having the condition, but without definitive laboratory confirmation.</i>			
Amoebiasis	0	0	0
Babesiosis	2	2	4
Botulism - Infant	0	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	4/ 16 P	7 P	4/ 23 P
Chikungunya	1	0	1
Cholera	0	0	0
COVID-19	388/ 216 P	153 / 180 P	541 / 396 P
Cryptosporidiosis	3	0	3
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	0
Dengue Fever	1 P	0	1 P
Diphtheria	0	0	0
E. Coli (STEC)	1/ 4 P	5 P	1/ 9 P
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis Phagocytophilum	1	1	2
Erlichiosis/Anaplasmosis Erlichia Chaffeensis	0	0	0
Giardiasis	4	1	5
Haemophilus Influenzae	1	0	1
Hepatitis A	0	0	0
Hepatitis B - Acute	0	0	0
Hepatitis B - Chronic	3	0	3
Hepatitis C - Acute	0	0	0
Hepatitis C - Chronic	1/ 1P	0	1/ 1 P
Influenza, Human Isolates	0	5	5
Influenza, Type A H1	0	0	0



<b>Disease</b>	<b>Somerset County (BT, BV, PG)</b>	<b>Morris County (CB, LH, MB)</b>	<b>TOTAL 2024</b>
Influenza, Type 2009 H1N1	37	11	48
Influenza, Type A (Subtyping not done)	52	26	78
Influenza, Type A H3	28	10	38
Influenza, Type B	15	10	25
Legionellosis	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	43 P	26 P	69 P
Malaria	1	0	1
Measles	0	0	0
Meningococcal Disease (Neisseria Meningitidis)	0	0	0
Mpox	0	0	0
Mumps	0	0	0
Pertussis	3	0	3
Rubella	0	0	0
Salmonellosis	9/ 4P	5/ 1 P	14/ 5 P
Shigellosis	3 P	1 P	4 P
Spotted Fever Group Rickettsioses	0	1 P	1 P
Streptococcus Pneumoniae	1	0	1
Streptococcus Pyogenes	2 P	0	2 P
Varicella	0	2 P	2 P
Vibrio Infection (Other than V Cholera SPP)	1 P	1 P	2 P
West Nile Virus (WNV)	0	0	0
Yersiniosis	8 P	1 P	9 P
<b>TOTAL</b>	555/ 299 P	224/ 225 P	779/ 524 P

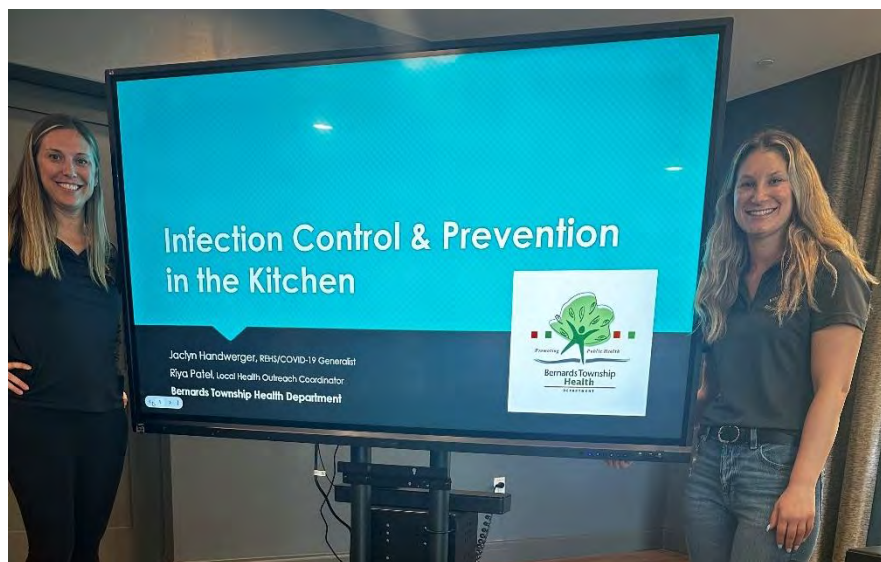


## OUTBREAK MONITORING

In addition to the above-listed communicable disease responses, the Health Department assisted Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities, as well as Schools and Childcare Centers, with the management of COVID-19 and other infectious disease outbreaks. Local Health Departments provide guidance on implementing rapid control measures to limit the spread of disease within a facility and serve as a liaison with NJDOH as needed.

**During 2024, the Health Department ensured daily monitoring during 27 disease outbreaks:**

- 23 SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)
- 2 iGAS (Invasive Group A streptococcal infection)
- 1 Rhinovirus/Enterovirus
- 1 hMPV (Human metapneumovirus)



## PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING PARTNERSHIPS – ZUFALL 2024

*Numbers reflect services for all 6 municipalities covered by the Bernards Township Health Department.*

### Sexually Transmitted Illness (STI) SCREENING AND TREATMENT SERVICES

<u>STI TYPE</u>	NUMBER OF CLIENTS SCREENED		NUMBER OF CLIENTS DIAGNOSED AND TREATED		NUMBER OF PREVENTIVELY TREATED CONTACTS	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
SYPHILLIS	1	2	0	0	0	0
GONORRHEA	3	2	0	0	0	0
CHLAMYDIA	3	2	0	0	0	0
PID	0	0	0	0	0	0
HERPES	0	0	0	0	0	0
HPV/VW	1	0	0	0	0	0
TRICHOMONIASIS	0	0	0	0	0	0
BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MONILIASIS	0	0	0	0	0	0
PUBIC LICE/SCABIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
UTI	0	0	0	0	0	0
HIV	2	1	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL NUMBER</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### PREGNANCY TESTS 2024

Number of Pregnancy Tests Performed	Number of Positive Pregnancy Tests
3	0



<b>CANCER SCREENING SERVICES 2024</b>	
<b>SCREENING TYPE</b>	<b>NUMBER SCREENED</b>
BREAST EXAMS (ages 15-34)	0
BREAST EXAMS (age 35-64)	1
CERVICAL EXAMS (ages 15-34)	2
CERVICAL EXAMS (ages 35-64)	0
COLORECTAL EXAMS (ages >40)	1
PROSTATE EXAMS (ages > 50)	0
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF SCREENINGS</b>	<b>4</b>

**\*All clients who are screened for STIs and cancer are also provided with health education.**

<b>SCREENING TYPE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF CLIENTS SCREENED</b>
CARDIOVASCULAR RISK FACTOR	<b>10</b>
DIABETES	<b>3</b>

<b>ZUFALL HEALTH TOTAL PATIENTS</b>	<b>TOTAL VISITS</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>



**PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING PARTNERSHIPS**  
**Community Visiting Nurse Association (CVNA)**

**BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS**

<i>2024</i>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Bernards Township/ Bernardsville Borough</b>	184
<b>Chester Borough</b>	91
<b>Long Hill Township</b>	61
<b>Mendham Borough</b>	34
<b>Peapack and Gladstone Borough</b>	37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>407</b>

**SCHOOL AUDITS**

State-mandated immunization program school audits completed.

<b>Town</b>	<b># Schools Audited</b>
Bernards Township	25
Bernardsville Borough	7
Chester Borough	1
Long Hill Township	8
Mendham Borough	5
Peapack and Gladstone Borough	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>



## 2024 CLINICS AND SCREENINGS

Program	Date	Participants	Professional Collaborators
<b>Skin Cancer Screening</b>	Jul 15 <sup>th</sup> <i>Fellowship Village</i>	32	Lauren Vitolo, PA-C, Dermatology Consultants
<b>Seasonal Flu Shot Clinics</b>	Oct 9 <sup>th</sup> <i>St James Church</i>	62	Bernards Township Health Department Public Health Nurse, Community Visiting Nurse Association, Wegman's Pharmacy, Green Brook Family Medicine
	Oct 17 <sup>th</sup> <i>Garabrant Center</i>	6	
	Oct 25 <sup>th</sup> <i>PG Mun Gym</i>	11	
	Oct 30 <sup>th</sup> <i>BV Library</i>	18	
<b>Seasonal Flu Shot and COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics</b>	Nov 13 <sup>th</sup> <i>LH Library</i>	2	
	Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup> <i>BT Library</i>	4	
	Homebound Visits	3	



## RISK COMMUNICATION & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

- Utilized the RAVE Alert system to send out emergency health updates.
- Updated all emergency rosters and databases for six (6) towns.
- Updated Bernards Township Health Department Call Roster for After Hours and Weekend Emergencies.
- Continued to update BT Health Department Social Service Resource pages as needed.
- Continued to update information sheets for communications/shelters for six (6) towns.



**The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH)  
Office of Local Public Health's (OLPH)  
Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity Program**

- The **Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity Program** is a non-competitive grant funding opportunity offered to all eligible non-LINCS Agency local health departments (LHDs) to strengthen communicable disease outbreak preparedness and response and build public health capacity. Bernards Township Health Department was awarded **\$495,411.00** for the project period **7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024** and **\$74,664.00** for the project period **7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025**.
  
- **Funding categories include:**
  - a). **Outbreak Preparedness (OP)** to strengthen outbreak preparedness/response capacity by reimbursing eligible COVID-19 and other infectious disease-related expenses - **\$30,008.00** (2023-2024), **\$29,462.00** (2024 – 2025)
  - b). **Public Health Capacity (PHC)** to build public health capacity across workforce, foundational capabilities and data modernization strategies - **\$45,202.00** (2024-2025)
  - c). **Local Health Outreach Coordinator (LHOC)** to hire full-time personnel to assess, mitigate, and respond to populations disproportionately affected by the social and health impacts of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases - **\$183,822.00** (2023-2024)
  - d). **Infectious Disease Preparedness Generalist (IDPG)** to hire full-time personnel to assist with outreach to populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, POD planning, logistics, testing, and contact tracing, etc. - **\$192,216.00** (2023-2024)
  - e). **Public Health Accreditation (ACC)** to strengthen public health infrastructure and transform governmental public health by supporting LHDs seeking voluntary national public health accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). **\$89,365.00** (2023-2024)
  
- **LHOC Deliverables:**
  - Managed all program activities and finances of state-funded grants to comply with NJDOH requirements.
  - Created and submitted quarterly progress reports encapsulating all program activities during the quarter.
  - Assisted the Chief Financial Officer in creating quarterly budget reports for state-funded grants.



- Communicated with faith-based organizations to provide healthcare resources for underserved populations, specifically those with limited to no health insurance.
- Coordinated a homebound, vaccination program to allow bedridden and disabled community residents to access COVID-19/flu vaccines in their homes.
- Organized monthly meetings with other LHOCs to collaborate and discuss best practices to help serve at-risk populations in local communities.
- Worked closely with the NJDOH Program to manage state-funded grants.
- Maintained a vulnerable populations email distribution list to disseminate pertinent information to community partners regarding disease prevention, vaccination, testing, contact tracing, and social support messaging.
- Participated in monthly/quarterly meetings with local stakeholders including faith-based organizations, state/county health departments, LINCS Social Support Coordinators, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).
- Attended quarterly NJDOH Grantee meetings to share progress and best practices.
- Provided testing and vaccination statistics to the County LINCS agency through weekly surveys.
- Utilized the System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE) to track and manage grant-related activities.
- Distributed COVID-19 rapid antigen test kits to local organizations including but not limited to libraries, senior living facilities, long-term care facilities, assisted-living facilities, daycares, schools, and faith-based organizations.
- **IDPG Deliverables:**
  - Assisted LTCs, Assisted Living, and schools with COVID-19 and other Communicable Disease Outbreaks.
  - Assisted with vaccine delivery and refrigerator monitoring.
  - Assisted the LHOC and Public Health Nurse with coordinating a homebound, vaccination program to allow bedridden and disabled community residents to access vaccines in their homes.
  - Created and submitted quarterly progress reports encapsulating all program activities during the quarter.
  - Attended quarterly NJDOH Grantee meetings to share progress and best practices.
  - Assisted COVID-19 rapid antigen test kit distribution to local organizations including but not limited to libraries, senior living facilities, long-term care facilities, assisted-living facilities, daycares, schools, and faith-based organizations
  - Provided tickborne disease educational material to the community through the Health Department website, social media, and rabies clinics.



- Posted tickborne awareness signs at local parks and distributed tick removal cards to the community.
- **ACC Deliverables:**
  - Contracted with Strategic Health Advisers to prepare for national public health accreditation and to complete prerequisites for application to the Public Health Accreditation Board.
  - Worked with SHA to develop a Quality Improvement and Performance Management Plan, establishing guidelines to measure Health Department capacity and maximize responsiveness to community needs and public health goals.
- **OP Deliverables:**
  - Worked closely with long-term care/assisted-living facilities and schools to strengthen and monitor communicable disease reporting and manage outbreak preparedness; investigated and monitored communicable and infectious disease events.
  - Funded equipment and supplies used for communicable and infectious disease preparedness, response and outreach capacity.
- **PHC Deliverables:**
  - Contracted with Strategic Health Advisers to update Health Department Risk Communication Plan and develop a Continuity of Operations Plan.



**The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH)  
Office of Local Public Health's (OLPH)  
COVID-19 Vaccination Supplemental Funding Program**

- **Grant period: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024**
- The **COVID-19 Vaccination Supplemental Funding Program** was a non-competitive grant funding opportunity offered to county and local health departments (LHDs) to support COVID-19 and other adult vaccination efforts among populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.
- This program provides funding to LHDs to integrate COVID-19 vaccination and education into existing LHD programs, continue to implement mobile/off-site COVID-19 vaccinations, and partner with trusted faith or community-based organizations to conduct vaccine educational outreach sessions to increase vaccine confidence in racial and ethnic minority groups.
- Bernards Township Health Department was awarded a total of **\$120,000.00** to hire a Public Health Nurse to expand vaccination efforts and fund any vaccine-related purchases.
  
- **Project Deliverables:**
  - Attended quarterly NJDOH Grantee meetings to share progress and best practices.
  - Participated in weekly evening and weekend vaccination clinics.
  - Worked with underserved populations and faith-based organizations to encourage vaccine uptake.
  - Created and submitted quarterly progress reports encapsulating all program activities during the quarter.
  - Vaccinated homebound and disabled individuals.
  - Maintained inventory of clinical supplies necessary for vaccine clinics.
  - Partnered, planned, and implemented vaccination and other health-related screening activities with critical organizations including churches and FQHCs.
  - Partnered with trusted faith-based organizations to conduct educational sessions among racial and ethnic minority groups.
  - Integrated COVID-19 vaccination and education into existing local health department programs.

## New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials' (NJACCHO) Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure Grant

### Grant period: 10/1/2022-6/30/2025

- The **Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure Grant** offers funding to Local Health Departments to achieve a variety of programmatic goals to create long-term infrastructure improvements, while planning for health equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility.
- Bernards Township Health Department uses these funds to strengthen organizational capacity to drive progress on public health priorities and increase capacity across the department.
- Bernards Township Health Department was awarded a total of **\$632,102.00** for the project period **10/1/2022 - 6/30/2025**.
- **Project Deliverables:**
- Continued to fund a part-time Public Health Nurse following the expiration of the Vaccination Supplemental Funding Program.
- Brought a part-time bilingual REHS to full-time status, expanding services offered to contracted municipalities and providing Spanish-language outreach
- Funded a full-time REHS/IDPG position to support the Public Health Nurse and increase Health Department capacity to conduct disease monitoring and outbreak investigations
- Partially funded a part-time Health Educator position, supporting community health screenings and nutritional education.
- Hired a part-time Grant Manager/Special Projects Coordinator to assume grant management and reporting obligations and manage infrastructure improvement and department modernization processes.
- Funded minor building renovations to modernize infrastructure and improve accessibility.
- Funded attendance at NACCHO/NJACCHO conferences, allowing staff to stay current on emerging public health events.
- Funded tick-borne illness public awareness and prevention materials.
- Funded necessary equipment and supplies to support Animal Control Officer capacity.



## New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials' (NJACCHO) Sustaining Local Public Health Infrastructure Grant


- **Grant period: July/1/2024-3/31/2026**
- The **Sustaining Local Public Health Infrastructure Grant** offers funding to Local Health Departments to sustain public health infrastructure, allowing LHDs to more aptly respond to infectious diseases and future public health needs while continuing to direct resources to ensure health equity.
- Bernards Township Health Department will use these funds to sustain organizational capacity upon expiration of the Enhancing Grant, including staffing, building infrastructure improvements and data modernization processes.
- Bernards Township Health Department was awarded a total of **\$168,049.00** for the project period **7/1/2024 – 3/31/2026**.
- **Project Deliverables:**
- Sustain organizational capacity to drive progress on public health priorities, expand public data collection for public health and health equity priorities.
- Sustain ongoing communicable/infectious disease mitigation efforts.
- Continue building infrastructure improvements while planning for health equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility.
- Continue funding for a part-time Public Health Nurse, bilingual REHS, health education staffing, and part-time Grant Manager after the expiration of Enhancing Grant funding.
- Invest in an online platform for Animal Control licensing, increasing accessibility for residents and modernizing data management capacity.



## BERNARDS TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE & YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

- 7 meetings were held. The Municipal Alliance meets monthly except for July & August.
- New members welcomed: Ana Duarte McCarthy (Township Committee Liaison), Vincent Molinari (Citizen Representative) and Kirsten Light (Board of Education Representative)

### MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE/YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAMS

<p><b>Screenagers: Next Chapter</b> January 25<sup>th</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnered with Community in Crisis to present “Screenagers: Next Chapter” on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> with Blueprint Mental Health as a panel presenter. 10 participants attended</li> </ul>
<p><b>Teen Dating Violence Prevention Table</b> February 21<sup>st</sup></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnered with Know More from Seton Hall to bring a Teen Dating Violence Prevention table to Ridge High School for Teen Dating Violence Prevention Awareness Month.</li> </ul>
<p><b>QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Training</b> March 6<sup>th</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual QPR training in partnership with Empower Somerset</li> <li>• 12 people participated</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week</b> March 18-24<sup>th</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posted drug and alcohol facts daily on Facebook and Instagram during the week.</li> </ul>

**Screenagers: Under the Influence**  
*April 10<sup>th</sup>*



- Partnered with Community in Crisis to present “Screenagers: Next Chapter” on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Panelists included Detective Phil Jasina and Officer JD Moore, the Ridge High School Resource Officer.
- 50 people attended

**Spring DEA Takeback Day**  
*April 26<sup>th</sup>*

- Promoted in the Somerset Hills Area.

**Mental Health Awareness Month**  
*May 2024*



- Posted mental health awareness on Facebook, including mental health condition information, mental health statistics and links to local resources.
- Held a Mental Health First Aid Training and Youth Mental Health First Aid Training in partnership with Community in Crisis and EmPOWER Somerset.
  - YMHFA – May 8<sup>th</sup> – 24 participants
  - MHFA – May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 21 participants



**Township Committee Recognition**  
 May 14<sup>th</sup>




- The Municipal Alliance and Youth Services Commission and REACH were recognized at the Township Committee meeting for their service in drug and alcohol prevention in Bernards Township.

**Charter Day**  
*May 18<sup>th</sup>*


- Annual Charter Day celebration in Bernards Township.
- Municipal Alliance and REACH had a table to promote upcoming programs and provide information to residents.



<p><b>34<sup>th</sup> Annual Pleasant Valley Twilight Challenge 5K</b>  <i>June 2<sup>nd</sup></i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 134 runners, 34 Health Walkers, and 24 Lollipop Loop kids.</li> <li>• Continued partnership with Athletifreak to sponsor Lollipop Loop and awards.</li> <li>• Somerset County YMCA joined on Race Day to sponsor a post-race cool down.</li> <li>• Raised over \$6,000 in sponsorships and race day fees.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Movie Night with Parks and Recreation</b>  <i>August 13<sup>th</sup></i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborative event with REACH and Bernards Township Parks and Recreation.</li> <li>• “Teen” aimed movie night – “Barbie”.</li> <li>• Municipal Alliance information table.</li> <li>• Over 200 movie-goers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Healthy Aging Program</b>  <i>September/October 2024</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnered with Community in Crisis for their Healthy Aging Program aimed to help individuals over the age of 65 pursue healthy aging and non-medical pain relief techniques.</li> <li>• 30 individuals participated over a 7-week period at the Bernards Township Library.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Suicide Prevention Month  National Recovery Month</b>  <i>September 2024</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posted suicide prevention information on Facebook and Instagram as well as resources to recovery centers and support.</li> </ul>
<p><b>“it’s 21 for a Reason” Football Game at Ridge High School</b>  <i>September 20<sup>th</sup></i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handed out information and resources to people attending the Ridge High School Football Game</li> <li>• Raised money by selling pink “it’s 21 for a Reason” shirts.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Mayor's Fall Festival</b> October 5<sup>th</sup></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Alliance and REACH had a table at the Mayor's Fall Festival and handed out information and DisposeRx packets.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day</b> October 6<sup>th</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoted Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day to residents as a day to "knock out" opioid misuse on Facebook and Instagram.</li> </ul>
<p><b>World Mental Health Day</b> October 10<sup>th</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoted local mental health resources including the 988 Suicide Prevention line to residents on Facebook and Instagram.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fall DEA RX Takeback Day</b> October 26<sup>th</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoted in the Somerset Hills Area.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pumpkin Smash</b> Nov 2<sup>nd</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsored and promoted the annual Pumpkin Smash with the Bernards Township Environmental Commission.</li> <li>• Residents can smash pumpkins to relieve stress and dispose in an eco-friendly manner.</li> <li>• REACH students volunteered.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Great American Smokeout</b> November 21<sup>st</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness day held every third Thursday in November to encourage individuals to quit smoking or to form a plan to quit smoking.</li> <li>• Promoted NJ-based quitting resources on Facebook.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Restoring Focus Collaborative</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnered with Bernards Township, the Bernards Township Health Department, the Bernards Township School District, Community in Crisis and the Bernards Township Library to promote programs and trainings surrounding the topic of technology and how it affects children, teens, and families.</li> </ul>

## RIDGE EDUCATION ACTION & COMMUNITY HEALTH (REACH)

- Sponsored by Bernards Township Youth Services Commission
- Meets twice a month except for July and August.
- 3 seniors graduated from Ridge High School and REACH in June 2024.

<b>REACH INITIATIVES</b>	
<b>Instagram</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued posts on healthy lifestyle activities, local programs including Municipal Alliance programming, mental health awareness, substance misuse prevention, and LMTI information.</li> </ul>
<b>Healthy Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoted healthy activities, especially staying active, eating nutritious food, getting enough sleep, and spending time outside.</li> <li>• Laser Tag and other kinds of active movement team bonding.</li> <li>• Tie Dye – Spent time outside being creative doing tie-dye projects.</li> <li>• Pumpkin Painting – Spent time outside being creative and painting pumpkins as a group.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Awareness</b>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteered at Screenagers: Next Chapter 1/25 and Screenagers; Under the Influence 4/10</li> <li>• Volunteered at Charter Day 5/18.</li> <li>• Volunteered at Twilight Challenge 5K 6/1</li> <li>• Volunteered at Back to School Night 9/26</li> <li>• Volunteered at the Mayor’s Fall Festival 10/5</li> <li>• Volunteered at the Pumpkin Smash – 11/2</li> </ul>

<p><b>Peer Leader Presentation</b> Mar 6<sup>th</sup></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REACH leadership presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Peer Leaders at William Annin Middle School to talk about REACH’s mission and how to join in high school.</li> <li>• Topics of the presentation also included the transition from 8<sup>th</sup> into 9<sup>th</sup> grade and how to make positive changes to your life to make the move easier.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Youth Summit Day</b> March 26<sup>th</sup></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REACH helped at Youth Summit Day at William Annin Middle School.</li> <li>• REACH performed their UBU skit which showcases different stereotypes and how to not judge a book by its cover and to be less judgmental of peers.</li> <li>• This year staff from the Lindsey Meyer Teen Institute came to Youth Summit Day to do workshops for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders on the themes of Diversity and Respect and Positively Me.</li> <li>• REACH presented their workshop on REACH, mental health, substance misuse, natural highs, and how to handle high school.</li> <li>• The day finished off with Kevin Wanzer presenting on how to “find the funny in life” and be a friend to one another.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Activities Fair</b> April 30<sup>th</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REACH attended the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Activities Fair to share information about joining REACH when students get into high school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mental Health Month Awareness Table</b> May 16<sup>th</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REACH hosted a Mental Health Awareness Table at Ridge High School to help students decompress after AP Exams.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Senior Letters</b> <i>June 2024</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Letters gives each Senior at Ridge High School a letter from a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade student encouraging them to make good choices and decisions during prom and graduation season.</li> <li>• REACH students read through the letters to make sure they're appropriate and address them to each student in the senior class via English classes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Suicide Prevention Week</b> <i>September 9th</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoted the 988 Suicide Prevention Line as well as information and resources to students at Ridge High School during Suicide Prevention Week</li> </ul>
<p><b>Back to School Night at Ridge High School</b> <i>September 26<sup>th</sup></i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided resources to parents at Ridge High School during Back to School Night for all grades.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Great American Smoke Out</b> <i>November 21<sup>st</sup></i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REACH created posters with smoking and vaping quit resources and hung them up around Ridge High School to encourage peers to make a plan to quit smoking and/or vaping</li> </ul>



## LMTI (LINDSEY MEYER TEEN INSTITUTE)

**Summer Leadership Conference**  
*Aug 19- 23<sup>rd</sup>*



	<b>Applied</b>	<b>Attended</b>
<b>College Age TI Staff (CATS)</b>	0	0
<b>Youth Advisory Council (YAC)</b>	7	7
<b>Nominated 8<sup>th</sup> graders</b>	40	4
<b>Return Campers</b>	-	3
<b>Camp Topic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empowering New Jersey students to create positive change in their communities.</li> <li>• Students heard from motivational speakers and participated in workshops to create an action plan to implement in Bernards Township.</li> </ul>	
<b>REACH 2024-2025 Action Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ridge Action Group wanted to use this year to explore some new topics such as bullying and body image issues and continue working on their cross-age teaching capabilities. Other important topics included mental health and stigma as well as drug and alcohol use.</li> </ul>	
<b>Fall Leadership Conference</b> <i>Nov 8-10</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme for this year was “Falling into Wellness” focused on helping action group members run meetings and promote change in their towns as well as a spotlight on mental health going into the fall/winter season.</li> <li>• 3 REACH students attended the Fall Leadership Conference held at Camp Mason.</li> </ul>	

## GRAB N GO & MIND N MINGLE TEEN OUTREACH

### Grab and Go Teen & Mind n Mingle Outreach



- Former Competitive Grant program (2021-2022) added to the Annual Grant (2023) and now expanded back to Competitive Grant (2024) for \$3,000.
- Collaborated with the Bernards Township Library in 2021 and 2022 to sponsor DIY craft kits aimed at students in grades 7-12. COVID-19 pandemic caused a lot of isolation and boredom amongst teens. GNG aimed to stimulate teen's minds in a healthy way with mindful and exciting crafts.
- Reformatted in 2023 to give out 4 quarterly kits during the Bernards Township School District School Year: Back to School, Winter Break, Valentines Day, and AP Testing/Mental Health Awareness Month.
- Expanded in 2024 to Mind n Mingle – an expansion of the current GNG kits and including in-person activities for teens including pet therapy, craft circles, yoga and mindfulness workshops.
- **Mind n Mingle Activities:**
  - **Picky Pads Craft:** Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, 7 students attended
  - **Self-Care Workshop:** Oct 29<sup>th</sup>, 3 students attended.
  - **Tails & Textbooks Pet Therapy:** Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, 30 students attended.
- **Kits assembled:**
  - **February** – “Friendship is Love” Friendship Bracelet Kits – 50 assembled, 50 picked up
  - **May** – Mental Health Awareness Month Bags – DIY Mini Zen Gardens – 50 assembled, 50 picked up
  - **August** – Back to School DIY Bullet Journals, 50 bags assembled, 50 picked up
  - **December** – Winter Break Wellness Kits – DIY Heat Packs, winter fidgets, smashing geodes, and spa items – 50 kits assembled, 50 picked up

## COPE (Creating Opportunities for Positive Emotions)

### Creating Opportunities for Positive Emotions



- Competitive Grant program sponsored by the Youth Services Commission - \$3,000. This is Year 3 of the grant.
- The COPE (Creating Opportunities for Positive Emotions) Program provides all elementary students in Bernards Township with the opportunity to learn how to cope with difficult emotions as well as the tools necessary to do so.
- COPE provides students with opportunities to learn how to identify and label their emotions as well as how to cope with these feelings.
- Through COPE, each classroom in grades kindergarten through fifth grade in Bernards Township gained access to a COPE kit. 144 kits total.
- Children have access to emotion cards that will assist in emotion identification and coping cards to assist in managing these emotions (i.e., take a deep breath, count to ten, draw a picture, use a fidget, go for a mindful walk in the hallway, think of a happy thought, etc.).
- This coping kit includes coping cards, coloring paper, crayons, and a variety of sensory tools to be used when a child is experiencing a heightened emotion within the classroom.
- COPE also provided each Elementary School Counselor with 40 new Social and Emotional Learning related books.
- In Year 2 the focus was to purchase curriculum off Teachers Pay Teachers to focus on the school counselors. Curriculum examples included grief counseling, problem solving and conflict resolution, diversity and tolerance, self-esteem, and cognitive behavioral therapy.
- In Year 3, the focus will be to purchase books and resources intended for parents to borrow from the Elementary School Counselors if needed.

## GRANT AWARDS

**Youth Services Commission:** The Bernards Township Youth Services Commission was awarded the \$6,000 Annual Grant to fund Ridge Education Action & Community Health (REACH)

**Youth Services Commission Competitive Grant 1:** Applied and received \$3,000 to fund COPE (Creating Opportunities for Positive Emotions) kits to provide emotional stress relief and support to all elementary school students and provide SEL books to elementary school counselors.

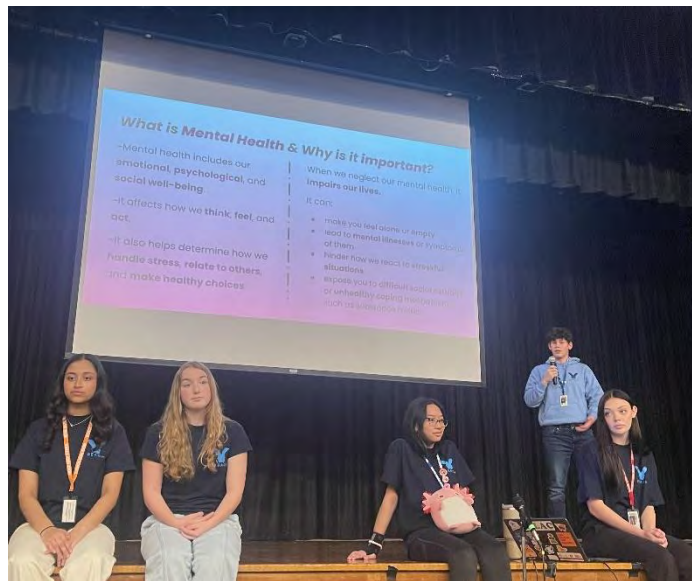
**Youth Services Commission Competitive Grant 2:** Applied and received \$3,000 to fund Grab n Go Teen Outreach – Mind n Mingle expansion. This includes a variety of in-person mental health programming for teens.

**2024 Municipal Alliance:** Request for Funding Allocation (RFA) was submitted in April 2023 for FY 2024 \$10,107.42

**2025 Municipal Alliance:** Request for Funding Allocation (RFA) was submitted in December 2024 for FY2025 for \$10,107.42.

**2024 DMHAS Grant Funding:** Request for Funding Allocation (RFA) was submitted in April 2023 for FY 2024 -FY 2025 for \$4,231.44

**Opioid Settlement Funding:** \$96,010.75 – Settlement funds from major pharmaceutical companies sent to state and local municipalities and used for programs that focus on treatment, prevention, and other strategies to combat the opioid epidemic.



## 2024 BT HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS:

### *Joanna Askey*

- New York University School of Law, J.D.

### *Kaitlin V. Cartoccio, MPH, MCHES, DRCC:*

- Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) #19897
- Bernards Municipal Alliance and Youth Services Commission
- Disaster Response Crisis Counselor (DRCC)
- Community in Crisis
- Safe Communities Coalition
- Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC):  
Bernards Township
- Masters Public Health (MPH) - Rutgers University
- National Society for Public Health Educators (SOPHE)
- New Jersey SOPHE President and member (2024)
- Rutgers Center For Executive Leadership In  
Government
- Dale Carnegie Certificates “Develop Your Leadership  
Potential: Stop Doing, Start Leading” 2022, “High  
Impact Presentations” 2023
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified



### *Tricia Cowell, Senior REHS:*

- Registered Environmental Health Specialist License #B-102153
- Health Officer License #A-102153
- Certified Municipal Registrar (CMR) #5256
- Awarded Mini Master of Public Administration through Rutgers Center for Executive  
Leadership in Government
- Master Public Health (MPH), Southern New Hampshire University
- Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor, Permit No: 040140 , ID No: 031563
- Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC): Bernardsville Borough, Long Hill  
Township, and Peapack and Gladstone Borough
- Bernardsville Borough and Chester Borough Boards of Health
- New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- Notary Public
- Dale Carnegie “Develop Your Leadership Potential: Stop Doing, Start Leading” 2023
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

## 2024 BT HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS (CONTINUED):

### ***Nancy Dowd, REHS:***

- Registered Environmental Health Specialist # B-102051
- Pest Control License 254990
- Mendham Borough Board of Health
- New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor, ID No: 027886
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

### ***Jaclyn Handwerger, REHS***

- Registered Environmental Health Specialist # B-173974
- Lead Inspector/ Risk Assessor
- New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- Servsafe Food Protection Manager
- OSHA - 10 Hour General Industry Safety and Health
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

### ***Andrea Huber, MS***

- Health Educator/Public Health Nutritionist
- Masters Nutrition and Food Science – Montclair State
- Didactic Program in Dietetics - Montclair State
- Dietetic Internship – Iowa State
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- New Jersey SOPHE member
- OSHA – 10 Hour General Industry Safety and Health
- Morris Somerset Regional Chronic Disease Coalition
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

### ***Margaret Keegan***

- Certified Municipal Registrar (CMR) #2531
- Registrars' Association of New Jersey
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified



## 2024 BT HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS (CONTINUED):

### ***Dawn Marling, MPH, HO, REHS***

- Licensed NJ Health Officer – #A-102099
- Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) - #B-102099
- Master of Public Health (MPH), Rutgers School of Public Health
- NJ Association of County & City Health Officials (NJACCHO)
- NJACCHO Emergency Preparedness Workgroup and Medium Local Health Dept Forum
- Greater Somerset County Public Health Partnership, Member
- Somerset County Health Officers Association
- Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC): All contractual towns
- Morris County Public Health Partnership
- Morris County Health Officers Association
- Morris Somerset Regional Chronic Disease Coalition
- New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- Dale Carnegie “Effective Communication and Human Relations” 2025

### ***Patricia Pane, RN, BSN***

- Public Health Nurse
- Navigating Disease Investigations with Cultural Humility & Awareness Fall 2024

### ***Sybil Rainey, REHS:***

- Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) - #B-102197
- New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor, Permit No: 038577, ID No: 038577
- Navigating Disease Investigations with Cultural Humility & Awareness Fall 2024
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified



**2024 BT HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS (CONTINUED):**

**Michelle Santoro, ACO, Humane Officer:**

- Biology, Bachelor of Science
- Certified Animal Control Officer
- Humane Law Enforcement Officer
- FEMA Animals in Disaster IS-00010 & IS-00012
- FEMA Livestock in Disaster IS-00111.a
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

**Deirdre Vogel, CMR, RMC:**

- Certified Municipal Registrar (CMR) #3534
- Registered Municipal Clerks Certification (RMC) # C-1555
- Bernards Township Board of Health Secretary
- Registrars' Association of New Jersey
- Notary Public
- American Red Cross First Aid Certified

