

Princeton Board Of Health Minutes

Monthly Meeting

July 31, 2014

Monument Hall – East Meeting Room

One Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08542

Present:

Board Members:

Lauren Babcock-Dunning

JoAnn Hill, RN

Laura Kahn, M.D.

Steven Miller, PhD

Charles Rojer, M.D., Chairman

Linda Steiner-Sichel, MPH

Staff:

Jeffrey Grosser, MHS, HO

V. Bea Snowdon

Liaisons and Guests:

Elizabeth Bidwell Bates, PHSC Liaison

Nicole Mazur, MPH, Epidemiologist

Absent:

George DiFerdinando, M.D.

Janet Heroux, MHS

Heather Howard

Rick Weiss, MS

I. Open Public Meeting Statement

At 7:30PM, Dr. Charles Rojer called the meeting of the Princeton Board of Public Health to order by reading: "Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided as required by the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was provided of the date, time, and location of this regular meeting by posting a copy of the adopted schedule of the regular meetings with the Clerk's office and by mailing copies to the Trenton Times and Princeton Packet."

II. Roll Call

The absence of George DiFerdinando, Janet Heroux, Heather Howard, and Rick Weiss was noted.

III. Public Comment & Guest

A public comment period was announced. There was no response from those present.

Dr. Rojer introduced Nicole Mazur, MPH, and Central West Regional Epidemiologist for the State of New Jersey Department of Health. Ms. Mazur presented a detailed PowerPoint, to illustrate the background, scope, protocols, and goals of her activities. She reviewed communications and future initiatives being addressed. Complete contact information, for the staff members of the New Jersey Department of Health, was also provided.

Epidemiology services are now provided in regional programs by the State. Ms. Mazur responds to needs in Mercer, Hunterdon, and Somerset Counties. Constant tracking of enteric, vaccine preventable, vector borne, preventable, and all other communicable disease is an ongoing function of the Department. Any assistance and information requested by Princeton's Public Health Department is provided in a timely manner. On call and after hours services are also provided and always available.

Issues that have crossed jurisdictions have been handled smoothly, according to Ms. Mazur. Her Department's relationship with the Princeton - Plainsboro hospital is also working well. Quarterly regional updates and quarterly Communicable Disease Forums (in person and online) are provided to all health constituents in the State.

Given the ever-present possibility of travel related disease exposures, Dr. Rojer questioned her Department's coordination with transportation authorities. Ms. Mazur shared that any suspect cases are managed jointly. There is also a separate refugee health support program. Ms. Mazur reports that sometimes there's a delay in reporting, due to the airline manifest. Travel agencies are often the only address of origin provided by some travelers. Human exposures from West Trenton airport were discussed as an area of concern. Ms. Mazur shared that the ability to track travelers at all points of the transportation chain, from air to ground, exists.

Mr. Grosser reports that he has consistently received response within minutes, to any questions he shares with the NJ Department of Health, and specifically Ms. Mazur. Ms. Mazur encouraged those present to contact her, should there be any additional questions.

Mr. Miller inquired about the central point agency for all LINCS emails. Ms. Mazur reports that the County has a person coordinating the extensive lists for LINCS notices. Mailings are released by topic, to those interested. Reiterating the need to report is an ongoing process for Ms. Mazur, and one she addresses in her work regularly with concern.

IV. Minutes

No revisions were suggested, for the minutes of the June 17, 2014 Board meeting. Ms. Steiner-Sichel seconded Dr. Kahn's motion to approve the minutes as submitted. All in favor voted for acceptance.

V. Monthly Reports

Health Officer's Report:

In an effort to provide more quantitative data, the EXCEL spreadsheet format will be replaced with the more versatile REVELSTONE program. Mr. Grosser is currently setting up the program for his department. Quantitative formats will be used in all future reports along with the REHS Memo to the Board of Health.

Princeton is implementing the new SEE CLICK FIX program, which is now known as Access Princeton, to provide rapid responses to any non-emergency concerns of residents. Anyone sharing a concern or complaint will be able to track the internal response of Town officials. The program, which will be live sometime in September, will create locator maps and display photographs of concerns uploaded by residents.

The Health Department has a high number of complaint categories within the new program, and will continually monitor and respond to Access Princeton reports. Mr. Grosser feels this new system will improve documentation of all matters addressed, while aiding the community online.

Princeton's noise ordinance is currently being revised, as a part of Princeton's government consolidation. Mr., Grosser provided guidance and support for this project. There is a model noise ordinance in the State, which requires equipment, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) approval, and a no noise exemption. This was not implemented. Noise will remain reportable as a nuisance matter, without decibel standards. Plainly audible noise standard will be the method utilized to determine noise violations. Mr. Grosser consulted with Dr. Eric Zwerling. Dr. Zwerling is a Rutgers professor and one of the top noise consultants in the State.

Two cases of possible rabies exposure were investigated in July. The Mercer County Wildlife Center, on River Road in Titusville, provides holding and observation services for animals. Residents exposed may worry unnecessarily that an animal will be euthanized, if an exposure report is made. Mr. Grosser discussed the clear need to teach residents the dangers of rabid animals, the need for the public to report exposures, and the care for all animal life as well as human life that is given in these matters.

VI. Old Business

WIC

WIC clients are scheduled to return to the WIC clinic every three months. Therefore, cancellation of the April clinic decreased July participation. Only 25 clients came for service this month. The participation of 45 clients in June was excellent. A multi-faceted advertising campaign for WIC is ongoing. It includes a PSA, flyers, and outreach to community entities, agencies, and physicians. Mr. Grosser requested suggestions and new ideas from Board Members, to increase enrollment.

Elizabeth Bidwell Bates reported that Princeton's census data supports the need for WIC in Princeton. Children's Home Society staff feels that enrollment in Princeton has been impacted by the hospital move. The upcoming WIC clinic is August 15th. WIC services are provided in the community room on Witherspoon.

Hospital Site

Monitoring of the hospital site deconstruction project continues. 3400 cubic yards of debris and recyclables were removed in July. Additional asbestos was found and is being safely removed.

VII. New Business

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation offers a *Culture of Health* prize and grant, for towns that make citizens' health a priority. A joint County grant application will be made for this prize, through the Mercer County Health Officers Association. Prize money will be distributed through the Mercer County Health Officer's Association and the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership. Dr. Kahn pointed out that this prize is historically awarded to individual towns. She suggests a careful review of the grant qualifications, before submitting a joint application. The application deadline is the end of September.

Janet Heroux has resigned from the Board, due to family needs. The Chairman and Board Members present expressed their thanks and appreciation for Ms. Heroux. She has served well and made many contributions to the Board.

The Board's first Liaison Alternate will fill the vacancy created, by her departure. The second Alternate will become the first, and another opening on the Board will be created for a new second Alternate.

VIII. Report From Committees

Mr. Miller reports that a special meeting of the Princeton Environmental Commission (PEC) was devoted to lawn care contractors. One goal of the meeting was to discern the most effective ways of keeping leaves off the streets. The leaf mulching process and mulching equipment were discussed. Mr. Miller added that discussions on enforcement of leaf ordinances will be ongoing.

Mr. Miller suggested that the Health Department offer a doctor's focus group on communicable disease and other health issues. Dr. Kahn commented that members of the Board of Health have an advisory role and mission. She feels that other groups exist who can host such focus groups, in community locations such as the Princeton Public Library.

Gary DeBlasio, the Director of Corner House, has been named Princeton's new Director of Health, Youth and Community Services position. Mr. Grosser is now reporting to Mr. DeBlasio.

VII. Reports From Other Boards and Commissions

Elizabeth Bidwell Bates encouraged Board Members to volunteer some time, to support Princeton's *Community Night Out*.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Dr. Kahn moved to adjourn. Mr. Miller seconded her motion. With all voting in favor, the meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted, V Bea Snowdon