

**Princeton Board of Health Minutes**  
Monthly Meeting  
**September 16, 2014**  
Monument Hall – East Meeting Room  
One Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08542

**Present:**

**Board Members:**

Lauren Babcock-Dunning MPH  
George DiFerdinando, M.D.  
JoAnn Hill, RN  
Heather Howard  
Laura Kahn, M.D.  
Steven Miller, PhD  
Charles Rojer, M.D., Chairman  
Linda Steiner-Sichel, MPH  
Rick Weiss, MS

**Staff:**

Jeffrey Grosser, MHS, HO  
Gary DeBlasio, Director  
V. Bea Snowdon

**Liaisons and Guests:**

Elizabeth Bidwell Bates, PHSC Liaison  
Gwen Lee, PU Student Health Advisory

**I. Open Public Meeting Statement**

At 7:32PM, Dr. Charles Rojer called the meeting to order, by affirming “this meeting of the Princeton Board of Health has been duly advertised and is being conducted in compliance with all provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.”

**II. Roll Call**

The presence of all board members was noted. The attendance of Ms. Gwen Lee, of the Student Health Advisory Board of Princeton University, and Phil Curran, reporter from The Princeton Packet, was acknowledged.

**III. Public Comment & Guest**

A public comment period was announced. Ms. Lee provided a progress report on the student meningitis vaccination program at Princeton University: 96% of the incoming freshman class, 84% of all sophomores, and 91% of all Juniors and Seniors are now vaccinated. No new reports of meningitis cases or student illness have occurred. The only reported concern has been soreness at the injection site. A full cohort study, of the efficacy of this vaccination program, is now being conducted at Princeton University.

**IV. Minutes**

The correction of one word was suggested, for the minutes of the July 31<sup>st</sup> Board meeting. Acceptance of the minutes with this correction was noted.

**V. Monthly Reports**

**Health Officer's Report:**

Mr. Grosser shared details of ACCESS PRINCETON, Princeton's new program to efficiently serve residents with concerns or complaints. Incoming complaints are now tracked by email. Anyone lodging a complaint will receive real time reports of the ongoing resolution. All communications to and from Princeton staff will be relayed and tracked by apps on the internet or phone. ACCESS PRINCETON is a useful part of the Public Health Department's strategic plan and accreditation process. A press

conference will be held on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, at noon on the steps of Memorial Hall, to announce the establishment of this program.

To effectively monitor the progress of the meningitis vaccination and prevention program, Mr. Grosser attended a meeting at Princeton University. There was good representation from a variety of public health officials, including a CDC Fellow and our Regional Epidemiologist.

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, Princeton's Health Department will host a *Flu Clinic & Health Fair*, at the Senior Resource Center. Dr. Kahn announced the *Princeton University Flu Fest*, which will also be held in October.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **Hospital Site**

Demolition at the hospital site will likely to begin on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Grosser will be evaluating all air monitoring during the demolition. Noise enforcement will also be ongoing. Jackhammers will be used in the parking garage to the existing remove slabs. Mr. Grosser is a certified noise enforcement officer and has experience with noise readings and complaint protocol. Residential noise complaints against a commercial property fall under NJ noise code, N.J.A.C. 7:29. The Mercer County Division of Public Health will be responding to citizen complaints referred to them from the Princeton Health Department.

Avalon Bay will be given any readings of concerns, which will then be reviewed by their acoustical consultant. To date, very good responses from Avalon Bay personnel are reported.

## **VII. New Business**

### **Ebola**

Meetings for the proper training for first responders for Ebola cases have been conducted. They will also soon be conducted for members of law enforcement. These training sessions will ensure optimal safety and containment, in response to any suspected Ebola carrier. A CDC consultant who is a known Ebola expert answered all questions, during a recent meeting with Princeton University officials. Evaluations of risk exposure will be conducted on incoming travelers, with appropriate follow up by state and CDC.

Princeton University only has a few students traveling from West Africa. Mr. Grosser will coordinate the risk assessment for visitors from West Africa visiting Princeton.

The importance of FIT testing was discussed, for N95 PPEs supplied for protection to medical and emergency responders. This testing has been thoroughly reviewed at meetings of NJ Boards of Health. The use of masks and FIT testing of PPEs is applicable for the spread of malaria, as well as Ebola.

Quarantine stations at airports were discussed. Suspected cases are and will be quickly moved to hospital, from these stations, if necessary. The intent is to keep people who may be Ebola carriers out of the general population.

### **August Rabies Statistics**

August was the busiest month on record for health department rabies evaluations. In fact, the month delivered as many cases as Princeton normally encounters in one year. Dr. Kahn questioned comparison to other counties. Consulting with wildlife experts, Mr. Grosser has determined that the cooler weather and mating season are two influencing factors.

Mark Johnson has been checking homes for bat colonies, as well as responding to raccoon reports. Linden Lane saw the greatest numbers of rabid bat cases (3).

Mr. Grosser feels communication is imperative, regarding this public safety concern, He feels that press coverage on this health matter was particularly helpful this year. Mr. Grosser suggests an educational campaign every May and June, with a press release and community health education on rabies.

Phil Curran's excellent work, in terms of coverage of the response procedure in the Princeton Packet, was cited. One rabid raccoon at Community Park Pool was spotted and there was a response within minutes, largely due to this public education. Mr. Grosser and the Board expressed thanks and appreciations to Mr. Curran, for his service to the public.

Dr. DiFerdinando, requests that all new personnel be immediately trained to provide a response that includes animal containment. He explained why this is essential to control rabies. It is important to note that bats show no signs of the virus, while raccoons may get ill. Dr. DiFerdinando stressed that, whether they are rabid or not, a person can be wounded by these animals. Mr. Grosser added that a conservative response regarding treatment is always given.

### **Strategic Planning – Accreditation**

National accreditation is being sought for the Princeton Health Department. Accreditation creates a higher level of standards for the department. It will deliver many benefits, and enhance the definition and implementation of all goals and objectives.

Princeton has two of the three requirements now firmly in place. \$6,000 is half of the fee being sought if a NJACCHO grant is received. The fee will cover a five-year period. If accreditation is attained, Princeton will be one of the first in Mercer County to attain this mark.

Board Members are asked to volunteer for the accreditation subcommittee, which will meet at lunchtime. Dr. Rojer expressed the benefits and importance of refining emergency procedures, during the accreditation process.

### **Enterovirus D-68**

The CDC Health Advisory, regarding Enterovirus D-68 screening and response, has been sent by Mr. Grosser's department to all of Princeton's public and private school nurses. Questions have been fielded by Mr. Grosser to support nursing inquiries.

This virus is now presenting as a serious respiratory virus in children. Specimens will be sent to CDC, for evaluation and tracking. The group discussed the egregious nature of this virus, particularly in children with asthma.

### **VIII. Reports From Other Boards and Commissions**

The Princeton Environmental Commission (PEC) will be sending a letter to Town Council about bag fees. Mr. Miller reports that PEC requests that a single use plastic bag referendum be placed on our voter's ballot, in November. Passage of this referendum will reduce waste and save taxpayer money. PEC asks that the Board and Princeton resident vote "yes" on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Rojer addressed concerns about the transmission of plastics into humans from seafood, due to the breakdown of plastic bags in the oceans. It was noted that MacCaffreys and Whole Foods take recyclable plastics of all numbers, including yogurt containers and others.

Dr. DiFerdinando suggests adopting PEC's referendum throughout the entire County.

Ms. Steiner-Sichel shared a report from the Princeton Alcohol and Drug Alliance. The Alliance is pursuing the proposal of an under-age drinking ordinance. Princeton is the only college town in New Jersey without this type of ordinance.

Mr. DeBlasio, Director of Health, Youth and Community Services, will set up a committee to work on this ordinance. Mr. DeBlasio reports that parents are finding e-cigarettes and turning to his Department with questions. Marijuana ordinances were also discussed.

**Xi. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ms. Hill moved to adjourn. Mr. Weiss seconded her motion. With all voting in favor, the meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted, V Bea Snowdon