

**Princeton Board of Health Minutes**  
Monthly Meeting  
**October 21, 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

**Staff:**

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

**Liaisons and Guests:**

Elizabeth Bidwell Bates, PHSC Liaison  
Krystal Knapp, Planet Princeton

**Absent:**

Rick Weiss, MS

**I. Call to Order**

At 7:34PM, 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 absence of Mr. Weiss was noted. The attendance of Krystal Knapp, Editor of **Planet Princeton** was acknowledged.

**III. Public Comment & Guest**

Board members welcomed Ms. Knapp and commended her for excellent reporting. There was no response to the Chairman’s request for public comment.

**IV. Minutes – September 16, 2014**

Chairman Rojer suggested the addition of an adjective and a surname correction. A motion to accept the revised minutes was made by Ms. Hill and seconded by Dr. Kahn. All present voted in favor of acceptance.

**V. Monthly Reports**

**Health Officer’s Report:**

*Food and Water Watch* has invited all Board of Health members to a private dinner and discussion, Wednesday evening, at Mountain Lakes House. Information and resources about the “fracking” ordinance will be provided at the event. Mr. Miller notes that all County and local Environmental Commissioners are also invited. RSVPs, for those interested in attending, are required and can be sent online.

Mr. Grosser met with the new Director of Dining, dining team administrators, and the Environmental Health team of Princeton University, to discuss health guidelines, roles, and responsibilities.

The NJ Environmental Report of animal rabies cases was reviewed. In September, only one bat was found in Princeton and tested. The result was negative for rabies. A lab monkey bite was investigated, at Princeton University. NJ Department of Health statistics, for the year to date, show that 7 animals testing positive for rabies came from Princeton, of which 5 were bats. A report of 3 bats discovered on Linden Lane this summer increased both public awareness and reports provided by the Princeton Health Department.

171 retail food inspections have been completed to date. Inspections of 32 retail food establishments remain due in 2014. These will be completed before the year's end.

Two conferences are scheduled this month for the NJ Health Officers Association. Mr. Grosser will deliver a presentation on quarantines for his colleagues.

A NJ State meeting to create an interagency health task force, a Mercer County Leadership Update, and an Ebola Preparedness task force will convene this week. Mr. Grosser will participate in the proceedings of these meetings.

Twenty vendors provided screening at today's Flu Clinic and Health Fair event. Although the Health Fair was heavily attended, things went smoothly. Nearly 400 vaccinations were administered. A makeup clinic will be offered next Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, in Monument Hall.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **WIC**

The *Children's Home Society* has agreed to continue funding of the WIC Clinic in Princeton. The clinic schedule for 2015 will soon be released. WIC clinics are offered in the Community Room at 400 Witherspoon. Board members were invited to visit and see a clinic in operation.

### **Hospital Site – Deconstruction Update**

Mr. Grosser and his staff continue to work with the Mercer County Division of Public Health, on noise monitoring, at the former hospital site. Precautionary measures continue to be taken, in response to all complaints. Avalon Bay purchased a sound-dampening wall, to reduce the sound by 10 decibels, in response to one report of excess noise. There was one complaint regarding dust and air quality. Dust monitoring is continuing on a daily basis. To date, all air quality readings have been within the safety threshold.

### **Strategic Planning – Accreditation**

Princeton's grant request, to fund the accreditation application process for the Health Department, has been denied. Princeton's Health Department has requested the full amount for the accreditation fee in the 2015 department budget.

## **VII. New Business**

### **Ebola**

There was an open discussion of the current Princeton Ebola watch, quarantine, case isolation, and treatment plans for any future cases. Mr. Grosser shared his report of the first documented quarantine of a possible Ebola case in NJ history. A mandatory quarantine ends tomorrow night at 11:59 PM, for one Princeton resident. That individual will continue self-monitoring through the weekend. In the past week, many questions were phoned to the Health Department. Mr. Grosser thanked everyone present, for reaching out and lending support. He expressed gratitude for the strong teamwork and quick response of all Board Members. Princeton's police department increased surveillance, providing increased coverage of the quarantine location. Mr. Grosser shared that "the police have done a great job" in lending support as well. Heather Howard and the Board members present commended Mr. Grosser, for his impressive professional response to every need in this case.

A new Jersey State Interagency Task Force has been formed to take a comprehensive look at the coordination of all first responders, as well as the larger, statewide Ebola response. Mr. Grosser stated that, with regards to health emergencies, "It is important to be ready on the local level...and to be prepared for anything".

It was noted that Princeton has incurred significant costs for the quarantine. Ms. Howard inquired about the possibility of requesting reimbursement from the state of New Jersey. Dr. DeFerdinando suggests preparing a bill and sending it to the NJ State Health Commissioner's office. Based on his prior experience with a similar matter, he added that reimbursement might take up to 2 years. Dr. DeFerdinando also suggested that we review the Emergency Health Powers Act. It may shed some light on the many questions regarding regulations and responsibility for payment in these cases.

Dr. Kahn suggested that careful attention be given to a review of dispatchers' protocols. Proper questioning becomes essential, since it is impossible to know immediately if a caller has had a contagious exposure.

Mr. DeBlasio inquired about readiness at local urgent care centers, as this is often the first contact point for clinical assessment. Ms. Hill reports that local centers have been given protocols and algorithms.

Thursday was the first day of screening in Newark International Airport. Dr. DeFerdinando reviewed the screening process. Protocols for examinations, transport of cases, and quarantine services were also shared.

Mr. Grosser stressed that, in all matters of public health, communication is most important. Dr. Kahn added that outreach to Mercer County's West African community might be considered.

With regards to the current Ebola cases in Princeton, Mr. Grosser has scheduled a follow-up visit to review the terms of self-monitoring and will conduct an exit interview. Such exchanges will become helpful learning tools. There are two overlapping quarantine periods for all suspected cases: the period from last exposure and the period that begins on arrival in the United States.

### **Enterovirus D-68 (EVD-68)**

The Hamilton Township Health Officer, Jeff Plunkett, has been actively engaged in communication with Princeton's Health Department regarding EVD-68. He will be speaking about EVD-68 in an upcoming County Leadership meeting. Mr. Grosser shared that cases of EVD-68 should decrease in the coming weeks, as it gets colder.

### **VIII. Reports From Committees**

Mr. Miller shared news regarding leaf bag use for the *Leave the Leaves* campaign. Pollution issues related to mulching were discussed. Concern was expressed about safety issues and hazards caused by leaf piles in roadways. *Leave the Leaves* is a public campaign, currently supported by *Princeton Environmental Commission*.

### **IX. Reports from Other Boards and Commissions**

There were no reports from other Boards and Commissions

### **X. Adjournment**

Following Dr. Kahn's motion and Ms. Hill's second, all voted in favor of adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:39PM

Respectfully submitted, V Bea Snowdon