

Princeton Board of Health Minutes
Monthly Meeting
November 18, 2014
Monument Hall – East Meeting Room
One Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08542

Present:

Board Members:

Laura Kahn, M.D.
Steven Miller, PhD
Charles Rojer, M.D., Chairman
Linda Steiner-Sichel, MPH

Staff:

Jeffrey Grosser, MHS, HO
Elisa Neira, MSW, Director HSC
V Bea Snowdon

Liaisons and Guests:

Elizabeth Bidwell Bates, HSC
Phil Curran, Journalist
Gwen Lee, PU Health Advisory

Absent:

Lauren Babcock-Dunning MPH
George DiFerdinando, M.D
JoAnn Hill, RN
Rick Weiss, MS

I. Call to Order

At 7:45PM, Chairman 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 Ms. Babcock-Dunning, Dr. DiFerdinando, Ms. Hill, and Mr. Weiss was noted.

III. Public Comment & Guest

There was no response to the Chairman's request for public comment.

Elisa Neira, MSW, Director of the Human Services Commission, was welcomed and invited to discuss wage protection. Ms. Neira reports that a Wage Theft Ordinance has been adopted in Princeton, to support full payment for workers in the local yard and landscape service industry. This new ordinance is crafted in accordance with all NJ State Wage and Hour laws. With an interest in introducing similar protection, for workers in the local restaurant industry, members of the Human Services Commission have now begun to examine the health code with Mr. Grosser.

Princeton is currently considering the option of one comprehensive wage theft ordinance, for all areas of jurisdiction. Another consideration is the adoption of protection on a departmental by department basis. Regardless of the mechanism, expansion of enforceable public policies will protect more of our local workforce.

New Brunswick is the first community to introduce and enforce wage theft protection in the restaurant industry. Mr. Grosser stated "...we're currently in the planning stages" as we examine ways to address this need." in Princeton. He will share information as this process moves forward. Craig Garcia, a fair labor representative at *New Labor*, may attend a future Board meeting to share the details of effective implementation.

New Labor's surveys and experience indicate that most wage theft occurs in restaurants. Year to date, Ms. Neira has mediated seven cases of local landscaping wage theft. She explained that Princeton's

new ordinance speeds recovery of wages. With more outreach and education planned, she hopes that local workers will learn that they have support and will, in turn, share more reports.

Dr. Kahn suggested domestic and childcare workers as other possible areas of concern.

IV. Minutes – October 21, 2014

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Dr. Kahn and seconded by Mr. Miller. All present voted in favor of acceptance.

V. Monthly Reports

Health Officer's Report:

Mr. Grosser delivered a presentation to the Mercer County Leadership Forum, regarding the quarantine management in Princeton. Chief Nick Sutter attended, to add information about this matter from the Police department's perspective. Jeff Plunkett delivered a report of his experience to date with EVD-68. County Executive, Brian Hughes delivered the opening remarks for the Forum.

Recent Regional Communicable Disease Training has focused on rabies and Ebola virus protocols. There are new guidelines on Ebola case management. The Public Health Environmental Laboratory in Ewing can now test specimens of suspected cases for Ebola. The needs for waste management and exposure containment can then be determined within approximately 12 hours. NJ is one of only ten states to have this rapid screening capability.

68 people attended the second Flu Shot Clinic. With 395 inoculations given during the first offering, 463 people have now been vaccinated by the Health Department to date.

Almost all of the annual inspections for retail food facilities have been completed.

VI. Old Business

Strategic Planning – Accreditation

Dr. Kahn, Ms. Steiner-Sichel, Mr. DeBlasio, and Princeton Health Department Staff gathered to begin the strategic planning process. Planning meetings will be held monthly. Goals and objectives, for next 3 to 5 years, is one of the more complex elements of this project and will be the focus of meetings in January.

Mr. Grosser invites all Board Members to participate in the meetings, to come to discussions on areas of particular interest, and/or to be involved in strategic planning in any way they are able. He is also willing to meet with Board members individually, at their convenience, to discuss areas of need for the strategic plan.

Among areas already discussed is a "Community Visions" program for local schools. This experience will elevate awareness of public health, as well as nutritional choices for lunch.

Departmental outreach capabilities will hopefully be expanded, with additional public health nurse hours. This is another priority of the strategic plan.

Mr. Miller suggests that environmental health needs, in such areas, as construction, air pollution, and noise pollution, be addressed fully in the strategic Plan.

In a related discussion, Mr. Miller voiced a need for details regarding any major public health complaints or concerns. Mr. Grosser shared that he can send out a number of reports, stating: "Anything that is an event or inspection that will create a larger issue will always be in the monthly memo."

Ebola

A County-wide Ebola response plan is now in place. Capital Health System has volunteered to be the transport agent for any Ebola cases in the County, although they will not necessarily be the treating center. Capital Health responders have the equipment and training to do contained transports.

Clinic Numbers

Mr. Grosser has obtained patient encounter numbers from the Child Health Clinic, at UMCP. Our WIC population is serviced at UMCP, with uninsured children aged 6 months to 18 years able to receive health care services there. WIC Clinics are currently held in community room at Witherspoon. Transportation to the hospital was discussed as a major obstacle for those in need. The local bus system is only available weekdays, with very few stops.

VII. New Business

Chairman Rojer will deliver a 5-minute presentation, detailing the accomplishments and future goals of the Board of Health, to Town Council. A summary of his presentation will be sent to all Board Members.

VIII. Reports From Committees

Representing the Princeton Environmental Commission (PEC), Mr. Miller reported that Council has passed an ordinance banning fracking in Princeton. *Food & Water Watch* had a successful dinner to review this and other recent fracking developments. Reports of unmonitored hazardous fracking waste, coming into the State of New Jersey, is one area of great concern. This waste was being processed in Elizabeth, NJ. It is possible that brine from fracking is being sold as salt solution for road de-icing. PEC recommends that this practice be banned, because benzene, formaldehyde, radioactive compounds, and other dangerous ingredients are in the solution. "Waste water: the Soft Underbelly of Fracking" and other attachments will be sent to the Board, by Mr. Miller. These mailings will detail this issue further. Mr. Miller suggests passing an ordinance to ban fracking waste transport and distribution in the State of NJ, as a way of protecting the citizenry.

PEC requests a letter from the Board in favor of the "*Leave the Leaves*" campaign. The Board determined that placing a link to PEC on the Health Department website would show support and heighten awareness of Environmental issues.

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. Steiner-Siechel's second, all voted in favor of adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:47PM

Respectfully submitted, V Bea Snowdon