

Princeton Board of Health
Monthly Meeting
December 15th, 2015
Monument Hall - East Meeting Room
One Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540

Present:

Board Members

Lauren Babcock Dunning, MPH
George DiFerdinando, M.D
JoAnn Hill, RN
Laura Kahn, MD, Chairwoman
Steven Miller, PhD
Linda Schwimmer, Esq
Linda Steiner-Sichel, MPH

Absent:

Heather Howard, Council
Rick Weiss, MS

Staff:

Jeffrey Grosser MHS, HO
Gary DeBlasio, Director, Health,
Youth, Community Service
Michael Soto, Recording Secretary

Guests:

Jake Caddeau, Corner House
Student Rep
Jackson Miller, Corner House
Student Rep
Moustafa Ramadan, Raritan Valley

I. Call to Order

At 7:30PM, Chairwoman Kahn 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. Public Comment and Guests

Salwa Ahmad presented on the work of the Princeton University Student Health Advisory Board, including:

- A hydration station providing water and pizza to avoid students drinking on an empty stomach.
- Training students to become Mental Health Mentors to be paired up, one-on-one with other students who need help. This is currently being approved by University Health Services.
- Updating Sanitation Boxes in women's bathrooms to ensure there are adequate boxes.
- A holiday nutrition activity so that students have tips on how to eat healthy over the holidays.
- A Hand washing campaign
- Flu Fest promoting vaccination

- National Public Health Week coming up in April
- Mental Health Monday, where they brought in therapy dogs for students to take time off from stressful evenings and play with the animals

Jake Caddeau and Jackson Miller, Student Reps from Corner House, indicated that while there are significant drug education activities for elementary and middle school students, there is not much for high school students. One challenge is that many of the peer leaders are high school students so the proximity in age makes it difficult for them. This was discussed as a possible opportunity for collaboration with university students.

III. MINUTES - November 24th, 2015

Approval of the November minutes was tabled to January, once the Board's feedback on the drafted minutes can be incorporated.

IV. Health Officer's Monthly Reports

a. Animal Control Ordinance

The introduction to the most recent Animal Control Ordinance is going to be open to public hearing this coming Monday evening. The ordinance has been updated, consolidating the Borough and Township Codes. Highlights of the changes include: updating new monetary amounts for penalties and requiring cat owners to vaccinate their pets.

November had the highest number of dead deer, about 3-4 every weekend. The new vehicle request submitted earlier in the year will be useful in responding to the deer pickup. It is still under review by the Finance Committee.

b. Tuberculosis Program

The county's TB program is conducted through Trenton Health Team. Unfortunately, the Trenton Health Team has had their funding cut. Municipalities are determining a shared services agreement estimated at \$120,000 to continue operations.

Of the 63 total cases in Mercer County, 54% were from Trenton. Mercer County Health Division of Public Health is proposing Princeton pay under \$2,000 for the shared services agreement.

Dr. DiFerdinando highlighted the explosive nature of TB cases, where a single case can expose thousands of people. The real risk is catastrophic care, so \$2,000 a year is negligible for the insurance.

c. Contracts

Next Monday at the Council meeting, the Board will propose 8 of its 11 contracts. Also picking up another part-time nurse.

d. Communicable Disease Investigation

There was one communicable disease investigation at an Eating Club due to 5 similar cases of GI. There were no major violations other than a couple serving spoons that had to be changed out on a buffet line.

e. NJ Smoke Free Air Act

Mr. Grosser has been speaking with several surrounding municipalities and it seems that several have similar establishments. Mr. Grosser will be drafting a letter for the owner of Little Taste of Cuba to sign, clarifying guidelines that he is required to follow. There have been two unannounced inspections over the past couple weeks.

f. Accreditation

The Public Health Accreditation Website has now been opened. Princeton's deadline to apply is December 2016. Mr. Grosser thanked all that participated in the strategic planning session because it played a big role in the accreditation process. Mr. Grosser also discussed the 2015-2020 work plan that is linked to the recently adopted strategic plan. Mr. Grosser reviewed the recent accomplishments the Department has made within the work plan as well as the work left to do.

g. January Reorganization Meeting – Board of Health Member Roles and Responsibilities

Mr. Grosser informed the Board that the reorganization meeting for the Board of Health would occur next month on January 19 with a start time of 7:15 p.m. Mr. Grosser took this moment to inform the board of their roles and responsibilities as members of the health department's governing entity. He quoted the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Orientation Manual and stated that the board should continue to do the following in 2016: Be informed, promote public health services, be community conscious, attend Board of Health meetings, know their obligations and duties. Mr. Grosser added that responsibilities of a local board member can vary. With the advice and consultation of the Health Officer, they may be required to make decisions about environmental Public Health matters, learn about and approve health education programs, decide what clinical services are needed and can be provided, work with community leaders, act as a liaison between the health department and the public, advise a governing body

on effective Public Health policy, propose health-related ordinances, and approve financial budgets and expenditures.

Mr. Grosser concluded by informing the Board of Health members that he would be sending out the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association, Board of Health Member Orientation Manual to each of them within the next month. He informed the Board that it is important to continuously review what it is that the Board is accountable for.

h. Tobacco 21

Dr. DiFerdinando shared there was a hearing at the Assembly last Thursday. NJ American College Physicians put in “a slip” stating it was supporting the bill. Princeton was 7th municipality in the State to have passed this legislation, there are now more than a dozen.

i. Conversation of a Lifetime

Jim Towey will be speaking at the library at 7pm on January 13th to speak as part of the Conversation of a Lifetime series. The Series attempts to change the culture around the end of life, regarding care. This is part of a pilot of three municipalities in NJ.

j. Princeton Environmental Commission (PEC) Report

Mr. Miller shared updates from the PEC. Matt Wasserman, Chair of PEC, is resigning.

The PEC expressed interest in creating a 3-year environmental health goal in conjunction with the Board of Health.

Lisa Levine has expressed interest to make hazardous waste easier to recycle, particularly medication. Mr. Grosser indicated that there is drop box for pills at the police station. Mr. DeBlasio said he will work with Chief Sutter to put out a press release to raise awareness.

Ms. Levine also expressed interest in working with the Board of Health in creating regulation for using leaf blowers. Mr. DiFerdinando highlighted how this is also a worker hazard, indicating that most do not use noise suppression wear. There are significant occupational health issues which should be explored further particularly in the construction sector.

k. Princeton Alcohol & Drug Alliance (PADA)

Ms. Hill announced the kick off of a heroin awareness program; there will be a planning meeting on Friday. There have been 5 heroin overdoses and 2 deaths since the beginning of the summer. It will be co-sponsored by the Police Department, the Health Department, and Corner House.

V. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Schwimmer motioned to adjourn and Ms. Hill seconded. All present voted in favor of this action and the meeting adjourned at 8:36PM.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Soto