

**Princeton Board of Health**  
Monthly Meeting  
**April 19th, 2016**  
Monument Hall - East Meeting Room  
One Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540

**Present:**

**Board Members**

Lauren Babcock Dunning, MPH  
George DiFerdinando, MD, Chair  
JoAnn Hill, RN  
Heather Howard, JD, Council  
Steven Miller, PhD  
Linda Schwimmer, Esq  
Mona Shah, PhD  
Linda Steiner-Sichel, MPH, Vice Chair

**Staff:**

Jeffrey Grosser MHS, HO  
Michael Soto, Board Secretary

**Guests:**

Elizabeth Bates, Human Services Liaison  
Jake Caddeau, Corner House Student Rep  
Philip Curran, Princeton Packet  
Alex Jow, Princeton University  
Britney Suchen, Rutgers University

**Absent:**

Rick Weiss, MS

**I. Call to Order**

At 7:35 PM, Dr. DiFerdinando 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**

Alex Jow shared updates from the Princeton University Student Health Advisory Board:

- Sleep Week – Encouraging students to sleep more than 56 hours in a week. As an incentive, students could win a Fitbit.
- Don't be the Duck campaign – A Mental Health initiative aimed to reduce the inclination of students to appear fine despite struggling beneath the surface. The name comes from ducks that appear calm above the water and are frantically kicking below the water.
- A study break with dogs. Mr. Jow informed the group that the Princeton Health Department participated in this event last year.

### **III. Minutes – March**

Dr. Miller motioned to accept the minutes with corrections, seconded by Ms. Steiner-Sichel. All voted in favor.

### **IV. Business**

#### **a. Point of Distribution (POD) Exercise**

Last month Mr. Grosser was present as an evaluator at a multi-county (Hunterdon, Mercer, and Somerset) POD exercise to simulate an anthrax release. There were over 2,000 participants, simulating over 200 people per hour going through individual stations receiving post-exposure prophylaxes. The target was to respond to about 220 per hour but the result was significantly less than that.

One important lesson learned was that there had to be a better communication plan between the different counties if such an event led to multi-county collaboration.

#### **b. National Public Health Week**

Several events were organized to promote worksite wellness, including a wellness dog and a skin safety education event. The Princeton Health Department saw 74 participants over the course of the events.

#### **c. Quality Improvement**

The Health Department participated in a webinar organized by the Region II Public Health Training Center. The purpose of the webinar series is to assist local health departments prepare a quality improvement plan.

#### **d. Accreditation**

The Health Department is at 52% completion with seven months left. The NJDOH grant status is satisfactory and the department received the funds today, April 19<sup>th</sup>, which will last through the end of June.

The Accreditation Coordinator, Keith Levine, will be out for the month of May with a health issue. Interns will be working on accreditation during this time period.

Mr. Grosser thanked Ms. Howard for having recommended an excellent intern, Bethany, who has done a fantastic job over the past 12 months and will be working through the end of June. She has taken a job with a pharmaceutical company in New Hampshire.

e. Zika Virus

The Health Department has printed 1,000 door hangers and interns will be going door-to-door to distribute them.

The County has a set of mosquito sampling sites to identify mosquito species and the viruses they may be carrying.

The mosquitos can vary from county to county. The ones in Mercer County tend to remain in the same area (backyard or block).

To date, Princeton has not had a case of Zika but there have been travel related cases in Mercer County.

Mercer County Health Officer's Association is meeting this week to learn about the initiatives been undertaken at the county level from Mercer County Mosquito Control

Dr. DiFerdinando chaired a session at the Medical School at New Brunswick on a CDC Intelligence Report describing the process underway in Puerto Rico. It is estimated that nearly one third of the population there will become infected with the Zika virus. It is important to note that there is a significant travel corridor between Puerto Rico and New York.

Dr. DiFerdinando also shared that Dr. Anthony Fauci, the head of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, stated that he expected person-to-person transmission in the US.

*Aedes aegypti* reproduces in very small bodies of still water. The most common culprit areas are the saucers under pots when people overwater or it has still water it accumulated from a rain.

f. Lead & Copper Testing at Schools

In a pro-active measure following the case in Newark, the Princeton School district tested all the schools in the district, with a total of 85 samples. There were 2 locations that tested above the maximum levels:

1. Johnson Park: The outdoor pavilion which was at 1.5 parts per billion for copper (maximum contamination level is 1.3) and,
2. Johnson Park: The staff lounge tap that was high for both copper (1.7 parts per billion) and lead (16.6 parts per billion, where the maximum contamination level is 15 parts per billion).

Mr. Grosser noted that there already is a plan in action, the affected faucet/drinking water fountain have been removed and replacement plans are underway, followed by retesting.

g. Ordinance

The updated codified set of Board of Health ordinances will be put out through public notice and reviewed next month.

h. Under-Aged Drinking Ordinance

Ms. Steiner-Sichel suggested the Board consider discussing an Under-Age Drinking Ordinance. Dr. DiFerdinando discussed the range of ordinances across the 75% of municipalities of the state. These local statutes expand the investigatory capacity of police regarding underage drinking.

Ms. Hill and Ms. Steiner-Sichel expressed that there has been push back from many parents concerned about how it may affect the college admissions process of their children.

Police are not allowed to enter properties unless there is an established motive or call.

Ms. Howard discussed the Social Host Law that holds adults liable for serving alcohol to minors. Mr. Grosser indicated that there is a planning meeting tomorrow for an event being held in collaboration between Corner House, Health Department, Police Department and Princeton Alcohol and Drug Alliance on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, from 7-8:30 p.m. at Witherpoon Hall.

Dr. DiFerdinando expressed his concern that he had not been able to find any documentation on impact of such local ordinances. With evidence in hand it would be easier to make a case for an ordinance. Dr. Shah will look into evaluations that have been undertaken.

Ms. Hill asked Mr. Grosser to request that Mr. Gary DeBlasio attend the following meeting to address questions regarding this matter.

i. Youth Leader Survey

Jake Caddeau, Corner House Rep, shared some of the questions of the survey they will be asking students around alcohol usage. The results will be displayed to parents at the Host Liability Conference.

j. Taxi Service for Clinic Hospital

Mr. Grosser indicated that the taxi service is averaging 55 round trip customers a month. It has been so successful the emergency room has begun using it for individuals that need to get back home. The initiative has been cheaper than the previously existing bus service.

Mr. Grosser and Ms. Elisa Neira have been having monthly meetings with the Clinic Director to ensure everything is running smoothly at the Community Health Center/Well Baby Clinic.

Ms. Bates asked about the possibility of expanding the service to other areas, since it is currently only offered to residents ½ mile radius around the old hospital and is not based on need, for instance, Redding Circle is not covered. Ms. Bates will help to document the need and Mr. Grosser will revisit this point with the hospital.

k. Budget

At the last Council meeting, Council members asked about the Health Department's activities, specifically health records, now that the hospital has been moved out of town.

Mr. Grosser indicated that clearly this would result in a drop in *new* birth certificates but that the number of duplicates or copies requested remains between 800-1000/year and that the number of death and marriage certificates has actually increased during that time. Additionally, the Registrar now operates as the office was promoted last year and took on even more responsibilities than the standard registrar responsibilities. The Registrar now operates in an additional capacity as an Administrative Assistant.

The municipal budget was postponed to the subsequent week.

l. Lead Poisoning Update

Mr. Grosser indicated that a Notice of Violation was issued with 60 days to remediate after a childhood lead hazard inspection was performed on a residence. Lead was found in lead based paint, specifically trim work and doors. Both x-ray fluorescence and dust wipes demonstrated elevated levels of lead. The child is not allowed back into the property until remediation has been completed.

**V. Boards and Commissions**

a. Princeton Environmental Commission (PEC)

Dr. DiFerdinando was unable to go to the last PEC meeting. Dr. Miller talked about a discussion in Town Topics by Steve Hiltner about a pesticide called glyphosate. Dr. DiFerdinando said the WHO Cancer Institute identifies it as a human carcinogen but it is not considered one by the EPA.

Dr. DiFerdinando will bring this up with PEC.

## **VI. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Hill motioned to adjourn and Ms. Schwimmer seconded. All present voted in favor of this action and the meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Soto