

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

Present:

Board Members

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

Staff:

Jeffrey Grosser MHS, HO
Gary DeBlasio, Director, DHYC
Michael Soto, Board Secretary

Guests:

Elizabeth Bates, Human Services
Philip Curran, Princeton Packet

Absent:

Heather Howard, Council
Rick Weiss, MS

I. Call to Order

At 7:15 PM, Acting 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. Reorganization

Mr. Grosser laid out the responsibilities of the Chairperson and made a call for nominations for 2016 Board positions. Ms. Hill nominated Ms. Kahn, and Ms. Steiner-Sichel nominated Mr. DiFernando. Dr. DiFerdinando was elected Chairman with a 4-3 vote by the Board for 2016.

Mr. Grosser asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. Mr. Miller nominated Ms. Kahn, but she declined. Mr. Miller nominated Ms. Hill, but she declined. Ms. Steiner-Sichel self-nominated and Ms. Schwimmer seconded the nomination. Without any other nominations, Ms. Steiner-Sichel was selected to be the Vice Chair for 2016.

Mr. DiFerdinando nominated Ms. Hill for Secretary. Without any other nominations, Ms. Hill was selected to be the Secretary for 2016.

III. Resolutions for Open Public Meeting Acts

Dr. DiFerdinando moved to approve the three resolutions establishing regular meeting dates, publishing notice and designate specific newspapers to be used. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. The resolutions passed unanimously.

IV. New Board Alternate

Mona Shah was introduced as the second alternate to the Board of Health. She comes to Princeton from Washington, D.C. and works at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Her background is in health policy and epidemiology.

V. Standing Committee Representatives

- Environmental Commission: Hearing no other nominations, Chair DiFerdinando accepted the role as representative.
- Princeton Alcohol & Drug Abuse (PADA): Ms. Steiner-Sichel will continue in her role as PADA representative.
- Planning: Ms. Hill, Ms. Shah, and Ms. Schwimmer will form the Planning Committee.
- Personnel: Since the Personnel Committee is not expected to be active, Dr. DiFerdinando will take the lead for the time being. Should issues arise that need the attention of the Personnel Committee, he will recruit other board members to join the committee.
- Budget & Finance: Ms. Steiner-Sichel will form the Budget & Finance Committee and will seek additional members to assist.

VI. Public Comment and Guests

There was no response to a request for public comment.

VII. MINUTES – November & December

Ms. Hill motioned to accept the November minutes, seconded by Ms. Steiner-Sichel. All voted in favor.

Ms. Steiner-Sichel motioned to accept the December minutes, seconded by Ms. Hill. All voted in favor.

VIII. Health Officer's Monthly Reports

a. Shared Services Agreements

An additional public health nurse has been hired to primarily work with the Women, Infant and Child (WIC) clinic. This satellite clinic occurs the second Friday of the month at 400 Witherspoon Street in the Community Room. She will also help with school immunization audits.

The existing public health nurse has also had her hours extended by approximately 75 hours to help with the accreditation process, improving school immunization auditing coverage and to bolster the health department's ability to respond to communicable disease investigations.

The health educator contract with Montgomery was also increased. She does the outreach to schools and does several of the Board's press releases.

Child Health Conference stayed the same.

SAVE animal boarding services have been decreased based on recent numbers.

Deer carcass removal and other animal control services have also increased due to the Animal Control Officer (ACO).

The overall budget has been increased, mostly due to the ACO budget.

Three additional contracts will be up for approval next week, including the animal control backup services with Montgomery and the pediatric services with Wellbeing Clinic. A new pediatrician has been hired for the clinic and there has already been a noticeable improvement in communication.

b. National Accreditation

Mr. Grosser reviewed the National Accreditation portal with the Board. The accreditation process has helped make the Princeton Health Department become much more robust by highlighting national standards.

Mr. Grosser indicated that those people who were involved in the CHA/CHIP process from 2012 could be particularly helpful in providing historical context for accreditation. Mr. Grosser mentioned to the Board, stakeholders and members of the public that the 2012 CHA and CHIP could be found on the Health Department website. Specifically on under "Publications and Reports."

Dr. DiFerdinando shared the opportunity of joining the County Board as a volunteer if people would like to get involved.

c. Performance Dashboard

On the municipal website there is a citizen's public dashboard. The Department of Health has been inputting data into the system allowing residents to gain insights on the department's activities.

Mr. Grosser asked the Board to suggest statistics that it would be interesting to add to the dashboard for easy access to the public.

IX. Other Business

a. Conversations of a Lifetime

Over 90 people attended the event at the Princeton Public Library with Jim Towey and the advance directive initiative that has been piloted in Princeton. Towey discussed the creation of the Five Wishes form and the importance of advance care planning.

One of the key things they would like to explore is how to track the impact of the initiative.

b. Tobacco 21

Tobacco 21 recently received final legislative approval from the state Assembly but Governor Christie has vetoed the bill.

c. Tuberculosis Program

A budget is almost finalized for 2016-2017. The NJ Department of Health will fund and the County will fund the majority of the program for 2016. The remaining balance in 2016 will be divided amongst local health departments in Mercer County. The estimated contribution from the Princeton Health Department for 2016 will be around \$2,000-\$2,500. In 2017 NJDOH will no longer provide TB funding to Mercer County, as a result the municipalities will fund the remainder based on a formula including population and TB caseload over the last four years. As a result, the 2017 contribution from PHD will be increased. We should be made aware of this increase sometime in the 2nd quarter of 2016.

d. Hepatitis C

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has announced a big increase in the HEP C cases. It is prevalent among the new opioid using population.

e. Princeton Alcohol & Drug Alliance (PADA)

There will be a heroin awareness program on March 2nd at 7pm at Princeton High School. The presentation will be a collaborative effort between the PADA, Princeton Police Department, Corner House and the Princeton Police Department. The keynote speech will be given by Michael DeLeon, founder of Steered Straight along with presentations provided by a Princeton Police Officer, Corner House representative and Mercer County Prosecutor's Officer representative.

PADA is also trying to address the issue that individuals are ending up at the emergency room due to overdose (alcohol or drug) and are simply released rather than being provided a follow up program for ongoing treatment.

f. Zika Virus

Ms. Babcock-Dunning highlighted that the CDC has issued travel warnings to the Caribbean, Central America and South America due to the Zika virus which is causing microcephaly and neurological disorders. Mr. Grosser commented that this issue has been picking up more attention as studies have begun to link Zika virus infection and microcephaly.

X. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Schwimmer motioned to adjourn and Mr. Miller seconded. All present voted in favor of this action and the meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Soto