



# PRINCETON BOARD OF HEALTH

Reorganization Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2022

Zoom Meeting \* Princeton, NJ 08540

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## **Board Members – Present**

George DiFerdinando, Jr. MD, MPH  
Meredith Hodach–Avalos, MD  
JoAnn Hill, RN  
Linda Schwimmer, JD  
Mona Shah, PhD  
Rick Strauss, MD

Rick Weiss, MS  
Kathleen Stillo, MBA (Alt 1)  
Katherine Taylor, JD, PhD (Alt. 2)

## **Board Members – Absent**

Leticia Fraga, Council Liaison

## **Staff**

Jeffrey Grosser, MHS, HO, REHS

## **Guest Speaker**

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Mr. Jeffery Grosser, Health Officer, called the Reorganization meeting to order at 7:24 p.m. He recited the announcement in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act: “*This is to affirm that the regularly scheduled meeting of the Princeton Board of Health has been duly advertised and is being conducted in compliance with all provision of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.*” Roll Call was completed.

### **Election of Chairperson:**

Ms. Meredith Hodach–Avalos declined her nomination of Chair. Ms. JoAnn Hill nominated Dr. DiFerdinando, seconded by Ms. Hodach–Avalos. Dr. DiFerdinando accepted the nomination.

### **Election of Vice-Chairperson:**

Chair DiFerdinando nominated Ms. Hodach–Avalos as Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Rick Strauss, all in favor by voice vote. Ms. Hodach–Avalos accepted the nomination.

### **Election of Secretary:**

Ms. Hodach–Avalos nominated Ms. Linda Schwimmer as Secretary. Ms. Schwimmer accepted the nomination, which was seconded by Ms. Hill, all in favor by voice vote.

The meeting was turned over to Chair DiFerdinando to lead the remainder of the reorganization meeting.

### **Adoption of Resolutions:**

#### *Resolution 2022-01- Provision of the Open Public Meetings Act*

The motion to approve Resolution 2022–01 – Provision of the Open Public Meetings Act was first made by Chair DiFerdinando, seconded by Ms. Schwimmer, all in favor by voice vote.

#### *Resolution 2022-02-Designating the Official Newspapers of the Princeton Board of Health*

The motion to approve Resolution 2022-02- Designating the Official Newspapers of the Princeton Board of Health, was first made by Chair DiFerdinando, seconded by Ms. Schwimmer, all in favor by voice vote.

#### *Resolution 2022-03- Schedule of Regular Meetings of the Princeton Board of Health*

The motion to approve Resolution 2022–03 – Schedule of Regular Meetings of the Princeton Board of Health, was first made by Chair DiFerdinando, seconded by Ms. Schwimmer, all in favor by voice vote.

### *Appointment of Standing Committees (to meet as necessary):*

#### *The Planning Subcommittee:*

Ms. Stillo stepped down as the lead of the Planning Subcommittee. Chair DiFerdinando nominated Ms. Hodach–Avalos as Vice Chair of this subcommittee. Ms. Schwimmer will continue as part of the subcommittee, and Ms. Katherine Taylor will also be included.



Chair DiFerdinando welcomed Ms. Taylor aboard, and spoke about her recent appointment as the second alternate to the BOH. Ms. Taylor introduced herself to all present and spoke about her professional background and experience, as well as her excitement to work with everyone. She was greeted and welcomed by all present.

Ms. Schwimmer discussed, as a group, some of the others committees and what the BOH's needs are, along with goals and priorities for 2022. She spoke about the current specific nature of some of the committees, and how she recommends they should be broadened to cover more topics.

*Structural Racism and COVID Subcommittees:*

Chair DiFerdinando suggested deferring the Structural Racism and COVID committees until the next monthly BOH meeting in February 2022, that way the Planning Subcommittee will have time to meet and speak about the issues that Ms. Schwimmer raised about the subcommittees, and could make a proposal to the board as to how to structure the rest of its committees. All present concurred with the deferral.

Ms. Mona Shah also asked if the Planning Committee could also advise on participation in the Princeton Alcohol and Drug Alliance (PADA) and other groups that the BOH is involved with and possible expansion of groups or stand-alones. In response to Chair DiFerdinando's question about attending PADA, Princeton Environmental Commission (PEC) and other BCC meetings, Ms. Stilo added that BOH member attendance is not always necessary. Chair DiFerdinando suggested drafting a letter to other BCC's that the BOH could review at the next meeting. The letter would offer the BOH's advice of counsel as needed. Ms. Linda Schwimmer expanded on this topic and spoke at length about attending these other meetings, and what would be the most efficient way to use the BOH's attendance at other meetings or with other groups. Ms. Taylor spoke about BCC's working more together to come up with solutions rather than having issues be assigned to a taskforce. Ms. Hoch-Avalos asked Ms. Schwimmer's thoughts on having an appointed person attend other meetings or having a rotating person assigned. She explained the process and that there could only be about 1-2 board members in attendance at those meetings.

*Cannabis Task Force:* Ms. Hoch-Avalos asked Chair DiFerdinando whether a regular representative was needed on this taskforce going forward. Ms. Stilo said yes, and elaborated on this need. She also added that it is time-dependent to have this representative. Chair DiFerdinando spoke about the possibility of attending, time permitting, but will also need to review the material. For now, he will manage attending the meetings though he is not the representative. Ms. Hill also offered to share her attendance at those meetings as needed.

**Adjournment**

Chair DiFerdinando made a motion, with unanimous consent, to close the Reorganizational Meeting at 7:53 pm and convene to the Regular Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

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*Paula Alexeev*  
Recording Secretary  
Princeton Board of Health



# PRINCETON BOARD OF HEALTH

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2022

Zoom Meeting \* Princeton, NJ 08540

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## **Board Members – Present**

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JoAnn Hill, RN  
Linda Schwimmer, JD  
Mona Shah, PhD  
Rick Strauss, MD

Rick Weiss, MS  
Kathleen Stillo, MBA (Alt 1)  
Katherine Taylor, JD, PhD (Alt. 2)

## **Board Members – Absent**

Leticia Fraga, Council Liaison

## **Staff**

Jeffrey Grosser, MHS, HO, REHS

## **Guest Speaker**

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Chair DiFerdinando, called the Regular meeting to order at 7:53 p.m. He recited the announcement in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act: *“This is to affirm that the regularly scheduled meeting of the Princeton Board of Health have been duly advertised and are being conducted in compliance with all provision of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.”* Roll Call was completed.

## **Public Comment/Guest Speaker:**

No comment.

## **Minutes:**

Chair DiFerdinando addressed the minutes from the December 14, 2021 BOH meeting. After review, there were no comments or proposed edits. Ms. Linda Schwimmer motioned to approve the minutes from the BOH meetings on December 14, 2021, seconded by Ms. Mona Shah. Chair DiFerdinando approved the minutes without any amendments.

## **Monthly Report:**

Mr. Jeffrey Grosser gave a report on the current status of COVID-19 in Princeton, stating that cases here continue to increase at a rate not yet seen before in the pandemic. To combat that, the Princeton Health Department (PHD) hosted clinics over the past few weeks for boosters. PHD has clinics planned through February 2022 providing COVID-19 vaccinations for all age groups. Since the last BOH meeting in December, the Princeton Health Department (PHD) hosted 3 clinics. On 12/14/21, PHD hosted a leftover clinic for individuals unable to schedule appointments -37 were vaccinations performed. On 12/15/21- the PHD hosted a clinic at Blue Point Grill for several different restaurant workers, 26 vaccinations were performed. The PHD also participated in Boost NJ day on 12/15/21. Over 250 vaccinations performed.

PHD also hosted a clinic on 12/21/21 for Princeton Public School students, staff, and families. 400 vaccinations were performed. This clinic primarily focused on second dose Pfizer vaccines for children 5-11 years old. School staff assisted with clinic operations.

He added that effective at 5:00am on Thursday, 01/20/22, the Princeton Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is reinstating the mask mandate to go into effect for all in-door areas of public accommodation. Mr. Rick Strauss asked about what was and was not allowed in regard to this mandate. He expressed concern and confusion over the guidance being a step backwards, since it appeared that no masks would be required in public in-door areas if 6ft of social distancing was maintained. Mr. Grosser clarified the matter and added that masks would still have to be worn in all public in-door areas in Princeton after this mandate goes into effect. Other board members also expressed their confusion about social distancing and enforcement of wearing masks. Chair DiFerdinando suggested the addition of a question and answer section to the local mask mandate press release. Mr. Grosser explained the process that this



mandate went through with OEM before its release. Mr. Strauss added in summary that this mandate largely relates to policing of infractions by the OEM, and does not supplant best practices. Chair DiFerdinando suggested that it be made clear that the BOH supports a mask mandate in the current state, and strongly urges clarification for both town members, visitors, and businesses, as to exactly how this mask mandate will be implemented. Ms. Katherine Taylor spoke about self-enforcing of wearing masks, and emphasized best practices.

Mr. Grosser added that the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) can be added to the list of BCCs the BOH should regularly meet with, especially in times of executive orders. Chair DiFerdinando brought up that before the mask mandate, it was not clear what was being done in local schools and daycare centers during this surge of COVID-19 cases. And added that if the governor re-invoked the Public Health Emergency Powers Act it would allow him to maintain the mask mandate in schools. Unlike the OEM, the BOH would be the only municipal body to create a mask mandate for schools and daycare centers.

Moving on, Mr. Grosser explained that he is still working on communicating the 1/4/22 CDC guidance on isolation and quarantine 5-day shortening, particularly for schools. The New Jersey Department of Health recently released information that K-12 schools can utilize the 5-day quarantine or isolation time period. The 5-day isolation period is particularly for students who are symptom free, though individuals can have symptoms that go beyond 5 days. This updated guidance is still being worked on. Additional booster dose clinics are being planned.

**Upcoming Goals:**

Mr. Grosser stated that a few of the upcoming initial goals for the board are to assist with the general ordinances of the BOH, which will hopefully be passed by May 2022. He spoke about the process the BOH participates in with passing ordinances. In addition, he added that the Cannabis Task Force part will also be an important update to this, and national reaccreditation is also being worked on.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business**

Mr. Strauss stated that Sustainable Princeton passed the leaf blowing mandate ordinance.

**Reports from Committees**

**COVID-OEM Sub-committee:**

None.

**Reports from other Boards/Commissions/Task Forces**

None.

**Adjournment**

The motion to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. was moved by Ms. Hoch-Avalos, seconded by Mr. Strauss, and affirmatively carried by all those present.

Respectfully submitted by:

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*Paula Alexeev*  
Recording Secretary



Princeton Board of Health