



PRINCETON BOARD OF HEALTH

Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2023

Zoom Meeting * Princeton, NJ 08540

Board Members---Present

JoAnn Hill, RN

Leticia Fraga, Council Liaison

Rick Weiss, MS

Mona Shah, PhD

Elizabeth Dyeovich, (Alt. 2)

George DiFerdinando, Jr. MD, MPH

Kathleen Stillo, MBA,

Katherine Taylor, JD, PhD (Alt. 1)

Board Members---Absent

Rick Strauss, MD

Linda Schwimmer, JD

Staff

Jeffrey Grosser, MHS, HO, REHS

Chair, Dr. George DiFerdinando, called the Regular meeting to order at 7:31 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.

Public Comment /Guest Speaker

No guest speakers or public comments.

Minutes

Member JoAnn Hill motioned to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2023 Board meeting. This was seconded by Board Member Kathy Taylor. Hearing no proposed changes, Chair DiFerdinando approved the minutes as presented.

HO Monthly Report

The NJ Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO) took over the CDC and DoH funding allocated to NJ municipalities. Princeton was allocated \$173K, prorated to October 2022 until June 2023. This grant enabled Princeton DoH to offer former intern Alyssa DeSantis a full-time role until June of 2023. NJACCHO has informed Princeton DoH that the funding will



be extended to 2024, potentially allowing an extension of Alyssa's position. She will be invited to future BoH meetings.

Princeton DoH applied for the 2023 RWJ Foundation Public Health prize, which emphasizes alleviating public health inequalities. Up to 10 communities are awarded \$250K. This award amount would cover the costs of the LHOC and a second role within the DoH.

Rental Housing Lead Inspection Ordinance planning is ongoing. Princeton DoH is working with the township's Rental Housing Association to get this passed.

The 2022 health ordinance was passed in July by the BoH. A portion of this code requires that PHD works with food establishments for basic food handling training (i.e., making sandwiches, prepping condiments, etc). Since individuals are failing to meet hygiene requirements, this training is necessary. Free training will be provided to restaurants by Princeton DoH by a bilingual instructor; establishments can elect to pay about 10-20 dollars per individual to train separately instead.

The 2023 Health fair is upcoming, scheduled for May 5, 2023 at the Princeton Shopping Center. PHD will be promoting Coverall Kids and vendors will be present. LHOC is assisting the Recreational Department with Spanish translations for a Community Park master plan flyer. Since Community Park plays an important role in community wellness, this step is vital. PHD nurse Kathy Korwin is working with Princeton University to manage GI illnesses on campus. From last year into March 2023, there were 37 cases of a GI illness.

The Animal Control Officer held a rabies clinic for cats and dogs; this event also marked the first time use of the new PFARS facility. Also, it is the fourth year in a row that a mother duck laid eggs on Littlebrook Elementary grounds. Princeton Animal Control is facilitating the students' safe observation of this event, and the ultimate removal of the family of ducks.

Councilwoman Leticia Fraga mentioned that Human Services is working with the Princeton Art Museum to potentially house a community building event on Hullfish St, upcoming Saturday (4/15). She suggested that this event could be a good opportunity for Coverall Kids outreach.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None

Presentation of PHAB annual report

HO Grosser reviewed comments from the public health accreditation board. Each year, public health institutions must submit a self-review to the accreditation board. This specific review looks at the improvement and maintenance of public health supports. Key feedback discusses performance management (PM) and quality improvement (QI). To handle PM, PHD has already implemented the following:



- a PM dashboard, accessible to staff. This dashboard will better allow PM and QI efforts to be at the forefront of PHD operations.
- monthly staff meetings. However, there could be opportunities to further break down PM responsibilities, and made more specific to each division with PHD.
- monthly BoH reports.

The review identified areas for improvement/practices to implement within PHD. This includes:

- facilitating connections between PM/QI mentors with learners, to ensure peer support within the department and emphasize the importance of PM/QI within PHD operations.
- writing formalized processes to be developed for the PM system. Said processes would cover frequency of reviews, monitoring progress, and more.
- incorporating BoH member in QI initiatives.

The review emphasized success of PHD. These successes include the “Nailed it Award”, which recognizes staff excellence; the revised Customer Satisfaction survey, available at the bottom of each PHD email; and the Core Competency Assessment administered to staff, for the purpose of determining staff competency levels. The Assessment informs future workforce development programs.

Regarding QI, PHD widely disperses policy updates, allowing staff to take initiative when updating/editing policy. Some suggestions for QI include:

- building an online resource library relating to QI, providing staff up to date and ready to use materials
- aligning SMART/IE objectives with PHAB guidelines in future QI projects. Reviewing a previous QI project and identifying previously executed PHAB elements might be helpful for this.

Ultimately, the benefit of reaccreditation is that it keeps the operations of PHD at the forefront of, and in line with, public health services offered by state and national partners. Reaccreditation has always pushed for the handling of public health inequity, even prior to the pandemic. So now that COVID has brought these issues to the forefront, the reaccreditation process would ensure that PHD continues to focus on these problems. Access to health departments at a larger-than-local level enables local departments like PHD to see what is being done with they need assistance.

Committee Reports

Member Rick Weiss attended a Vision Zero call on 3/28. The group is highly involved in the Master Plan to reduce accidents. Specifically, signaling, speed limits and traffic calming are the methods of focus. Moreover, the group is looking at a number of streets/corridors for associated projects, such as incorporating bike lanes. For example: near the seminary there has been the inclusion of 2 bike lanes; in the middle, there is a single car lane. Since the lane isn't used too often, the idea is that if there are two cars in the road, one would move to the bike lane, barring the presence of bikers.



Councilwoman Fraga addressed the Council's discussion of widening the sidewalks near Community Park School. This would allow children to share sidewalks with the bikes, since both parties need a lane safe from cars.

Member Kathy Taylor was scheduled but unable to attend the PEC meeting, therefore no report was provided.

Reports from other Boards/Commissions:

Chair DiFerdinando was unable to attend previous PADA meetings. A meeting for 4/12 is scheduled. The commission's topics of discussion have shifted to substance abuse prevention. A new member of the Human Services board will serve as liaison between PADA and PHD.

Kathy Taylor, who volunteers with Princeton's housing initiatives, had this to report: from discussions with people involved, a number of residents will be evicted from public housing this year due to the lift of the moratorium on evictions. Families have racked up debt throughout this time and can't keep up. This will be compounded by the requirement that states redefine Medicaid eligibility within the next 14-16 months.

HO Grosser explained that currently, organizations are limited in the assistance that they can give. Human Services needs advocates from other Princeton municipality departments, since it's the smallest staffed group in the municipality. Human Services tends to be the largest staffed group in other municipalities. This issue is an opportunity to incorporate cross-collaboration between BoH and Human Services.

Councilwoman Fraga expressed her desire for Princeton University to contribute to the Human Services emergency fund. The University consistently requests for infrastructure funding, but the benefit for underserved communities is unclear. By contributing to the municipality's Human Services fund, the University would better support the community's housing needs.

Chair DiFerdinando pointed out that the county has wide disparity rate in terms of lifespan, quality of life, etc. Such differences exist but seem to have a negligible effect on Princeton's population, due to the town's small size.

Adjournment

Chair DiFerdinando motioned to adjourn, seconded by member Mona Shah. The meeting closed at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sehwheat Manna
Recording Secretary
Princeton Board of Health.