



PRINCETON BOARD OF HEALTH

Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2022

Zoom Meeting * Princeton, NJ 08540

Board Members – Present

George DiFerdinando, Jr. MD, MPH
Kathleen Stillo, MBA
Leticia Fraga, Council Liaison
Linda Schwimmer, JD
Elizabeth Dyeovich, (Alt. 2)

Rick Strauss, MD
Rick Weiss, MS
Katherine Taylor, JD, PhD (Alt. 1)
Mona Shah, PhD

Board Members - Absent

JoAnn Hill, RN

Staff

Jeffrey Grosser, MHS, HO, REHS

Chair, Dr. George DiFerdinando, called the Regular meeting to order at 7:30 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

Under public comment, Health Officer Jeffrey Grosser announced recent changes to the membership of the Princeton Board of Health. With the departure of Dr. Meredith Hodach Avalos, Kathy Stillo assumed her full-time member position, Katherine Taylor moved from Alt. 2 to Alt. 1 and newly appointed member Elizabeth Dyeovich will be Alt. 2. Health Officer Jeffrey Grosser welcomed Elizabeth Dyeovich to the Board of Health. Ms. Dyeovich introduced herself and expressed excitement in joining the Board.

Minutes

Chair DiFerdinando addressed the minutes from the September 13, 2022 BOH Regular Meeting. Hearing no proposed changes, Dr. Rick Strauss motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Rick Weiss. Chair DiFerdinando approved the minutes as presented and without opposition.

Monthly Report

Princeton Health Officer Jeffrey Grosser began his monthly report by mentioning that September is traditionally a busy month for the health department as Princeton University gets back into full swing and K-12 schools are operable with students once again.

Health Officer Grosser began mentoring a team of five Rutgers students through their Master of Business and Science externship exchange program. The team is working on identifying key health indicators through the <https://www.cityhealthdashboard.com/> City Health Dashboard (which Princeton was accepted into earlier this year). They will be working to determine where Princeton can improve community health indicators. The students have public health as a primary concentration of study but also have statistics and analytics as part of their coursework. The primary health indicators that are being reviewed are healthy home/lead burdened homes, income inequality, mental health, and maternal and child health. These indicators were selected as a result of either their underperforming metrics as compared to other cities in the United States or the impact of recently passed laws that will likely impact these health indicators, like the new rental housing lead inspection law. A final project will be shared at the end of the semester that will be provided to Mayor/Council, the Princeton Board of Health and the community. Health Officer Grosser is going to speak with the students to see if they are able to attend a board of health meeting either in December or January to report out.

From the environmental health staff, workflows are being prepared for integration with OpenGov. OpenGov is the cross departmental public facing software that will allow the public to access municipal applications and permits easier while allowing departments to better communicate and collaborate projects and workflows. OpenGov was founded in 2012 and is an industry-leading government software company, providing the



following local government cloud services. A 90-minute training was attended by health department staff, alongside the engineering and fire safety departments.

Environmental staff worked on a lead paint case on Bank Street in mid-September involving 2 homes being renovated. In collaboration with EPA Region 2 Staff, we were able to identify which activities required trained professionals to undertake steps in the renovation process to assure compliance with lead control regulations. Both involved homeowners were cooperative and took the steps needed to address the issue without need for penalty from local or federal authorities.

Health department nursing staff provided bivalent COVID-19 vaccinations while also providing Monkeypox vaccinations for Princeton University laboratory personnel - 4 doses were administered. We also partnered with the Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice to perform a combination COVID-19 and Monkeypox clinic that was open to the public. All clinics are continuing to be advertised through the municipal newsletter, municipal webpage and NextDoor.

Our local health outreach coordinator, Gwen Krol met with a local refugee resettlement group to discuss issues they were having at Zufall Health (located at Penn Medicine Princeton Medical Center). The LHOC reached out to Zufall to share these concerns and discuss solutions. During the meeting between the LHOC and Zufall, they explained the issues they have been experiencing with short-staffing and suggested recommendations for residents who have difficulties at the clinic. Afterward, the LHOC shared these recommendations with the refugee resettlement group and advocates. They responded with appreciation for the LHOC's role as a liaison and stated that "these changes and new understandings will make our and our client's relationship with Zufall undoubtedly more efficient and effective."

The first two sessions of the Mayors Wellness Campaign book discussion series began on Wednesday, September 21st. This final phase of the "Look how we have grown..." program is in partnership with the Princeton Public Library, as well as other community organizations. The book discussions create a space for the community to connect with each other while reading and discussing mental health and self-care.

The CDBG Dental program has met its goal of 20 accepted participants. A recent review from a participant described DenTull staff as caring and attentive. DenTull is even providing services at their own expense beyond those covered under the service agreement including customized dentures for a participant who hasn't smiled in years due to the state of her teeth. They reported that overall, every participant has moderate to severe gum issues and other signs/symptoms of not accessing professional dental care.

Regarding the strengthening public health capacity grant, our recent quarterly progress report will be submitted to the New Jersey Department of Health later this week for fiscal quarter 4. Some highlights from the progress report include:

The state asks how our department is "INTEGRATING WITH OTHER EXISTING PROGRAMS: Princeton Health Department integrated the Community Development Block Grant Free Vision/Dental Care Program at the following clinics: Monument Hall 7/19 and 9/14. Clinic staff promoted the free vision/dental care program while also providing COVID-19 vaccines and vaccine education. "

"LIST EXAMPLES OF VACCINE HESITANCY AND LESSONS LEARNED:

In the middle of the summer, the Princeton Health Department saw a different form of vaccine hesitancy in populations who were waiting for the new bivalent booster to be released. They preferred to delay receiving a booster until they were able to get the new bivalent booster, which would provide better protection against the current variants. The Princeton Health Department learned that people will choose when to receive a booster based on their own personal situations. Some individuals did not care to wait for the new booster because they planned on traveling/visiting friends/etc. so for themselves, it was safer to be boosted at that time instead of



waiting for the new one. However, others felt that the advantages of the upcoming new bivalent booster outweighed the chance of contracting COVID-19 in the meantime.

Looking ahead to October, Health Officer Grosser stated that the health department is being granted access to the public health accreditation board new and improved portal where we will be able to access our reaccreditation application. Just a reminder, our department is up for reaccreditation in one year so we are utilizing the next 12 months to prepare for documentation submission. An overview of our accreditation dashboard and updated documentation will be presented to the board at an upcoming meeting once the process is better formalized.

Princeton Health Department upcoming events include the annual joint flu clinic with Princeton Senior Resource Center which is taking place on Monday, October 17 from 1 – 3 p.m. Appointments can be made online on the PSRC website. Also, on Tuesday, October 18 from 5-7 p.m. at La Mexicana, health department staff will be coordinating a community flu clinic and providing free flu shots to anyone without proof of insurance.

Reports from Committees

Councilwoman Fraga provided an update that in person council meetings continue to operate well. Councilwoman Fraga also mentioned that the Human Services Commission was supporting and sponsoring a Loteria event at the Princeton Public Library on Saturday, October 29.

Reports from other Boards and Commissions

Chair Dr. DiFerdinando stated she had no update regarding the Princeton Environmental Commission.

New Business

No discussion was held.

Old Business

No discussion was held.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. was moved by Secretary Schwimmer, seconded by Dr. Strauss, and affirmatively carried by all those present.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jeffrey C. Grosser
Health Officer
Princeton Board of Health