

Princeton Board of Health
Monthly Meeting
March 26, 2015
Monument Hall – East Meeting Room
One Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08542

Present:

Board Members:

Lauren Babcock Dunning, MPH
George DiFerdinando, M.D
Laura Kahn, MD
Steven Miller, PhD
Charles Rojer, M.D., Chairman
Linda Schwimmer, Esq.
Linda Steiner-Sichel, MPH
Rick Weiss, MS

Absent:

JoAnn Hill

Staff:

Jeffrey Grosser MHS, HO
V Bea Snowdon

Liaisons and Guests:

Karen Blumenthal, GASP
Heather Howard, Council
Krystal Knapp, Planet Princeton
Alexander Jow - PU SHAB

I. Call to Order

At 7:30PM, Chairman Rojer 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. Roll Call

The absence of JoAnn Hill was noted, during the formal roll call.

III. Public Comment & Guest

Karen Blumenthal, the Executive Director of *Global Advisor on Smoke Free Policy* (GASP) was reintroduced to the Board. She shared recently released findings, from the *Institute of Medicine* (IOM), that suggest increasing the age for cigarette sales to 21 greatly reduces lung disease in young people. Chairman Rojer thanked Ms. Blumenthal, for sharing her expression of support for the proposed *Tobacco 21 Ordinance*.

IV. Minutes - February 17, 2015

Rick Weiss motioned to approve the February minutes. Linda Steiner-Sichel seconded his motion. All voted in favor of the action to accept the minutes as submitted.

V. Monthly Reports

Health Officer’s Report

Sharing RWJ Foundation *Culture of Health* statistics, Health Officer Grosser reported that Mercer County has again been ranked in the number 12 position. This places Mercer County below the 50th percentile in health outcomes, when rated within all 21 Counties of the State of New Jersey. Planned efforts to improve health outcomes, with an emphasis on populations in Trenton, are expected to improve this ranking over time.

Kathy Korwin, RN, public health nurse, is beginning to work on school immunization audits. *Stuart Country Day School* was the site of her first audit, and was found to be in compliance.

The State of New Jersey has announced Ebola monitoring reimbursement rates of \$50 a day or \$100 a day for direct active monitoring. These rates are retroactive to December 22, 2014. This policy does not apply to Princeton's first quarantine in October.

Linda Schwimmer, Esq. gave a presentation on *The Mayors Wellness Campaign*. This is a grassroots campaign provided by her non-profit organization, *The NJ Health Care Quality Institute NJHCQI*. This organization is introducing *Conversation of a Lifetime*™ to Princeton. The *Conversation of A Lifetime*™ initiative, created in Cincinnati, Ohio, supports advance health care directives and other end of life planning.

NJHCQI is piloting this initiative in Tenafly, Gloucester, and Princeton. The program includes a *Being Mortal* Film Festival, social workers lending support, and other end stage planning activities. *Conversation of a Lifetime*™ is launching in Princeton on April 16th at 10 AM. The NJ State Commissioner of Health will speak. Hospice nurses and social workers will staff a table offering the *Five Wishes* document, created by *Aging With Dignity.org*. Chairman Rojer attended a *Being Mortal* meeting and described discussions that were both "challenging and fulfilling" to those present.

VI. Old Business

Strategic Planning Update

The rough draft of the strategic plan will be released in April. Since this will be one cornerstone in the accreditation process, Mr. Grosser looks forward to everyone's feedback on this matter.

Hospital Demolition Update

The last portion of the hospital has been demolished. Health Officer Grosser is still attending Monday site meetings. There have been no road further closings in the area. *Avalon Bay* may be renting out the first apartments by summer 2016, if all goes according to their original plan.

Preventing Tobacco Addiction

George DiFerdinando reports that the proposed *Tobacco 21* ordinance has been reviewed and cleared by the legal department. He discussed National findings of the IOM report. There were 225,000 fewer deaths in the 20-year cohort of young people followed in one study. Extrapolation of this finding reveals 4.2 million years of productive life lost, if young people smoke. Heather Howard shared that Princeton's timing is great, for the introduction of this life saving ordinance.

Princeton University's Alexander Jow, representative of the *Princeton University Student Health Advisory Board*, shared student feedback about this news. The *Student Health Advisory Board* supports this ordinance despite some dissenters. Cigarettes are not sold on campus. There are about 18 retail establishments selling cigarettes in town. *The Terrace Club* and other eating clubs are in the process of reviewing and revising smoking policy.

George DiFerdinando motioned in favor of release and publication of the *Tobacco 21* ordinance for an official first reading. Linda Steiner-Sichel and Rick Weiss seconded this motion. All voted in favor of the first reading and official release. A public hearing will occur in April, following this release.

Fracking Ordinance Update

Steven Miller introduced the revised Fracking Ordinance. Health Officer Grosser expressed comfort with the proposed enforcement mechanism. A letter from the State legislature upholds the right to have a municipal ban on fracking, but states that bans on the fracking wastewater treatment must be justified.

Linda Schwimmer shared that, in her legal opinion, this ordinance should be contained within Municipal procurement laws and in purchase contracts. Board members also discussed the fact that Princeton can justify the fracking waste ban, but County roads fall beyond Princeton's jurisdiction and may use this waste.

All present agreed that adoption of a fracking waste ban, in some form, in Princeton is still desired. To determine the best mechanism to adopt this policy, additional legal research will be done. The ordinance will be revised, for a legal review.

VII. New Business

Heather Howard is interested in advancing the *National Complete Streets Coalition's* program to make the town accessible for all users. Princeton's *Pedestrian Biking Committee* hopes to create a NJ State master biking plan. Rick Weiss volunteered to serve on the Committee, as a liaison to the Board of Health.

Princeton's Health Department *Rabies Clinic* will be held Saturday from 9AM-12PM at the Fire Department. Although the State's rabies vaccine distribution is shut down, because of a vendor change, Princeton has adequate rabies vaccination supplies.

The town of Montgomery is providing 24/7 coverage for call screening and animal control services, for Princeton.

Princeton's Health Educator will be attending a *Living Local Health Expo* in Lawrenceville. There she will provide a presentation on: safe cleaning supplies and protection from allergens.

Chairman Rojer reported that *The American Public Health Association* is celebrating its 20th anniversary of *National Public Health Week*. Princeton will be providing #NPHW *Twitter*s, pictures, and suggestions for healthy food choices in celebration of this event.

Chairman Rojer shared related statistics that, in the last 50 years, life expectancy has increased by 25 years and there has been a 70% decrease in HIV deaths. These are considered triumphs in our National public health system.

Reports From Committees

Steven Miller reports that the *Princeton Environmental Commission* (PEC) presented a new scheme for *The Princeton Shopping Center*. Many suggestions involving new technologies were included. There was also commentary on the Lytle Street Preservation project.

VII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, George DiFerdinando motioned to adjourn. Laura Kahn seconded this motion, with all present voting in favor of this action. The meeting adjourned at 8:49PM.

Respectfully submitted, V Bea Snowden