



PRINCETON BOARD OF HEALTH

Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2023

Zoom Meeting * Princeton, NJ 08540

Board Members---Present

JoAnn Hill, RN
Leticia Fraga, Council Liaison
Linda Schwimmer, JD
Mona Shah, PhD
Rick Strauss, MD
Elizabeth Dyeovich, (Alt. 2)
George DiFerdinando, Jr. MD, MPH
Kathleen Stillo, MBA,

Board Members---Absent

Rick Weiss, MS
Katherine Taylor, JD, PhD (Alt. 1)

Staff

Jeffrey Grosser, MHS, HO, REHS

Guests

Irini Daskalaki, MD

Chair, Dr. George DiFerdinando, called the Regular meeting to order at 7:33 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

Vice Chair Kathleen Stillo motioned to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2023 Board meeting. This was seconded by Board Member Rick Strauss. Hearing no proposed changes, Chair DiFerdinando approved the minutes as presented.



Monthly Reports

Health Officer Jeffrey Grosser discussed the ongoing work of LHOC Gwen Krol in regards to the upcoming Mayoral Wellness campaign. She is working with the Princeton Public Library (PPL) to approve the upcoming campaign events. The campaign will emphasize exercise and nutrition, and their positive downstream effects on mental health. On Friday May 5, 2023, the Princeton Health Department will host a health fair at the Princeton Shopping Center; food vendors and township municipal groups will be tabling. To continue campaign outreach, PPL will continue to host events such as painting with the Princeton Arts Council, hiking and potential cooking events. The township recreational department will potentially be involved with future activities. Secretary Linda Schwimmer and Board Member Liz Dyeovich offered to assist HO Grosser with this campaign.

Other updates from the LHOC include continuation of the Rental Lead Ordinance outreach: a flyer was posted on the WhatsApp group “Servicios Humanos y Salud”, so that Spanish speakers continue to be informed. Gwen also promoted Coverall Kids on Twitter, in English and Spanish. Furthermore, the LHOC and IDPG partnered with Princeton Human Services and United Way to provide free COVID self-testing kits, as well as booster/vaccine schedules.

On February 5, the Princeton Dog Park officially opened.

Health Department staff met with Drew Dyson and Cheryl Hurley the week prior to the BoH meeting. PSRC committed to revive the vaccine administration program that looks to improve vaccine uptake among older Princeton adults. During the pandemic, the program was supported by 75+ volunteers. Sharon Hurley will lead the program renewal. Sharon suggested that by scheduling vaccine administration after one of the three mandatory town hall meetings individuals who attend the townhall would be more likely to attend the vaccine event.

A focus in March and April is Project Firstline. The initiative aims to educate long term health centers/nursing homes regarding infection spread prevention. All employees, from head physicians to cleaning staff, will be responsible for implementing prevention control. Training will include basic infection practices and lessons learned from the pandemic. NJACCHO will provide resources for public health nurses to provide training. Approximately \$3000 will be provided for supplies, and six seminars must be completed by year end. Kathy Korwin will lead, with two interns to assist in curriculum development and admin of pre- and post-tests. Presentations will be conducted at these facilities. Joann Hill volunteered to assist with the project.

The rental housing office is reviewing its short and long-term rental housing lead ordinances, in response to the state’s mandate. PHD expects inspections to begin shortly, with an estimated 800 to 1000 inspections to be conducted on a two year basis. The first round of inspections must be completed by July 2024. The operating costs will fall within the operating budget of the department, in the hopes to mitigate the financial burden on tenants. The Department of health and the Rental Housing Bureau will collaborate, since the necessary resources are already in place within these groups.

HO reviewed the internal departmental goals, laid out on February 5. Goals include:

- Finalization and implementation of OpenGov, the cross-platform governmental resource.
- Approval and implementation of the Lead Rental Ordinance, with approval projected to be in 2nd quarter



- Implementation of Coverall Kids, with the newly freed funds going to Medicaid Expansion to aid uninsured adults. To do this, will organize regular meetings with admin staff and physicians to coordinate services in an optimal way.
- Integration of outreach coordinators with human behavioral health service coordinators. (Cornerhouse will run a PADA event at Princeton High school where they will also discuss Cannabis education).
- Completion of the PHD reaccreditation application. Meetings are conducted every 2 weeks, and applications will likely open in November 2023.

The Princeton Mayoral Council also set up 6 priorities that it will soon share with HO to communicate to the BoH. The Planning Committee will receive and plan implementation of said goals.

HO addressed the recent discoveries of a bat and snake found in two homes. ACO responded to both calls. In the case of a potential rabies exposure, the state health department has a library of resources providing steps to deal with the situation. Princeton Animal Control also walks the family through the steps moving forward, and incident in question. Rabies tests are conducted at the state labs rather than at Princeton.

Reports from Committees

Secretary Schwimmer reported on her meeting with Drew Dyson. He is looking for additional speakers to discuss immunizations of older adults. Geriatricians, primary providers or multi-lingual/cultural speakers would be helpful. Topics to discuss include influenza, COVID and shingles. Guest Irini Daskalaki offered to contribute to the PSRC's panel, as well as contact any physicians who could help. She provided her contact information.

Chair DiFerdinando reported on behalf of Kathy Taylor that she will be attending the upcoming PEC meeting. He also raised the increasing concern among parents regarding student mental health.

Liz Dyeovich concurred, citing colleagues who work in the middle and high schools. Discipline has become a problem and Johnson Park Elementary has started a Discipline Committee. Per state law, schools are not allowed to take recess away as a form of punishment. Instead, a detention room has been set aside for students to reset and take a break. There are several detention rooms in the middle and high schools, as students seem to have difficulty regulating their behavior. This has likely been aggravated by the lack of socialization due to the pandemic. While other schools use yoga and meditation as a response to student behavioral issues, Princeton schools have not. At the elementary level, the focus has been to level the number of students per teacher. Johnson Park and Little Brook have 400 students whereas other schools have 200. This is primarily because of a dual language initiative that brings students from Community Park to English speaking schools like Johnson Park. Parents who don't want their kids to attend the Community Park school request that their children be bused to Johnson Park and Little Brook. There is also limited mental health support, with one school psychologist and one guidance counselor. However, Trinity Counseling Service has been a heavily relied upon support. Students are referred to Trinity and receive support outside of school. Families with Medicaid can still access this service. This is a focus of PTA meetings and upcoming school board meetings.

Chair DiFerdinando pointed out that about 300K families will lose the extended Medicaid benefits passed during the pandemic. Secretary Schwimmer explained that Coverall Kids would address



uninsured student's mental health services but suggested that this issue also be part of the Capital Health assessment.

Reports from other Boards and Commissions

None.

New Business

None.

Old Business

Updates on the lead ordinance and rental inspections already covered in HO Report.

Chair DiFerdinando addressed the three year anniversary of the WHO's worldwide pandemic declaration. While health departments have one of the highest years of vaccine uptake (~71%), booster uptake in people over 65 is only 45%.

Adjournment

Chair DiFerdinando requested a motion for adjournment. Liz Dyeovich moved to adjourn, seconded by Secretary Schwimmer. The meeting closed at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sehwheat Manna
Recording Secretary
Princeton Board of Health.