



PRINCETON BOARD OF HEALTH

Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2022

Zoom Meeting * Princeton, NJ 08540

Board Members – Present

George DiFerdinando, Jr. MD, MPH

Meredith Hodach–Avalos, MD

JoAnn Hill, RN

Katherine Taylor, JD, PhD (Alt. 2)

Leticia Fraga, Council Liaison

Linda Schwimmer, JD

Rick Strauss, MD

Rick Weiss, MS

Board Members - Absent

Kathleen Stillo, MBA, (Alt. 1)

Mona Shah, PhD

Staff

Jeffrey Grosser, MHS, HO, REHS

Guest Speaker

Heather Howard

Chair, Dr. George DiFerdinando, called the Regular meeting to order at 7:34 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:

Chair DiFerdinando went over the protocol for public comments. No comments were initially made. Public comments were postponed until the health impacts of recreational cannabis legalization (RCL) topic was addressed.

Minutes:

Chair DiFerdinando addressed the minutes from the March 8, 2022 BOH Regular Meeting. After review, no proposed changes were made to the minutes other than adding Ms. Kathy Stilo’s comments. Ms. JoAnn Hill motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Rick Strauss. Chair DiFerdinando approved the minutes with Ms. Stilo’s comments appended to the minutes. All were in a favor.

Chair DiFerdinando recognized Heather Howard, a former councilperson and liaison to the Board of Health. She spoke briefly about her background teaching at Princeton University at the School of Public and International Affairs, a graduate seminar on state and local health policy. She had 5 students present with her to see health policy in action at the local level, and expressed excitement to be attending this meeting with them.

Monthly Report:

Princeton Health Officer Jeffrey Grosser gave a report on the current status of COVID-19 in Princeton. The Health Department observed a relatively significant increase in COVID-19 cases since March 15. New Jersey Department of Health variant surveillance demonstrates 59.6% of those cases coming from Omicron B.1.1.529 and 40% from BA.2. The primary cause of this uptick was observed over the last four weeks, especially locally, and is the highly contagious nature of BA.2, in particular. A local uptick in cases is also starting to be seen with the relaxation of certain public health precautions, such as mask-wearing being optional in schools and other indoor locations.

A serious decline in waning immunity is also being seen, with regards to individuals that received a booster vaccination over 4-6 months ago. The good news is that even with the increase in cases, we are not seeing an increase in severity or an increase in hospitalizations due to COVID-19 infections through this recent increase in cases. PHD is working to add more clinics, especially throughout the rest of the spring.



PHD is working closely with New Jersey Department of Health regional epidemiologists on the persistent positive cases at Princeton University. Their seven-day average is in the low 30's while the rest of the community is at about 44.

The Health Officer is working on submitting his plan for year three of the pandemic relief funding through the NJ Department of Health and Center for Disease Control. To date, the health department has been awarded over \$450,000.00 which has allowed for the department to hire additional full and part-time staff while covering existing staff salaries, and assisting with ongoing COVID-19 surveillance, contact tracing, testing and vaccination clinics. Year three of the grant cycle would cover an additional \$274,735, bringing total federal/state funding to the Princeton Health Department to \$724,735. The NJDOH is changing the titles of the COVID-19 Generalist (CVG) and Vulnerable Population Outreach Coordinator (VPOC) for year 3. The CVG is going to be called an Infectious Disease Preparedness Generalist, and the VPOC will be called a Local Health Outreach Coordinator, as the DOH brought in their responsibility beyond COVID-19.

NJDOH released a newsletter on the work that was being accomplished at the local health department level. PHD was featured in this newsletter and was highlighted for its expansion of COVID-19 vaccination clinics and the outreach done in the community.

The New Jersey Department of Health's Public Health and Food Protection Program requested all local health departments to check each public school's cafeteria for the presence of Guida's brand milk, of any time, size, and code date, and issue an embargo or otherwise prohibited distribution of the milk. At least 25 children have been hospitalized due to the presence of peroxyacetic sanitizer in Guida's 1% Low-fat Milk, code dated 09- 183 Apr 11 B2. On March 30, the Princeton Health Department staff worked with community partners and schools on a recall of Guida's Low-fat Milk. The department was made aware of the recall via the New Jersey Local Information Network Communications System and immediately alerted local schools and partners of the recall. The health department was not made aware of any organization with this particular product in stock.

On March 14, Animal Control Officer James Ferry was contacted by the Princeton Police Department who responded to a call regarding an animal in distress. He found an adult red fox caught in an illegal foot hold trap and was able to capture the fox and release it from the trap. The fox was then transported to Mercer County Wildlife Center where it made a full recovery and was released into the wild. The trap and follow up was turned over to NJ Conservation Police, as they are the law enforcement agency for wildlife and trapping.

On March 29, a resident reported that his dog had brought home an infant fox while roaming on his property on Cherry Valley Road. ACO Ferry responded and found the fox kit to be uninjured. Over the next 24 hours, with the help of the Montgomery ACO, they searched for the den to hopefully reunite the lost kit. The den was found on the Montgomery side of the road as well as four more kits (about 3-4 weeks old) roaming near the den. All five infants were placed back in the den and a trail camera was set to ensure the mother was coming to nurse. The camera showed two adult foxes visiting the kits several times overnight. Reuniting the kit with its parents was successful.

Regarding environmental health, PHD staff are preparing for the upcoming plastic bag/polystyrene foam ban. Beginning May 4, 2022, the law will prohibit all stores (including retail), Food Businesses, and Grocery Stores, from selling or providing their customers with single-use plastic carryout bags. Grocery Stores larger than 2,500 feet may also not provide or sell single-use paper carryout bags, and instead may provide or sell reusable carryout bags.

The Lead Safe program is being implemented in July 2022, and will require certain lead inspections/compliance evaluations upon changeover of owners/tenants on dwellings constructed pre-1978.

Regarding nicotine product sale enforcement, 4 Summonses for noncompliance were heard in municipal court. The establishments in violation had made illegal sales of tobacco and vaping products to minors. More nicotine sale enforcement is being done until PHD has a good compliance level. In response to Councilwoman Leticia Fraga inquiring about the process and consequences of these violations, Health Officer Grosser explained the process



and how compliance is done. He also explained the compliance performed in 2020 was strained due to the pandemic and PHD's focus on COVID-19 case investigations and contact tracing. Near the end of 2021, PHD started to receive complaints about nicotine sale noncompliance, and was able to get staff out to perform compliance and enforcement checks. He also stressed the need for education of the cashiers, managers and owners, who sell these products. Chair DiFerdinando encouraged the public to put in complaints if they hear about these issues.

In partnership with the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, PHD hosted the second art class in the social isolation series. As part of the pandemic recovery, the social isolation toolkit has continued to be used, thanks to the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute. Art classes are being offered in collaboration with the Princeton Arts Council for socially isolated individuals, which allows them to participate in community art classes from their homes. It also provides them with growing kits to plant flowers to be displayed in a community garden in the spring. The COVID-19 Generalist and Vulnerable Populations Outreach Coordinator dispersed "Isolation Kits" at various locations such as Mr. Rogers' neighbors, Princeton Kindness Food Project, as well as dropped off kits for individuals who may be socially isolated.

Princeton will be part of the City Health Dashboard. In February, Princeton Health Department applied to be one of the 750 cities across the U.S. participating in the City Health Dashboard. We were notified officially today and are excited to begin the process of contributing to this local health dashboard that should help us review the factors shaping the health in our community and drivers of health equity. The city health dashboard is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and seeks to provide communities and city leaders with an array of regularly updated data specific to neighborhood and/or city boundaries – such as life expectancy, obesity, and children in poverty, to improve the health and well-being of everyone in the community.

Chair DiFerdinando asked Mr. Grosser to comment on where Princeton currently is in terms of the COVID-19 pandemic. He explained that Princeton is seeing a little change to cases of COVID-19 from where Princeton was in the past few weeks. The cases still being seen are particularly with waning immunity in individuals over the age of 50-55, which is also probably why vaccinations in that age group are starting to pick up.

Reports from Committees

No discussion was held.

Reports from other Boards/Commissions/Task Forces

Chair DiFerdinando shared that he recently attended a Princeton Alcohol and Drug Alliance (PADA) meeting last week. Corner House is in the process of applying to be a substance abuse treatment provider and mental health provider. Approval for this is expected sometime this year. He expressed appreciation for them providing broader access to mental health services.

Vice-chair Meredith Hodach–Avalos added that Sustainable Princeton had a landscaping project that they worked on which has gone to the state level. They are now focusing local efforts on education and promotion of non-toxic lawn care and will provide information to the town on this. Drinking water quality is also being revisited, since people brought to their attention a change to taste and odor in the local water. They are seeking more information from New Jersey American Water on any potential contaminants in the water. So far, no contaminants have been identified.

Ms. Katherine Taylor asked about liaison opportunities with other groups. She expressed interest in being a liaison with the Princeton Human Services Commission (PHSC). Chair DiFerdinando responded and explained that she can also create an electronic connection to someone from PHSC and monitor what is going on, and attend meetings as needed. Councilwoman Fraga gave a short update on the last PHSC meeting.

Work Session



Mr. Grosser began the work session regarding the BOH ordinance which was postponed from last month. He explained that this is to briefly discuss changes to the BOH general ordinance. The BOH would typically review a first draft and then go through changes and finalize the ordinance or do a final reading. He explained that the Princeton BOH is autonomous, meaning that they can set ordinances specific to public health. The current general ordinance updates being proposed are primarily administrative in nature. One part looks to revise an antiquated penalty section that does not cover staff time cost, nor does it cover court costs associated with some minor complaints. Food manager certifications are also being updated, and the larger section has to do with the maintenance of grass and vegetation. Overall grass height is sought to be decreased from 12 inches to 8 inches, before the BOH begins enforcement. Details will be worked out at the final draft of the ordinance.

The health department spends a significant amount of time working with abandoned and bank-owned properties, which become hotspots for various vermin due to the grass height and they are also eyesores. By condensing the ordinance, swifter actions may be taken in cases with larger entities such as with a bank. Exceptions, such as rain gardens and bioretention basins which have high grass rates are being taken into account. This will be discussed with the Planning Subcommittee in the next few weeks, as well as the topic of cannabis related smoke and its impact on Princeton's existing smoke free ordinances. The BOH may request Carol Blumenfield, Esq., who oversees NJ Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy (NJGASP), to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss updates on where things are going at the state and national level.

A final draft will be distributed to the BOH before the next meeting, with highlighted sections of any changes and why they were changed, as well as a discussion being held at that meeting for further review. If there are any questions or comments on this information, Mr. Grosser is available now take them or by e-mail before the next meeting. Ms. Linda Schwimmer asked Mr. Grosser whether the draft will include the actual increase amount of the fines, which he said will be included. Chair DiFerdinando highlighted the need for more discretion to be taken by the inspectors, as gardens in Princeton become more diverse and different types of plants are being used.

New Business

No discussion was held.

Old Business:

The process has begun to figure out how to have hybrid public meetings. Councilwoman Fraga weighed in on this topic, in that there is discussion happening on potentially going back to in-person meetings next month, though the mayor is waiting for Mr. Grosser's feedback and recommendations on this. Mr. Grosser explained that the main meeting room where mayor and council meet has had significant technological upgrades done, which will allow for better screening to television and/or Youtube, which allow for some hybrid accessibility. Training on this will be held tomorrow so the mayor will have some feedback on this from a technological standpoint.

From the health perspective, PHD is looking to make something similar to a CALI score for in-person meetings, which is similar to what Princeton University is currently utilizing. They are looking at low and moderate cases and what they are doing with in-person classes. Mr. Grosser is working on a chart expected to be ready for mayor and council in the next few days, which would show when and how to hold in-person meetings, as well as hybrid or remote meetings in the event of an additional increase of COVID-19 cases.

Health Impacts of Recreational Cannabis Legalization (RCL):

Chair DiFerdinando offered an initial update since the last BOH meeting. He mentioned that the Council held a listening session on March 29. Councilwoman Fraga asked for responses to some questions that the Ad Hoc Committee clearly labeled and were summarized by the town manager and other organizations in the town. Another listening session is scheduled for May 17, and will be an opportunity for those to speak who raised their hands at the last meeting but were unable to comment, due to running out of time. It will also be an opportunity for Council to ask questions and provide feedback.



Chair DiFerdinando added that yesterday, he attended the State-wide Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC) meeting and gave public comment in terms of specific impact on the town. The CRC approved 7 corporations with 13 active alternate treatment center sites, to begin recreational sale as soon as the paperwork is done. This will be soon and complicated, since there is a need to find ways to accommodate current medicinal patients while at the same time open up to recreational clients. The CRC executive director indicated municipalities need to be ready for initial traffic and parking situations. They meet again in early May and may approve of cannabis retail sites.

Chair DiFerdinando stressed that the point to the board and what the health department is going to do, is what to do to protect those most at risk for some collateral harms in town, since people will be able to purchase retail cannabis. Currently, online ordering of cannabis is available, but delivery is not permitted. There does not seem to be specific state-wide suggested procedures in place to monitor age-of-sale online purchasing, and delivery of cannabis.

The proposed resolution at the last meeting that the board voted to postpone discussion on and send back to the Ad Hoc Committee for review and comment/consideration was discussed. Chair DiFerdinando explained that the minutes from the March BOH meeting, and all of the comments in those minutes, were reviewed and taken into consideration. The Ad Hoc Committee attempted to modify the proposed resolution based on the comments and any other readings the committee had.

Mr. Strauss commented that as part of the follow up, the resolution was split into two resolutions. He then focused on key points. Prevention is important to be the main focus of the town, to not cheerlead for local retail, adoption of the least harm approach, and high concerns of the promotion of off-label medical claims for recreational use of cannabis.

Vice-chair Hodach–Avalos highlighted that the BOH should focus on prevention and not promotion. The goal should be to prevent and minimize harm from something which is imminent and that we do not have control over the availability of, at the state-level. Regarding the least harm approach with cannabis use, she referenced the guidelines, *Canada's Lower-Risk Cannabis Use Guidelines* (these are attached to the BOH agenda), to which Chair DiFerdinando spoke at length about, including terminology confusion between “least harm” and “lower-risk”, though the content of the guidelines across countries tends to be the same. Vice-chair Hodach–Avalos added that lower-risk should be the main focus, instead of access to cannabis retail stores, as recreational cannabis is not a medical product to be used leisurely. Princeton should not encourage people to go out and treat themselves, and people should seek medical attention from their personal doctor if they feel they need a medical product to treat their medical issues.

BOH Resolution 2022-01, Resolution to Encourage Adoption of Least Harm Cannabis Usage Guidelines (LHCUG):

Chair DiFerdinando then shared the screen and made a motion to open discussion of the BOH Resolution 2022-01, Resolution to Encourage Adoption of Least Harm Cannabis Usage Guidelines (LHCUG) In Princeton. Mr. Strauss seconded the motion. Chair DiFerdinando went over each line of the resolution. He then briefly went over the original handout, *Canada's Lower-Risk Cannabis Use Guidelines*, before opening up the floor for the board's input.

Mr. Rick Strauss asked for #9 of the resolution to strikeout “mid-March” and say, “imminent” instead (“...and sale of delivery is imminent.”) so as to not vote on an outdated resolution. Ms. Schwimmer mentioned the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the benefit of using these federal educational materials on mental health. She recommended that the board use these. She also asked for clarification on what the resolution says regarding enforcement. Chair DiFerdinando spoke about available education materials throughout the United States. He mentioned that we could modify the resolution to say, “the least harm cannabis usage guidelines or other materials so identified”, because there is a need to identify the content for the health department and the town, to focus on the content, not necessarily the handout. The



previously mentioned SAMHSA guidelines tend to be very specific as opposed to general population comments. The BOH is trying to identify a broad message that people would be comfortable with. Regarding enforcement, it is currently unknown what the town will decide on who will handle enforcement. Councilwoman Fraga added that input was solicited from the local police department, but until it is decided how the BOH will move forward, the enforcement side of this topic has not been decided yet or discussed. The local municipality, in the ordinance that it passes, decides how enforcement will be handled, as per the CREAM Act. This topic was further discussed.

Mr. Strauss showed his agreement with Chair DiFerdinando in stressing that urgent action is needed on what type of guidance the BOH should provide, given that retail sale of recreational cannabis is imminent. The least harm approach touches on the key messages, and it is not the goal of the BOH to go through every state's guidelines. The current theme is well endorsed internationally, and he feels the BOH should support it as well.

Vice-chair Hodach–Avalos added that though this is a good core of recommendations, there is still more material available that can be added to the resolution. Colorado has an exhaustive list of educational materials that can be utilized. Ms. Taylor seconded what Vice-chair Hodach–Avalos mentioned, and recommended that more details be added on the risk to pregnant women and senior citizen issues.

Mr. Strauss added that these guidance all fall under the current general points in the resolution and stressed the need to not delay the current resolution unless there was anything controversial in its current points that the board would not support.

Councilwoman Fraga highlighted New York's outreach and education on RCL. She then asked whether the BOH already addressed access of cannabis and other illegal drugs in schools, and whether the resolution will address this issue. Chair DiFerdinando explained that the current resolution is about recreational sale, though another resolution can be added on illegal sale and how to deal with it. He added that a high school council had addressed this issue in the past when it attended multiple BOH meetings a year, and that the BOH has no enforcement/legal authority over illegal drugs in schools. This is a public health concern, though the BOH has not yet proposed any specific action on it. He added that the resolution raises the point that normalizing cannabis sale in Princeton, is likely to have a negative impact on the use of cannabis in people under the legal age. Normalizing use and where sales of recreational cannabis occur is what the BOH has control over.

Chair DiFerdinando asked whether the board wanted to vote on this resolution now or hear public comment. Mr. Strauss moved to vote now, seconded by Ms. Hill. One modification was made to the resolution: #9 of the resolution is modified from currently stating "mid-March" to instead state, "imminent" ("...and sale of delivery is imminent."). Chair DiFerdinando then asked for a vote, all present were in favor of this modification to this first resolution. Hearing no opposition, the BOH Resolution 2022-01, Resolution to Encourage Adoption of Least Harm Cannabis Usage Guidelines (LHCUG), passes with this language as modified.

BOH Resolution 2022-02, Recommendation to Defer Licensing Retail Sale of Cannabis in Princeton Pending Planning and Initiation of Health Safeguards.

Chair DiFerdinando then shared the screen and made a motion to discuss the BOH Resolution 2022-02, Recommendation to Defer Licensing Retail Sale of Cannabis in Princeton Pending Planning and Initiation of Health Safeguards. He went over each line of the resolution and recommended that prevention comes first, along with providing education and collecting data. The chair then passed control of the meeting over to Vice-chair Hodach–Avalos. She opened up discussion from board members.

Ms. Taylor inquired about implementation issues she had on what happens after the BOH's recommendations are made and sent to council. Mr. Strauss responded and added that the board can reassess as necessary. Chair DiFerdinando explained that resolutions have no enforcement authority, and the health department is the enforcement arm, not the BOH. The resolution is a statement of where the board stands.



Ms. Hill inquired whether funds would be available to provide the necessary education for the community on RCL and its effect on health, including mental health. Chair DiFerdinando responded in that the BOH is quasi-independent, and does not have a tax-based budget as it is not fully independent. It has some ordinance authority. The CRC is not talking about education, it is discussing education being the responsibility of the sellers, and it is up to the town's that allow sale to use the proceeds as it sees fit. Mr. Strauss asked Ms. Hill to clarify whether her concern was with the current resolution being discussed, or with the recreational cannabis sales being approved before education is funded. She clarified and expressed full support for the resolution.

Vice-chair Hodach–Avalos highlighted the state's unpreparedness in this topic and seemingly conflicted proposal on the industry, and the necessary safeguards that should be made. Ms. Schwimmer concurred and added that the BOH should encourage the state to provide education, though if the state fails to do so, then Princeton should provide the education. The enforcement issue was then revisited. Ms. Schwimmer then stated that she cannot support this resolution as drafted, with the objective statements and assumptions that because a municipality allows someone to have a license, that they are somehow actively endorsing or cheerleading something. She added that allowing licensing and the transfer of licenses is allowed all of the time, including for tobacco and alcohol, though neither of these are encouraged as "good" or "healthy". She expressed hesitance to assign motive to elected/town officials based on their decision making, and the question is not about whether it is good for you, but about public health issues on an already legalized substance, such as reducing harm and risk, educating people, and limiting minors from entering a dispensary, and so on. Mr. Strauss asked whether removing #3 and #4 of the resolution and modifying line #5 would help with her concerns.

Ms. Taylor agreed with Ms. Schwimmer in that she cannot recommend the resolution as it currently is either, because of lines #3 and #4, and she believes the first resolution should also be incorporated into this resolution.

Vice-chair Hodach–Avalos asked if there is a motion to strike lines #3 and #4 and reference the previous resolution. Without a motion being made, Chair DiFerdinando clarified these lines, though Ms. Taylor commented that they can still be misinterpreted. He then proposed that line #3 can refer to the key points in resolution #1, adding "Whereas local retail sales may result in the perception of normalization of cannabis..." He stressed that the action of approving recreational cannabis sale would reasonably lead to the perception of normalization, and #3 says nothing about the motivation of the officials involved. #4 speaks on the countervailing forces to that perception as not being in place.

Mr. Strauss recommended to strike #3 and #4 and reference the first resolution. Chair DiFerdinando asked Mr. Strauss and Ms. Taylor whether either of them has a proposal to substitute language for #3. In response, Mr. Strauss recommended referencing point #8 of the first resolution, "Whereas local retail sales may result in the perception of normalization of recreational cannabis usage..." then proceed to line #5.

Chair DiFerdinando proposed dropping line #3 and modifying line #4 to read as follows: "Given the recommendations in BOH Resolution 2022-02 and yet the lack of currently available prevention materials at the local, county and state level in New Jersey." Line #4 would then become #3 (since line #3 was struck), and line #5 would then become line #4 though the wording will remain the same. Chair DiFerdinando then moved to vote on the modifications in the language so stated, seconded by Vice-chair Hodach–Avalos. All present approved the modifications only, without opposition. The resolution itself was not voted on for approval.

Public Comments/Guest Speaker:

Community member Grace Sinden, a long time Princeton Board of Health member, now retired, and resident, commented on why the BOH should not move forward with retail cannabis for a variety of public health, safety and other factors: Lack of accurate "on the spot" testing, such as the alcohol breathalyzer to measure (DWI) Driving While Impaired; promotion of retail cannabis via local government's allowance for Zoning changes can be expected to create additional health problems (these include increased smoking, motor vehicle accidents and related impairment incidents.); since a large number of NJ municipalities statewide, including those close to Princeton, have rejected retail cannabis, Princeton should do likewise. Otherwise, it could become a regional



supplier; Colorado, the first in the nation to experiment with adult use recreational cannabis sales in 2014, saw a majority of municipalities ban retail sales (NY Times, 4/11/21); there are resulting municipal financial costs which will negate or reduce expected income, one primary reason for considering such stores.

She further commented that there is already a health problem with Vaping, the addictive form of smokeless “smoking”, another entry for addiction, especially for the young, adding that she and many others, are not opposed to responsible use of cannabis and support necessary medical cannabis with its checks and balances. Many, however, think that Princeton could be implicitly promoting Recreational Cannabis via allowance/changes in zoning to allow retail stores. Once allowed, Princeton may be locked into recreational cannabis. One way to deal with this controversial issue is to have a municipal referendum on Election Day so the public can weigh in on this important issue. We can also wait a couple of years to learn of the problems in places where retail recreational cannabis takes place.

Community member Gabriel Saltarelli thanked the BOH for their work regarding RCL, and suggested in addition to ensuring that there are plans in place for education, outreach and services, that the BOH recommend council to defer RCL until sufficient data is available to assess the local effects of recreational cannabis stores on public health.

Community member Thomas Pyle thanked the BOH and council. He then expressed his frustration on the mental health effects of cannabis use in the mentally ill. He insists on having a proper plan in place before recommending mass retail recreational cannabis sale in Princeton, and appealed to the BOH to educate, protect and warn the public about RCL.

Community member Sheila Geoghan also thanked the BOH, and commented on line #3 of the BOH Resolution 2022-02, Recommendation to Defer Licensing Retail Sale of Cannabis in Princeton Pending Planning and Initiation of Health Safeguards. She stated the language in line #3 is particularly important in Princeton’s situation, where it is sometimes hard to distinguish between council’s voice and intent, and cannabis lobbyists’ voices and intent, and she feels that the language is on point.

Community member Abigail Kalmbach commented that she is a recreational cannabis dispensary owner, and spoke briefly about her professional background. She added that she fully supports the presented draft resolutions and Canadian health guidelines. She also expressed concern about waiting to pass the resolutions, adding that there are ethical dispensary owners, and there is ample time to put in place preventive measure before recreational sales can happen in Princeton. She recommends working together with the community to prevent sales of recreational cannabis to people with mental health issues.

Community member Lisa Jacknow thanked the BOH for having the backbone, background and ability to share sensible, thoughtful concerns and recommendations via the resolutions presented tonight. She then expressed frustration with the recent council meeting on March 29, that she attended in regard to RCL, and shared appreciation for the BOH advising a way to move forward with a well-thought-out educational plan for the community.

Without any further comments from the public or the board, Mr. Strauss proposed to move the motion to vote on the modifications to the language so stated in the *BOH Resolution 2022-02, Recommendation to Defer Licensing Retail Sale of Cannabis in Princeton Pending Planning and Initiation of Health Safeguards*, second by Ms. Taylor. Hearing no objection, all present approved the modifications only, without opposition. The resolution itself was not yet voted on for approval though.

Chair DiFerdinando thanked all involved and showed appreciated for everyone’s comments, and that he hopes Heather Howard and her students benefited from attending tonight’s meeting.

Adjournment



The motion to adjourn at 9:56 p.m. was moved by Vice-chair Hodach–Avalos, seconded by Mr. Strauss, and affirmatively carried by all those present.

Respectfully submitted by:

Paula Alexeev
Recording Secretary
Princeton Board of Health