



Princeton Board of Health

Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2016

Monument Hall-East Meeting Room

One Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540

Present

Board Members:

George DiFerdinando, MD,
Chair

Linda Steiner-Sichel, MPH,
Vice Chair

Lauren Babcock-Dunning,
MPH

JoAnn Hill, RN

Meredith Hodach-Avalos,
MD

Heather Howard, JD, Council
Liaison

Linda Schwimmer, JD

Mona Shah, PhD

Steven Miller, PhD

Rick Weiss, MS

Staff:

Jeffrey Grosser, MHS, HO,
REHS

Ben Strauss, Board Secretary

Guests:

Elizabeth Bates, Human
Services Liaison

Jim Boozan, Division
Director of Emergency
Medical Services, Capital
Health

Jeremy Cohen, Director of
Planning, Capital Health

Karen Blumenthal

Aaron DiGregorio, Student
Board Leader, Corner
House

Taylor Smith, Student Board
Leader, Corner House

Jake Caddeau, Princeton
University Student
(Student Board Alum)

Absent

Board Members:

1. Call to Order 7:30 PM

At 7:30 PM, Dr. DiFerdinando called the meeting to order: "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."

2a. Roll Call/Public Comment

Board of Health members, the new Board Secretary and guests introduced themselves.

2b. Guest Speaker, Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU)–Mercer County

Jeremy Cohen, Director of Planning for Capital Health and Jim Boozan, Division Director of Emergency Medical Services for Capital Health discussed their concerns resulting from legislation passed by the New Jersey Assembly a year ago. The legislation transferred MICU access away from Camden and gave Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) in

New Brunswick the opportunity to apply for an expedited Certificate of Need (CN) to provide MICU services in Hamilton Township.

RWJUH applied on behalf of Hamilton on June 1, 2016. Capitol Health submitted a letter against the transfer on August 5, 2016.

In the letter, Capital Health argued that the application's rationale for the transfer would not meet the state's requirements, because the transfer was not necessary and would have an adverse impact on access to healthcare services in the region.

Capital Health has also reached out to local officials explaining the change and advocating against the transfer. They request a letter from the Board stating that the transfer would have an adverse impact on Princeton's residents.

Capitol Health has provided MICU services to all of Mercer County since 1977:



Source: Mercer County Website (with some updates)

Capital Health receives 15 percent of their MICU volume from Hamilton. RWJUH is the nearest state-designated trauma center to both Princeton and Hamilton. While they do not bring all of those patients to their trauma center (only about 21% last year), they bring them to the most appropriate one. They view their MICU services as part of a fully integrated and high-quality county EMS and trauma system.

On the health consequences of the transfer to Princeton's residents, Capital Health cited the possible disintegration of the Mercer County dispatch service. Currently, all Mercer County 911 calls that require advanced life support dispatch are routed to the Mercer County Public Service Dispatch Point (PSDP). The PSDP then coordinates dispatch for MICU services for all of Mercer County.

They feel the transfer risks disintegration of the Mercer County dispatch service. The transfer would remove Hamilton from the Mercer County PDSP (moving Hamilton's dispatch instead to New Brunswick). The PDSP could no longer coordinate MICUs in Hamilton Township. It could then not dispatch MICUs from Hamilton to the rest of Mercer and leave the rest of Mercer like a "c" (see map above), resulting in less efficiency for the rest of the county.

Capital Health does not make a profit from MICU services instead using those services to complete its fully integrated trauma system. Yet, without the revenue from Hamilton Township, Capital Health will have to operate its MICU service with a decrease in revenue of about \$1.3 million but with the same fixed costs. They might then need to take actions to recover the revenue.

The Board considered how Princeton residents' tax bills pay for county expenses. The county does not currently pay for the MICU service. If the county must bail out an underwater MICU system, the county will raise Princeton residents' taxes.

The Board asked the following questions, which Capital Health's representatives answered:

Will Capital Health still provide MICU services to Princeton under the transfer? Yes. Capital Health just believes the transfer will have a negative impact on it providing services to Princeton.

Are MICU services all county-based like Capital Health's MICU? Sometimes. Hunterdon and Somerset are both county-based. Middlesex has three programs.

How did RWJUH apply for this process? The legislation gives a hospital with a trauma center that has an acute care hospital in another township the ability to apply for that township.

Will Capital Health still have the same amount of equipment under the transfer? Yes. They currently have five ambulances, 'suburbans', during the day and three (possibly four soon) at night. They cannot remove one unit, even with the removal of the Hamilton population, without affecting their entire regional service. So, transfer or no transfer, they plan to have the same number of ambulances.

Did the Mercer County Freeholders write a letter? Yes. They wrote one based off of findings from Capital Health.

Did the County Health Officers discuss this issue? No. Capital Health did not approach them and so they do not plan to discuss it.

Could the Board request information on this issue from the state? Yes but probably not in the time required.

When will the state's Board of Health make a decision? Ninety days from when they deem the application complete. Capital Health knows RWJUH submitted the application in June. They do not know if the application has been deemed complete. The Commission may have already made a decision (even if it has not been announced).

Capital Health reiterated its request for a letter from the Princeton Board of Health in support of their concerns about the transfer. They had gone to the Princeton Council but the Council requested they go to the Board of Health.

Dr. DiFerdinando talked from his experience as Deputy Commissioner of Health about the complexity of the issue. More and more laws have taken the CN process out of a prior process. He wanted the Board to be aware of the complexity of the issue and the limit of the power of the Board over the decision. Robert Wood Johnson-New Brunswick would make a different case than Capital Health if present. What would the Board write in a letter?

A Board member wondered about how other services (e.g., coronary bypass, neonatal intensive care) with a MICU component could justify a similar transfer of MICU services. How could the Board involve itself all of these issues? The Board does not have the time to deal with every detail.

The Board agreed with Capital Health's sentiments but needed more information to give a useful and timely letter to the State Board of Health. The Board thanked Capital Health's representatives for attending the meeting and Capital Health's representatives thanked the Board for inviting them.

3. Minutes–July 19, 2016

Ms. Hill motions. Dr. Miller seconds. The Board unanimously approves the minutes.

4. Monthly Reports

Accreditation

Mr. Grosser discussed how the two interns helped his office with the accreditation process. He highlighted their first-ever workforce development, succession and performance management plans. They will place a performance dashboard online soon.

Mr. Grosser, the Accreditation Coordinator and the interns completed all the accreditation measures which means the office can submit for accreditation at any time.

Because the department needs to submit by December 1, 2016, Mr. Grosser noted that the last few months will involve reviewing the documentation to ensure they demonstrate conformity with the public health accreditation standards and measures. When the Public Health

Accreditation Board (PHAB) site visitors come to the office, Board members can see the process.

Staffing: Environmental Health Inspector

He discussed the Environmental Health Officer job search. The position has been posted. Board members can sit in on interviews. He mentioned how the position would allow applicants to be currently studying for the Registered Environmental Health Specialist exam. That allows the office's interns who are studying for the exam the chance to apply. He invited Board members to sit in on interviews.

NJ Prevention Network – Get Active Grant

The Health Department received a grant from the New Jersey Prevention Network to improve walkability in Princeton. They have teamed up with engineering to update the sidewalk maintenance ordinance to make sure residents have a safe place to walk.

Animal Control/Rabies

The Animal Control Officer has not had a positive rabies specimen since he started in July 2015. Mr. Grosser considered not having a case in August lucky, due to the history of positive rabies cases in Princeton in August.

Corner House Student Board

The Board welcomed the new members of the Corner House student board: Taylor Smith from Princeton Day School and Aaron DiGregorio from Princeton High School. The new members introduced themselves.

5. Old Business

The Board did not discuss old business.

6. New Business

New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association (NJLBHA) Certification

Dr. DiFerdinando has been sitting on the NJLBHA. Princeton has been a long-time member and, thus, by extension, the members of the Board are all members.

The NJLBHA offers an hour-long training and certification for local Board of Health members. Dr. DiFerdinando will send a link to the training to Board members. Site visitors consider the training incredibly valuable for local board members. Mr. Grosser suggested adding it to his office's workforce development plan and some board members suggested he bake cannolis for those who complete the training.

Dr. Rojer's Funeral

Dr. DiFerdinando, Council Member Howard and Mr. Grosser attended the funeral of Dr. Rojer who served on the Board in addition to his many other accomplishments. The funeral served as a tribute to his public service and his commitment to health and nutrition.

Dr. DiFerdinando and Council Member Howard mentioned the desire to honor Dr. Rojer, especially his commitment to health.

7. Second Reading, BoH Chap. 13 Revision, E-Cigarette Licensing

Ms. Schwimmer moved the ordinance as written and Dr. DiFerdinando seconded the motion. The ordinance establishes e-cigarette licensing in Princeton. The Board focused on the amount of the \$1,200 fee.

Wawa, 7-11, Rite Aid and the kiosk are Princeton's major e-cigarette retailers. Mr. Grosser approached them. They did not have comments on it.

Mr. Grosser received feedback from other townships on their fees. The majority had fees around \$1,200. An article provided by Ms. Shah found that \$1,000 would provide some deterrence.

The Board considered if the purpose should be to raise money or to deter a sale. Council Member Howard did not think the revenue as important but the fee more an incentive. The \$1,200 deters new licenses for selling e-cigarettes but does not drive e-cigarette sellers out of business. It also generates enough money to pay for tobacco educators.

The Board does not want to raise revenue but to regulate a dangerous product. The Board also wants to know and regulate sellers in town. The fee has an evidence base. The Board can also review and reassess the fee later.

Motion to adopt the ordinance

Result: Adopted [Unanimous]

Mover: Schwimmer

Seconder: DiFerdinando

Ayes: DiFerdinando, Steiner-Sichel, Babcock-Dunning, Hill, Howard, Schwimmer, Shah, Miller, Weiss

8. Report from Committees

Princeton Future Meeting

Mr. Weiss gave a status update on the Princeton Future meeting on October 22. He has been working on an agenda for the meeting, including discussion of a new Princeton health survey and discussion of the Princeton Board of Health. He has been thinking about how to collect data. He wants to make sure Princeton residents, students and workers answer the survey, not people unrelated to Princeton. He will work on it before the meeting. Dr. DiFerdinando mentioned the

importance of the work for the youth of Princeton. Mr. Grosser thanked Mr. Weiss for his work so far.

Dr. DiFerdinando suggested publishing the event given the possibility of a Board quorum. Mr. Grosser will publish it.

9. Reports from Other Boards and Commissions

The Board did not hear any such reports.

10. Closed Session (If Needed)

The Board did not enter closed session.

11. Adjournment

Ms. Schwimmer moves to adjourn. Ms. Hill seconds. The Board unanimously agrees to adjourn.