

Princeton Board of Health
Monthly Meeting
July 19th, 2016
Monument Hall - East Meeting Room
One Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540

Present:

Board Members

George DiFerdinando, MD, Chair
JoAnn Hill, RN
Meredith Hodach-Avalos, MD
Heather Howard, JD, Council
Steven Miller, PhD
Linda Schwimmer, Esq
Linda Steiner-Sichel, MPH, Vice Chair
Rick Weiss, MS

Absent:

Lauren Babcock Dunning, MPH
Mona Shah, PhD

Staff:

Jeffrey Grosser MHS, HO
Michael Soto, Board Secretary

Guests:

Elizabeth Bates, Human Services Liaison
Karen Blumenfeld, NJ GASP Executive Director
Dylan, NJ GASP Intern
Philip Curran, Princeton Packet
Heidi Fichtenbaum, Princeton Environmental
Commission
David Krol, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

I. Call to Order

At 7:30 PM, Dr. DiFerdinando 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. New Board Member

Dr. Meredith J. Hodach-Avalos has joined the Princeton Board of Health. She is filling a regular position which runs through the end of this year, with potential renewal for a three year term.

III. Public Comment and Guests

a. New Jersey Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy (NJ GASP)

Ms. Blumenfeld, the Executive Director of NJ GASP, introduced her nonprofit, stating that its goal is to provide educational resources to help people live tobacco free.

She reported that Governor Christie conditionally vetoed the Smokefree Parks Bill on Friday, July 15th, which means that he didn't want the whole bill to go through but he thought that the State run recreation areas should be smokefree. She believes that the bill still needs to pass the senate and the assembly.

The Tabaco 21 bill passed the Senate and Assembly. In the meantime there have been at least 20 communities that have passed Tabaco 21. Princeton was one of the leading municipalities.

There are 13 communities across the State that require licensing for e-cigarettes. The benefits include tracking new locations that will sell e-cigarettes, and clarifying that sampling is not permitted.

Additionally, it facilitates enforcement of the new childproof container law that goes into effect August 1st, when all local departments of health will be required to enforce it. This is to prevent children from getting into these products and getting poisoned. There have been cases of child deaths.

It is also a way to regulate whether these products are being sold at temporary or seasonal venues (farmer's markets, festivals, or fairs, etc.).

It also helps fund the cost of tobacco age enforcement and education.

The licenses range from \$200 -\$1,200, with the trend being closer to \$1,200. Ms. Blumenfeld indicates that there has not been any push back from retailers.

Ms. Howard clarified that the spending of those funds would be under the purview of Council and would not automatically be added to the Department's budget. But the Council could submit a proposal of how it would like those funds to be used.

Ms. Blumenfeld suggested having a license for all sales channels: retail, wholesale, distribution and manufacture. Dr. DiFerdinando suggested having this as a question as part of the license to collect information before creating a fee structure for it.

IV. Ordinance First Reading – E-Cigarettes

Dr. Miller introduced the first reading of the e-cigarette ordinance to take effect January 1st. Ms. Schwimmer seconded the motion. All voted in favor and it will be reviewed again in September.

V. Minutes - June

Dr. Miller motioned to approve the June minutes with minor corrections, and Mr. Weiss seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

VI. Monthly Reports – Health Officer

a. Staffing

After 23 years, Randy Carter, the Senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist, has announced his retirement effective November 30th. His departure will leave a big void to fill because he knows Princeton very well and performs emergency response for the health department.

There have been a couple excellent interns that may be interested.

b. Digital Inspection

Inspect2GO is the new digital software that the municipality will be using for all inspections, allowing the Department to have real-time access to the inspectors data as they collect it in the field. Residents will also have access to the reports via the website.

Princeton is the first health department of the State to use the platform, which is based in California.

This was part of the Department's strategic plan and will help with accreditation too.

Ms. Howard asked if past inspections would be uploaded to the platform. Mr. Grosser indicated that they could be, depending upon available staffing, but that inspection documents older than three years are destroyed. Dr. Miller asked why this was the case and Mr. Grosser indicated that one reason is that historically with a paper based system, the municipality has not had the physical space for long term storage, and additionally, records retention schedules inform the health department that they can be destroyed. Dr. DiFerdinando asked that Mr. Grosser inquire with Legal whether the Municipality can continue to store these documents now that they are digital and space is not an issue.

c. Zika Testing

Tomorrow, July 20th, will be the first day that the State is delegating the task of approving Zika testing in residents to the Municipality. The past two weeks the Department has been participating in webinars and trainings.

d. Accreditation

The Department is now up to 85% of its required measures with four months remaining. The municipality is required to apply by December 1st.

e. Princeton Future

Mr. Weiss is on the Board of Princeton Future, a group of residents of the Princeton region that are all concerned about the direction that future development of critical segments of downtown Princeton may take.

He provided an update on the event being planned for October 22nd to help build awareness about the activities of the Board of Health.

VII. New Business

Performance management: Mr. Grosser stated that the Performance Management Plan has been finished, which included a department wide training, quarterly updated dashboard and the policy and procedures.

Mr. Grosser reminded the Board that Revelstone was intended to be the platform the entire municipality was supposed to be using for performance management, but the contract ended and another system had not been picked up by the municipality and wasn't planning to be prior to the end of 2016. As a result, the health department started speaking to Rutgers that has a performance management system for municipalities. The health department put the new system into action second quarter of 2016 along with tracking performance measures via a dashboard created by staff. The dashboard tracks a number of measures across the multitude of responsibilities of the department and is also reviewed at internal health department meetings.

Mr. Grosser noted some of the major improvements of the department's performance through documenting their performance management plan and displaying it in a dashboard/quarterly report, those improvements were:

- 51% increase in the number of schools audited for immunizations (2014 vs. 2015)
- 100% compliance with Tobacco 21 ordinance when completing facility inspections (2015)
- 66% increase in the number of worksite wellness programs offered to employers in Princeton (2015 vs. 2016 (through June))
- PHAB documentation saw 18% of measures completed in 2nd Q
- PHD Twitter page saw 5 tweets in 2015 and 68 tweets for 2016 (through June)
- Complaints received by the health department continue to increase by quarter and when comparing 2015 to 2016

VIII. Other Boards and Commissions

a. Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee

Dr. DiFerdinando indicated that if the Board were going to devise a proposal on how to spend revenue from the licenses this would be the task of a Budget Sub-Committee. Similarly, there will be a need for a Personnel Committee to participate in interviews.

b. Princeton Alcohol and Drug Alliance (PADA)

Ms. Hill and Ms. Steiner-Sichel will alternate, each attending every other month

IX. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Weiss motioned to adjourn and Dr. Miller seconded. All present voted in favor of this action and the meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Soto