

**Princeton Board of Health**

Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2017

Monument Hall-East Meeting Room
One Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540

Present**Board Members:**

George T. DiFerdinando, Jr.,
MD, MPH, Chair

Linda Steiner-Sichel, MPH,
Vice Chair

JoAnn Hill, RN

Meredith Hodach-Avalos,
MD

Heather Howard, JD,
Council Liaison

Steven Miller, PhD

Gregory Paulson, MS

Linda Schwimmer, JD

Staff:

Jeffrey Grosser, MHS, HO,
REHS

Ben Strauss, Board Secretary

Guests:

Aaron DiGregorio, Student
Board Leader, Corner

House

Taylor Smith, Student Board
Leader, Corner House

Philip Curran, Princeton
Packet

David Krol, Robert Wood
Johnson Foundation

Absent**Board Members:**

Mona Shah, PhD

Rick Weiss, MS

Minutes submitted by Ben Strauss, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order 7:30 PM

At 7:31 pm, Dr. DiFerdinando calls the meeting to order: "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."

2. Roll Call

Dr. DiFerdinando calls roll. The continuing members introduce themselves.

Mr. Paulson, the new Alternate #2 member, introduces himself. He came to Princeton from Los Angeles to attend Princeton University. He first entered healthcare as an Emergency Medical

Technician (EMT) in the Princeton Rescue Squad in college. He went to graduate school in Philadelphia and then worked for several hospitals. He now works as the Executive Director of the [Trenton Health Team](#). He expresses his happiness to work on the Board.

Council Member Howard expresses her appreciation for Mr. Paulson joining the Board, especially given his busy schedule, and expresses her desire for his membership to facilitate “cross-pollination” between Princeton and Trenton on health issues. She mentions that Trenton passed Tobacco 21 (with a Council vote of 6 to 1) last week (week of February 13).

Dr. DiFerdinando expresses his appreciation for Mr. Curran covering Board meetings for the Princeton Packet and informing the community about what happens in meetings. Mr. Curran introduces himself.

3. Public Comment/Guest Speaker

Dr. DiFerdinando asks for public comments from the student representatives, Mr. DiGregorio and Ms. Smith. They have no comment.

Choking Game

Ms. Steiner-Sichel asks the student representatives about their knowledge of the “choking game” happening in the John Witherspoon middle school. Mr. DiGregorio has not heard anything but he no longer has any siblings there. He can look into it. Ms. Steiner-Sichel heard yesterday from her neighbor about four boys choking themselves and posting that to Instagram. She notes that the school has been notified. Mr. Miller mentions a [book](#) he read that includes the “choking game”.

4. Minutes – January 17, 2016

Some members note needed corrections to the minutes. Ms. Hill motions to approve the minutes with those corrections. Mr. Miller seconds. The Board unanimously approves the minutes.

5. Monthly Reports

Animal Control Officer Update

Health Officer Grosser reports that Animal Control Officer Nate Barson was arrested yesterday and was suspended without pay. Administrator Dashfield put out a press release about the incident.

To cover Mr. Barson’s responsibilities, the Department has been using Montgomery’s Animal Control Officer (ACO) backup coverage, for which they already have an existing contract for

supplemental coverage. And they have been covered completely by the White Buffalo Deer Program for deer culling from sharing coverage with them.

Health Officer Grosser directs members to read the press release from the Municipality for any additional information. Council Member Howard calls the incident shocking and upsetting. She notes that Mr. Barson had an extensive background check conducted prior to employment with the Municipality-he cleared five employment reference checks-because he had a job that worked with the Princeton Police Department.

New Jersey Department of Health Audits

The New Jersey Department of Health has informed the health department they will begin conducting local public health agency performance evaluations in 2017, also called audits. The Princeton Department last received one in 2012. The Department has an exemption from an audit this year because they are actively pursuing national public health accreditation.

E-Cigarette License Update

After the Board passed an e-cigarette licensing ordinance, Wawa, Rite Aid, 7-11 and Palmer Square Kiosk all applied and received a license to sell e-cigarettes. Krauszer's and Sunoco decided not to apply for a license.

Contractual Nursing Hours

The Department has proposed an increase to contractual nursing hours to engage in community nursing. They want to increase the current ten to twelve hours per week (\$28,000 per year), to thirty hours (divided between two to three nurses) per week (\$60,000 per year) in the 2017 year. The Department has tripled its number of disease investigations. They have also increased their outreach on screenings. Dr. DiFerdinando expresses support for increasing those hours to address current and future health needs.

Health Officer Grosser mentions the Department can pay for the increased hours while cutting its budget, because the Department has found additional revenue and cost savings elsewhere. He will provide additional details to the Finance subcommittee.

Free Hospital Clinic

Ms. Schwimmer asks about the free hospital clinic. Health Officer Grosser reports taxi service has been steady the last four months at 60 round-trips per month. A snow day pushed last month's visit to this month.

6. Old Business

a. Accreditation Update

Health Officer Grosser reports that the site visit will happen on June 5, the week of Princeton University graduation.

7. New Business

a. 2017 Council Goals and Priorities - Health in all Policies

Health Officer Grosser gives a brief history and explanation of Health in All Policies: Health in All Policies-cross-sector collaborations to further health-came to the United States from Europe in 2006. The Council decided last month to have Health in All Policies as one of their 2017 goals. It will add to collaborations already existing between the Health Department and other departments.

Mr. Paulson mentions that Trenton municipal employees went through training on Health in All Policies. He will find out more.

8. Report from (Board) Committees (and Members)

Dr. DiFerdinando clarifies that he also wishes to hear also from Board members as well as subcommittees.

Conversations of your Life

Dr. Volandes will give a talk at the West Windsor Public Library during the Board of Health's April committee meeting. Ms. Schwimmer will talk to Health Officer Grosser about the conflicting time. Dr. DiFerdinando suggests a field trip. Ms. Schwimmer will send members the dates of all the events and some additional resources.

9. Reports from Other Boards and Commissions

Princeton Alcohol and Drug Alliance

Ms. Hill shared that on February 2nd the PADA met and decided to establish a Marijuana Committee. Corner House's Student Board has been working on a survey to measure marijuana usage in middle and high school: how many use? How many do not use at all? Other questions. Dr. DiFerdinando suggests the survey should lower barriers for students to seek help about marijuana use. He also suggests that multi-year surveys increase validity. A member suggests using some questions from National Institute on Drug Abuse's (NIDA's) Monitoring the Future survey to compare national trends.

Environmental Commission

Mr. Miller reports on the committee's various health initiatives (for example, one regarding radon testing). See the minutes [here](#).

10. Closed Session (If Needed)

The Board does not enter closed session.

11. Adjournment

At 8:28 pm, Ms. Hill motions for adjournment. Council Member Howard seconds. The Board unanimously agrees to adjourn.