

**Princeton Board of Health**

Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2017

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

Present**Board Members:**

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

JoAnn Hill, RN

Steven Miller, PhD

Linda Schwimmer, JD

Linda Steiner-Sichel, MPH,
Vice Chair

Meredith Hodach-Avalos,
MD

Heather Howard, JD,
Council Liaison

Rick Weiss, MS

Staff:

Jeffrey Grosser, MHS, HO,
REHS

Ben Strauss, Board Secretary

Guests:

Phillip Curran, Packet
Moustafa Ramadan, Rutgers
Intern

Absent**Board Members:**

Mona Shah, PhD

Minutes submitted by Ben Strauss, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order (7:30 PM)

At 7:30 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 provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act."

2. Roll Call

Dr. DiFerdinando calls roll.

3. Public Comment/Guest Speaker, Moustafa Ramadan, Rutgers PH '17, Health in all Policies

Health Officer Grosser introduces Mr. Ramadan, a Rutgers senior studying public health and an intern with the Health Department.

Mr. Ramadan describes Health in All Policies. He defines Health in All Policies as a collaborative approach to improving public health that prioritizes health in municipal projects and decisions. He discusses current progress in Princeton: Princeton's seven parks, three reservations, urban greening and complete streets. As next steps, he has made a one-page, user-friendly checklist for all approximately-twenty-eight municipal departments and offices. He will meet with Department heads about the checklist. Eventually, he wants a Health in All Policies resolution (not an ordinance).

A member asks about other municipalities in New Jersey that follow Health in All Policies. Mr. Ramadan does not know and will look into it.

Members thank him for the presentation.

4. Minutes – May 16, 2017

Mr. Miller moves approval of the May minutes. Ms. Hodach-Avalos seconds the motion. Members unanimously vote to approve the April minutes.

5. Monthly Reports

a. Animal Control

Health Officer Grosser gives updates on fox activity, overall May activity, the rabid bat and the bear traveling through the municipality:

- 1) He reports a decrease in fox reports. This year, no foxes in the state tested positive for rabies. He mentions that one fox had mange. Members discuss the fox issue.
- 2) He reports 101 animal control calls in May, one of their busiest months, and eight deer carcasses, which he considers a high number.
- 3) He reports on the first rabid animal for 2016 and 2017, a bat, in Princeton yesterday, the first positive-test, rabid animal in Princeton in two-and-a-half years. The family knew from the Department website how to handle it. The test results came in yesterday.
- 4) A Montgomery Animal Control Officer worked with Princeton Police to follow a black bear through Princeton. They notified Johnson Park and the YMCA to keep children indoors. Health Officer Grosser believes a motor vehicle accident killed it.

Health Officer Grosser mentions that the municipality has a contract with Montgomery until the end of September. He expects, next month, the Department will have a longer term plan for going forward.

b. Municipal Building Lead Test

Of 42 samples representing all municipal facilities, zero samples came back above the required action levels. Several samples were in the 3-6 ppb range and those fixtures will be prioritized for removal. Members discuss lead issues, particularly lead in old houses.

c. Population Health Summit

Health Officer Grosser complimented Council Member Howard for her panel moderation, Ms Schwimmer for her panel moderation, and Mayor Lempert for her panel participation. Members discuss the panels.

d. Public Health Nursing

Health Officer Grosser reports that the public health nurses have been working in the community. He sent members a list of events attended by the nurses, so members can meet them.

e. Emergency Preparedness

The Department has a Point of Distribution (POD) meeting tomorrow. The County will help the Department create a mock response plan, to prepare for the community plan. Any member can attend the meeting.

6. Old Business

a. Accreditation update

Health Officer Grosser reports that the Department remains in active status and the Department will start uploading documents Monday (June 27) to late July. He will send members the date, probably September or October, of the site visit. Afterwards, the accreditors meet with the Department's community partners. He will draft, for members, a list of talking points.

Health Officer Grosser also reports that, next week, the Department will participate in Publication Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) documentation training. PHAB created the training specifically for smaller, New Jersey health departments.

b. Health in All Policies

The committee discussed it during the Public Comment item.

c. Conversation of a Lifetime

Ms. Schwimmer reports that her organization received funding to expand the program to Middlesex, Somerset, Burlington and Gloucester (for a total of seven counties). They have been recruiting new leadership for those areas.

Members express their appreciation for attending the presentation at West Windsor.

d. Community Health Survey

Mr. Weiss expects to work more on the survey in July. He will reach out to Ms. Shah about the survey's demographic questions. Health Officer Grosser noted that the public health nurses would be great outlets for the survey in the community since they are spending significantly more time at various locations meeting and screening residents for various medical issues.

7. New Business

a. Alternate Suggestions

Dr. DiFerdinando asks members to tell him if they have any suggestions for a new Alternate member. Members discuss potential candidates.

b. Losing Electricity

Mr. Weiss asks about food security. He mentions that, during the recent storm, he lost power for over 24 hours. Health Officer Grosser says, without power, food lasts in the refrigerator for about twenty-four hours and food lasts in the freezer two to three days. Dr. DiFerdinando mentions the distinction between safe-to-eat and tasting-good. Health Officer Grosser says he will talk to Access Princeton about informing residents of the issue.

Dr. DiFerdinando mentions the issue of chronic illness patients (who need an oxygen extractor, have mobility issues, etc.) during power outages, given the lack of a county sheltering plan. Two people in Dr. DiFerdinando neighborhood needed to go neighbors' houses for power.

c. Emergency Preparedness Survey

Health Officer Grosser mentions that the public health nurse has been conducting an emergency preparedness survey of residents.

8. Report from Committees

The committee hears no reports from committees.

9. Reports from Other Boards and Commissions

a. Princeton Alcohol and Drug Alliance (PADA)

Ms. Hill mentions the marijuana forum on May 24th. She considers it successful, with several presenters and panel discussions. She expects Corner House to publish the results on their website by September.

Ms. Hill mentions that the DUI reenactment will be held at the end of May or beginning of June. It will focus on both driving while drunk and driving while high.

10. Closed Session (If Needed)

The committee does not enter closed session.

11. Adjournment

At 8:31 pm, Dr. DiFerdinando calls for adjournment. Ms. Hill moves adjournment. Mr. Weiss seconds. The committee adjourns to unanimous consent.