

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

September 14, 2011

6:00 P.M.

Present: Maureen Adams, Anthony Brickman, Leo Brummel, Darlene Hanley, Kevin McGuigan, Chairperson, Liang Schweizer and Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer.

Absent: Mary Baird, Jim Kownacki, Council Liaison

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed. Tony Brickman motioned to approve the agenda. Darlene Hanley seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

Minutes: The minutes from the meeting of May 18, 2011 were reviewed. One correction to change Sovereign Bank Arena to Sun Bank Arena was noted. Darlene Hanley motioned to accept the minutes with the noted change. Tony Brickman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Mercer County Tuberculosis Clinic

The Mercer County Tuberculosis Clinic has operated through Capital Health System for several years. As of June 30, Capital Health will only be providing clinical services through the general medical clinic. Infectious disease physicians at Capital Health and St. Francis will see patients. All confirmed tuberculosis cases and suspects will be referred to one of the two state regional clinics, South Jersey Regional Clinic or Somerset Regional Specialty Clinic.

Transportation will be provided through the state health department to one of the regional clinics. Case management of tuberculosis cases will be completed by a nurse hired through the Henry J. Austin Health Center. This nurse will have an office at the Trenton Health Department but will be an employee of Henry J. Austin. Direct Observed Therapy (D.O.T.) will continue to be done by the public health nurses at local health departments. Oversight of the entire program will be completed by staff of the state health department.

B. Seasonal Flu Clinics

Carol Chamberlain reviewed the new \$15.00 fee for flu shots. The only exemptions will be individuals over 60 years of age and individuals with a chronic illness who provide a prescription. Children who normally attend the child health conferences at the health department will be covered by the VFC program.

C. Mercer County Needs Assessment

Darlene Hanley provided an update on the county-wide needs assessment. The United Way and the Mercer County Health Partnership applied for a grant for \$250,000.00 to conduct a community needs assessment. The United Way received the grant and will act as the lead agency. The partnership consists of four area hospitals, St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center, the eight local health departments, the United Way and other area agencies.

Initially the group will be looking at existing health data to determine what information is already available. The group is also in the process of determining how the assessment will be performed. This will include assuring the Community Benefit IRS requirements are met and the Public Health Practice Standards requirements are met by the assessment.

The United Way will be the umbrella agency which will act as the glue to keep the group together and focused. The United Way will also be responsible for tracking the grant budget. It is expected the assessment will be a two-year process which will include focus groups, a direct survey mailing and response from the community. From the data collected an action plan will be developed to address the needs identified.

Darlene Hanley explained the next step is to identify additional stakeholders in the community. This will build on the collaboration which has already been established within the group.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upcoming Events

Carol Chamberlain informed the group about the following upcoming events:

Rabies Clinic - Saturday, September 17 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Community Day - Sunday, October 2 from 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Hazardous Waste Disposal Day - October 9

Flu Vaccination Clinics - Two clinics for seniors
One clinic for Lawrence residents
One clinic at Project Freedom
One clinic at Lawrence Plaza Apartments

The Annual Conference of New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association - September 24
All board members were invited to attend.

NEXT MEETING: The next Health Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chamberlain
Health Officer