

# LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

## MINUTES

December 12, 2012

6:00 P.M.

Recreation Conference Room

**Present:** Maureen Adams, Mary Baird, Leo Brummel, Darlene Hanley, Dr. Kevin McGuigan, Dr. Liang Schweizer, Carol Chamberlain, James Kownacki, Mayor, Council Liaison.

**Absent:** Dr. Anthony Brickman

**Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed and approved with no revisions.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the September 19, 2012 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Maureen Adams. The motion was seconded by Darlene Hanley. The minutes were approved by the Board.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### A. Mercer County Needs Assessment/CHIP

Carol Chamberlain explained the CHIP was presented to the community at a meeting on December 12, 2012. The board members who have reviewed the CHIP and/or attended the meeting were asked for comments. Mary Baird attended the program. She agreed with the comment that the City of Trenton needs to be included in the CHIP. Representatives from the City of Trenton as well as from non-profit agencies based in the City of Trenton were at the presentation. Mary Baird also stated transportation is an issue especially due to the relocation of Capital Health System to Hopewell. She agreed with the comment the CHIP must address multi-lingual and multi-generational issues.

Dr. Schweizer also attended the community meeting. She said the CHIP appears to be well planned with clear objectives. She said what isn't clear is how the objectives will be achieved. Also there is a lack of designated timelines to meet the objectives. Dr. Schweizer stated the presentation permitted a good discussion of the project with many members of the community being represented.

Carol Chamberlain said copies of the CHIP will be distributed to the Township Council and Manager.

#### B. Health Department Activities

Recent health department activities included a rabies clinic in September in coordination with cat license renewals. Flu clinics were also conducted in October and November. Approximately 475 people have received influenza vaccinations at the township flu clinics.

Community Day was cancelled due to bad weather. Currently the monthly senior lectures and screenings at the senior center are being scheduled for 2013. Many of the programs are being coordinated with area hospitals.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. Response to Hurricane Sandy**

Carol Chamberlain provided a summary of the health department's response activities. The majority of response activities related to two issues, power outages and fallen trees. Due to the power outage, retail food establishments needed to be inspected prior to re-opening. Approximately 120 establishments were checked prior to re-opening. The power outages started on Monday evening with the restoration of power taking place gradually throughout the township. All establishments requesting re-opening inspections were re-opened by Saturday, November 3, 2012.

Three senior housing complexes were evacuated due to power outages. Residents of the complexes were initially requested to contact family or friends for temporary housing. Residents who had no place to relocate were housed at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge. Twenty residents were relocated to the Howard Johnson's. The residents were temporarily housed there for two evenings.

In addition, comfort stations were opened at Lawrence High School and Lawrence Senior Center. The services offered at the comfort stations included electricity and recharging electronics. The high school was also open for showering. The Senior Center comfort station remained open until 11:00 p.m. The high school location was open Wednesday-Friday. The Senior Center remained in operation until Monday, November 5, 2012. The CERT volunteers assisted with staffing the comfort stations.

### **B. 2013 Budget**

The 2013 budgets for Animal Control and Health were submitted to the Township Manager. The Animal Control Budget included a request for a mobile temporary animal shelter. This would be used for housing animals during an emergency if residents are evacuated from their homes.

In the health division, additional hours for the public health nurse are being requested. This year, nursing hours were reduced from 40 hours per week to 20 hours per week. The part-time nurse cannot complete all the necessary activities in the twenty hours each week. An additional eight hours per week is being requested.

Mayor Kownacki asked if the additional eight hours would be adequate. Carol Chamberlain said she would like to have a nurse in the office 35 hours ideally, but would appreciate any additional hours approved above the current twenty-hour work week.

The Mayor asked if the increase in weekly nurse hours would eliminate the need for the per diem nurse. Carol Chamberlain stated the per diem would still be necessary for clinics as two nurses are needed during clinics. Carol Chamberlain remarked the second nurse position was missed during the recent emergency. During Hurricane Irene two nurses were available to assist with the reception shelter. With only one nurse for Hurricane Sandy, the township had to depend on CERT volunteers for assistance. In addition, during non-emergent times the additional public health nurse hours were used for emergency preparedness activities and planning. These activities are no longer being done due to the reduction in nursing hours. Mayor Kownacki indicated he would inform Council of these concerns at the time of budget discussions.

Mayor Kownacki thanked Carol Chamberlain for the work of the health department staff during Sandy. He said he received compliments on the Township's response during the emergency.

Carol Chamberlain said the Township Manager also asked to research other options for providing public health services in the future. Two specific options being requested to research are privatization and shared services with other communities.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next Health Advisory Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chamberlain  
Health Officer