

# LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

## MINUTES

February 13, 2013

6:00 P.M.

Manager's Conference Room

**Present:** Leo Brummel, Darlene Hanley, Mary Baird, Dr. Kevin McGuigan, Chairperson, Mayor James Kownacki and Carol Chamberlain

**Absent:** Dr. Anthony Brickman, Maureen Adams, Liang Schweizer

**Election of Chairperson:** Mary Baird made a motion to nominate Dr. McGuigan for Chairperson for 2013. Darlene Hanley seconded the nomination. The board voted unanimously for Dr. McGuigan as chairperson.

**Review of Agenda:** Darlene Hanley made a motion to approve the agenda. Mary Baird seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

**Review of Minutes-December 12, 2012:** The board reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on December 12, 2012. Darlene Hanley made a motion to approve the minutes. Leo Brummel seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

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

The needs assessment and CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan) have been completed and the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership (GMPHP) is looking for additional sources of funding. Two grants have been awarded to the GMPHP.

Darlene Hanley said the hospital representatives of the GMPHP made a presentation to New Jersey Health Initiatives. The presentation included the vision for the future of the partnership and an explanation of the community benefit of the GMPHP. There was a discussion about the focus on prevention within the community and focus on populations which they will have the greatest effect, children and schools.

The presentation included a review of the partners of the GMPHP including the Community Advisory Board members. Totaling all those involved, there were over 600 individuals who participated in the needs assessment.

The results of the needs assessment were discussed including the conclusion of the priority areas which were identified are similar to those found in other communities. The priority areas include mental illness and substance abuse, sustainable healthy lifestyle choices, reducing chronic disease and transportation.

The GMPHP is now focusing on sustainability and how to maximize resources both at the hospitals and community-based resources. Two grants were recently awarded to the GMPHP through the United Way. The hospitals are coordinating a chronic disease self-management grant. The local health departments are working jointly on a grant from the New Jersey Prevention Network. This grant will require the local health departments to identify communities

in Mercer County which experience health disparities. There will be an environmental/policy scan as well as a review of resources available to address the issues identified. The Prevention Network grant will be completed by May 2013.

Other funding sources are being sought. Some of these potential sources include funding from the county government, additional funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and possibly corporate sponsors. Additional funding will be needed for more initiatives in the future.

Darlene also mentioned the hospitals will begin to develop strategic plans to address the priorities identified in the CHIP. St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center will be offering balance programs and the Healthy Bones program. The staff at St. Lawrence has received training for a Parkinson's program which includes speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy. In addition, RWJ at Hamilton and St. Lawrence are partnering to develop a cardiac education program.

The hospital partners of the GMPHP met with representatives of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to review the progress of the grant as well as to discuss future initiatives. Foundation representatives were eager to hear how the hospitals are proposing to work together to address the priorities. The Foundation was pleased to acknowledge the Mercer GMPHP has progressed the most of all the grantees. The Foundation representatives are also pleased to see the level of community involvement in the grant activities.

Mayor Kownacki asked what the Lawrence Township Council can do to assist. Darlene stated funding will be required for future initiatives. She said it will most likely be expected the hospitals as well as the municipalities will be asked to contribute. The mayor indicated financial support of the project can be expected from the Lawrence Council.

#### B. 2013 Budget

Carol Chamberlain said the health department budget presentation to Council took place on February 5, 2013. The operating expenses are expected to remain level. The budget requests for 2013 included additional hours for the public health nurse and computer upgrades for the inspectors to use tablets for retail food inspections. Under the Animal Control Division the request was presented for a mobile animal shelter. This would be used during an emergency to temporarily hold pets in the event residents would need to be evacuated.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### A. 2012 Annual Report

The board reviewed the 2012 Annual Report of the Local Health Department. Carol Chamberlain explained to the board the Township Council reviewed the report on February 5, 2013 at the same time of the review of the budget.

One highlight of the 2012 report included the NJDEP Radon Community Awareness Grant in which over 165 radon kits were distributed to the Lawrence residents. The health department received a Certificate of Achievement for obtaining a Satisfactory rating in all assessed areas of the State Health Department Performance Evaluation. Only four local health departments in the state received the Certificate of Achievement in 2012. Copies of the annual report were provided to the board members.

#### B. 2013 Health Department Activities

- A rabies clinic was held in January. Approximately 250 animals were vaccinated at the clinic.
- The health department is continuing to participate in the GMPHP activities including addressing the items identified as priorities in the Community Health Improvement Plan.
- Monthly senior lectures and screenings are being scheduled for the Lawrence Senior Center. Community partners will be assisting with these programs including area hospitals and physicians.

C. Meeting Dates for 2013

Proposed meeting dates for 2013 are:

May 8, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

September 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

December 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Darlene Hanley made a motion to adjourn. Mary Baird seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chamberlain  
Health Officer