

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

February 26, 2014

6:00 P.M.

Manager's Conference Room

Present: Maureen Adams, Dr. Anthony Brickman, Mary Baird, Darlene Hanley, Carol Chamberlain

Absent: Leo Brummel, Dr. Kevin McGuigan, Liang Schweizer

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed. Darlene Hanley motioned to approve the agenda. Mary Baird seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Election of Chairperson 2014: Darlene Hanley nominated Dr. McGuigan for Chairperson. Dr. Brickman made a motion to second the nomination. There were no other nominations. Dr. McGuigan was unanimously voted Chairperson for 2014. In his absence Dr. Brickman chaired the meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 25, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved with no changes.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership (GMPHP)

Darlene Hanley provided an update on the activities of the GMPHP. The Policy Committee consists of the C.E.O. of each of the four healthcare facilities, two community members, a representative of the Mercer County Division of Health and Human Services and a representative of the local health departments. The Policy Committee will meet quarterly to review activities and programs being conducted to achieve the goals set through the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

There is also a working group entitled the Coalition. This consists of the seven local health officers, representatives from each healthcare facility as well as two community representatives. The group is working to identify the ways in which the GMPHP will address and meet the four areas of need as identified in the Community Needs Assessment and CHIP. The areas of need include Chronic Disease, Transportation/Access to Care, Healthy Eating and Exercise and Substance Abuse/Mental Health.

Currently the following initiatives are being planned:

- 1) Mercer County Human Services is developing a directory of resources for mental health services and substance abuse resources.
- 2) A twelve-week wellness initiative is being developed. There will be a kick-off event for the wellness initiative at Mercer County Park on April 10, 2014.
- 3) A webpage and resource directory are being developed to assist residents to identify resources and services available throughout Mercer County.

- 4) The Education group is planning events to focus on three populations a) Seniors
b) Youth and c) Small Business.

One priority of the GMPHP is to identify grant funding to sustain the group. A coordinator has been hired. One of the tasks she has been given is to apply for grant funding. The coordinator will also be reaching out to businesses and corporations to look for additional sources of revenue.

B. Amendment to Ordinance

The board reviewed a letter from a resident concerned about people walking their dogs in the parks on longer leashes. The concern is dogs which have a long leash may come in contact with walkers. The resident is requesting a change to an ordinance to limit the permitted length of a leash. Specifically, the resident is requesting the following language be added to Section 4-3 of the Lawrence Township Ordinance Code, "Pet owners walking their pets on sidewalks and walkways, must control their pets to insure the animal does not come into physical contact with pedestrians on sidewalks and walkways."

The members discussed the possibility of adding a maximum leash length of five feet to the ordinance. One member suggested not changing the ordinance. The board members present decided to review ordinances from other towns and to defer action until the next meeting. Copies of other town ordinances will be forwarded to members not present. Action will be taken with a recommendation to Council at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2013 Annual Report

The board reviewed the 2013 Annual Report. Carol Chamberlain reviewed the highlights of the year and explained the new format the state has implemented. She also explained the annual report was reviewed by Council at the time of the budget discussion.

B. Project Medicine Drop

Carol Chamberlain informed the group that a permanent medication drop box has been installed in the police station. Old, unused medications can be dropped off anytime. Both residents and non-residents can take advantage of the drop box. Brochures describing the service have been printed and are being distributed throughout the community.

The drop-off box was installed and provided through a program conducted by the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, Division of Consumer Affairs.

C. LINCS Update

The Mercer County LINCS (Local Information Network Communications System) staff is requesting updates on LINCS contacts throughout the community. The board members were asked if they were interested in being on the LINCS system. Application forms were available to anyone interested.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

It was decided the board will meet in April to discuss both the proposed ordinance change for the cat nuisance and a proposed change to the section of the code pertaining to dogs. Carol Chamberlain will send out the date for the next meeting after discussing it with Dr. McGuigan.

ADJOURNMENT:

Maureen Adams made a motion to adjourn. Darlene Hanley seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chamberlain
Health Officer