

# LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

## MINUTES

December 2, 2015

6:00 P.M.

Manager's Conference Room

**Present:** Maureen Adams, Mary Baird, Dr. Anthony Brickman, Leo Brummel, Dr. Kevin McGuigan, Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer.

**Absent:** Cathleen Lewis, Mayor/Council Liaison, Darlene Hanley

**Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed and approved.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the September 2015 meeting were reviewed. Maureen Adams motioned to approve the minutes. Leo Brummel seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership (GMPHP)

The GMPHP continued to make progress on the completion of the needs assessment. In October, a two-day conference was conducted with the Community Advisory Board (CAB) members. The CAB reviewed the results of the data from the needs assessment and began to develop action plans based on the results of the assessment. The CAB members were divided into work groups based on the four focus areas identified in the assessment. These focus areas include; 1. Chronic diseases 2. Healthy Eating/Active Living 3. Mental Health/Substance Abuse and 4. Transportation/Access to Care.

A result of the two-day conference, a draft action plan has been developed for the updated community health improvement plan.

Next, the draft will be reviewed and revised for presentation of the CHIP to the community in early 2016. The GMPHP is now looking for data collection software for tracking the progress of the items identified in the action plan.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### Health Department Budget

Carol Chamberlain informed the board the 2016 budget was submitted to the Township Manager in October. The budget included a request for additional hours for the public health nurse. It also included a request for training and equipment for an existing employee from another department to be trained to assist with animal control services. This employee would be trained to assist when the animal control officer is not available, both during working hours and after normal work hours.

### Community Programs

The flu clinics were conducted in late October and early November. One clinic was at the senior center and two clinics were held at the municipal building. There were 285 flu shots administered this year.

### Rabies Clinic

A free rabies vaccination clinic will be conducted in early February for dogs and cats. The clinic is done to assist residents in obtaining the required rabies vaccination for pet licensing.

### Child Health Conference

With the retirement of Dr. Gittell, the clinic has a new pediatrician, Dr. Priya Stephens. Dr. Stephens also works at the pediatric clinic at Capital Health Hopewell and the child health conference in Trenton.

### Radon Action Month

The health department is working in conjunction with the NJDEP to bring awareness to residents about the importance of testing homes for radon. January is Radon Action Month. A press release will be issued on the subject of testing homes for radon. The NJDEP provides educational material to distribute to residents. This information will be placed in the library, the senior center and other local places to share with the residents.

### Tuberculosis Program

Carol Chamberlain reviewed the tuberculosis program which serves Mercer County residents. Currently the program is a county wide program provided by the Trenton Health Team. The nurse case manager is an employee of the Trenton Health Team. Her salary is paid with a combination of county funds, state health department funds and in-kind contributions from the Trenton Health Department. The services provided include clinical services to patients, suspect cases and their contacts which are residents in Mercer County. The municipal health departments provide the nurse for each patient who is required to have direct observed therapy (DOT). The program has been organized in this manner since Capital Health System opted to no longer continue to provide these services when their main operation left the City of Trenton.

At this time it appears the funding from the state health department will be reduced or eliminated. The county and the state are now requesting the municipal health departments assist in funding the program. There is no request for specific funding at this time, but Carol wanted to inform the board this may be an issue in 2016.

The board expressed their support for the municipality to support the tuberculosis program as needed.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next meeting will be scheduled for early February 2016.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Maureen Baird to adjourn the meeting. Maureen Adams seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chamberlain  
Health Officer