

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

May 3, 2017

6:00 P.M.

Managers Conference Room

- Present:** Darlene Hanley, Rabiah Asif, Dr. Anthony Brickman, Leo Brummel, Mary Baird, Chairperson, Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer.
- Absent:** Dr. Kevin McGuigan, Maureen Adams, Cathleen Lewis, Council Liaison
- Agenda:** Darlene Hanley motioned to approve the agenda. Dr. Brickman seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.
- Presentation:** Sara Hatfield, sophomore at Lawrence High School made a presentation on a recent trip with Operation Smile.
- Minutes:** The minutes of the March 1, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Darlene Hanley offered a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Brickman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership (GMPHP)

The Partnership has received non-profit status with the IRS. The Partnership will now be able to receive donations as well as apply for grants with this non-profit status.

The group is starting to plan for the next community needs assessment which will be conducted in 2018. It is anticipated the needs assessment will be completed with some assistance from the local schools of public health from both Rutgers University and The College of New Jersey.

Transportation Group- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has provided funding to the Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association for the provision of free rides to and from local health care facilities. This is being done in response to the needs assessment outcome which indicated access to care is a common concern. There are a limited number of rides each month through the Ride Provide program. The service currently serves residents of Hamilton, Trenton and Robbinsville.

Chronic Disease Group –Metrics have been received from the New Jersey Hospital Association. The statistics are being review by the Chronic Disease subcommittee. As the hospital data is reviewed the group is looking to determine if there is progress in moving the needle to address chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

Health Eating/Active Living Group – The Worksite Wellness evet took place at RWJ- Wellness Center in Hamilton in April. There were about sixty individuals who attended the program. The group is pleased with the success of the program and they are planning to do a similar program in 2018.

Conversation of Your Life –An update on the Conversation of Your Life program was provided by Carol Chamberlain. A program has been scheduled at the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church for Saturday, May 6. A viewing of the movie the “Bucket List” is scheduled for the Lawrence branch of the Mercer County Library System on July 20 at 6:00 p.m. This will be followed by a discussion on the importance of advance directives. Mary Baird requested copies of the flyers for upcoming events to share with her community.

NEW BUSINESS:

Emergency Preparedness Grant – The health department received a \$1,500 grant for emergency preparedness activities. The grant requires the municipality to update the following four preparedness plans: Isolation and Quarantine, Risk Communication, Continuity of Government and Zika Concept Plan for Response. The work is currently in progress with the assistance of two students from Rutgers School of Public Health. The updates on the plans are to be completed by June 1st.

Radon Grant – The health department received a grant for \$2,000 from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The funds are to be used to purchase radon kits which can be offered for free to residents. The goal of the grant is to increase awareness about radon and to encourage residents to test their homes. The grant was approved at the end of April. The distribution of the radon kits will start later this week. Residents will be informed about the program through a press release, through constant contact messages issued by the township; the township website will have information as well as the Board of Education website.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Walk This Way – Darlene Hanley explained the completion of the Walk This Way program with the fourth graders at Lawrence Intermediate School (LIS). This was done with St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center in conjunction with FedEx. A walking assessment of the area around LIS was conducted by the fourth graders. They completed an analysis of the data they collected and presented the data to the Township Council. Their findings included the need for improvement in sidewalks. To make the sidewalks easier to use there needs to be better maintenance, specifically where sidewalks abruptly end and in areas where there is vegetative overgrowth near the sidewalks. In addition, compared to last year there were less distracted drivers observed by the student during the assessment process.

Fixed Facilities – A meeting is scheduled at Rider University later this month with the health officer, the public health nurse, the Mercer County public health nurse and the Rider University Health Center staff to review the possibility of Rider University becoming a fixed facility. This would be helpful to Rider University and its students, staff and faculty in the event of an emergency as they would have access if medication were available to distribute medication rather than at public locations. This would also be beneficial to the Township as the Rider population would be distributed medication using less Township resources. Other fixed facilities already located in Lawrence Township are The Lawrenceville School and St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6 at 6:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Dr. Brickman to adjourn the meeting. Darlene Hanley seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Chamberlain
Health Officer