

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2021
5:00 P.M.

ZOOM Meeting

Present: Keith Levine-Health Officer, Mary Baird-HAB Chairperson, Maureen Adams-HAB Member, Rabiah Asif-HAB Member, Darlene Hanley-HAB Member, Brielle Easton-HAB Member, Frances Prestianni-Community Member guest, Lisa Roche-Community Member guest

Absent: Cathleen Lewis-Council/HAB Liaison, Camila Pena-HAB Member, Dr. Anthony Brickman-HAB Member,

I. Review of Minutes

No minutes available to review for this session.

II. Old Business

- A. Member Darlene Hanley gave synopsis of upcoming Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan. Contractor hired by GMPHP, 35th Street Consulting, is working on the Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan which occurs every 3 years. Some of 35th Street's finding were discussed.
- B. Discussion regarding NJDOH annual local health report. Due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic response responsibilities of local health departments, this report was waived by the state for the year 2020 and will likely be waived for the year 2021. Also discussed, mental and physical health affects due to COVID-19 response and chronic stress relating to it.

III. New Business

- A. The Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity 1 grant (aka VPOC 1 grant) has been concluded and the 2nd iteration of this grant (VPOC 2) has begun. In addition, another grant was acquired called the Vaccine Supplemental Funding (VSF) grant. Both grants were distributed from the federal government via the state of New Jersey. These grants are specifically designed to assist with outreach to vulnerable populations within Lawrence as well as to help achieve higher vaccinations rates among vulnerable populations partially by partnering with other organizations, such as Home Front, United Way and faith based organizations.
- B. The VSF grant began July 2021 and will extend for a full year. The Lawrence Health Department is required to host at least 1 clinic per week focusing on after-hours and weekends to accommodate the needs of vulnerable populations.
- C. Demand for booster and third dose shots expected to rise after September 20th, when the Federal government opens them up to a wider base. Lawrence Township Health Department is currently planning booster and third dose clinics.

IV. Other Business

- A. After 20 years of cuts to the Public Health system, Health Officer Levine discussed the need for steady stream of funding from the federal government to local Health Departments in order to bolster and maintain an adequate public health infrastructure in NJ and the country.
- B. Member Brielle Easton wanted to raise awareness about the lack of hot water at the Lawrenceville Garden Apartments. Lawrence Garden Apartments sustained damage due to a major hurricane. Health Officer Levine will follow up with the apartments on a date by which hot water will be returned.
- C. The Lawrence Health Dept. staff continues to provide guidance, education and updates to schools, day care centers, long term care facilities, group homes, physician offices, businesses as well as Rider University staff. Information and education materials are also regularly shared with the community through the Township website, social media posts as well as through phone conversations.

VII. Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for December 14th or 7th, 2021, follow-up will be done with the board to confirm what works best for the group.

VIII. Adjournment

Darlene made a motion to adjourn. Maureen seconded the motion. There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Keith Levine, Health Officer