

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

February 8, 2011
6:00 P.M.

Manager's Conference Room

Present: Mary Baird, Anthony Brickman, Leo Brummel, Darlene Hanley, Kevin McGuigan, Liang Schweizer, James Kownacki, Council Liaison and Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer

Absent: Maureen Adams

Agenda: Kevin McGuigan asked the group to review the agenda. Darlene Hanley made a motion to approve the agenda. Mary Baird seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 10, 2010 meeting were reviewed. Anthony Brickman motioned to approve the minutes. M. Baird seconded the motion. The minutes of the November 10, 2010 meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

H1N1 Grant

Carol Chamberlain explained the initial \$86,000 grant from the state health department for H1N1 preparedness and implementation has been completed. Another grant for \$10,000 for H1N1 preparation has been received. The funds will need to be used by June 30, 2011. The grant will be used for updating the mass vaccination plan, to purchase clinic supplies and for auditing immunization records in daycare centers to assure children have received the required influenza vaccination.

2010 Seasonal Influenza Vaccinations

At the initial seasonal clinics, flu shots were offered to residents over the age of 65 years and to residents with chronic illness. After these clinics were completed, the remaining vaccine was offered to the general public. Approximately 775 flu shots were given.

2011 Budget

The board was informed by C. Chamberlain the Council has pass a fee ordinance requiring a \$15.00 fee for a flu shot if the resident is not a senior or does not have a chronic illness. C. Chamberlain suggested the language needs to be clarified to possibly change the term "senior citizen" to more specifically "over age 65 years" and to clarify the term "high risk".

The board had the following comments regarding the fee for a flu shot:

- Should a fee for a flu shot be imposed?
- How much additional paperwork will there be for collecting a fee and the associated recordkeeping?
- Is there some other way the township can look for increasing revenue?
- Are there benefits to offering the flu shot with no fee rather than having some residents not vaccinated for influenza?

Kevin McGuigan summarized the comments from the health advisory board regarding the \$15.00 fee for a flu shot.

- It is recommended there be a definition of “senior citizen”. At the Lawrence Senior Center, a senior is anyone over the age of 60 years. Medicare eligibility is for individuals over the age of 65 years. Other agencies use the age of 62 years to define a senior. It is recommended there be a specific age noted for the term senior citizen.
- It is recommended there be a clarification of the term “high risk”. Is a prescription from a physician needed? Is it at the discretion of the medical director or the public health nurse? Are caregivers to high risk individuals included in the category of high risk?
- The Health Advisory Board (HAB) has concern about the \$15.00 fee for the flu shot for individuals who may not be able to afford the vaccination fee. The HAB believes there is a community benefit when an individual receives a flu shot, therefore there should be no barriers to those who cannot afford the fee.
- The HAB believes no one should be turned away from receiving a flu shot due to inability to pay the fee.
- The HAB asked if there are other areas to increase revenue and would like to respectfully request other areas be explored to raise revenue.
- There was also a question regarding the paperwork involved in charging a fee for the flu vaccination. Carol Chamberlain said there will be additional recordkeeping for the collection of the fee, but the extent of the additional work has not been determined. Carol Chamberlain said she would poll other towns to determine how fees are collected and recorded.

Jim Kownacki said he would bring the concerns of the HAB to the next Council meeting on February 15.

Shared Services and Inter-local Agreements

The board was informed about the current shared service and inter-local agreements the health department has for various health services.

- Sexually transmitted disease clinic services are provided by the Hamilton Township Health Department.
- The health department provides child health clinic services and lead investigation services to Hopewell Township.
- Lead case management services are provided to Lawrence Township by the Trenton Health Department.
- The deer removal program is managed through a cooperative purchase agreement with Mercer County.

Pit Stop

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed vapor intrusion sampling at homes in the vicinity of the closed Pit Stop gas station. Residents with private wells were also offered testing of their well water. The Township is waiting for the NJDEP to forward the results.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mercer County Tuberculosis Services

Carol Chamberlain explained that as of June 30, 2011, Capital Health System will no longer be hosting the Mercer County TB Clinic. Currently the Mercer County Health Officers are meeting with officials from the state health department to determine how the services will be provided the Mercer County residents in the future. There is some grant money available through the Centers for Disease Control to fund part of the program. In addition, the county health department will provide some funding. The majority of patients who use the TB clinic are Trenton residents. Therefore the intent is to keep the basic services in the City of Trenton but also assure the services are available to all county residents. The other area hospitals are being contacted to determine if there is an interest in providing the services.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2011

The board reviewed the meeting dates for 2011.

May 4, 2011

September 14, 2011

December 7, 2011

The meetings are scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Chamberlain
Health Officer