

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

February 15, 2012

6:00 P.M.

Present: Mary Baird, Anthony Brickman, Leo Brummel, Darlene Hanley, Liang Schweizer, Kevin McGuigan, Chairperson, Jim Kownacki, Mayor, Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer.

Absent: Maureen Adams

Election of Chairperson: Tony Brickman nominated Kevin McGuigan for chairperson. The motion was seconded by Darlene Hanley. Kevin McGuigan was unanimously voted Chairperson.

Review of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting from December 7, 2011. Tony Brickman made a motion to approve the minutes. Darlene Hanley made a motion to second the approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Mercer County Tuberculosis Clinic

Carol Chamberlain informed the board the services for tuberculosis are now located at the Trenton Health Department, located on North Broad Street. A clinic coordinator has been hired through funding by Mercer County. The coordinator is an employee of Henry J. Austin Health Center. She is currently being trained by a nurse from the tuberculosis program at the state health department. The three regional clinics in the state remain available for patients also. Transportation can be made available to all the regional clinics.

B. Mercer County Needs Assessment

Darlene Hanley provided an update on the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership (GMPHP) needs assessment which is currently being conducted. The United Way is the lead agency for the needs assessment. The first meeting of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) was held in January. Each C.A.B. member was asked to join one of the following subcommittees; 1) Data Group, 2) Planning Group, 3) Marketing Group, 4) Outreach Group. The next meeting of the C.A.B. is scheduled for February 22, 2012. At this meeting it is expected the C.A.B. will review current data available and then develop goals. The March meeting will consist of focus group sessions. The consultant will conduct three sets of focus groups. The initial group will be government officials. The second group will be public health staff from throughout the county. The third session of focus groups will be C.A.B. members. This session will have C.A.B. members in one of four groups. These groups will include 1) Mental Health, 2) Child Needs, 3) Addictive Services, and 4) Transport Services.

The focus group interviews will be conducted at St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center. From these group surveys, priorities will be developed to address the health needs identified in the county.

Darlene Hanley reviewed with the board that this is a county-wide initiative with the goal to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan which can be useful to both healthcare facilities

in the county as well as public health agencies. Together the Steering Committee and the C.A.B. will be looking at best practices and how resources can be combined to best address health needs in Mercer County.

NEW BUSINESS:

Health Department Annual Report-2011 – The board reviewed the 2011 Annual Report which was presented by Carol Chamberlain. Tony Brickman asked about the inspection of tanning facilities. Carol Chamberlain explained the State Health Department developed the regulations for tanning facilities but there is no local license requirement. Currently the state is licensing tanning facilities and paying local health departments \$200.00 per inspection to conduct an annual inspection. It was discussed whether there should also be a local licensing fee. Carol Chamberlain said she would research if this is permitted and she will check with other towns to see if any other town has a local licensing requirement for tanning facilities.

Norovirus Outbreak – Rider University – Carol Chamberlain provided an overview of the Norovirus outbreak which occurred over the last week at Rider University. Approximately 115 students, staff and faculty reported symptoms of Norovirus in the past eight days. Five specimens tested positive for Norovirus on February 10, confirming the suspected cause of the outbreak was Norovirus.

Rider University has initiated several controls on campus including disinfection measures throughout the campus. A temporary infirmary has been established with twenty-four hour nurse staffing to cohort students who can't go home. At the dining hall, all self-service foodservice has been suspended in order to reduce the potential for disease transmission. Disease surveillance and reporting on campus has been enhanced.

Both local health department and state health department officials have been in daily contact with Rider officials. The Rider University administration has followed all the recommendations provided to them by state and local officials.

The number of new cases being reported daily has dropped significantly since the weekend. Carol Chamberlain said there are most likely cases in the community but these aren't as recognizable as they are not in a group setting as they are on a college campus.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Kevin McGuigan motioned to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chamberlain
Health Officer