

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

April 30, 2014

7:00 P.M.

Manager's Conference Room

Present: Maureen Adams, Mary Baird, Leo Brummel, Darlene Hanley, Liang Schweizer, Dr. Kevin McGuigan, Chair, Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer

Absent: Dr. Anthony Brickman, Cathleen Lewis, Mayor/Council Liaison

Agenda: The board reviewed the agenda. Darlene Hanley made a motion to approve the agenda. Maureen Adams seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

Minutes: The minutes from the meeting of February 26, 2014 were reviewed. Maureen Adams made a motion to approve the minutes. Liang Schweizer seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership (GMPHP)

Darlene Hanley provided an update on the activities of the GMPHP. The group is moving forward with various activities. A consultant has been hired to create a website for the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership. The website will include a resource directory which will provide lists of resources to address the four areas of focus in the Community Health Improvement Plan. Those include healthy living, transportation, mental health and substance abuse and chronic disease. Emergency preparedness and response resources are also being collected. Agencies and groups through the county are being asked to submit information about the services which are provided by them.

Mary Baird asked where the resources directories will be available. Darlene said they will be available at local health departments, libraries and public access locations. Mary Baird suggested Mercer Connection in Hamilton be another distribution place.

There is also an events calendar being developed for the website. Community Events associated with the four focus areas will be included in the online calendar. This will hopefully be a resource for the community to locate health promotion events.

Another program the GMPHP is working on is a pilot program to address healthy eating and active living. A series of cooking demonstrations are being planned. These demonstrations would include step by step instructions for cooking a healthy meal. The demonstrations will be videotaped and put on the website for viewing at a later date. Mary Baird said similar programs are conducted at Wegman's and Shop-Rite.

A program to address childhood obesity in the focus area of healthy eating/active living is being planned. The dieticians from area healthcare facilities will be assisting in implementing a healthy eating class for the afterschool students in the Hamilton Township Elementary Schools. The program is being planned in coordination with the Hamilton Area YMCA which operates the afterschool program in the elementary schools.

Lastly, the GMPHP participated in the Sustainable Living Local Expo in March. All the healthcare facilities were represented and local health was represented. The health departments issued materials on second hand smoke. St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center had a dietician available with nutrition information. The Capital Health System representative provided information about recycling. It was estimated over 700 people were in attendance.

B. Proposed Amendment to the Nuisance Ordinance

The proposed amendment to the nuisance ordinance which would prohibit residents from allowing pets to damage other residents' property was given to the Township Council. At this time, no action has been taken on this recommended amendment.

C. Animal Control Ordinance Review

The board reviewed the concern from a resident regarding pet owners being responsible while walking their pets in public areas. The resident is requesting an ordinance be adopted to prohibit pets from coming in contact with people while walking.

The board reviewed a variety of options, one being to reduce the length of the leash permitted to six feet. Mary Baird said she felt six feet was adequate as she believes a standard leash is six feet in length. Mary Baird suggested wording such as "pet shall be kept within two feet of its owner when in the proximity of other people". Dr. McGuigan commented this wording may be nebulous and enforcement could be challenging.

Darlene Hanley made a motion to amend the ordinance to limit the leash length to six feet, similar to the Hamilton Township ordinance. This motion was seconded by Liang Schweizer. Leo Brummel commented he thinks it should remain at ten feet in length. A vote of five ayes and one no, the board voted to send a recommendation to Council to amend the ordinance to reduce the leash length to six feet.

A recommendation will be drafted by Carol Chamberlain from the Health Advisory Board to Township Council to amend the ordinance to reduce the permitted leash length from ten feet to six feet.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Project Medicine Drop

The medication drop box has been well used since installed in the winter. The box is located in the police station lobby and available seven days a week. The police have scheduled a special pick up for seniors at the Lawrence Senior Center. The program is being conducted to promote the disposal of unused medications.

B. Biggest Loser Contest

The township has started a Biggest Loser Contest for Township employees. This is being conducted in coordination with the Joint Insurance Fund. There are thirty employees participating in the fifteen week program.

C. Narcon (Naloxone) Training

Darlene Hanley explained she had recently read an article about the public health officials in New York City learning to use Narcon, a medication which is used to counteract the effects of opiates and specifically heroin. She said the article stated training is being provided for drug counselors, school staff and community counselors. She inquired as to whether Rider University

is offering such training to campus staff, specifically residential campus staff. Carol Chamberlain said there is movement now statewide to get police officers trained to use Narcon and possibly emergency medical technicians and paramedics. It is expected there will be action shortly at the state level. Carol said she has not heard of other community members being offered training, but will ask at the next Mercer County Prevention Coalition Meeting.

D. Emergency Preparedness

An update on the coordination between healthcare facilities and public health departments for emergency preparedness was provided by Darlene Hanley. A grant was received for the purchase of emergency equipment for healthcare facilities in the event of an emergency. The project includes health departments and facilities from Somerset County, Hunterdon County and Mercer County. In working together, the decision was made to purchase water purification equipment. The equipment will be housed at hospitals for use in the event potable water is not available.

E. Upcoming Events

Carol Chamberlain mentioned a couple upcoming events. One is the St. Lawrence Bike Rodeo. The health department in conjunction with the Hunterdon-Mercer Chronic Disease Coalition will provide attendees with sun safety information. Each year this event is well attended by families throughout the Mercer County area. Sun safety educational materials will be available for both parents and children.

F. Other Business

Liang Schweizer asked about involvement in the upcoming Special Olympics. Carol Chamberlain said the municipality has limited involvement planned at this time. The Mercer County Office of Emergency Management is working directly with Special Olympics on preparedness issues as well as other logistical matters.

Opportunities for volunteering at the Special Olympics are still available. Carol Chamberlain said she will forward the information about volunteering to Liang.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

It was determined the next meeting date will be in September. Carol will forward dates to the board to check for availability.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Laing Schweizer to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. McGuigan. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chamberlain
Health Officer