

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

May 4, 2016

6:00 P.M.

Managers Conference Room

- Present:** Maureen Adams, Mary Baird, Chairperson, Dr. Anthony Brickman, Leo Brummel, Darlene Hanley, Dr. Kevin McGuigan, Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer.
- Absent:** Rabiah Asif, Cathleen Lewis, Council Liaison
- Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. Darlene Hanley made a motion to approve the agenda. Maureen Adams seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.
- Minutes:** The minutes of the February 17, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Maureen Adams made a motion to approve the minutes. Darlene Hanley seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership (GMPHP)

The partnership is currently in the process of applying to become a non-profit agency. The by-laws were approved at the initial corporate meeting. The application is nearly completed for the 501.c (3) filing.

The community needs assessment and the community health improvement plan/action plan are completed. Both will be added to the Township website as well as the GMPHP website at www.healthymercer.org. The group is looking toward the development of an app for residents to use to locate health resources, and health-related activities.

The working groups for the four focus areas have started meeting. These groups include chronic disease, healthy eating/active living, transportation/access to care and mental health/substance abuse. The county has taken the lead for the mental health/substance abuse group. Volunteers are still needed to work with all the groups.

Tuberculosis

The Mercer County Health Officers have worked together with the Trenton Health Team and the Mercer County Department of Human Services to create a shared service agreement for Tuberculosis case management services. There remains some state, county and federal funding assistance, but the funding is not adequate for the program. For 2016, Lawrence Township will contribute \$2,100 to the shared service agreement.

NEW BUSINESS:

Zika Virus

The health department has two areas of focus for the upcoming warmer months to address the new concern of Zika virus. Mosquito reduction and mosquito bite prevention will be priorities. Educational materials on reducing mosquito breeding areas and bite prevention will be distributed throughout the community. The health department will be working in conjunction

with the Mercer County Mosquito Control Commission to identify areas of concern for mosquito breeding and eliminating these areas. Property management inspections will also be conducted by the inspection staff of the health department to address standing water concerns and vegetative overgrowth concerns. Both of the conditions may contribute to the presence of mosquitoes. The Mercer County Mosquito Control will provide assessment and treatment to properties when needed.

In March, a talk on mosquito bite prevention as well as other insect control measures was presented at the Lawrence Senior Center. Community presentations will be available if groups are interested.

Walk This Way

Darlene Hanley shared information about the “Walk This Way” presentation at the Township Council meeting. The presentation was conducted by fourth and fifth graders from Lawrence Intermediate School. The assessment included observation of distracted drivers. Over ninety percent of the drivers were observed distracted during the assessment by the students. The goal of the project is to promote more accessible walking infrastructure in the township. The program was conducted in cooperation with St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center and Fed Ex. The Council seemed both impressed and receptive with the presentation by the students.

Lead in Schools

Maureen Adams informed the board elevated lead levels in the drinking water have been identified in three schools in the district. The schools are Eldridge Park Elementary School, Slackwood Elementary School and Lawrenceville Elementary School. The information was from a letter from the superintendent of the schools to parents. Carol Chamberlain said she would contact the Board of Education to determine if additional information is available. Bottled water is currently being provided as the water fountains in the schools have been turned off.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Dr. McGuigan to adjourn the meeting. Maureen Adams seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chamberlain
Health Officer