

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

September 7, 2016

6:00 P.M.

Managers Conference Room

Present: Maureen Adams, Rabiah Asif, Mary Baird, Chairperson,
Dr. Anthony Brickman, Leo Brummel,
Darlene Hanley, Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer.

Absent: Dr. Kevin McGuigan, Cathleen Lewis, Council Liaison

Minutes: The minutes of the May 4, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Darlene Hanley offered a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Brickman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership (GMPHP)

The partnership is currently moving forward to become a non-profit agency.

The application for the 501.c (3) filing has been submitted. Insurance has been secured for the Partnership.

The next Community Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25. Educational Testing Service will be hosting the event. There will be presentations from the four priority groups. There will also be an update on the development of the GMPHP website. Currently the project coordinator is collecting information to add to the website including upcoming activities, events and health resources throughout Mercer County. The website can be found at www.healthymercer.org.

The working groups for the focus areas have started to meet. 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.

The Healthy Living Group is developing a school recess exercise program. This is being done with the assistance of the Physical Education Department at The College of New Jersey. This group is also organizing a worksite wellness event for 2017.

The Chronic Disease Group is currently reviewing hospital re-admission statistics and data on individuals with multiple morbidities. They are also looking at evidence-based protocols for chronic illnesses to determine how to secure data to track statistical information over time.

GMPHP website is currently being updated. The project coordinator is working to assess metrics on usage of the website as well investigating the possibility of an online app for using information from the GMPHP website. Another idea for improving the website is to add a Facebook page and to determine if a communication tool such as Constant Contact is appropriate

for sharing GMPHP news with the CAB and for sharing information with Mercer County community.

Zika Virus – At this time the health department continues to monitor the community for mosquito breeding areas and provide education to residents about preventing mosquito breeding areas. The state is developing Zika Prevention Kits which will be distributed to Federally Qualified Health Centers and WIC clinics. These kits will be made available for pregnant women traveling to Zika-affected countries.

The N.J. Department of Health laboratory is offering testing to individuals who may have been exposed to the Zika virus. Criteria are being developed to determine eligibility for testing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upcoming Activities-

Rabies Clinic - The rabies clinic will be held on Saturday, October 1 from 9:00 am – 10:30 am. The clinic will be held at the National Guard Armory on Eggert Crossing Road.

Community Day – October 2, 2016 is the date for Community Day. The event will be held at Village Park. The health department will be sharing information on lead poisoning prevention, the importance of flu shots and information on the medication drop box for safe disposal of prescriptions.

Flu Clinics- The health department will be offering flu shots this year. The dates will be scheduled for late October/early November.

Conversation of a Lifetime – Carol Chamberlain explained one priority of the NJDOH Health Commissioner is end of life issues. There is a program which discusses the importance of advance directives and planning for end of life entitled “Conversation of a Lifetime” which was piloted in three communities in New Jersey last year. Princeton was one of the communities. The NJ Healthcare Quality Institute (NJHCQI) is currently expanding the program to all municipalities in Mercer County. Carol will be attending a program to hear more about the program and the resources available to Lawrence residents. The meeting will be in October. Carol will share more information about the program at the December meeting.

Well Sampling – Eldridge Park – Carol shared information about the well sampling project which took place over the summer. The sampling program was initiated in response to a home which had a water sample results with MTBE levels above the drinking water standards. The home was tested as part of a rental housing inspection. The MTBE levels were identified and the property owner is connecting the home to public water service.

It was known there are other homes in the vicinity of the initial home which are serviced by private wells. These homes are also down gradient of an abandoned gas station which was identified by the NJDEP as being contaminated. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection was contacted to determine if water sampling could be conducted as part of the ongoing investigation of the abandoned gas station at 1175 Lawrence Road. NJDEP representatives stated the timeframe for conducting sampling would be two –three months. The Township didn’t feel it was appropriate to wait that time period to offer sampling to the residents with wells in the area of concern.

Well water sampling for MTBE was offered to the twelve homes serviced by private wells. Each resident was telephoned to explain to current situation and why sampling was being offered. The phone calls were followed with a letter to each homeowners offering to sample their water for MTBE. Ten of the twelve homeowners requested to have their water tested. The sampling was conducted in August. NJ Analytical Laboratories (NJAL) was contracted to conduct the sampling. Carmela Warne from the health department accompanied the representative from NJAL to each home.

The results were received approximately two weeks after the sampling occurred. None of the ten homes sampled had MTBE results above the drinking water standards.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Maureen Adams to adjourn the meeting. Darlene Hanley seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Chamberlain
Health Officer