

Meeting Minutes: Freehold Township Board of Health

May 11, 2017

Regular Meeting

Opening

1) Call to Order

The May 11, 2017, regular meeting of the Freehold Township Board of Health was called to order by Chairwoman Lemesevski at 6:45 PM. Board members present included: Dr. Reilly, Ms. Allen, Mrs. Weissman, Mr. Chudkowski, Dr. Opatut, Mr. Ammiano and Chairwoman Lemesevski. Absent: Vice-Chairman Dr. Apolito and Mrs. Porth. Also present: Brett Nance, Epidemiologist/Health Educator, Margaret Jahn, Health Officer and Julie Kramer, Recording Secretary.

The following statement was read by Chairwoman Lemesevski: "In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, c.231, P.L. 1975, this meeting was announced by posting a notice on the bulletin board reserved for that purpose; by mailing such notice to the office of the official newspapers of the Township and by filing such notice with the Township Clerk."

Brett Nance was introduced to the Board. She is currently employed by Freehold Township as the Health Improvement Coalition Coordinator and is about to graduate from Rutgers with an MPH, concentrating in Epidemiology and Health Education. She will be presenting her fieldwork to the Board.

2) Minute Approval-March 9, 2017 Meeting

A motion to approve the March 9, 2017 minutes was offered by Dr. Reilly, seconded by Ms. Allen and carried by the Board.

3) Activity Reports Approval - March 2017

A motion to approve the March 2017 Activity Report was offered by Ms. Allen and, seconded by Mr. Chudkowski and carried by the Board.

Correspondence

4) NJ Health Matters

- The Board reviewed the New Jersey State Health Commissioner's March-April 2017 Report without comment.
- The Board reviewed the MPHIC Spring Health Source Newsletter without comment.

Discussion

5) Walk-Audit – Freehold Township Mayors Wellness Campaign (MWC)

Ms. Jahn explained to the Board that an initial proposal presented to the FT Committee involved creating a walk route between historic sites within the Township. After review, the sites were too far away from each other and, therefore, too difficult and hazardous to work with. So, it was decided to downscale the route. The Mayor's Wellness Campaign's intern from Rowan University completed a survey conducted among individuals attending the parks and recreation area. Two hundred and fifty people were surveyed. In addition, a group of 18 individuals and officials representing Freehold Township, took part in a walk audit originating at the YMCA/Opatut Park. They traveled down Route 79, to East Freehold Rd, towards Robertsville Rd. Dr. Reilly discussed the fact that to get to one of the bigger parks most people in the community must drive. Most area parks are somewhat isolated from neighborhoods. Doran Park is highly walkable and has sidewalks leading to it. Ms. Allen noted that the crosswalks still need yield signs. Ms. Jahn stated that the bottom line is to improve and increase physical activity. One of the outcomes identified by the survey was that parents are not encouraging their children to walk when feasible. Mrs. Weissman noted that there is an obvious issue of obesity among youth in the school system. The Board agreed this idea was an effort that would provide incentive and increase physical activity.

6) Culture of Health

Dr. Reilly quickly updated the Board on the progress of the Culture of Health grant. She stated that the blueprint had taken shape and that the three focus groups (physical activity, access to healthy/nutritious foods and lead) had completed their portions. She stated that the two towns (FB & FT) were now creating a nice symmetry. Ms. Jahn reported that there had been a recent report of a lead level of 40 ug/dl, which was highly concerning.

7) Enforcement Compliance

This was on the agenda to discuss, but Ms. Jahn reported that she has not yet completed this project enough to report any result. She stated that she regularly conducts her own "audits" of the inspectors' reports/inspections. She noted there were some inconsistencies among inspectors regarding enforcement activities and their processes. Ms. Jahn stated that utilizing the quality improvement process and providing more guidelines, she intended to create more consistency in the enforcement process among inspectors.

8) New Jersey Health Department – State Audit

Ms. Jahn reported that although she volunteered for the pilot audit program conducted a few years ago, she was one of the first health departments to be audited. She reported to the Board the initial results indicated some "partially met" and some "not met" subjects, such as lack of the required diversity training for all employees. Ms. Allen suggested the on-line training for diversity. Ms. Jahn, reported a "partially met" on proper documentation regarding training exercises, such as emergency preparedness POD exercises. The employees have attended such trainings and lessons learned were discussed among

the employees post exercise, but not documented in report form. In general, Ms. Jahn thought the audit went well. The formal written results from the State are pending.

9) Brett Nance – MPH PowerPoint presentation

Ms. Jahn introduced Brett Nance to the Board. She stated that Brett has worked part-time in the Health Department office for approximately four years. She was an intern initially and then entered the Rutgers MPH program after graduating with a degree in Health Education from Scranton University. She obtained her MPH degree in May 2017, with a concentration in Epidemiology and Health Education. Her required MPH fieldwork was completed under the direction of Ms. Jahn. The title of Brett's fieldwork: Health Disparities and STD Rates in Central East Region, New Jersey – An Ecological and Health Promotion Study. She analyzed Central East Region STD rates and compared the statistics among different ethnic groups. The results indicated an elevated risk of STDs for some ethnic groups, especially among African Americans. After completing her presentation, the Board engaged in a discussion. Ms. Allen asked if the High School was surveyed regarding the health education portion. Ms. Nance reported that the Freehold Township High School students were surveyed regarding general education of STDs. The survey identified a weakness in the students' knowledge of STDs. Ms. Allen was concerned about the effectiveness since she knows that significant time and effort goes into the presentation of the health curriculum which concentrates on STDs.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss and no public comment, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM was made by Mr. Ammiano, seconded by Ms. Allen and carried by the Board.

Julie Kramer

Recording Secretary