



Franklin Township Advisory Board of Health Minutes JANUARY 2023

Meeting Date: January 4, 2022
Time: 7:30pm

Location: Franklin Township
Municipal Building
475 Demott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Past Chairman Karwoski at 7:42 pm

Present: P - Present E - Excused A - Absent

P - Jim Karwoski	P – Donna Lisi	A – Shepa Uddin, Councilwoman
P - Christine Van Deursen	E - Shubhendu Singh,	P – Mike McCarty, Deputy Director
E - Linda Powell	P - Anna Dulencin	P - Patti Elliot, Consumer Health
P - Erik Uhrik	P – Kristine Baffo, Alt 1	A – Cristel Arribe

Introduction of New Member:

- Kristine Baffo is new to this committee. Introduced herself and gave her background.
- Each member then proceeded to introduce themselves and give their background.

Election of Officers:

- Floor was turned over Mike McCarty, SCDOH to preside over the elections.
- Office of Chairman:
Jim Karwoski nominated. Accepted. No other nominees.
Elected by majority voice vote.
- Office of Vice Chairman:
Donna Lisi nominated. Accepted. No other nominees.
Elected by majority voice vote.
- Office of Recording Secretary:
Christine Van Deursen nominated. Accepted. No other nominees.
Elected by majority voice vote.
- Floor turned over to newly elected Chairman, Jim Karwoski

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Minutes from August 3, 2022 presented - MSP* as presented

Public Session:

- MSP* to Open to the Public
 - No Public present
- MSP* to Close to the Public

Open Discussion:

- Question: How do we fulfill our mission of being an advisory body to the Township Council. Does the Council get a copy of our minutes?
Answer: Our minutes go to the Clerk's office and they get posted on the website. I don't know if the Council actually gets a copy or it is read.
- Question: Is SCDOH mandated to attend the ABOH meetings?
Answer: Yes, it is part of the contract that the health officer or their representative will attend the meetings.
- Question: Would it be beneficial to meet with the new Health Director?
Answer: She said she would make herself available.
- We could talk with her and review our Missions statement and our Bylaws to determine what the SCBOH is supposed to do for us.
- Mike: There is the contract between Franklin Township and the SCDOH as well as the local boards of health manual. He can direct a copy of those to us. Most of your resources will be coming from your town.
- Question: Health Education – How can we as a town, further spread your message, like Fight the Bite
Answer: Most of your resources will be coming from your town.
- Mission for this year – improve communication.

County Health Department:

Patti Elliot:

- We are starting New Year, beginning to collect Data by town for reports for last year: 9 communities we cover, will have individual data for your town. Includes types of Complaints, Food inspections, Housing inspections and Communicable diseases. Virtually it is a year in review.
- 1st Round of inspections beginning:
 - Food, Pools, Tanning Salons, Tattoo Parlors, Massage Parlors
- Question: How many inspections are done per year?
Answer: Based on the level of Risk:
Risk 1 - Once per year = Pre-packaged food items = Dollar Tree – Church small kitchen
Risk 2 – Once every 9 months = Some food preparation = McDonalds, Subway, Deli, Church
Risk 3 – Twice a year = Nursing homes, Daycare fixing food, etc – Senior Center

Risk 4 – Twice a year = Special processing - Sushi, Pokay restaurants.

Mike McCarty:

- 1st time in 8 years they have a full staff of inspectors, nurses, etc.
- Running Vaccination Clinic 3 times per week.
- Bridgewater and Mobile clinics.
- You asked what the SCBOH can do:
 - For Manville & Raritan -
 - Requested Test kit distribution –
 - Vaccination clinics at their food pantries
 - Targeting underserved population in 2023
- Also looking at the Pediatric population. Have had trouble reaching them.
- We are the highest vaccine rate of 65+ who have received booster
- If there is some area you would like us to concentrate on.
 - We can give test kits, Covid vaccine, and we have Monkey Pox vaccine on hand.
- Question: Do you work with SHIP (Samaritan Homeless Interim Program) Somerville
Answer: Yes - working with them during food distribution to give vaccinations.
- For 2023 - receiving 2 grants from State
 1. From the NJ State - 1.5 million over 2 years -
 - Actually to the Health Department – not Somerset County. Will be used to update database software.
 - Hire Health Consultants to revamp our accreditation process
 2. Office of Local Ppublic Health - Grant for \$300 K. -Help to continue Covid Clinics
 - Geo mapping – to show where vaccination clinics are
- As far as Outbreaks – some in LTC facilities. - no Schools.
Monkey Pox – nonexistent
- Respiratory illnesses are high. RSV included in it.
- Question: What vaccines for Covid do you have?
Answer: The vaccine on hand is Pfizer and Moderna – no Novavax
SCDOH does have the original vaccine for those who have not been vaccinated.
Middlesex County had Novavax. They may be able to transfer to SCDOH if needed
- Discussed efficacy of the Covid Shot and the Novavax shot - People can still get covid.
- Reviewed the Covid numbers from the NJ website: County numbers - numbers are from the end of November 2022 – there is a lag in reporting.
- Donna: New strain of Covid – 40% of the variants is XBB1.5 - highly immune evasive
The ancestral strain is the most important part of the booster. The booster is 50% ancestral strain and the 50% of other strains.
- Jim: Hospitalizations are not as high as before. No big surge after the Holidays.
People are still skeptical about the vaccine.

- Eric: In hospitals - seeing an equal amt of flu as covid and covid people aren't as sick as originally
They get Remdesivir as soon as they walk in the door.
What you are seeing, those with Covid, are they unvaccinated people?
Don't know the answer to that.

Council Liaison: No Report

Old Business:

- Jim: Saw an article from Arkansas showing that in the last 5 years the number of pediatric edible cannabis issues is up 1340%. Maybe that should be looked at. There is a risk.
Cannabis stores are opening. Availability is increasing.
- Donna: Municipal Alliance - meeting in person for the first time in a while.
LACADA - January 28th.
Everyone is welcome to attend.
They have the ear of the food system.
They would be the ones to address the issue.
- Question: Who Monitors Cannabis Brownies ... Making sure they are sold correctly?
Answer: Consumer Regulatory Commission monitors it. Not the DOH.
Still not federally approved, only approved by the State.
- Question: Are the stores in NJ selling edibles yet?
Answer: No baked goods with Cannabis are legal in the state at this time.
There are regulations on how they should be packaged. Should be in plain white paper. No logos.
- There is a CRC meeting in Trenton on January 12th.

New Business:

- Discussed the Football Player who had a cardiac arrest on the field.
Also discussed helmet safety and body protection from injuries.

Next meeting Date: - February 1, 2023

Adjourn: 9.00 pm

Respectively submitted,
Christine Van Deursen
Recording Secretary

* **MSP** - Moved, Seconded and Passed