



Franklin Township Advisory Board of Health Minutes November 2023

Meeting Date: November 1, 2023
Time: 7:30pm

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

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Chairman Jim Karwoski at 7:35 pm

Present: P - Present E - Excused A - Absent

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

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Minutes for September, 2023 - MSP* with 4 corrections

Public Session:

- MSP* to Open to the Public
 - Guest 1: Devangi Patel
27 Willocks Circle
Somerset, NJ 08873

I was asked about the public health practice standards.
I spoke to Terry Clancy and she said they did Public Health Practice Standards training every year.
So I will leave that to them. I am just here as a resident.
But I did invite Stephen Papenberg from the NJ Local Boards of Health Association.

- Guest 2: Stephen Papenberg
210 N. Main Street
Pennington, NJ 08534
Papenberg1@verizon.net (732) 690-1068

Good idea to take the training.
I have more information from the Local Boards of Health Association.
They have a website: www.Njlbha.org On it there is a manual with supplemental materials. Also a lot of info to assist boards in meeting standards which are based on assessment, policy development, assurance of health services

- Does Franklin belong to the local boards of health - No

- Full board – regular membership IS \$95 It would include all the members of the board of health and advisory board of health . We meet monthly = Virtual meetings.
- CHA (Community Health Assessment) - Looks at the numbers of the disease. The CHA is done every 3 years.
CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan) - Develop plan, assurance makes sure the plan works. CHIP is part of the Assurance.
- Question: Where does the data for CHA come from?
Is there possibly a gap in the information? That depends on how it is gathered.
- Answer: It is gathered from Hospitals, practitioners, focus groups, community leaders, people involved in servicing the populations, Also surveys done among residents.
We are in the middle of a CHA right now.
- Question: Who actually runs the meetings?
- Answer: Healthier Somerset - Serena Colloto
- Question: The CHA and CHIP : Can we get the Franklin data out of it?
- Answer: Not sure.
- You are a good Audience for CHA - have them actually come in and talk to you. Invite them. Through Healthier Somerset.
- To Summarize: I would recommend membership in the NJ Local Boards of Health Association. It is comprised of lots of boards throughout the state. You can get information about the public health standards and the different boards throughout the state.
- If you have the opportunity, contact Healthier Somerset to learn how to be a part of the conversation. For information about the public health standards and the different boards
- MSP* to Close to the Public

County Health Department:

Mike McCarty:

- The October 23 flu clinic that we had at the Franklin Seniors went well. The allotment of vaccine we brought went. The problem is we probably could have used more. But we were only able to purchase \$17500 of vaccine - 130 doses for the county. Waiting to purchase another batch of vaccine with grant funds of \$80-100,000. That will get us 800 or so doses. This purchase has to go out to bid. Our first bid didn't get a response from the companies that sell and distribute the vaccine, so we have to put it out to bid for another month... We are required to go thru the state procurement rules. McKesson is the biggest one.
- The previous round of vaccine was funded by a grant from ARD funding - American Rescue Dollars.
- Question: Who do you give vaccines to? - Are you reserving it for those without insurance or do you give it to just anyone.
- Answer: No one is refused. We are trying to target senior populations.
- National data on Covid 19 - Oct 15th and Oct 21st. Cases and hospitalizations were down. But the trend in covid deaths was up.

- The Vendor we are using for the accreditation, we decided to build in some steps where they can do some surveys and collect data in the fields. The proposal will be read at the Commissioners meeting and will be voted on in December...paid for through grant funding. This will help us do some of our own data collection. Also helps us be one of the first county health departments to be accredited.
- The Software we have been talking about getting, we have an implementation meeting coming up next Thursday. This was Grant funded – and will give us many more features. Mass messaging, a portal to view complaints, inspections, etc in real time. It will streamline a lot of the processes. It will also allow us to do more things thru text messages as the read rate is higher.

Patti Elliot:

- On target to meet all our requirements for the year for regarding food inspections, pool inspections, tattoo parlors, etc.
- Staffing – we are still short of one senior REHS and one REHS.
- In Franklin – our health educators have been doing a presentation in the Senior Center on Chronic disease self-management program. It’s a 6-week program. About 15 people signed up for it. It is an Interactive program and has gone well. We are working with Office On Aging – to provide that program for their population too.
- Patti is retiring. Her last day is November 17th. Congratulations were offered by all.
- Question: Who will take your place? The Job has been posted.
Answer: Right now, the job will come to Mike himself or to Crystel --- hope to have it filled by January 1, 2024.

Council Liaison: No Report

Old Business:

- From Linda: The power plant withdrew their application.
- From Donna: October 3rd. she received an email from Shepa Uddin:
- “I will not be able to come to the ABOH meeting. I did speak to Meg, the mental health administrator at County, on wellness programs, mental health, and drug addiction and possibly having some in our Township. More to come from Meg. “

New Business: None

Next meeting Date: - Dec 6, 2023

Adjourn:

Respectively submitted,
Christine Van Deursen
Recording Secretary

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