

HIGHTSTOWN BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes from March 7, 2007 Meeting

Board Members Present:

Dr. John Laudenberg
Mary Ann Paglione
Dylan Ross
Katherine Zaiser
Lynda Harrington (Alt. 1)

Board Members Absent:

Sarah Kluxen
Rob Thibault
Hilary Stults (Alt. 2)

Township Council Liaison:

Walter Sikorski – absent

Staff Present:

Marcie Tyson, Health Educator
Sharon Lane, Public Health Nurse
Jamie Murphy, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Vice President Ross called the March 7, 2007 meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

Sunshine Law

Adequate Notice of this meeting has been provided as required under Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 with notices being sent and posted.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

Approval of Minutes

Member Laudenberg made a motion to approve the February 7, 2007 minutes. The motion was seconded by Member Paglione and passed unanimously.

Health Officer's Report

Health Officer Hary was not present. The February monthly Health Officer's report was handed out. It was noted that should the members have any questions regarding the report, they will be noted and addressed at the March meeting. A question regarding the conditional status of Krauszer's was made, inquiring if it will be reinspected and the reason that it was posted conditional.

Health Educator's Report

Ms. Tyson began by explaining how the funds of the state pandemic flu grant were spent. She created influenza packets to be handed out to schools and different organizations. The grant money also purchased informational bookmarks. Ms. Tyson stated that the state is focusing on pandemic influenza and that on the local level, she is focusing on the seasonal influenza. She is also working with the help of

the Health Officer and the Public Health Nurse on a comprehensive preparedness pandemic plan for a continuity of services, which will help in reducing the effect of pandemic

Ms. Tyson gave an explanation of pandemic, saying that the pandemic has to cause severe illness as well as a high morbidity rate when contracted, which avian flu does. But a pandemic also must be easily transmissible, where the avian flu falls short. New Jersey is uniquely vulnerable for high population density with a high number of people coming in and out of the major hubs of Philadelphia and New York airports.

In a pandemic preparedness plan for the town, they are constructing a continuity of operations plan, which would be the guidelines as to what the Borough needs to keep running and what doesn't need to be functioning at that time. Ms. Lane and Ms. Tyson are working on lists of important peoples in towns, such as doctors, pharmacies, social services, school contacts to come up with a comprehensive list should a pandemic be imminent.

Ms. Tyson also has been working on the public health newsletter, which dovetails the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, "5-10-15, Go!" She is starting an employee wellness newsletter through e-mail 4-5 times a year. She is also preparing the Hightstown Crier article on autism which was asked for at the last board meeting.

Nurse's Report

Ms. Lane handed out the February report. She noted that the report is now formatted like the state's annual report format. Member Zaiser asked if the report can read with the reportable diseases specified, which Ms. Lane agreed to. Member Laudemberger asked about reporting the cases of HIV, Ms. Lane said that the lab work is not attainable because of privacy rights.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Member Zaiser asked about if there should be a proclamation done on Member Cox. Member Zaiser made the motion and Member Paglione seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Member Zaiser asked about supporting projects in preparing for the pandemic. Ms. Tyson said that a list of organizations, contacts, and important entities in Hightstown are needed for blanketed communication. These people don't necessarily have to be related to the pandemic, it could be community leaders/conduits, faith leaders that reach a population that we don't always reach. Member Zaiser said that the Borough's website is a possibility; the community knows that alerts could go to the Borough's website for information. Ms. Tyson also stated that they are looking ways to communicate to the pockets of the community that are not computer literate and those that don't have computers at all.

Adjournment

Member Laudemberger moved for adjournment. Member Zaiser seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

The next meeting of the Hightstown Board of Health will be held on April 4, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Murphy
Recording Secretary