



MINUTES OF THE APRIL 17, 2019 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING



Call to Order:

The April 17, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 6:35 pm by Chairperson Colleen Labow.

Open Public Meetings Act Announcement:

The Board Secretary made the following announcement: "According to the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been given to the Daily Record. Notice has been posted in the Municipal Building, 204 Flanders-Drakestown Road, Mount Olive Township, New Jersey and notices were sent to those requesting the same."

Roll Call:

Present: Colleen Labow, Dr. Wallack, Anita Cooper, Mark Kana, Laura Hawkins and Dr. Abrams (6:41 pm).

Absent: Dr. Miccio

The Board Chairperson also recognized the Board of Health Secretary, Michele Doucette; Health Officer, Trevor J. Weigle; Attorney, Peter King, and Deputy Director/Assistant Health Officer, Derrick Webb.

Review of the Minutes:

The minutes of the March 20, 2019 meeting were approved on a motion by Dr. Wallack and second by Anita Cooper; all members present were in favor.

Written Reports & Correspondence:

The following correspondence was acknowledged:

1. Email from H.O. to BOH; re: MMWR Week 09 Influenza Activity Report
2. Email from H.O. to BOH; re: correspondence from NJDOH, *Ebola Virus Disease- Outbreak Update*
3. Memo to Business Administrator from H.O.; re: February 2019 Monthly Major Activities
4. Email from H.O. to BOH; re: MMWR Week 10 Influenza Activity Report

5. Email from H.O. to BOH; re: correspondence from NJDOH, *Exposure to Confirmed Measles Cases, Ocean County*
6. Email from H.O. to BOH; re: correspondence from NJDOH regarding drug recalls
7. Email from H.O. to BOH; re: MMWR Week 11 Influenza Activity Report
8. Email from H.O. to BOH; re: MMWR Week 12 Influenza Activity Report
9. Email from H.O. to BOH; re: correspondence from NJDOH regarding *STD Health Alert: Gonorrhea Treatment*
10. Email from H.O. to all local veterinarians; re: correspondence from NJDOH regarding pet food recall

Written Reports:

The Health Officer reviewed the Public Health Activities Report for March 2019 with the Board.

Board member Hawkins asked how many followers there are on the Mt. Olive Health Department Facebook page. She noted that the page is full of great information and wondered how we could increase followers. The Deputy Director reported that there are approximately four hundred followers. The Health Officer noted that the Department often asks the Mayor to share Department posts and that this increases “likes” and followers. Board member Hawkins asked where the monthly posters are distributed. The Health Officer noted that they are posted on the health department website, the library and town hall. The posters are also shared with the five contracting towns who further distribute them in various ways.

The Public Health Activities report for March 2019 was approved on a motion by Mark Kana and second by Laura Hawkins; all present were in favor.

New Business:

The Health Officer shared a copy of the Health Improvement Coalition Meeting Agenda and PowerPoint presentation from the April 17, 2019 meeting. He noted that this was the fourth meeting and fifteen partners were in attendance. The next meeting will be Wednesday May 15th at 8:30am and the final Community Health Assessment report will be presented. He asked the Board if they would object to a short presentation on the Community Health Assessment Document at the next board of health meeting; all present were in favor.

Board member Hawkins acknowledged that there is a lot of behind-the-scene work that goes into a Community Health Assessment and acknowledged the staff’s hard work. She noted that people are sometimes quick to point out the challenges or data that isn’t perfect without understanding the difficult process of collecting data from people and scheduling focus groups.

Board member Labow complemented the Department on how much time and thought they put into quality improvement efforts.

Ordinance on First Reading:

None

Ordinance on Second Reading:

None

Resolutions:

None

Unfinished Business:

None

Legal Business:

None

Public Portion:

None

Board Comments:

Board member Labow asked if the raccoon population was increasing in Mt Olive. The Health Officer noted that it was not. He referenced a recent news report about New York City trapping raccoons in parks and vaccinating them against rabies. The Deputy Director noted that the 1st quarter State Rabies Surveillance report was emailed to all the Board members and that it did not include any abnormal findings.

Board member Kana asked if there was an increase in black bear sightings in Mt. Olive. The Health Officer noted that they Animal Control Officer had not reported any increase in bear sightings.

Board member Labow stated that the Mayor read a proclamation about organ donation month at the Council meeting the previous evening.

Board member Dr. Wallack suggested that the Department be proactive about measles. He asked if the schools had information on who was vaccinated and if the percentage of those not vaccinated was known. The Health Officer noted that the Department collects that information through the immunization audits conducted at the schools; he also noted that the Department has been putting information about measles on Facebook.

Board member Labow asked if children needed to be vaccinated in order to attend school. Attorney Peter King noted that there is a religious exemption for vaccines still in New Jersey. He noted that in California since the outbreak last year the religious exemption has been taken out and they are now very strict about vaccinations. He noted that there is legislation pending in the New Jersey Senate and Assembly which will remove religious exemptions.

The Health Officer reminded the Board that they adopted a resolution late last year encouraging the New Jersey Legislature to pass legislation that would prevent most exemptions on vaccinations. The resolution was mailed to local legislators, the governor's office and others. Board member Labow suggested sending another resolution. The Health Officer noted that a resolution would be drafted for the next meeting for the Board's approval.

Board member Dr. Wallack noted that at the last Board meeting Arif Akhtar noted that he was not happy that the underage smoking program was not continued by the Department. The Health Officer noted that the State had a "Tobacco Age of Sale" program and used to give grants to local health departments to deter the selling of tobacco to children but that now only State employees are involved in the program.

Attorney Peter King suggested the board review and possibly amend the Department's smoking ordinance to include vaping on school property.

Board member Hawkins shared that the Tobacco Free for a Healthy New Jersey program has free signage. The Health Officer noted that the Department did obtain some of the signs and gave them to the recreation department for posting on public property and in parks. He also noted that the Health Educator is working on a vaping presentation to be held in Mt Olive.

Board member Dr. Abrams noted that the radon level for the water standard dropped significantly resulting in a lot of failures and suggested that it would affect the value of homes in Mt. Olive. The Health Officer explained that when a well water sample tests high in gross alpha we notify the homes within a 200 foot radius of the findings and recommend testing. Board member Labow asked if any labs had a problem with the gross alpha testing. The Deputy Director noted that RAdata, Inc., had an issue with the gross alpha testing but it has been since corrected. She asked if Mt. Olive is showing a lot of high results for gross alpha. The Health Officer noted that there is only a total of four or five wells showing high gross alpha to date. She asked if all the Mt Olive public water systems passed. The Deputy Director noted that the public systems have. Board member Kana asked what part of Mt Olive is having issues with radon in the well water. Deputy Director noted that the state regulation does not allow disclosure of that information. Attorney Peter King suggested that the Department put the information in a confidential memo to the Board and that the Board not share it with anyone.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm on a motion by Dr. Steve Abrams and second by Anita Cooper; all members present were in favor.

Colleen Labow
Chairperson

I, Michele Doucette, Mount Olive Township Board of Health Secretary, do hereby certify that the foregoing Minutes are a true and correct copy of the Minutes approved at a legally convened meeting of the Mount Olive Township Board of Health duly held on May 15, 2019.

Michele Doucette
Board of Health Secretary