

**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 13, 2022  
5:00 P.M.**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Present:** Keith Levine-Health Officer, Brielle Easton-member, Anthony Brickman-member, Maureen Adams-member, Laurie Wilson-member, Rabiah Asif-member

**Absent:** Cathleen Lewis-Council/HAB liaison, Mary Baird-HAB Chairperson

**Formalities:** Congratulations and thank you to board member Maureen Adams for accepting the Chair position for 2023!

A correction on the last HAB meeting agenda was noted, the agenda mistakenly said a meeting would occur in January 2023 however, this should have read March 2023.

**I. Review of Minutes**

9/13/22 HAB minutes were approved by the board. A vote was taken for a new board Chair as is customary before the start of each new year and Maureen Adams was elected.

**II. Old Business**

- A. Monkeypox cases are leveling off in NJ and around the country due to swift public health action like vaccine clinics, contact tracing efforts, education promotion and access to treatment. Lawrence Twp. had 2 cases that were investigated.
- B. A 4<sup>th</sup> version and continuation of the Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity grant is expected to be release early 2023. We have had this grant since its initial release in 2020 and it has allowed the township to employ 2 full-time staff members since early 2021 to deal with pandemic response as well as other disease concerns in the community. The health officer is planning to re-apply for this funding in order to retain our grant funded staff.
- C. Board member Adams reported that hospitals have been overwhelmed again with COVID patients, some patients are ending up on ventilators and some are dying.
- D. Health Officer Levine reported that vaccine clinic attendance has increased as we move deeper into winter and illness increases.

**III. New Business**

- A. Emily DeHaan, a grant funded employee with us for almost 2 years, left on October 28th 2022 to take another job. We thank Emily for her service with Lawrence Township and the great work she did for our community through the pandemic.
- B. A candidate to replace Emily was interviewed in November 2022, the candidate previously worked for the state health dept. The health officer is working with our human resources department to onboard her.

- C. Estimates were obtained from 3 NJ lead contractors in anticipation of creating a program to inspect all pre-1978 rental dwellings in Lawrence as per NJ state law P.L. 2021c 182, a.k.a. Lead-Based Paint Inspections in Rental Dwelling Units. An update was given to the board on the specifics of this law.
- D. The health department will be starting a blood lead level screening process in our child health clinic in order to catch poisonings that may be missed otherwise. An update on childhood lead poisoning cases and the required actions by a health department was given to the board.
- E. A synopsis of the SciAps XRF lead analyzer was given to the board. Lawrence is applying for a grant to purchase one of these machines to host events where the health dept. could residents' toys, dishes, etc. for lead. We would also be able to test dwelling for lead-based paint.
- F. A synopsis of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) model was given to the Board. The health officer recommended the board study this model further.
- G. Trenton Water Works (TWW) is in the process of being taken over by the state due to Legionella bacteria being pushed out in the water lines. 8 Lawrence residences served by TWW were tested by the NJDOH and all came back positive for Legionella bacteria however, only 1 came back positive for Legionella Pneumophila the strain most associated with Legionnaires Disease. Information on how to minimize the risk of acquiring Legionnaires Disease was distributed to the community.
- H. Two very aggressive unneutered Stafford Terrier dogs belonging to a Trenton resident were running loose in Lawrence for about a week. These dogs were hiding in a large wooded area and were difficult to catch. They ended up biting the Lawrence part-time animal control officer along with 3 residents of Lawrence. The health dept. is pursuing the owner of these dogs in court. The health officer mentioned the problem of dog fighting and the raising of dogs for this purpose. The City of Trenton Animal Control Division will also be issuing summonses for unlicensed and unvaccinated dogs.

#### **IV. Other Business**

- A. Updates on the COVID-19 pandemic were given to the board
- B. Board member Rabiah mentioned the NJ Public Health Association annual conference coming up in April 2023 and that they are accepting abstracts for the theme of maximizing health equity. She requested the Lawrence Health Dept. send something in if possible.
- C. The health dept. currently has 2 public health interns from TCNJ assisting with operations and gaining on the job experience.

#### **VII. Next Meeting Date**

March 14, 2023 at 5:15pm

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 6:15p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Keith Levine, Health Officer