

Rocky Hill Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting 10/13/09

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Attending: Lisbeth Haines, MD (Presiding); Susan Fisher, VMD; Mary Germain, EdD, ANP-BC; Beverly Poelstra, MD.

Also Attending: Linda Goldman (Borough Council Liaison); Benjamin Strong (Liaison to the Board of Health) and Dawn Prandi (REHS-Registered Environmental Health Specialist) of the Somerset County Department of Health (SCDOH).

Excused: Margaret Querec, MSN, RN

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:40p.m. by Dr. Haines, prior notice having been given in compliance with Chapter 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Review of Minutes:

Review of minutes of 9/8/09 meeting. Motion was made by Dr. Poelstra to approve minutes as written and seconded by Dr. Fisher. Approved unanimously.

Report of the SCDOH Liaison to the Board:

The Report and the ensuing discussion focused on the transition from the South Brunswick Health Department to the Somerset County Department of Health for the provision of public health services to the Borough of Rocky Hill. Dr. Haines praised the quality of the flyers distributed within the Borough concerning the Seasonal and H1N1 flues, good quality paper and in color.

It was reported that some residents are still not aware of the transition from the South Brunswick Health Department (SBHD) to SCDOH for public health services and have called the SBHD for issues such as bat removal. Mr. Strong reported that communication between the SBHD and SCDOH is good; that all calls to the SBHD had been forwarded to SCDOH for follow-up.

Ms. Dawn Prandi was introduced to the members of the Board. She was formerly with the Branchburg Health Department; has been with the SCDOH for five years and coordinates their programs related to the Environmental Health Act. She will conduct inspections of the Borough's food establishments and will investigate any outbreaks of communicable disease. Ms. Prandi's introduction was followed by a general discussion, led by Dr. Haines & Mr. Strong, about the transition to the SCDOH for provision of public health services to the Borough of Rocky Hill. Dr. Haines reported that Dave DeRosa had met with Donna Griffiths, Borough Clerk, and they established a process for permits and licensing of businesses operating in the Borough. Ms. Griffiths will inform Mr. DeRosa when the business has paid the licensing fee. Mr. DeRosa will then complete permit and licensing process and will notify Ms. Griffiths when each establishment has been approved for licensure.

Mr. Strong indicated that SCDOH is going to put a link to the Rocky Hill Board of Health website on the SCDOH website; will facilitate accessing information, especially critical information about H1N1. Dr. Haines noted that only two of the Boards of Health for which SCDOH provides public health services have their own websites, Rocky Hill being one of the two. There was unanimous commendation to Dr. Fisher for her outstanding work in developing and maintaining the Rocky Hill Board of Health (RHBOH) website. Dr. Fisher reported that she has extracted relevant material from the updated Fact Sheet on the Borough website and has this material on the BOH website. She has also added information about the Pet Survey and the Dog Census (required every two

years). It was noted that the Borough's last dog census was longer than two years ago. Ms. Goldman reported that she continues to make Mayor Zimmerman aware that the census is overdue.

The question was asked whether there was any restriction on the number of dogs that may be kept by one owner. Ms. Goldman responded that no such restriction exists and Ms. Prandi stated that if a private residence with multiple dogs is odiferous, but all of the dogs at a residence are registered and vaccinated, then it is a problem for the owner, not the Borough. Ms. Goldman asked if the Board wished to have the Borough attorney draft an ordinance further clarifying the responsibilities of dog ownership, and Dr. Haines indicated that this was not necessary at this time.

Ms. Prandi inquired about a possible issue of lead contamination at the Cooperative Nursery School located in the Rocky Hill Borough Hall building. Dr. Haines and Ms. Goldman informed her that Courtney White, a member of the Rocky Hill Borough Council, is the lead teacher at the Nursery School. Ms. Prandi indicated that she will e-mail Ms. White, obtain more information about the nature of the possible contamination and work with her to ensure its resolution.

Old/Continuing Business:

H1N1: Mr. Strong reported that the SCDOH hoped to hear within the next week about the amount of H1N1 vaccine they could expect to receive. Target groups to receive the vaccine remain the same - i.e. pregnant women; persons 6 months of age to 65... Dr. Poelstra reported that the statistics contained in the Morbidity and Mortality Report from the CDC had remained stable over the past two weeks. She will ask Mr. Whitlock to post a notice in front of the RH Firehouse about the upcoming Flu Vaccination Clinic to be held on 10/29/09. Flyers announcing the Clinic were hand delivered to each residence in the Borough. The Board did not perceive a need to do any additional marketing of the upcoming clinic - e.g. a letter to each homeowner from the mayor...

There was discussion of offering additional vaccination clinics; general agreement that one clinic would suffice - that children are receiving their vaccinations from their primary care providers, Medical Center at Princeton... The nurses at the Rocky Hill Flu Vaccination Clinic will have a list of contraindications to receiving the vaccine and they will review these with each client and not administer the vaccine if the person has a contraindication. It was noted that the flyers that were distributed also contained information about contraindications.

Dr. Poelstra reported that Stephanie Carey, the Montgomery Township Health Officer, had sent all parents an e-mail about a child who developed a serious respiratory illness that was not thought to be H1N1; diagnosed as pertussis. Dr. Poelstra e-mailed Ms. Carey to ask if the child had been immunized.

Dr. Haines asked how the Borough's vulnerable populations at the ARC home and Eden Acres were accessing the vaccine. Mr. Strong reported that Ms. Cynthia Kusorgbor had visited the ARC home; that they are awaiting notification of when their allocation of the vaccine will arrive.

Notification of Residents in the Event of a Major Emergency:

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Ms. Goldman asked how this would be accomplished. Dr. Poelstra and Mr. Strong responded that Office of Emergency Management (OEM) of Somerset County would initiate the Reverse 911 system; that individual calls announcing the emergency situation and containing instructions would be made to each household in the Borough.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Fisher, seconded by Dr. Haines. With unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Germain, EdD, ANP-BC, FNAP