

Rocky Hill Board of Health

Minutes of the Meeting on November 10, 2009

Location: Borough Hall

Members present: Lisbeth Haines, M.D. (presiding); Susan Fisher, V.M.D.; Mary Germain, Ed.D., APRN-BC, FNAP; Beverly Poelstra, M.D.

Members not present: Margaret Querec, M.S.N, R.N.

Also Present: Linda Goldman, Borough Council Liaison; Benjamin Strong, SCDOH Liaison

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 pm, prior notification having been given in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, Chapter 231.

Review and Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10/13/09 were reviewed. They were approved by vote on a motion made by Dr. Poelstra and seconded by Dr. Fisher.

Report of the SCDOH Liaison

Mr. Strong presented the monthly activity report for October. The only activity for the month was an inspection of the Borough well, which was satisfactory. Ms. Goldman inquired about the status of the licensing inspections, which are now due, of the six food establishments in Rocky Hill and was told by Mr. Strong that he would follow up on it. Mr. Strong announced that Somerset County would be holding a special clinic to administer H1N1 Influenza vaccinations to EMS personnel only on November 19 from 5 to 7 pm at the OEM Training Academy in Hillsborough, and requested a total of the number of persons wishing to be vaccinated.

Old Business

Dr. Poelstra reported on the most recent meeting of the Municipal Alliance.

Dr. Haines revisited our arrangement for child health requirements. As it stands, we have a verbal agreement, arranged between Dr. Poelstra and Princeton health officer Dave Henry, to provide needed care to any eligible Rocky Hill child at the Medical Center at Princeton on a fee-for-service basis, including the determination of eligibility for the same. It was decided that a written agreement is not necessary and the process of developing one could be cumbersome to the parties involved.

See Flu Vaccinations/Clinics below.

New Business

Announcements by Dr. Haines of upcoming events:

A state-wide event called "Operation Medicine Cabinet" is to be held on Saturday, November 14. On that day only, anyone will be able to dispose of unwanted or expired drugs at any police station with no questions asked. The event is being co-sponsored by the local office of the DEA, the state Attorney General's Office and Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey. Dr. Fisher will post the information on the Board of Health website.

There will be a training meeting presented by the New Jersey Association of Local Boards of Health on Saturday, November 14 at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. A registration form was distributed.

This evening (November 10) there will be a presentation on H1N1 Flu at the Mary Jacobs Library, sponsored by Montgomery Township.

Communications: The Rocky Hill BOH Website

Dr. Haines commended Dr. Fisher for keeping the website up-to-date. Dr. Fisher in turn requested that the members of the Board inform her of any topics that they would like to see covered that are not currently on it, and also of any inaccuracies. Dr. Fisher did not have updated statistics on website traffic. The need for back-up webmasters was brought up again. Both Megan Corlis (Dr. Poelstra's daughter) and Dr. Haines have expressed an interest in learning the software involved. Dr. Fisher will try to arrange getting them the needed documentation and software.

A new report on Rabies cases in the state from January 1 to September 30, 2009 was distributed to the members. Rabies cases in general have declined since last year and there have been no cases in dogs or cats in Somerset County so far this year.

Flu Vaccinations/Clinics

Seasonal Flu vaccination

Mr. Strong reported that the clinic on November 19 drew 62 people, compared with 54 last year, and ran smoothly. Dr. Haines pointed out that several years ago the numbers were much higher. Dr. Fisher offered the possible explanation that the local population's average age has gone down and there are now fewer residents in the higher risk category.

H1N1 Flu vaccination

Dr. Haines reviewed and distributed an updated RHBOH H1N1 Plan covering availability, target populations, details of what venues would be available to which categories of target groups, methods of communicating the availability of vaccine to the public and considerations for local businesses and organizations. Of note, it was emphasized that children under 10 years of age would require 2 doses. The projected available providers include private physicians (for pregnant women, pre-school children and others in the target groups), schools (for school age children) and clinics whose time and place will be dependent on when vaccine is received.

We were reminded that the CDC has said that any one can get the H1N1 vaccine at *any* location in the state because they are considered to be a federal asset. An on-line site has been developed by the Greater Somerset Public Health Partnership to help individuals find a nearby clinic for H1N1 vaccination. There is a link to it from the SCDOH website. There is also information on-line at the NJDHSS.

Mr. Strong distributed the *SCDOH H1N1 Vaccine Situation Report No.2*. He noted that shipments have not been arriving when projected and, on the other hand, sometimes arrive without prior notice. There are also large discrepancies in fulfillment of orders between townships, as a result of original orders having been submitted to different vaccine manufacturers. Because of the uncertainty of when shipments will arrive and the number of doses which will be delivered, it has not been possible to plan the timing of clinics in advance. Small shipments have been distributed to private practices. Our intention to publicize and implement a Rocky Hill H1N1 Clinic as soon as sufficient vaccine is available was reiterated.

The Next Meeting

The time of the next meeting was confirmed to be on December 8 at 4:30P.M.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 pm following a motion by Dr. Fisher and seconded by Dr. Germain.

Submitted by Susan Fisher