

CITY OF ENGLEWOOD

BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING

October 9, 2013

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Health, City of Englewood, Bergen County, was called to order at 8:03 p.m. by Dr. Lisa L. Wisotsky, President, Board of Health.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Lisa L. Wisotsky, President; JoEllen Bostick, Vice President (arrived 8:06 p.m.); Bertha-Nora Acosta; Stephanie Davis; Lisa Levien; Dr. Earl A. Marsan; and Ketsia Alerte Sadler (arrived 8:25 p.m.).

ALSO PRESENT:

James Fedorko, Director, Health Services/Health Officer/Secretary to the Board; Richard A. Lustgarten, Esq., Board of Health Attorney; and Janet Hart, Confidential Executive Secretary.

Mr. Fedorko read the Open Public Meetings Statement. All stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.A. Motion to approve Items 2.A.i. (Minutes of September 17, 2013 Meeting); 2.A.ii. (Receipts – September, 2013); 2.A.iii. (Bills – September, 2013); 2.A.iv. (Employee Reports – September, 2013); and 2.A.v. (Digest of Mail – September, 2013).

Motion to approve Items 2.A.i.-v. was made by Ms. Levien, and seconded by Ms. Acosta.

Dr. Wisotsky raised the issue of three Department employees participating in a vaccination clinic at the Friends of Grace Seniors Korean Community Center, as stated in the monthly report of the Public Health Nurse. Mr. Fedorko stated that the issue had already been addressed.

Motion was approved 5-0.

2.B. Motion to approve Retail Licenses – September, 2013

Mr. Lustgarten stated that there were three licenses to be approved, as follows: Buns N' Brew, Superxito Grocery, and Havana Espresso. Mr. Fedorko said that there had not been any written or verbal objection to the approval of these licenses.

Motion to approve Retail Licenses for September, 2013 was made by Ms. Davis, and seconded by Ms. Acosta. Motion was approved 6-0.

- 2.C. i. Board Liaison Reports
- ii. Committee Reports

Dr. Wisotsky reported that, at the City Council meeting on October 8, 2013, Ken Albert, the City Engineer, stated that the City had received a grant for bikeway planning and construction. She distributed to the Board members the initial plan that Mr. Albert had given her. Ms. Levien suggested that the City

look at the possibility of also including walking trails in the plan. Ms. Bostick added that signs indicating the mileage could also be put up in some locations.

Mr. Fedorko stated that he had recently received information on “Complete Streets” from the Bergen County Department of Health, and that the County could arrange for someone to speak at a future Board of Health meeting if that was desired. The Board was receptive to this and requested that the speaker research the City before coming to a Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Interlocal Agreement – Englewood/Bergenfield

Mr. Fedorko reported that he had received an email from the Bergenfield Health Officer stating that the agreement would go before the Bergenfield Mayor and Council on October 15, 2013 for approval.

4. Englewood Family Health Festival

Mr. Fedorko stated there are approximately thirty-three vendors participating in the Englewood Family Health Festival, scheduled for Friday, October 25, 2013. He said there are people signed up for the transportation to and from the festival, and two former Jets and Giants football players are expected to make an appearance.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Programming

Dr. Wisotsky began the discussion on Department programming by referring to a meeting she had with Councilmen Hamer and Skurnick, Board Member Ketsia Sadler, and Director/Health Officer James Fedorko on health issues affecting Englewood. It was felt the Department needs better communication with the residents of Englewood, and that it should concentrate on three or four health issues a year. It was suggested that a lecture on a current topic be arranged in a room at the Englewood Public Library, followed by a screening at the Health Department or elsewhere. The Department would do an evaluation and follow-up of all programs.

Mr. Fedorko reported that the Department has also been participating in the City’s Wellness Program, which is principally a walking program. It will begin again in January, 2014. The goals of the program are to encourage employees to eat healthier and exercise more, to have a healthier lifestyle.

Mr. Fedorko told the Board about the various grants the Department is applying for, and how they relate to the issues of obesity, nutrition, health needs of the elderly, and dental screening for children.

Dr. Wisotsky asked for a committee to start planning for addressing the topic of obesity in the spring, and Ms. Davis and Ms. Sadler volunteered.

6. Friends of the Englewood Health Department

Ms. Levien thanked the members of the Friends of the Englewood Health Department for attending the Board of Health meeting. She stated that she, Ms. Acosta, and Ms. Sadler had been working on increasing the membership of the Friends. She asked that the Friends become co-hosts with the Board at their programs and events in the future and visit the Department to meet the new Director/Health Officer,

James Fedorko. Ms. Levien said they would like to use the Friends as the eyes and ears of the community to bring ideas to the Board regarding what they could be doing in the community.

7. Draft of the 2014 Budget

Dr. Wisotsky reported that she would be attending a meeting on the 2014 budget on October 21, 2013, in the City Manager's office. The current salaries of the Department's two Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS) will be discussed, as well as the status of the Health Educator.

After doing a search on salaries of REHS's in the State of New Jersey, Dr. Wisotsky said that the Department's REHS's are underpaid, and this may account for the tremendous turnover in the Environmental Health Unit. The Department pays for their training, but they leave as soon as they find a better-paying job. The recommendation will be to raise their salaries \$10,000 each, from \$30,000 to \$40,000/year.

The Department's need for a full time Health Educator was also discussed. Mr. Fedorko stated that the current Health Educator is part time, working three days a week. This causes a gap in planning and in the activities. The Department needs a full time Health Educator to manage the grants and programs successfully and to ensure consistency. The follow-up and treatment to screenings is also very important and a lot of work. He said many of the programs are in the evening or on weekends, which results in the Health Educator's taking compensatory time off during the week, further reducing the number of hours in the Department. A salary raise of \$8,000 and a change of status from part-time to full time are recommended for the position of Health Educator.

Ms. Davis stated that she supports the above budget changes because the mission of the Board and the mission of the Department are to improve the health of the residents of Englewood, to increase the Department's programs, and to become more relevant to the population.

The Board supported increasing the salaries of the Department's two REHS's \$10,000 each, and moving the Health Educator from part time to full time, at a salary of \$35,000, plus fringe benefits.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion to open the time for public comment was made by Ms. Bostick, and seconded by Ms. Levien. Motion was approved 7-0.

Dr. Richard Pierson, 60 Lincoln Street, Englewood

Dr. Pierson reported that he will be working as a "navigator" to help people deal with the Affordable Care Act and will participate at an adult forum on the new healthcare reform at St. Paul's Church on Sunday, October 20, at 9:15 a.m.

Dr. Pierson stated he would be able to help recruit speakers who are researchers on obesity from his contacts at Columbia. He also suggested the location of healthful signs at locations such as ShopRite.

Sandy Greenberg, 449 Liberty Road, Englewood

Ms. Greenberg reported that the latest statistics show the rates of obesity and diabetes in the country are going up, and therefore, she recommends that the Department devote an entire year to the issue of obesity. She said there are many ways to approach it and made several suggestions to the Board.

Ms. Greenberg approves of the bicycle routes being planned by the City, but said there is a need for more education on helmet use by children.

Nellie Bobe, 376 Orchard Street, Englewood

Ms. Bobe thanked the Board for attempting to bring back the Friends of the Englewood Health Department, and said the Friends want to support the Department and help in any way they can. She will do her best to recruit new members.

There were no further comments or questions from the public. Motion to close the time for public comment was made by Ms. Bostick, and seconded by Dr. Marsan. Motion was approved 7-0.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Levien, and seconded by Ms. Davis. All members voted "aye," in favor. Motion was carried.

The meeting ended at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Fedorko
Secretary to the Board

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