

**HOPEWELL VALLEY
HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Agenda**

Wednesday, August 15, 2012 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Hopewell Township Municipal Building Conference Room

If you are unable to attend please contact Gary Guarino
Ph: (609) 537-0253 or gguarino@hopewelltp.org

Call meeting to Order at 7:10 by Ms. Jan Bishop.

Notice of this meeting has been posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and forwarded to the Hopewell Valley News and Trenton Times (the official newspapers) on December 22, 2011 P.L. 1975, Chapter 231. Revised date sent 1-27-12.

Present: Jan Bishop, Allen Thomas, Kathy Hill, Michael Rothwell, Kim Johnson, Mark Sherwood.

Absent: Matt Martin

Guest: Toni Lewis, United Way

Also Present: Health Officer, Gary Guarino and Bob English

The August 15, 2012 meeting of the Hopewell Township Health Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairman Jan Bishop at 7:10 p.m. Roll was called and upon review of minutes from the April 18, 2012 meeting, Dr. Sherwood moved to approve, Mr. Allen Thomas seconded.

Mr. Guarino presented an update on the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership Community Needs assessment and CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan). Mr. Guarino advised a two-day retreat is scheduled for September 19th and 20th for a community advisory board to review the data and prioritize concerns and come up with a Community Action Plan. The goal is to complete the report by December 12, 2012, as all hospitals are obligated to report to IRS for the 2013 tax year.

Mr. Guarino and Ms. Toni Lewis, a representative of the United Way, highlighted some of the key issues and concerns reflected in the report. Ms. Lewis stated transportation issues relating to modes of transportation, were key concerns in Mercer County. Respondent's stated cultural differences, loss of connectedness and isolation were also an issue. Mr. Guarino reported statistics noted a high level of cases of heart disease in Pennington, NJ.

Lengthy discussion was held on the need to educate the community regarding health care and health care management issues. Ms. Bishop stressed the importance of individuals taking responsibility for their individual health care needs. Education and prevention were key factors in an effort to ensure individuals make informed decisions with regard to their health care.

Ms. Kim Johnson reported on a focus group dealing with mental health, senior health, and community gardens. Ms. Bishop suggested forming a focus group which would educate consumers regarding health care management, understanding insurance issues and implementing incentives for wellness programs.

Mr. Guarino reported on the status of water issues as a result of the Sale of property ordinance adopted 2003. Mr. Guarino emphasized the importance of testing well water to establish a baseline and properly evaluate water quality. Mr. Guarino noted there are arsenic issues throughout the Township, and an increase in well water with coliform issues in the area of Elm Ridge Park. Lengthy discussion was held regarding methods of testing and remediation of coliform. Mr. Thomas noted the fee for a private well test is approximately \$350. Mr. Allen Thomas stated arsenic levels are higher during a drought and casing is key to properly correcting the issue.

Mr. Guarino advised the Annual Joint Meeting which is usually held in November is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12, 2012. We are meeting this year in Hopewell Borough at the new municipal building at 88 East Broad, Hopewell, NJ. All three boards will be present as well as Montgomery. The venue will be a “meet and greet” and attendees will continue discussion on Appointed vs. Autonomous Boards of Health and shared services.

Mr. Guarino provided an update of the State Audit of the Hopewell Township Health Department on April 26, 2012. Mr. Guarino stated Hopewell received an overall satisfactory report. Mr. Guarino noted two sessions were conducted for staff training in diversity. A Work Force Assessment will be conducted in an effort to plan for future staffing needs and will be discussed in greater detail at the Township Committee Meeting.

Mr. Guarino reported on the new online registration system for the flu clinic which is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct 24, 2012 at the Hopewell Township Public Works Facilities. The clinic will run from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Appointments are required and can be made online utilizing the new online appointment system on the township website at www.hopewelltp.org Residents are encouraged to register on line and print out a consent form which will be scanned prior to receiving the flu shot.

Hopewell Township Health Department will be scheduling flu clinics throughout the area during late September and October. Residents can be vaccinated at most pharmacies and local physician's office.

Mr. Guarino and Mr. English presented a follow-up on the Safe Home Health Family event held on Saturday June 9th from 10am - 2 pm. Mr. English advised the Public Works Garage was set up as an Expo Hall and vendors representing generator safety, water treatment, septic systems, mosquito control and emergency preparedness were available to address concerns. The Safe Home Health Family program was linked with Hopewell Valley Come Outside and Play and was well attended.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Prassas