

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF HEALTH
Municipal Building**

Minutes

Monday, February 6, 2023 5:30 p.m.

*To be Read: This is an audio recording of the February 6, 2023
meeting of the Hopewell Township Board of Health*

Notice of this meeting has been posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and forwarded to the Hopewell Valley News, Trenton Times and the Trentonian and Hopewell Express (the official newspapers) on January 4, 2023, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L.1975.

The February 6, 2023 meeting of the Hopewell Township Board of Health was called to order by Ms. Uma Purandare at 5:30 p.m.

Secretary called the roll:

Present: Mayor Ruger, Mr. Chait, Mr. Kuchinski, Ms. Purandare

Absent: Ms. Peters-Manning

Also Present: Dawn Marling, Health Officer
Suzanne Borgos, Capital Health Chief Strategy Officer, and Chair of the
Hopewell Twp. Advisory Board of Health

Pledge Allegiance and Salute to the Flag.

The first order of business was review and approval of minutes from the November 14, 2022 meeting. Mayor Ruger moved to approve minutes; Mr. Kuchinski seconded. Board members unanimously approved minutes.

Next on the agenda were Health Department updates from Dawn Marling:

Ms. Marling reported on the status of the required NJDOH 2022 Annual Report noting that, due to the pandemic, annual reporting requirements had been suspended by the State, and this is her first time completing the required online surveys.

Ms. Marling next reported on the anticipated renewal of the New Jersey Department of Health grant for the 2024 fiscal year. The grant will provide funds to sustain personnel, including the Outreach Coordinator position and per diem Nursing support to assure daily response capacity for emergent infectious diseases, as well as funds for modernizing data infrastructure, quality improvement, and staff training.

Ms. Marling provided Board members with two draft versions of the Hopewell Valley Social Support Resources brochure and requested the Board's input on the layout, as well as review of the contents to ensure we provide the public with an informative and accurate guide of local health services and support organizations. Mayor Ruger advised he preferred the version one layout and suggested the resources be listed alphabetically. Ms. Marling will edit and revise the document, then share a second draft with Hopewell and Pennington Boroughs and various local

stakeholders for additional review, prior to generating approximately 1,000 copies to be shared with first responders, churches, school nurses, and other community organizations. Board members applauded Ms. Marling and Outreach Coordinator Samantha Austin for their efforts in creating the brochure.

Additionally, Ms. Austin has been developing a 2020-2022 Health Department Activity Report, to be published on the website upon the Board's approval. The report will include a summary of activities and accomplishments during those rapidly evolving years, and provide a snapshot of the inspections and services that were offered to protect the community. The report will also include a comprehensive pandemic response summary, highlighting COVID-19 case trends, vaccination clinics, partnerships, surge staffing, and use of grant funding.

Ms. Marling advised that organizational membership with the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association has been renewed. The Association provides information for Board members to implement and ensure the development of public health policy and programs in the community. Ms. Marling encouraged the Board to check out the resources and online training, and pursue NJLBHA certification at: <https://njlbha.org/>

Environmental Health Outreach: Ms. Marling noted that January was Radon Action Month and advised that free testing kits are available for residents through a NJDEP grant which the Health Department was awarded. Additionally, the Department is planning for Groundwater Awareness Week in early March. As part of the current round of NJDOH grant funding, Ms. Marling was able to set aside money to purchase coliform bacteria testing kits. Quotes are being sought from various labs.

Capital Health Updates: Ms. Suzanne Borgos, Chief Strategy Officer for Capital Health and Chairperson for the Township Advisory Board of Health, provided a very informative presentation on the recent seamless transition of St. Francis Medical Center to Capital Health. Ms. Borgos reported on December 21, 2022 Capital Health assumed responsibility for health care services which were previously provided by St. Francis Medical Center located on Hamilton Avenue in Trenton. The transition of operation was necessary due to financial distress and a decline in patient volume. The St. Francis campus has been renamed Capital Health - East Trenton. The Capital Health East campus maintains the Emergency Department and remains open 24 hours a day and the Outpatient Primary Care Clinic will remain open in the same location.

Capital Health Hopewell received the fourth consecutive Chest Pain Center Accreditation. Capital Health Regional Medical Center (RMC) NJ is recognized as a leader for social responsibility, and serves as a regional trauma center. The hospital includes a State-designated comprehensive stroke center and mental health services center. RMC provides numerous medical services such as inpatient and outpatient radiology services and dialysis.

Ms. Borgos reported a steady downward trend in the number of reported cases of COVID, influenza, and RSV. The official end of the Public Health Emergency is anticipated in May 2023.

New Business: Mayor Ruger inquired about avian influenza and Ms. Marling stated the Department of Agriculture has been monitoring. The CDC considers the risk to human health very low at this time.

There being no further business, Mayor Ruger moved to adjourn; Mr. Kuchinski seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Prassas