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**COUNTY OF DELAWARE**  
**GOVERNMENT CENTER BUILDING**  
201 W. FRONT STREET  
MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA

610-891-4931  
FAX NUMBER 610-891-8055  
E-MAIL: [delcopr@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:delcopr@co.delaware.pa.us)

Department of Public Relations  
**William A. Lovejoy, Jr.**  
Director

For Immediate Release  
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Contact: **Trish Cofell**  
Communications Officer  
610-891-4943

**Fighting flu, tetanus and hunger were among topics at  
Delaware County Health Advisory Board meeting**

Public flu clinics, the need for tetanus immunization and combatting hunger were among the public health topics highlighted when Delaware County Council and the Delaware County Health Advisory Board held its first meeting of 2012.

The meeting, held Tuesday, Jan. 17, in the County Council meeting room, was open to the public and was also attended by health officers from various municipalities.

As part of the Advisory Board's continued outreach, a progress report was presented on the implementation of the Johns Hopkins Public Health Study recommendations.

Dr. George Avetian, Delaware County Senior Medical Advisor, and Maureen Hennessey Herman, the director of the Department of Intercommunity Health, presented information on various goals that have been accomplished including influenza clinics, food drives to combat hunger, involvement in the Take Back Drug initiative to prevent abuse of prescription drugs and the use of social media to reach younger residents.

With January temperatures starting to dip below freezing, the Advisory Board also discussed various County agencies that offer additional support to homeless, elderly and vulnerable residents when "Code Blue" conditions take place.

One of the goals of the John Hopkins Implementation Plan is to collaborate and communicate with public health stakeholders including the municipal health officers who are on the front lines of identifying the public health needs of their communities. A dozen health officers representing various municipalities were in attendance.

Dr. George Avetian said he is using social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, to provide electronic information to residents on important public health issues. Some of his recent Facebook posts have dealt with meningitis, glaucoma and smoking cessation. Residents can find Dr. Avetian's page at [www.facebook.com/DelcoICH](http://www.facebook.com/DelcoICH).

*(more)*

*(Health Advisory Board continued)*

Another accomplishment is holding public meetings of the Health Advisory Board to solicit input from residents. The first was Jan. 17. A second meeting will be set in the fall.

The Jan. 17 Health Advisory Board meeting gave municipal health officers an opportunity to learn how the Johns Hopkins Implementation Plan is being carried out so they can take that information back to their communities.

For more information people can visit the county website at [www.co.delaware.pa.us](http://www.co.delaware.pa.us) and visit Intercommunity Health.