



Macon County  
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
April 28, 2015**

**Members Present:** Frank Killian, MD - Chairman, Teresa Murray – Vice Chairman, Emily Bowers, Dr. Roy Lenzo, Nathan Brenner, DDS, Paula Ledford, Carole Peterson, MD, Molly Phillips, Russell Stevenson and Commissioner Paul Higdon

Absent: Stacy Shannon Pharm. D.

**Staff Present:** Jim Bruckner, Tammy Keezer, Becky Barr, Jimmy Villiard, Barry Patterson, Lindsey Oakley, Diane Keener, Rachelle Simons, Danielle Koman, Dawn Wilde, Rhonda Blanton & Charlene Bellavance.

**Public Comment:** Mr. Richard Bowers came before the Board to voice his concerns regarding the new rule that septic permits were no longer transferrable when a property is sold. He has property owners that want to have their septic systems in before their permits expire. When it comes down to the end of the permit they just want to get it done, basically so they don't have to go through the process again. He is afraid this new rule will cost him money and customers.

**Media:** Mike Parks with The Franklin Press was in attendance.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:24 by Chairman Killian.

**Approve Agenda:** Dr. Killian suggested we add discussion regarding Mr. Power's concerns about the septic permit issue under New Business. Mr. Bruckner requested that NALBOH Newsbrief and Budget Update be added as handouts under Board Training as items C & D. He also noted that he would be introducing three new employees who had never been to a Board of Health meeting under the Welcome/Introduction section. A motion was made by Ms. Bowers and seconded by Dr. Peterson to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

**Welcome/Intro/Departures/Recognition:** Mr. Bruckner introduced Lindsey Oakley as the new Finance Officer for the Department and Danielle Koman the new Family Nurse Practitioner for the Department. Also in attendance was Rachelle Simons, RN who will be the triage nurse for the County Employee and Family Health Clinic.

Ms. Barr informed the Board of Health Members that Melissa Leatherman had recently been recognized by a State wide newsletter for her efforts toward preparedness ready events in the community. She was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Chairman Killian and Mr. Bruckner.

Mr. Bruckner informed the board that both Mr. Patterson and Ms. Barr would be retiring in the next couple of months. We will let the members know when a celebration is planned for this.

## **Presentations**

**Public Health Hero Award:** Ms. Barr noted that during Public Health Month in April we recognize individuals who contribute to health improvement in the community. Ms. Michelle Brooks was nominated for her participation and coordination of the Colorectal Cancer Awareness concert at Smoky Mountain Performing Arts Center. The project won the state award for Public Awareness and they are being considered for a regional award. Mr. Dave Linn was nominated for his help in motivating people in the community to participate in running events and fund raising for local 5K runs. Mr. David O'Dell was the selected winner of the Public Health Hero award. Mr. O'Dell has been instrumental in motivating his church community to participate in healthy lifestyle habits. All participants were presented with certificates of appreciation and given gifts for their contributions.

**Communicable Disease Report:** Mr. Villard presented the Communicable Disease data for 2014. He referred members to the handout in their packet. He noted that there are certain state guidelines that we are required to follow in connection with the time frame that patients are seen. He also noted that there was a TB PPD shortage last year and the tests were given based on high risk levels. He reminded the board of the Influenza outbreak at Grandview manor last winter. He asked for any questions. Mr. Stevenson asked what the status of the EBOLA outbreak was. Mr. Villard noted that the EBOLA outbreak has been contained to Africa and has not spread any further in the US. The state has received some federal grant dollars for EBOLA to be distributed in July. Mr. Bruckner noted that we have contact tracing teams assigned and they were implemented during the outbreak at Grandview. Ms. Phillips asked if the story that the health department is telling will be changing with only a 24% match for the flu vaccine last year. Mr. Villard noted that we have to make an educated guess based on information from the CDC as to what strains may be contained in the virus this coming year. Dr. Lenzo indicated that for the most part, even with a low match percentage, the vaccine still does more good. The flu season was as virulent as it has been in the past. The individuals that got the shot still received a certain level of protection. The potential for an outbreak was there last year. It is no longer a major revenue source because there are so many other entities giving these shots. We will receive a large amount of information from the state and the CDC as guidance for our course of action. Dr. Peterson asked if the quadravalent was a better match. Mr. Villard said he did think it was a little bit better match. We will only be giving quadravalent next year. The cost is a little bit more for the quadravalent.

Mr. Stevenson also stated that he is hearing news of the bird flu. Mr. Villard noted that they have to kill a large number of birds with this flu but it has not been passed on to humans. He indicated that we should look for the price of poultry to go up in the near future. Dr. Lenzo indicated one of his friends has been shipped to Minnesota to help take care of euthanizing all the birds. They are looking at killing 5 million birds and the bird flu has been found in the wild.

**Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:** A motion was made by Dr. Peterson and seconded by Emily Porter Bowers to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2015 meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Old Business**

**Budget Update FY16:** Ms. Keezer noted that the FY 15/16 budget had been presented to the County Manager and County Finance on April 10th. Some minor changes were requested by the County Manager in regard to the Employee and Family Health Program. The modifications were to consolidate all employee health and wellness activities in the same program budget and were made and submitted as requested. Mr. Bruckner noted that they would probably be asked to come before the Commissioners to answer questions during their review meetings.

**Results Based Accountability (RBA) Update:** Mr. Bruckner noted that Ms. McGaha has done a basic RBA 101 training with all staff. She will begin meeting with sections at the program level to come up with measures.

**Environmental Health Survey Results Review:** Mr. Patterson referred the members to the report of the Annual Environmental Health survey results in their packets. He indicated that they have made significant improvements in the process of these surveys since 2008. They had one particular response this year from an individual who had a concern regarding the process. He stated that they sat down with this individual and discussed the issues she had. Mr. Patterson noted that she left with her questions answered and happy with the response. Mr. Stevenson asked if they had thought about incorporating a question regarding the monetary fees. Mr. Patterson said they have done so in the past and the response has always been to have the fees reduced. Mr. Stevenson asked if they were making contact with repeat customers. Mr. Patterson indicated that they choose a random selection from the active files of the current year.

## **New Business**

**Fee Changes:** Ms. Keezer requested Board approval to add Nexplanon Implant (a birth control method that is valid for three years after insertion) to our fee plan. The proposed charge for the Nexplanon implant is \$700 and in addition, a charge of \$65.00 for insertion of the device, \$80.00 for the removal of the device or \$145.00 for the removal and reinsertion of the device would be incurred.

Ms. Keezer also requested Board approval to correct an error in our current fee plan. The fee for periodontal scaling and root planing 1 to 3 teeth/quadrant is recorded as \$488 instead of \$188. We believe this was a typo and have not been able to find where we have ever charged anyone for this procedure. Dr. Lenzo asked how these procedures would get paid for? Ms. Keezer indicated that most of our patients are covered by Medicaid and those who are not would normally slide to the appropriate percent of pay as with any other dental services. A motion was made by Mr. Stevenson and seconded by Dr. Brenner to approve the additional fee for Nexplanon and to make the necessary correction to our existing fee plan as requested. The motion passed unanimously.

**Employee and Family Health Clinic & Employee Chronic Disease Program:** Mr. Bruckner referred the members to the handout in their packets noting that the printing might be too dark to be easily legible. We will send members a more legible copy by email. The county has agreed to implement a program for individuals covered under the county's health insurance plan where they can come to our clinic to be seen. This includes dependents of employees and retirees and their dependents. This will hopefully reduce missed work time and claims paid out of the health insurance pool as these claims will not be submitted to the county insurance plan. We will be charging a five dollar co-pay for these visits. We will be piloting some services in May and June so when we begin seeing patients in July we have worked out all the kinks. They have discussed with the county manager that employees will be able to use up to an hour of work time so they do not have to use sick time for their visit. The time in the morning will be for sick visits; walk-in and by appointment. Dr. Brenner asked if Mr. Bruckner could see any man-power issues with this new plan. Mr. Bruckner's response was no, the program is fully funded by the County. Our goal is to get the cost of the visit down to approximately \$35.00 per visit. This ties in well with our worksite wellness program. We will be doing all of the health risk assessments for the employees prior to open enrollment in May.

**Patagonia Clinical Update:** Ms. Keener noted that the training for the clinical components of Patagonia (our new Electronic Health Record) had been completed. We will be going live on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. We have planned to reduce the caseload that day in order to get patients seen in a timely manner and reduce unnecessary wait periods. By the next Board of Health meeting we will have been up and running on Patagonia for approximately two weeks.

**Regional Tobacco Grant:** Mr. Bruckner noted that he received a request from the state noting that they were not planning to give a grant to the far west counties. Mr. Bruckner along with other health directors in the region advocated for continued support of the existing regional tobacco program. In the end the state decided to fund our region, however, because of the success with the Community Transformation Grant the state has asked Macon County to be the lead agency for the region. Mr. Bruckner went before the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and received permission to accept the grant. This is a three year grant for approximately

\$78,000 per year. Commissioner Higdon supported Mr. Bruckner's request with a motion. Which was seconded and the motion was passed by a vote of the BOCC. Mr. Stevenson asked if this would help with our schools. Mr. Bruckner indicated that this would not be in the schools but would focus on community policy level efforts. Mr. Stevenson said if there was a way to get those grant dollars to help with programs in the schools that should be the focus. Some of the policies in the county are still only smoke free and they need to be tobacco free. Dr. Killian said we should be including The Parker Meadows project in our previous group of locations for signage.

A motion was made by Dr. Peterson and seconded by Ms. Ledford to support Mr. Bruckner's request for this grant and giving him permission to use it in the best way to educate and implement tobacco free policies in the community. The motion passed unanimously.

**Permitting Change for On-Site:** Mr. Patterson noted that they had received guidance from the state regarding the non-transference of septic Construction Authorization Permits. This is not just creating a burden for the property owner and the contractor but also for the Environmental Health staff. Mr. Bruckner noted that the site work still needs to occur and the site plan still needs to be reviewed. Dr. Killian suggested that Commissioner Higdon and Mr. Bruckner work together and bring some suggestions to the board at the next meeting.

Mr. Stevenson asked Mr. Patterson about the status of the old Franklin landfill wells? He noted because he wasn't at last month's meeting that he missed this topic. Mr. Patterson noted that the drilling contractors went to abandon one of the wells and because of the soft/muddy soil they could not get to the well and proceed with abandonment. Mr. Stevenson expressed his concern that there is potential for these wells to be a conduit for ground water to contaminate the aquifer. Mr. Patterson noted that the county is aware that there is the potential for contamination and that the wells had not been completely or properly abandoned. Mr. Bruckner commented that he recalled in previous meetings of the group working on completing the abandonment process that all of the wells within 500 feet of the old landfill boundary had been disconnected from the homes (power and water lines) back in 2001 or maybe even earlier, and that those homes were all provided with a connection free of charge to the town water system by the County. He also noted that he recalled that the County went a step further at the request of Landfill staff and extended the boundary to include other properties outside of the 500 foot landfill boundary to assure those homes had access to town water as well. Mr. Stevenson strongly encouraged this Board to continue to pursue this issue.

**Board Training and Information:** The members were referred to the three handouts in their packets; Environmental Health Survey Results, the State Recognition Email Publication for Ms. Leatherman and the Budget Update for March.

**Announcements:** There were no announcements.

**Next Meeting Date:** May 26, 2015

**Adjourn** – A motion to adjourn was made at 7:20 by Ms. Porter-Bowers and seconded by Dr. Brenner. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bellavance

These minutes were approved on May 26, 2015 with a motion by Ms. Porter-Bowers and seconded by Dr. Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.