



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
September 24, 2013**

Members Present: Russell Stevenson - Chair, Frank Killian MD, Commissioner Paul Higdon, Roy Lenzo DVM, Frederick Berger MD, Teresa Murray, David Silverstein DDS, Molly Phillips & Sheila Price RN.

Absent: Stacy Shannon & Emily Porter-Bowers

Staff Present: Jim Bruckner, Tammy Keezer, Becky Barr, Jimmy Villiard DVM, Kathy McGaha, Tonya Hodgins, Diane Keener, & Charlene Bellavance.

Public Comment: There were no members of the public present.

Media: There were no members of the media in attendance.

Call to Order: Chairman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 6:23.

Approve Agenda: A motion was made by Ms. Price and Dr. Berger to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Welcome/Intro/Departures/Recognition:

Presentations:

Fiscal Compliance Plan Review – Ms. Keener advised the board that we have not had a written compliance plan in the past. She referred them to the handout in their packets and noted that we have been doing internal audits for some time but it is essential for agency compliance that we have a fiscal compliance plan in place. The program's focus will be for the fiscal part of the program reviews. We will be working with our state audit representative and using audit tools that they have recommended. We will have a compliance team that will be working on this plan and making suggested changes in order to make the process better. We will prepare periodic reports for the board of health to keep them abreast of the program's progress. Once the fiscal plan is written and accepted it will be implemented and disseminated to all employees for use at the agency. Ms. Price asked how often the committee would be bringing a report to the board. Ms. Keener indicated that it would be at least on an annual basis and more often if the board wishes.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings: A motion was made by Dr. Killian and seconded by Dr. Silverstein to approve the minutes of July 23rd as submitted. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Dr. Killian and seconded by Ms. Price to approve the minutes of August 27th as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Budget Update: - Ms. Hodgins referred the board members to the handout in their packets and reported on the August year to date totals for revenue and expenses. She indicated that we have begun receiving payments from Medicaid through the new Fast Tracks program. Mr. Bruckner stated that our county budget amounts have had to be adjusted due to changes in some of our agreement addenda but there were not any large amounts and we were able to cover those changes. Ms. Hodgins noted that the bad debt write off and our fee plan changes that were approved at the July meeting were taken to the Board of County Commissioners and approved at their last meeting.

Fee Plan Change: - Ms. Hodgins noted that we have had another vaccine price increase and there is a new pricing structure for our pap procedure because we have to start charging a separate lab fee. We will be using Labcorp instead of the state lab due to better pricing and faster turnaround time. She asked for the board to approve the two fee changes for these services. A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Dr. Silverstein to approve the changes to the fees as requested by Ms. Hodgins. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bruckner noted that Capstone Health Alliance, a new company formed by Western North Carolina Health Network, has contracted with Labcorp to keep our pricing down for our labs. Mr. Stevenson suggested that if this is an option to save money on purchasing we may want to put some pricing together to give to Paul to take to the board of commissioners for the County's use.

Rabies Fee Increase: - Mr. Patterson got in touch with seven of the western counties (and 13 additional counties) to see what they are charging for their rabies vaccines. The majority of the local vets are of the opinion that the current price of \$5.00 is not cost effective and they are actually losing money at that price. Dr. Lenzo indicated that the actual cost of the vaccine is between \$2.00 and \$5.00 but if you factor in the man hours and administration time the cost to the vet is much higher. Mr. Bruckner indicated he had gotten clarification on the rules restricting a charge of "up to ten dollars" and a separate charge can be made in addition to the vaccine for the storage and the administrative costs. Mr. Bruckner asked that the board not vote on this issue but we have a community forum and allow for public comment. Once we have input from the community we will bring the results back to the board and ask them to make a decision regarding increasing the fee. Mr. Patterson stated that he generally has at least ten employees helping with the clinics. Mr. Stevenson asked how many animals are vaccinated at these clinics. Mr. Patterson said that last year they vaccinated between 1,600 and 1,800 animals between the spring and fall clinics. Ms. Phillips asked how many people came through with multiple dogs. Mr. Patterson said there were quite a few and these were the hunting breeds and the most at risk population. The primary concern of the vets is to create a buffer between the pet population and the community and the best way to do this is to use the yearly shot. We would want to poll the other vets in the community for their input as well. Mr. Stevenson asked that Mr. Patterson move forward with the public forum and communicate with the vets as well to obtain their input.

Environmental Health Update Leachate Testing: - Mr. Patterson reminded the board about the issue of lead in wells indicating they are still reviewing the test data. The wells tested have been mostly new wells and lead has been detected in about 30% of those tested. Lead is a naturally occurring substance, but is not natural as a dissolved element of groundwater. Mr. Patterson indicated that he, Mr. Bruckner, Mr. Faircloth and Ms. Morgan went to Asheville in July to meet with the state Environmental Health representatives. The Aquifer Protection department has been doing some independent testing and they are finding that the galvanized pipe is the cause of the lead. They have recommended at a few of the recent meetings that the drillers should be removing the pipe. Mr. Patterson said that same group from both sides will be meeting again next month. There has been some talk about doing an article in the CDC MMR magazine which would be distributed outside the state. The state drillers training will be happening at the health department this week. The well commission is on board with taking a rule change to the drillers Well Construction Standard and not to the state rules. There are some decisions about what the next steps should be that will have to be made at the upcoming meeting. Dr. Lenzo asked that if the pipe has to be removed who is responsible to pay for the removal. Mr. Patterson indicated that some of the owners paid for it and in some cases the driller has been paying for it. Commissioner Higdon indicated that as a sewer contractor he would never use galvanized pipe for well water.

New Business:

Immunization Policy Review: - Ms. Keezer indicated that we have implemented a new immunization policy requiring that all employees have the recommended immunizations based on CDC guidelines. The agency has performed titers at no cost to the employee in the event that an employee cannot prove they have had the illness. We had a little bit of pushback in the beginning but at this time all employees are in compliance. Ms. Keezer stated that we are encouraging employees to get the flu shot but that at this time the flu vaccine is still optional.

Local Health Department Job Losses and Program Cuts: - Mr. Bruckner referred the board to a handout in their packet regarding a 2013 profile study of job losses and program cuts. This data reflected that during 2012 almost half of all local health departments (LHD's) reduced or eliminated services in at least one program area. More than one third of all LHD's lost at least one staff person due to layoffs or through attrition. Some of this was due to the reduction of Federal Grant Block money. The data collected so far for the 2013FY has reflected the biggest budget cuts in all of the years of the survey.

State Oral Health Section: - This is where the state is absorbing some the block grant money cuts. Mr. Bruckner indicated that they have reduced personnel from four in the area to one. Dr. Silverstein asked if the individual who was left was an educator or a clinical person. Mr. Bruckner indicated he did not know the answer to that question.

Health Care Reform ACA Navigators: - Mr. Bruckner updated the board about the status of the ACA Navigators. There are two grants for training of these navigators; one in Buncombe County and one in Haywood County. We started tracking any referrals that we are making to DSS for the new insurance program.

Annual Review of Policies: - Mr. Bruckner indicated that the only change to the Operating Procedure was to update the signature section to include the new members. This is also required to be reviewed annually for accreditation purposes. Mr. Bruckner asked that the members take the packet of policies home and review them and come back with any questions or concerns they may have regarding any of the policies. The other policies included the Delegation of Authority of the Health Director, Observing Public Health and Related Laws and Regulations, Community Involvement in Public Health, Workforce Development and Diversity Plan, Research Policy, Policy and Procedure Development, Quality Program and Risk Management Plan.

Meeting Dates & Holiday Schedule: - Mr. Bruckner advised the board that the scheduled meeting date for November fell during the Thanksgiving holiday week and asked if they would like to change the date. He also noted that the December meeting date had not yet been set and asked that they choose a date for that meeting as well. A motion was made by Dr. Killian and seconded by Dr. Silverstein to change the date for November's meeting to November 19th, and hold the December meeting on December 17th. The motion passed unanimously.

MCPH Reps on Committees – Ms. Barr asked the board to notify Charlene of any boards, committees, etc. that they are members of including church, professional, civic, academic organizations as these might be helpful for accreditation. Ms. Barr also invited the board of health members to participate on the Community Care Clinic board, any of the WNC Health Network committees, the Mental Health Task Force, or the School Health Advisory Council. The committees that are most important are those related to our top three priorities; obesity, cancer prevention, and recruitment and retention of dentist and physicians.

Board Training and Information: Board of Health Policies (Handout)

Announcements:

- Well drillers training September 27th at the Community Services Building \$75.00 in order to qualify for the CEU credits.
- October Fest is October 12 and Dr. Killian encouraged everyone to attend

Next Meeting Date: October 22, 2013

Adjourn – A motion was made by Ms. Price and seconded by Dr. Killian to adjourn the meeting at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bellavance

These minutes were approved on October 22, 2013 with a motion by Commissioner Higdon and seconded by Dr. Killian. The motion passed unanimously.