



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
8/22/2017**

- Members** Dr. Nathan Brenner, Dentist and Chair, Teresa Murray, General Public and Vice-Chair; Emily Porter-Bowers, Nurse; Melissa Bell, Pharmacist; Dr. Jeff Todd, Veterinarian; James Tate County Commissioner; Gena Futral and Molly Phillips, General Public.
- Members Absent** Gena Futral
- Staff Present** Jim Bruckner, Tammy Keezer, Jimmy Villiard, Kyle Jennings, Jennifer Garrett, Kathy McGaha, Lynn Baker, Darice Davis,
- Guests** None
- Media** Mr. Ryan Hanchett; The Franklin Press, Ms. Brittany Raby; Macon County News, Ms. Kristen Karcher; WNCC Radio
- Public Comment** none
- Call to Order** Meeting was called to order at 6:10pm by Dr. Brenner
- Approve Agenda** James Tate made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Emily Porter-Bowers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Welcome/Intro./Departures/Recognition** None
- Closed Session** None
- Presentations** None
- Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting** James Tate made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Melissa Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

A. Prenatal Update – Mr. Bruckner said we haven't really seen any increase in OB patients to date, but we are still expecting an increase. Today was Dr. Peterson's last day. We have been working with Harris Regional Hospital to make the transfer of patient records smoother. We are now driving the records over to

Harris Hospital on Friday afternoons due to all of the electronic/faxing difficulties. We have a contract in place for an OB provider with Dr. Farrow from Highlands. She will begin seeing patients next week. Mr. Bruckner reminded everyone of a grant that was discussed in last month's BOH meeting. He said we took a cut of \$10,000 from the state and now the state has opened up an RFA grant that we have applied for to help fill the gap. We are waiting to hear if we will receive any funding from the grant. Tonight we are asking for board approval to accept the grant funds if we receive them. Melissa Bell made motion to accept grant funds if received. Molly Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

A. Accreditation Process Review Ms. McGaha said that the final evidence for accreditation was submitted on July 7th. We have 147 activities and 1,416 files. Our site visit is scheduled for September 12-13. She explained that we have created a list of potential questions for staff and BOH members that may be interviewed. The accreditation committee will conduct facility tours of the molar roller, adult dental, animal services and the health department. We have a staff training day on August 30th to allow time to review questions and tidy up workspaces. Ms. McGaha gave some examples of evidence documents that are submitted for accreditation and how it relates to the BOH. Minutes, notification in the paper, health reports, communicable disease reports, and well reports are a few examples of the items we submit for accreditation. The accreditation committee will come with questions based on what we have submitted. They will review personnel records and other items during the site visit as well.

B. Flu Plan – Ms. Garrett said that we have several places lined up to do flu clinics this year. We have a community venue in Highlands and Franklin. We will not be giving the intranasal flu again this year due to efficacy issues. We will have plenty of the quadravalent and high dose trivalent. The cost is \$30 for quad and \$45 for high dose. BOH members can get a free flu shot next month before BOH. Dr. Brenner asked when the flu clinic will begin. Ms. Garrett said we don't have an exact date yet, but it will be towards the end of September.

C. SFY 12/13 Medicaid Cost Settlement Here is an update on the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 12/13 Medicaid Cost Settlement. To make a long story short, the annual Medicaid Cost Settlement process has been contested since SF's 11 and 12 when North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) changed the method (denominator/statistic) for determining costs from an encounter based method to using the actual cost for provision of services.

After a protracted debate between the NC Association of Local Health Directors, NC Division of Public Health, and NC DMA the issues has now been clarified for us by a recent ruling in a law suit filed in 2016 by Cabarrus County Health Alliance (Public Health Hospital Authority) - Cabarrus County Health Alliance vs. NC DMA.

NC DMA prevailed in the case and will now settle, retroactively, all local health department cost settlements beginning with the FY13 settlements.

Recently, I received notice from DMA and along with Departments finance staff reviewed the notification of the final Macon County Health Department Medicaid Cost Settlement for FY13. Macon County Health Department, like most health departments in North Carolina, is in a payback situation for FY13.

The total of the original FY13 cost settlement for Macon County Health Department was \$449,920 and the newly revised total after DMA completed its desk audit is now \$436,483; creating a payback of \$13,437.

I had two options:

- Option 1. Accept the payback amount and remit payment in either a lump sum or payments over 24 months. If the 24 month option is selected, our future monthly Medicaid services reimbursements will be reduced by approximately (\$560) each month until debt is paid off; or
- Option 2. Appeal the audit result. The appeal, will allow us to “scrub” our data for FY13 with the process which was spelled out in the court ruling. I was told in a call with the DMA that the “scrubbing” made a significant reduction in original payback amount for Cabarrus County and it is felt that the same may apply to us as well. Cabarrus County in scrubbing the report originally submitted was able to eliminate their payback situation and received additional settlement funds.

Therefore, I made the decision in consultation with the County Finance Officer Lori Hall to appeal and scrub the FY13 Medicaid Cost Report originally submitted based on the criteria established in the court ruling. In reviewing the date I am of the opinion that the appeal has the potential to reduce or eliminate any payback.

I do not believe that we will be in this situation in future years as DMA began to apply the new statistic with the FY13 settlement and since that time, we have been able to make adjustments based on DMA recommendation, to what we submitted each year since. Once refiled if we are still in a payback situation, which we hopefully will not be, we can work out a plan for repayment with DMA.

Last, we will need to forge ahead with appealing both the FY14 and FY15 settlements once desk audits are completed by DMA. We have been told by DMA that we will be allowed based on the court ruling, to appeal and scrub those years as well. DMA thinks that with the FY16 cost settlement, all of the issues created by the change in the statistic in FY13, that local health department should begin receiving cleaner audit results. Molly Phillips asked how much staff time it will take to review the cost settlement paperwork. Mr. Bruckner said very little. He said we will have to remove some items that will take about three days at most for one staff member.

Board Training and Information

- A. Monthly Budget Update – The monthly budget update was included in the Board of Health Books for review.
- B. Tour of Animal Services – Anyone that is interested is welcome to come down to animal services for a tour. There is one officer and one shelter attendant available to answer any questions.

Announcements

Requested Agenda / Discussion Items Dr. Todd asked what the Board of Health’s role is as far as restaurant inspections. Mr. Bruckner said that restaurant inspections don’t involve the board at all. Dr. Todd had a copy of the state statute regarding animals at restaurants/breweries. He asked why Macon County doesn’t allow dogs at the local breweries because the statute doesn’t seem to prohibit dogs since breweries are not a food handling establishment. Mr. Jennings said that they have received guidance from the state and the state said they should not allow dogs in the breweries. He also said that while they are not a “food handling establishment” they do have peanuts and pretzels and there are dishwashing issues as well. Dr. Todd said the statute doesn’t talk about dishwashing. Mr. Jennings said that we receive guidance from the state that they have advised us not to allow dogs in the breweries. Dr. Todd asked what the penalty is if they do allow animals. Mr. Jennings said he doesn’t know how far they would be able to take that beyond the points off of their restaurant grade. Mr. Bruckner said that we have to look at all the communicable diseases that have a potential to be spread. He then said that we will have someone come to the BOH and review the rule next month. Mr. Jennings said we will talk to the state and get the clearest guidance.

Next Meeting Date 9/26/2017

Adjourn Emily Porter-Bowers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Melissa Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:41pm.