



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
1/22/2019**

Members Present: Melissa Bell, Pharmacist and Chair; Nathan Brenner, Dentist and Vice Chair; Teresa Murray, General Public; Jeff Todd, Veterinarian; James Tate, County Commissioner; Gena Futral, General Public; Mitchell Bishop, Engineer; Dr. Julie Farrow, Physician; Ross Dodge, General Public; Ellen Shope, Nurse

Members Absent: Dr. Farrow, Dr. Brenner, James Tate

Staff Present: Carmine Rocco, Kathy McGaha, Diane Keener, Jaclyn Mathis, Carrie Pazcoguin, Kelly Pla, Melissa Leatherman; Jennifer Garrett; Kyle Jennings; Kenzie Ortega

Guests: Derek Roland, County Manager; Chester Jones, County Attorney; Dr. Roger Elliston;

Media: Mr. Ryan Hanchett, The Franklin Press; Ms. Kristen Karcher, WNCC Radio

Call To Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:22 P.M. by Mrs. Bell.

Public Comment: N/A

Approve Agenda: Mr. Rocco added that closed session will include a personnel matter and an attorney/client privilege regarding a lawsuit. Dr. Todd made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Welcome/Intro/Departures/Recognition: Mr. Rocco introduced Ross Dodge, a new Board member and staff members Dr. Roger Elliston, the contract dentist for adult dental, and Kinsey Ortega, an intern from WCU.

Presentations: Diane Keener brought up fees for a vote. We can offer a prenatal shot at 16 weeks to prevent early delivery. We've never had a patient have to pay for this service, but we never know when someone is going to be denied that service, so we're adding it to our fees. The next two are lab services added to the state fee plan. We were notified today that some of the vaccines we use are going up as much as 6% starting in March 2019. And there is one Environmental Health fee that we need to add. Kyle Jennings - these items are things that we don't really do much, but there has been some recent interest and so we need to be able to have a fee associated with that application, in case some of those permitting actions come to fruition. Ellen Shope – how do the fees relate to the Medicaid reimbursement? Ms. Keener –

lab fees - \$10 difference. Vaccines, we never mark up more than \$5 and we get full reimbursement for those. Dr. Todd- does \$5 cover ancillary costs? Ms. Keener – we have a fee attached to cover that. Dr. Todd made a motion to accept the fees as presented, Gena Futral seconded the motion. The fees passed unanimously.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: Mr. Dodge made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Todd seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Melissa Leatherman – provided some data about our Employee Health numbers and the type of services that we provide. The data shows increase in services since 2016. In July 2018, vaccines and lab services were offered free to employees and there is employee assistance program (EAP) as well. The employee health program has saved the county several thousand dollars by lowering insurance claims from doctor's offices and urgent care visits. The chronic disease program has increased in the last year. Employee Assistance Program has a behavioral counselor on board and offers 6 free visits. After 6 visits, the person would be referred to Appalachia Community Services if they still needed care. An employee can refer him or herself or if a supervisor thinks an employee is having issues, they can have the employee come see the behavioral counselor. Mrs. Leatherman discussed the services we are able to offer the 18 fireman who work in the county. If they approve this, services will begin on February 1st. Dr. Todd motion to accept the addition of the 18 firefighters into the Employee Health Program, Mr. Bishop, seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

New Business: Mr. Rocco – National Health Service Center Sites assist those healthcare facilities in providing services to individuals who otherwise couldn't afford it. Also allows those of us providing care to offer a loan repayment program in order to help recruit qualified staff. It requires that the MCPH sliding fee scale down to zero for all services offered. In some cases, there could be a large number of patients who could qualify for the zero fee. MCPH had 400 last year who would've qualified for that. Having federal loan repayment may be a way of recruiting dentists, doctors, etc. Would it cost us more on the service side or would it be more beneficial to have employees that we could retain with loan repayment? MCPH qualifies in all three Health Professional Shortage areas (Primary Care, Behavioral Health, and Dental) for designation. Gena Futral - Can we target a certain area, like dental, but not the others? Would need more research on the issue. Mr. Dodge motioned to research the possibility of certification for MCPH more, Dr. Todd seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Jennifer – WIC update – WIC could be affected by the federal shutdown. NC WIC received additional funding and can stay open through end of February, but money after that is questionable. We have other programs that receive federal money, but haven't heard about those yet. WIC is the one we're watching right now. Caseload in WIC is currently at 800. We have a threshold of 927, but we haven't been hitting that. WIC is now on a card instead of vouchers, helping to reduce some of the stigma involved with WIC. We're making an effort now to become more mobile, to easier recruit people.

Board Training and Information:

Discussion items: Mr. Dodge – State got \$100K worth of Narcan, wondered if we had any idea if we have gotten any of that. Mr. Rocco – yes, we have received some and are working with community partners like Full Circle (Stephanie Almeida) to educate and dispense Narcan. It will also be distributed to the jails and with law enforcement.

Mr. Rocco – we haven't gotten to dental salary discussion because of another salary issue.

Closed Session: Bell made a motion to go into closed session citing a Personnel Matter in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11a(6) and 143-318.11a(3) and for Mr. Rocco, Macon County Interim Health Director, and Diane Keener, Administrative Services Section Administrator, to stay in the room. Todd made the motion, Futral seconded.

Open session began again at 8:10 p.m. Mitchel Bishop made a motion that Melissa Bell, a member of the Macon County Board of Health, is authorized to discuss and negotiate on behalf of the Macon County Board of Health with applicants for the job of Macon County Health Director subject to the conditions that (1) *any such discussions and negotiations are discussions only and Melissa Bell will not make an offer of employment* as the same may only be made by the Board of Health in consultation with the Board of Commissioners; and (2) shall communicate the same to any applicants with whom Melissa Bell discusses and negotiates with regarding the position so that it is clear to the applicant that *any such discussion and negotiations are discussions only and will not constitute an offer of employment* as the same may only be made by the Board of Health in consultation with the Board of Commissioners. Dr. Todd seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

No further business was conducted.

Next Meeting Date: 2/26/2018

Adjourn: Dr. Todd made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dodge seconded the motion. The motioned passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Melissa Bell, Chair

Date

Carmine Rocco, Interim Health Director

Date