



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
June 23, 2015**

Members Present: Frank Killian, MD - Chairman, Nathan Brenner, DDS, Dr. Roy Lenzo, Paula Ledford, and Commissioner Paul Higdon, Carole Peterson, MD, and Chris Hanners

Absent: Teresa Murray – Vice Chairman, Emily Bowers & Molly Phillips

Staff Present: Jim Bruckner, Tammy Keezer, Lynn Baker, Jimmy Villiard, Kyle Jennings & Charlene Bellavance.

Public Comment: There were no members of the public in attendance.

Media: Ms. Brittany Parker with Macon County News, Kristen Karcher, WNCC Radio and Mike Parks with the Franklin Press were all in attendance.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:18 by Chairman Killian.

Approve Agenda: Dr. Killian noted that fee changes should be removed under old business, Medicaid Cost Settlement should be added and Animal Control removed under new business. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Commissioner Higdon and seconded by Dr. Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

Welcome/Intro/Departures/Recognition:

Mr. Bruckner introduced Ms. Lynn Baker as the New Population Health Section Administrator and Mr. Kyle Jennings was reintroduced as the Environmental Health Section Administration.

Presentations: There were no presentations.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: A motion was made by Dr. Peterson and seconded by Mr. Hanners to approve the minutes of May 26, 2015 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Medicaid Cost Settlement: Mr. Bruckner noted that he had already spoken to the county finance department regarding our cost settlement. We had budgeted \$359,121 for Medicaid Cost Settlement for FY15. The cost settlement payment for this fiscal year is being held up by DMA due to a change in interpretation by them on how costs are applied in order to determine what we will receive. Additionally, DMA want to apply this to the 10% hold back from the past three years (approximately 125,000). Based on the new interpretation by DMA we may be asked to resubmit the paperwork that was originally submitted last September or October. If the cost

settlement payment is not received by the time the county closes the books for the current fiscal year the payment will go directly into the general fund and will not be able to be applied back to this year revenues. This will impact how we finish out the year. Mr. Bruckner reviewed where the department expects to finish the year: Current revenues are at \$2,213,599 or 84.3% and current expenses are \$4,356,002 or 86.5%. Our county appropriation for this year as budgeted is approximately \$2,467,739 and we are at \$2,142,404 or 86.8% and we don't expect to exceed this. Mr. Bruckner noted that in addition to what he just reported: We have received approximately \$200,000 in revenue, but it has not been applied to our budget in MUNIS yet; and, that there are a few items that they will not be purchasing to help hold expenses down. Based on this information we should finish the year in good shape even with the looming cost settlement issue.

We had a similar problem with payment of cost settlement in the past and our Health Directors Association hired an attorney to help resolve the issue. The Health Directors Association has again consulted with them on this issue and they are willing to help with this issue as well. DPH has asked us to give them until the end of the month to help resolve the issue before we involve an attorney.

Primary Care: Mr. Villiard presented an update on the Primary Care Exploratory committee's recommendations to the Board of Health. The committee consists of Dr. Dewhurst, Danielle Koman, Jennifer Garrett, Kathy McGaha, Diane Keener and Jimmy Villiard. The committee's recommendation to the Board include the following: Primary Care Patients consisting of Family Planning Patients, Uncomplicated Primary Care Patients screen to ensure required care is within scope of services available at MCPH and Macon Citizens for the Handicap; target patient mix of 60% Medicaid, 20% third party insurance, and 20% self-pay; 3 Phase implementation plan consisting of Phase 1- MCH, Phase 2- Family Planning Patients without medical homes, and Phase 3- uncomplicated Primary Care patients age 21 to 59; and adopting a sliding fee schedule based on 200% of the Federal Poverty level where patients below the 200% of FPL would pay 80% of the cost of services. They discussed what the process would be to enroll in the program and how many patients we would like to start with. We have set a goal for 150 for Dr. Dewhurst and 50 for Danielle Koman, as to not to have a negative impact on programmatic services. The applications would be reviewed by Dr. Dewhurst, Danielle Koman and Jennifer Garrett. He mentioned they would be coming back to the board for approval of fees in the future. Mr. Villiard asked for any input from the board members. He emphasized that the goal of Primary Care services at MCPH was to help fill a void for patients not able to find a medical home due the shortage of physicians in the county. Dr. Peterson asked about family care and Mr. Villiard indicated they did not want to have primary care for children due to the complication involved with Child Health services and the required sliding fee scale and the lack of shortage of Pediatricians. Acute episodic patients and medical health maintenance are going to be the focus. Ms. Ledford asked about target dates for the different phases. Mr. Villiard said they were hoping for September as the target date to start reviewing applications. The number of primary care physicians has dwindled and there is a four to six week waiting period for the Community Care Clinic. If the number of physicians in the county increases enough that they can take over the number of patients we are serving we would stop providing primary care. Dr. Killian asked if we would be doing any marketing. Mr. Villiard noted as did Mr. Bruckner that they did not feel that this would be needed. Mr. Villiard noted that the committee needed the Board's guidance of moving forward with this project.

There are two separate providers that include Mission. One group is the Medicaid piece through Mission Medical Associates these are the hospital run doctor practices who get paid through the hospital. The other is through the ACO and anyone can join. They are working on getting new providers into the community.

New Business

Restructure of Environmental Health Fees: Mr. Jennings reported that the way permits have been issued in the past have been changed by the State, requiring them to reissue permits as well as requiring additional fees. Based on input from County Commissioner Paul Higdon it was decided that the department would review Environment Health fees permit and that as part of the process of the review the county commissioners were willing to set aside funds from the county contingency fund to cover the changes in the department's revenue and expense budgets and allow for the fee reduction. The staff has already drafted a fee schedule and

preliminary plan for residential on-site septic permit applications, private drinking water well fees, and food and lodging permit applications. Food and Lodging has a plan review process that includes the same amount of time for large, small and mobile vendors so they are asking to have all the fees to be the same. They are also asking to add a Food and Lodging re-visit fee, similar to the On-Site Wastewater and Private Drinking Water Wells fee in order to keep individuals from calling for an inspection when they are not ready. One of the fee changes is simply a consolidation of three different fees. The charge for a repair permit of both wells and septic systems has been removed to encourage property owners to make the necessary repairs before it becomes a problem. There is also a proposal for a reduction in the Tattoo fee to hopefully encourage people who may have been giving tattoos illegally to become permitted. A copy of Mr. Jennings draft fee schedule is attached to these minutes. Commissioner Higdon asked if we could bring this to the Board of Commissioners as two separate items. The first item being the On-Site Waste Water and Private Drinking Water Wells fees, the second being the Food & Lodging fees. There will also need to be a close tracking system for those individuals that have purchased property where the construction authorization permit won't transfer. There were concerns voiced by several Board Members regarding the recurring need for the contingency or other funds from the county to cover our deficit in future years. Dr. Lenzo asked how Mr. Bruckner felt about the use of the contingency fund requests every year. Mr. Bruckner indicated that he would support including the fee reductions in the department's budget as long as the funds were made recurring and no cuts were made in staffing. As far as staffing we are currently adequately staffed for the workload. I see at least three posting a week for environmental health specialists across the state. Macon County has three EH Specialist positions that have not been funded/filled in the past several years. These changes may increase our business enough that we may need to hire additional staff. A motion was made by Dr. Peterson and seconded by Chris Hanners to support the changes to the Environmental Health fee structure as presented contingent on the board of commissioner's approval of funding to support the \$46,000 reduction in revenues caused by these suggested changes. The motion passed unanimously.

Emerging Issues: Mr. Villiard gave an update on the following Emerging Issues:

- TB –of a drug resistant strain of TB that was discovered in a recent traveler.
- Bird Flu – Highly pathogenic; first detected in December and now in 21 states. To date there have been no human infections. NC has placed a ban on poultry exhibits in the state. Public advised to avoid contact with birds or surfaces contaminated with bird feces. 47,000,000 birds have been euthanized.
- MERS – Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome – Started with one case in May and as of the 22nd 172 lab confirmed cases and 27 deaths in South Korea. All cases were epidemiodically related.
- We received a HAN alert for Norovirus at a day camp.
- We had a confirmed case of Pertussis in an adult and two other possible cases. We implemented our incident contact tracing program and our staff communicated with all of the 58 contacts.

Board Training and Information: Budget Update (quarterly handout) presented by Ms. Keezer –Mr. Bruckner noted that we have approximately \$220,000 in revenues that have been received by the county and have not been applied to our budget therefore are not included in this update. A short discussion regarding the information provided occurred. No motion or vote regarding the budget was necessary at this time.

Announcements: Mr. Bruckner noted that the Pharmacist position on the board will be open as of July 1st and asked that if anyone knows a pharmacist who would be willing to serve to please let him know.

Next Meeting Date: July 28, 2015

Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made at 8:12 by Mr. Hanners and seconded by Dr. Brenner. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bellavance

These minutes were approved on July 28, 2015 with a motion by Ms. Ledford and seconded by Ms. Murray. The motion passed unanimously.