



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES**

November 9, 2010

Members Present: Roberta Swank, Ron Winecoff, Dr. David Farley, Dr. David Silverstein, Dr. Jim Davis, Russell Stevenson, Dr. Roy Lenzo, Angie Stahl

Staff Present: Jim Bruckner, Dr. Jimmy Villiard, Tammy Keezer, Barry Patterson, Diane Keener, Rebecca Barr, and Tonya Hodgins

Media: None

Guests: Joean Lenzo

Public Comment Session: Ms. Roberta Swank, Chair of the BOH, asked if anyone wished to address the Board. No one responded.

Call to Order: Ms. Swank called the meeting to order at 6:25 pm.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved with two changes on a motion by Mr. Winecoff seconded by Dr. Farley.

Welcome/Introductions/Departures/Recognition:

- Mr. Bruckner introduced staff.
- Ms. Swank thanked Dr. Davis for his time and commitment to the county.
- Dr. Davis thanked the Board for the opportunity to have served on the Board and announced that the new County Commission Liaison will be announced soon.

Presentation:

Ms. Rebecca Barr reported on the State of the County Health Report (SOTCH). SOTCH is a report that the state requires counties to submit annually except the year the full Community Health Assessment is completed (every four years).

One highlight of focus of the SOTCH report is the Changes in Macon County's Economic and Political Environment Affecting Health. In addressing these changes, Ms. Barr asked the Board for their opinions as to what they thought could be areas of concern related to this topic.

- Dr. Farley talked about health care reform and the possibility of eliminating the “donut hole” for seniors (Medicare Part D). Medicare recipients can utilize the Medication Assistance during the “donut hole” timeframe.
- Dr. Davis stated that the budget deficit will impact the entire state for a long time.
- Mr. Stevenson spoke about frozen positions and concerns relating to survival of health department programs.
- Mr. Winecoff stated that there is a lot of work going on in Macon County; he is aware of several new projects that will help with some employment. He also stated that the real estate business is better than last year. Another concern stated by the Board was assistance programs within the county such as Care Net, are still experiencing difficulties in having enough food.
- Dr. Farley spoke on the fact that we now have a Free Clinic that operates 2 days a week.
- Dr. Davis stated that Macon County families are struggling and are making tough choices to eliminate unnecessary services e.g., doctor office visits for health services...possibly delaying treatment which will ultimately result in a worsening of health outcomes.

Ms. Barr also highlighted the New and Emerging Health Issues that included H1N1, immunization compliance rates and the increased need for public transportation to health care services and again asked the Board members for their opinions.

- Mr. Stevenson asked about the childhood obesity and children’s diabetes. Ms. Barr stated that last year, the BMI in school age children in Macon County had leveled off. This information was proved by school health fair data.
- Mr. Bruckner talked about the fact that many local health care providers were experiencing a reduction in number of people seeking health services, especially prenatal care. Dr. Davis asked if the number of Hispanic women served had decreased due to this population leaving the area and was this why prenatal services were down. Mr. Bruckner replied “yes, the number of Hispanic women receiving prenatal services has decreased significantly when compared to other ethnic groups”.
- Dr. Farley asked if family planning services were increasing. Mr. Bruckner replied “not at this time”.
- Dr. Farley stated that people are postponing health care. Ms. Stahl also stated that people are stretching medication and delaying having prescriptions filled or refilled. Dr. Farley talked about education of generic drugs.
- Mr. Winecoff went on to say that room taxes are up this year. This may indicate that the economy may be improving.

Ms. Barr encouraged the Board to e-mail her with any additional thoughts.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting of September 14, 2010: Minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Mr. Winecoff and seconded by Mr. Stevenson.

Old Business:

Budget Update: Mr. Bruckner presented a budget review focusing on the first one-third of the fiscal year. He informed the Board that he will be providing them with an overview of the budget at each meeting. A copy of the current review was given to each Board member. The review summarizes the current expense/revenue budget for the department.

Mr. Bruckner told Board members that all programs are seeing a decrease in revenues, especially fees. He stated that Environmental Health revenues were not the cause. He said the Leadership Team had met and some of the ways they plan on making up the difference at this time were: to temporarily freeze the following positions Public Health Nursing (PHN) Director I, PHN II, Public Health Educator I. These measures will keep the budget manageable.

Mr. Stevenson expressed concern about not filling the PHN Dir I and the burden freezing this position will put on other staff. Ms. Swank also expressed a concern about the staff and their acceptance of the changes. Mr. Bruckner stated that currently, the duties of the PHN Director I had been assigned to a cross section of people within the agency so as not to overburden/overwhelm any one individual. He informed the Board that staff are concerned; however, we have to implement these extreme measures to cover the current revenue budget deficit.

Mr. Bruckner as requested by the Board back in July of 2010, spoke about the results of the Program Review and explained the final ranking of services within MCPH. Programs were ranked based on several factors: Core (Mandated) Vs Essential (Assurance) and/or Enhancement Services; Where Funding Comes From; Current & Future Trends in Funding; Current and Future Trends in Services; Cost of Providing Services; Revenue Enhancement; Capital (Organizational/Community/Political); Return On Investment; and Capacity of the organization to continue to efficiently and effectively support and/or provide public health service. Programs reviewed were ranked from 1 to 21. with twenty-one being the most vulnerable program area if we experience further funding cuts.

Mr. Bruckner explained that this document will be used as a guide to decision making as we plan for the FY12 budget year (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012). He went on to say that the services listed are considered Essential by NCGS (Assurance) or Enhancement (link to essential or core services). He stated it is the decision of this Board based on guidance from the Department Leadership which will drive whether or not we eliminate or reduce services or request additional funding from the County as state resources dwindle. He highlighted some of the latest information on potential cuts from the State: Governor requested a 5 percent budget reduction plan from departments for this year's budget; Governor requested next year's budget proposals (three separate) showing a 5, 10, and 15 percent reductions; There is a \$3.3 Billion shortfall projected FY12 to be made up by legislators; Hearing talk about a possible 15 plus percent cut in next year's state budget.; and CDC already announced a 25 percent cut in Preparedness fund for next year.

Mr. Bruckner again spoke about the current revenue situation this year and that any other cuts could result in a reduction in Health Department services to the residents of Macon County.

Staff present commented on the process and how much they had learned about the other programs within the department. Ms. Barr commented that there was very little if any variance in the scores posted by the Leadership Team for each of the programs. Dr. Villiard commented on how well the staff had come together to create the document.

Ms. Swank asked if there had been brainstorming of ideas of how to generate new revenue. MCPH staff commented on several ideas that they have already implemented or are exploring.

Dr. Farley stated that MCPH should look for opportunities within the community to generate revenue. He went on to say that the department shouldn't focus on the fear of competition. That staff should look for ways to generate additional revenue even if it involved competing some with the private sector and so services provided through the health department wouldn't be reduced/eliminated.

Health Director's Evaluation: Ms. Swank, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Winecoff and Dr. Silverstein will serve on this committee. The committee will schedule a meeting to perform the evaluation. Ms. Swank presented each member of the Health Director Evaluation Committee with a packet containing a blank County evaluation form/worksheet.

New Business:

Quality Improvement Collaborative Grant: Ms. Keezer spoke about the on-going efforts of the staff related to implementation of QI practices into their daily routines. Staff are involved in several different Quality Improvement projects (Child Health Waiting Area, Open Access Scheduling). MCPH has received two

grants: The first is from the Department of Public Health for \$1500 to help fund the Open Access Quality Improvement Project. Part of this funding will sponsor a Kaizan Event January 19 – 21; the second is a grant for \$2,500 from South Western Community College targeting QI training for front line staff.

Dental Grants: Dr. Villiard is in the process of submitting two grants for dental services through the Department of Rural Health. One grant will include a mobile unit to replace the current Molar Roller. The second is for a modular unit with a panoramic x-ray unit for the Adult Dental Program. The goals of each of these grants are to improve capacity and efficiency of both child and adult dental services provided. One requirement of these grants is to generate new jobs.

Scaly Mountain Dog Investigation: Mr. Patterson updated the Board on the Scaly Mountain dog issue. He informed the Board that currently there are no new reported animal cases since the last meeting.

Rabies Clinic: Mr. Patterson reported that this is the 19th year that MCPH has offered Rabies Clinics. In these 19 years, 21,000 animals have been vaccinated. The Board was given a report of the number of rabies vaccines administered in recent years. Environmental Health staff have begun looking into ways the clinic can be streamlined and how they could be conducting these vaccination clinics more frequently.

2011 BOH Meeting Dates: A copy of next years proposed meeting schedule was provided to each Board member. The Board agreed unanimously on a motion by Mr. Winecoff and seconded by Mr. Stevenson on the proposed schedule.

Nominations for Next Year's Officers: Mr. Bruckner asked for names of nominations before the first of the year. The new officers will start at the February meeting.

Board Membership: Two Board seats are up for renewal in January. Dr. Lenzo has expressed interest in continuing on the Board. Dr. Hill has stated that he will no longer be able to serve on the Board after January. Mr. Bruckner asked members of the Board for input as to who they thought could represent the eye care community as the position is for an optometrist/ophthalmologist.

Board Training and Information:

Board of Health Notebooks. Board members were asked to bring their Notebooks to the meeting so they could be updated. These will be updated and given back to Board members at the next regular meeting.

Communicable Disease Report: A copy of the 2008 and 2009 CD report was given to each of the Board Members for their review.

Performance Review Data: A copy of last month's performance data was given to the Board Members for their review.

Ms. Swank declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Keener, Management Support Supervisor for Jim Bruckner, MS, Health Director
Macon County Public Health Center

MINUTES APPROVED: February 22, 2011