



Macon County
Public Health

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
March 26, 2013

Members Present: Russell Stevenson – Chair, Frank Killian, MD, Roy Lenzo, DVM, Molly Phillips, Paul Higdon & Ron Winecoff.

Absent: Roberta Swank, Tammy Dills, Stacy Shannon, David Silverstein, DDS & Frederick Berger, MD.

Staff Present: Jim Bruckner, Tammy Keezer, Tonya Hodgins, Kathy McGaha, Becky Barr, Jimmy Villiard, Stan Polanski and Charlene Bellavance.

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

Media: Colin McCandless from The Franklin Press was in attendance.

Call to Order: Chairman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

Approve Agenda: Mr. Bruckner asked to add under new business two bills from the senate. A motion was made by Dr. Killian and seconded by Ms. Phillips. The motion passed unanimously.

Welcome/Intro/Departures/Recognition

Presentations

2012 Communicable Disease Annual Report – Mr. Polanski explained to the board members that we are required to review the communicable disease report annually for accreditation purposes. The reported and confirmed disease cases are only a small portion of what the actual incidents are. This is mostly because only a small number of the cases that are confirmed by physicians actually get reported. There is no way to know how many cases go without ever being diagnosed and/or reported to the CDC. However, the report is important because it makes it possible to see trends. One point of interest Mr. Polanski pointed out to the members was that there have been three confirmed cases of Lacross Encephalitis in Highlands. Two of three cases were children who had been living in the same house. A copy of the 2012 communicable disease annual report is attached to these minutes.

2013 County Health Rankings – Ms. Barr reported on the county health rankings that gives a standard measure of each county within our state. There are two measures that are used to determine these rankings and they are outcomes and factors. Policy and programs also factor into the outcomes. The measures that are selected are used nationwide. It is often times referred to as a snapshot of what is going on in the state regarding the health of the community. A copy of the Macon County Snapshot is attached to these minutes. In the last four years Macon County has been ranked lower in the social and economic factors. Mr.

Stevenson asked where the data comes from and Ms. Barr explained that there are many sources, but that much of the Health Factor data is obtained from Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. There were two new measures added this year, one for the number of dentists available to each person in Macon County and another under physical environment for drinking water safety. This data was in connection to the city water. Ms. Barr cautioned that we should not be comparing the data from one year to the next because they change the way that the data is gathered from year to year. We have been anywhere from 44th to where we are now which is 16. For more information you can visit the website www.countyhealthrankings.org. Mr. Winecoff said he heard a statistic on a Highlands radio station said that 30% of our population in Macon County could not read. Ms. Barr said she could not answer that question but it would depend on the definition of illiterate and if it took into account individuals in which English was not their first language. A copy of Ms. Barr's PowerPoint presentation is attached to these minutes.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings: A motion was made by Dr. Killian and seconded by Ms. Phillips to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 26, 2013 as presented. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Winecoff and seconded by Ms. Phillips to approve the minutes of March 11, 2013 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Budget Update: – Ms. Hodgins referred the board members to the handout in their packets. She reported that we were 5% spent for month with 55% spent to date and 58% spent including items that had already been encumbered. She further reported that we were at 5% earned for the month and 65% earned to date. This is in line with what the projections had been for this time of the year.

Ms. Hodgins explained to the board members that we needed to add two new lab fees to our fee plan. One is for a bile acids test at a cost of \$32.50 and the second is a test for electrophoretic separation & quantification with HR refraction at a cost of \$42.00. Mr. Villiard explained that the reason we are seeing an increase in non-traditional lab testing is that we have two new physicians that are seeing our OBGYN patients and they are more current in their methods. They may order different tests than has been the practice in the past. A motion was made by Mr. Winecoff and seconded by Dr. Killian to add the two lab fees as proposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Hodgins informed the board that she and Mr. Bruckner and Ms. Keezer have a meeting scheduled on April 10th to meet with the county manager to discuss the FY14 budget.

Mr. Bruckner reported to the board that the Governor's proposed budget was posted on the state website. He told them that there were three recommendations for changes in the budget but they should not affect us. What is being proposed is two 8 million dollar reductions in areas of DHHS where the money wasn't spent in the past three fiscal years. Of that 16 million they will take 2 million of it and gave it to the state lab. We are waiting on the house and senate to submit their proposed budgets.

Environmental Health Update: – Mr. Bruckner reported that at the board's request a letter to the local doctors regarding the lead in water issue was done. Dr. Lenzo asked if we saw any increase in the number of water tests being requested. Mr. Bruckner said that the number of requests was not really up above the normal numbers; that we had done approximately 25. Dr. Killian asked if it was the state's responsibility to notify the property owners if their water test came back with elevated lead levels. Mr. Bruckner indicated that the state Epidemiology Section send the property owner a letter; however, our Environmental Health employees are also notifying the owners once they receive the results from the state lab.

New Business

Legislative Update: – Mr. Bruckner advised the board that Senator Hartsill has submitted two bills for consideration to the Senate.

Senate Bill 347 is recommending that a study be done between now and the first of May investigating the possibility of a unified public health system. Mr. Bruckner stated that he had been researching this and had not been able to find any examples of a unified public health system.

Senate Bill 417 is recommending establishment of a State Public Health Authority with four public health regions – Asheville, Kannapolis, Greenville & Wilmington.

Mr. Bruckner also advised the board that in response to a proposal to change the helmet law to allow individuals over the age of 18 to ride motorcycles/mopeds without a helmet the local health directors have all drafted letters to legislature indicating that they are not in agreement with this change.

Board Training and Information

Announcements

Mr. Bruckner reminded the board members that they are planning to hold an open house for the new adult dental clinic on Thursday, April 25th. They are talking to other businesses at the plaza to see if they are interested in participating. The chamber has said that they will try to plan to be there to participate in a ribbon cutting between 11:00 and noon. It would be appreciated if as many of the board members that could be there for the ribbon cutting would try to attend.

Ms. Barr announced that we are now accepting nominations for the public health hero award. If anyone wishes to nominate a community member the application can be found on our website.

Next Meeting Date: April 23, 2013

Adjourn - A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Winecoff and seconded by Ms. Phillips. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bellavance

These minutes were approved on April 23, 2013 with a motion by Ms. Phillips and seconded by .The motion passed unanimously