



Macon County
Public Health

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES

June 28, 2011

Members Present: Roberta Swank - Chair, Russell Stevenson - Vice Chair, David Silverstein DDS, Frank Killian MD, Commissioner Brian McClellan, Roy Lenzo DVM, Tammy Dills RN, Paul Higdon and Ron Winecuff

Staff Present: Jim Bruckner, Jimmy Villiard, Tammy Keezer, Barry Patterson, Diane Keener, Rebecca Barr, Tonya Hodgins, Pat Muse, Jane Morgan, Lisa Browning and Charlene Bellavance

Media: Christopher Carpenter, Macon County News

Guests: None

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

Call to Order: Ms. Swank called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Bruckner requested that an addition be made to the Agenda to include Board Position. The agenda was approved with the addition on a motion by Mr. Winecuff and seconded by Commissioner McClellan. All Board members present were in agreement.

Welcome/Introductions/Departures/Recognition:

- Mr. Bruckner introduced Charlene Bellavance, Administrative Assistant as the new recording secretary for the Board. He added that it is very important if any Board member has changes to their contact telephone number or address to notify Charlene with those changes.
- Mr. Bruckner recognized Wes Bintz, Environmental Health Specialist, who was not present, for creating standardized forms for inspections. These forms are now being used state wide.

Presentations:

Ms. Lisa Browning, Ms. Jane Morgan and Mr. Patrick Muse with the Food and Lodging Program of the Environmental Health Section of Macon County Public Health presented an overview of their program.

Ms. Browning made a presentation giving examples of their grading cards and the procedures they use for restaurant establishments. She discussed that requests can be made for a regrade if an establishment scores low, however they do not have to go back if the original grade was an A (90 or above). If the grade is below an A (90 or below) the department has 15 days to revisit the establishment. If the identified infractions from the first visit have not been corrected the grade could actually go lower.

Mr. Stevenson suggested it would be a nice incentive if the establishments with the highest grades received some sort of public recognition. Dr. Lenzo asked if there is any connection between the grades and someone from the public getting sick. Lisa indicated that could be the case however, there is always a chance that an employee comes in sick and it gets passed on to a patron whether directly through the food or just due to contact with the server.

Mr. Stevenson asked if there had been any issues in monitoring smoking laws within restaurants. Mr. Muse responded that they have only had to issue two notifications so far and that most of the establishments have been very cooperative. Mr. Bruckner stated that restaurants have been compliant and only two non-compliance letters have been issued to restaurant owners since the smoking law was implemented. The non-smoking notices should be displayed in a prominent spot in the establishment.

Mr. Stevenson asked if there were any projected changes coming down. Ms. Browning stated that the food code will be changing in the next year or so. Mr. Muse said that every state except two has adopted the new food code that must be in place by 2013.

Ms. Morgan presented information about the types of establishments inspected. She indicated that during the summer there are a lot of events that they have to attend to inspect and monitor temporary food establishments used during festivals and other local events. She shared that the County website has a majority of the information regarding the upcoming events, venter applications, regulations, grades, etc. This information is applicable to Nantahala, Highlands and the Franklin areas.

Mr. Stevenson asked if there was anything that the board could be working on to help make their jobs easier. Ms. Tonya Hodgins stated that it would be helpful if there was the ability from the County website to use credit cards to make payments to all departments, not just environmental health. Mr. Barry Patterson mentioned that as long as our employees have the proper technology to take into the field to be able to access, process and print any information that is required it will make the department more efficient and cost effective.

Mr. Pat Muse reported that they specifically target those facilities that experience the greatest risk of foods going into the danger zones regarding preparation and temperature, etc. The law changed for some facilities to allow the Environmental Health department to set the frequency of visits rather than mandating that each facility be inspected four times a year. Critical violations are being addressed sooner. The majority of fast food restaurants are inspected twice per year. Raleigh mandates how often chain restaurants get inspected. Highly susceptible food preparation places such as nursing homes, etc. are inspected on a quarterly basis. Any critical violations require fixing within a 10 day period. Most critical violations involve equipment. Barry Patterson mentioned that this is the fifth year now without a food borne illness.

Dr. Lenzo asked who inspects the grocery stores that sell fruits, vegetables, etc. Mr. Patterson stated that the line is drawn when the food has been prepared. Environmental Health is responsible for inspecting any food preparation facilities. Otherwise, it falls to the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Patterson stated that the staff of the Food and Lodging Program is doing a great job.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting of May 24, 2011:

A motion was made by Commissioner McClellan and seconded by Ron Winecoff to accept the minutes of the May 24, 2011 meeting as submitted. All Board members present were in agreement.

Old Business:

Budget Update

Mr. Bruckner stated that the County budget has been approved and that it will be made available in the next few days via the County website. We will be restructuring within the department to continue certain programs. The State cut \$22,600 from Health Promotion and, to counter that cut, the funding for the Director of Nursing position that has been held vacant will be moved to a Health Education position to provide church based wellness intervention, community based secondary prevention, work with the discharge planners at the hospital to reduce hospital readmissions and to improve quality of care in the community. This position will also work to help save County dollars by providing care management services for County employees that have certain chronic medical conditions including diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol.

The State budget contains strong wording in regard to school nurses and the utilization of these positions for services other than nursing services in the schools or at the health department. All of the school nurses that are in Macon County are considered Health Department employees and therefore will already meet the criteria set forth in the new state budget.

New initiatives that are being considered on the state level include a new Men's Health program with possible grant funding opportunities. Mr. Bruckner stated that we currently have a committee in place that has been looking at unmet health needs for men. Other changes include programmatic changes in Family Planning, Child Health Early and Periodic Screening and Diagnostic Testing (EPSDT) screenings and Maternal Health. The impact of these changes has not been realized yet but there is strong suspicion that there will be a reduction in reimbursement for these services.

There may be additional cuts at the State level in what is recognized as Optional Services under Medicaid. These include Dental, CC4C (Children's Case Management Program for Children under age 4), PCM (Pregnancy Care Management).

Additionally, expected cuts could come from federal reductions in Block Grant funds.

Dr. Killian asked for an update on adult dental. Mr. Villiard stated that currently, we are contracting with 2 dentists to provide services 4 days a week and are continuing to recruit hard for a permanent dentist.

Legislative update

Mr. Bruckner was notified that the State will continue funding for the Public Health Tobacco Education program for one more year. There have been many changes in Public Health across the nation; the results of the 2009 NACCHO survey revealed that 50% of the local health departments lost at least 1 program; 28% lost 3 or more programs and 23,000 health department employees lost their jobs.

Legislative Bills of Interest

There have been changes with legislative bills that were previously discussed with the Board, HB 580 Formation of Public Health Authorities, have been combined with SB 433 Consolidation of Human Services Agencies.

Mr. Winecoff questioned the rationale of consolidation. Mr. Bruckner stated that at this point it is a struggle between local control and funding of local public health initiatives targeting improving the health of the population.

Billing Guide

The proposed Billing Guide was presented to the County Commissioners on June 14, 2011 and approved with a few minor changes in wording. One of the statements that was requested to be changed came directly from General Statute and has been left as originally written. The other requested changes involve County Commissioner approval before doing any patient account write-offs and before selecting a debt set off company. Mr. Bruckner has been in contact with the County Attorney who proposed these changes to clarify exactly what is needed and meant by the requested changes.

New Business:

Dr. Farley has resigned from the Board effective immediately since he has taken a position out of the county. Dr. Douglas Egge has agreed to serve as the physician representative for the remainder of Dr. Farley's term. The County Commissioners approved Dr. Egge's appointment at a previous meeting.

Board Training and Information:

Mr. Bruckner made the Board aware of the materials included in their information package. These include:

- ✓ Food Borne Pathogens Information Handout
- ✓ Monthly Performance Review

Announcements:

None

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at 6:15 p.m.

Ms. Swank declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bellavance, Administrative Assistant to Jim Bruckner, MSHS, Health Director
Macon County Public Health