



Macon County
Public Health

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
5/23/2017

- Members** Teresa Murray, General Public and Vice-Chair; Carole Peterson, MD; Melissa Bell, Pharm.D.; Jeff Todd, DVM; Nathan Brenner, DDS; Emily Bowers, RN; James Tate, County Commissioner; Gena Futral, General Public; and Molly Phillips, General Public.
- Members Absent** Emily Porter-Bowers, RN, Carole Peterson, MD
- Staff Present** Jim Bruckner, Tammy Keezer, Jimmy Villiard, Kyle Jennings, Jennifer Garrett, Lynn Baker, Kathy McGaha, Darice Davis,
- Guests** None
- Media** Mr. Ryan Hanchett; The Franklin Press
- Public Comment** None
- Call to Order** Meeting was called to order at 6:23 by Teresa Murray
- Approve Agenda** Mr. Bruckner recommended adding the following items to the agenda: New Business C. Animal Cruelty and D. Sewage Issue, Old Business D. Health Director's Evaluation and E. Maternal Health. Dr. Brenner made a motion to add the recommended items and approve the agenda as amended. Dr. Todd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Welcome/Intro./Departures/Recognition** Mr. Bruckner informed the Board of the Resignation of Chris Hanners. Mr. Bruckner requested nominations for the vacant Chair position. Commissioner Tate nominated Dr. Brenner. There were no other nominations at this time. Mr. Bruckner said we will hold an election at next month's Board meeting. Ms. Futral asked if Dr. Brenner is interested in the position of Chair and how the election process works. Dr. Brenner said he would like to have a short conversation with Mr. Bruckner before fully committing. Commissioner Tate said that he had spoken with Dr. Brenner previously regarding his interest in the position. Mr. Bruckner then said if there are any other nominations after tonight's meeting to please let him or Ms. Murray know and they will add their names to the ballot and an election will be held during the June BOH meeting.
- Closed Session** None
- Presentations** None

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting Dr. Todd made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ms. Futral seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

A. Community Health Grant Update – Mr. Bruckner said MCPH was notified that we are the recipients of the Community Health Grant and will receive \$150,000 per year for the next 3 years. This grant money will be used to fund the positions of Nurse Practitioner, Behaviorist and Medical Office Assistant. We have not notified the county of this grant money yet, as we wanted to inform the Board of Health first. We will be attending the County Commissioners meeting next month. This grant will allow us to see more primary care patients. The Nurse Practitioner will be a full time contracted position. The Nurse Practitioner will be seeing Employee Health and Primary Care patients. Ms. Futral asked if the NP can see prenatal patients. Mr. Bruckner said no because the grant is very specific on exactly what the position can do. Commissioner Tate asked if there is an NP available for hire. Mr. Bruckner said we have had a part time (8 hours per week) position has been open for over a year, but now that we have a full time position available we should be able to fill it. Ms. Futral asked if the fee structure would be different for the NP than a physician. Mr. Bruckner said no our fee scale is the same, the reimbursement can be different depending on the payer some fees are reimbursed differently for physicians vs. NP's.

B. Rabies Clinic Update Mr. Jennings said we began keeping records of the number of rabies vaccinations administered during rabies clinics in 1992. In 1997 we began holding clinics in the spring and fall. We would administer 1,000 – 2,000 vaccinations per clinic. Those numbers peaked in 2009 and since then we have been on a steady decline. We have averaged 800 vaccines administered per clinic in the past 4 years. The reason for the decline in numbers is that we have several more low cost vaccinators now than we did years ago. We just held a rabies clinic and the numbers stayed the same. Dr. Brenner asked if raising the price from \$5 to \$10 may have affected the numbers. Mr. Jennings said possibly and Dr. Todd said that \$5 would not cover the cost of the vaccination. Dr. Brenner talked about the decline and asked if we need to consider going in a different direction. Mr. Jennings then noted that we did not see any hunting trucks with multiple dogs come through at the most recent clinic and that this may be because the hunting dogs come mostly from Georgia or South Macon area and Rabun County held a clinic the week before ours. Mr. Jennings explained that we try to involve all of the area vets to help run the clinics and have them at various locations throughout the county. Mr. Bruckner said by law we have to have one health department sponsored rabies clinic per year and that if we need to we can possibly go to one per year. Ms. Futral asked if MCPH supplies the rabies vaccine. Dr. Todd said that the vet's supply the vaccines, syringes and tags and the health department supplies the manpower and certificate of vaccination. He also said that the vet's along with the health department have to pay employees to work the clinics and there is advertising cost for the health department which also adds to the cost. Dr. Todd would like to see further discussions about going to one clinic per year.

C. FY18 Budget Update – Mr. Bruckner explained that we have met with the County Manager, Derek Roland, regarding the FY18 budget and Ms. Keezer is going to go over the FY18 Manager's Recommended Budget which includes changes based on what MCPH requested. Ms. Keezer began by providing a review of what the BOH had supported as our submission to the County Manager. First, she stated that we had proposed an increase in revenues of \$184,552 over FY 17. Proposed changes included an increase in flu vaccine by \$16,000, foreign travel vaccines by \$35,000, Medicaid Cost Settlement by \$15,000, Onsite Waste Water by \$15,000 and various other revenues that equaled \$4,500. Additionally, we are projected to spend \$93,000 of Medicaid Cost Settlement that has already been received toward expenses next year. Next, Ms. Keezer stated we had projected a 7.2% increase or \$427,982 in expenses over FY 17. The requested increases include the replacement of five vehicles of approximately \$188,320, computer replacements \$46,400, staffing \$124,000, vaccines \$37,000, phones \$16,000 which would be smart phones for Environmental Health and on call staff, providers \$31,834 coverage for Dr. Dewhurst when he is out of the office.

The recommendation from the County Manager to the Board of County Commissions reduced our requested budget by \$288,489 after including a 2% increase in salary and fringe for staff. Reductions include: Vehicles (\$149,600), staffing (\$27,874) which is the janitorial position, phones (\$21,522) with no approval for any additional or upgraded, provider coverage (\$46,138) leaving no coverage when Dr. Dewhurst is out of the office, public education and marketing (\$5,000) which is the full amount requested, dentures (\$9,900). Ms. Keezer stressed that both the marketing and denture requests came from this Board. Additional reductions in lab certifications (\$2,100) for certifications required to operate our lab, medical supplies (\$2,000), and general operating (\$16,804). Of these changes approximately \$9,000 was funds allocated for public health emergency response for outbreaks and other emergency responses. Mr. Bruckner stated the County Manager said there are funds available for us to access when an emergency occurs. Ms. Keezer continued sharing reductions in travel (\$5551) which was to cover mandatory training for Lab staff and colposcopy training for Dr. Dewhurst, equipment maintenance (\$2,000) to cover the costs of repairs to Lab, Environmental Health, and Child Dental equipment, if needed.

Commissioner Tate asked if the overall health department budget was increased from last year. Mr. Bruckner said from what the budget was last year there is an \$89,000 increase in county funding, but that is mostly due to the 2% cost of living increases. Mr. Bruckner explained that we are still talking with Mr. Roland and working on funding to keep a physician on site when Dr. Dewhurst is not available. This will be done by re-distributing monies already budgeted in contracted services. Equipment maintenance is another area that Mr. Bruckner and Mr. Roland we will be working on to put back in the budget, if possible. Mr. Bruckner said we are keeping the Board informed about the changes being made and no action by the Board is needed at this time. Ms. Phillips asked about the public education marketing piece of the budget. Mr. Bruckner said that the Board had requested funds be set aside for marketing health department services. The Board didn't ask for a specific dollar amount, just to have a budget for marketing. Ms. Phillips asked if the BOH is the middle man and why should they ask for things that just end up getting cut in the end. Commissioner Tate said that this budget is the County Managers proposal to the County Commissioners, but the Commissioners will make the final decision. He said if there are items that the Board would like to see put back in the budget he is here to listen and will take any suggestions back to the County. Ms. Phillips said it is just confusing what the role is as a BOH member when it comes to budget. Ms. Keezer said we have met twice with Mr. Roland. Mr. Bruckner said that Mr. Roland has stated that we have the best budget proposal in the county. Ms. Phillips commented on the dental budget change. Mr. Bruckner said that the denture money that we asked for 2 years ago has gone unspent and that is why it is taken out of the budget. Ms. Futral said she is very concerned about communicable disease coverage issues and infection control (janitorial position). She then asked how is this going to be addressed. Mr. Bruckner said we think we have the physician time covered. With regard to janitorial services he said that this is the third year we have asked for funding for janitorial services. He said county maintenance handles all of the cleaning at the health department and spends a half day a week at animal control and dental. Mr. Bruckner commented that the issue isn't the everyday cleaning, it's the level of environmental cleaning necessary for a healthcare facility that is in question and county maintenance lacks the capacity (staffing) to get it done. Ms. Phillips asked Mr. Bruckner what the most important items are that the BOH needs to speak up for. Mr. Bruckner said at this point in the budget process if we want to change anything that we will have to find it in our budget. Commissioner Tate said that one of the problems in government budgeting is there is no encouragement to save money because when you do save money the government takes it and uses it somewhere else. Commissioner Tate asked what items the BOH would like him to take to the commissioners. Mr. Bruckner said he has found ways in the budget to cover what he felt were the two most important (physician coverage and lab certification). Ms. Phillips mentioned that the BOH has been wanting to discuss county employee salaries for a long time and that isn't even in the budget at all. Ms. Futral asked what the most important issues are that the department hasn't been able to cover with existing funds. Mr. Bruckner said the janitor position. Commissioner Tate asked if we had a janitor would that free up county maintenance workers. Mr. Bruckner said no this person would only clean the clinical areas and the front area in animal control. There was then discussion on why this new position would have to clean the lobby and bathrooms in Animal Control and why county maintenance isn't doing that. Mr. Bruckner explained that currently nurses, MOA's dental hygienists are cleaning the clinical spaces and animal control officers are cleaning the lobby and restrooms at animal services. Mr. Bruckner said having this

position would help to meet accreditation requirements. Dr. Todd asked why the county maintenance isn't being used to clean the animal control. Mr. Bruckner said he doesn't know why, he was told that they used to do it when they first opened and that has been reduced to 1 day per week. Commissioner Tate said he will ask why county maintenance isn't cleaning animal control. Ms. Phillips asked if we need a motion from the board to support asking the commissioners to put the janitorial staff member back in the budget. Ms. Phillips made a motion to ask commissioners to look at the \$27,874 for the janitorial position. Dr. Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Phillips made another motion to add the marketing money back into the budget. Ms. Futral asked if the money decisions would have to come before the BOH before it could be spent. Dr. Brenner said he thought it should be up to the discretion of the department. Ms. Murray asked if there was a second for Ms. Phillips motion. Dr. Todd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Tate asked the Board members if there was anything we can't live without right now. Mr. Bruckner said the only other thing that would be helpful is smart phones for Environmental Health approximately \$14,040, but that he knew the Manager was working on a county wide plan for smart phones. Ms. Phillips made a motion for Commissioner Tate to request the money for phones for Environmental Health. Ms. Futral seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Health Director's Evaluation 2016 – Ms. Murray said that the 2016 Health Director's job description and evaluation have been completed.

E. Maternal Health – Mr. Bruckner showed a draft press release regarding the changes at the Angel Medical Center. This press release will not go out at this time. He said there are two complex problems. The mother baby unit is closing and Angel OB/GYN is downsizing to one physician and one midwife. Mr. Bruckner has been in discussions with Steve Heatherly from Harris Regional Hospital. They are looking at expanding their practice in Macon County. We haven't seen an influx of clients, but don't expect to see changes until July when the Angel OB practice changed occur. Ms. Futral asked if the staff they are leaving at that practice will be able to meet the needs of the clients/community. Mr. Bruckner said we don't know the answer to that. Mr. Bruckner said that Karen Gorby from Mission is trying to keep him updated as information comes available. It is my understanding that they will still be doing GYN surgeries at Angel and will have an outpatient clinic, but that is all I know at this time. We are not part of Mission, so we are not privy to all the information. We are talking with both Harris and Angel about contracts to cover all bases. We have a contract through July 1, 2017 with Mission beyond that we don't know what we will have. Our next BOH meeting is 3 or 4 days before the contract is up. If the board would like, we can appoint an ad-hoc committee to discuss things with or we can schedule a called BOH meeting if necessary. Mr. Bruckner said before he signs any contracts with Harris or Angel he would like the Committees input. Ms. Murray asked if anyone would like to be on the ad-hoc committee. Ms. Futral, Dr. Brenner and Ms. Murray volunteered to be on the committee. Mr. Bruckner said that our current contracts for clinic coverage and ultrasound with Angel are as follows: \$45 per ultrasound and \$400 per clinic (usually 4 hours per week). Not sure what we will get with Harris or Angel/Mission. Ms. Phillips asked to add Dr. Peterson to the ad-hoc committee if possible.

New Business

A. Child Fatality Prevention Report – Ms. Garrett handed out the 2015 Child Fatality Prevention report gave a brief description of the statistical information and recommendations of the report. She directed everyone to the back of their handout to statistical information and explained that there were 6 child deaths in Macon County in 2015 and that there have not been that many deaths since 2005. She explained that we are always reviewing the previous year's statistics and currently we are reviewing 2016. There have been 2 reviews in the 1st quarter of 2016 and one to review in the 2nd quarter. There were recommendations made based on the reviews. The deaths that occurred were all addressed in an appropriate manner. The deaths ranged from unpreventable to preventable. There were recommendations made. In the first quarter of 2016, we have carried over one death to multiple meetings due to the nature of the death. The committee has looked at this death very seriously and has researched all options on this case. The team continues to keep the Safe Surrender Law as a primary topic of conversation. We are sensitive to the need to keep the topic out in the public whenever possible. Car seat safety remains an issue for the team. In May of 2016, the MCPH sent two employees to become certified in car seat

training. One is our Child Health Program manager, and the other is a translator. The training was 4 days long in Waynesville, NC and was paid for with Child Fatality Task Force Funds.

B. VA Tech Grant - Mr. Jennings said that most are aware of the research that took place regarding lead levels of Wells in Macon County. There is another opportunity for us to collaborate with VA Tech which would include remediation possibilities for the wells that tested high for lead. There is the possibility of Macon County receiving up to \$30,000 in grant money. VA Tech is pursuing the grant and Macon County would be the beneficiary. We don't have all of the details yet, but we do know this would be used to identify homes that have lead in the drinking water, looking at filters to be installed to catch the lead, Do a consistent sampling routine, and educational outreach in the community. People don't always know how to install and maintain filters. Mr. Bruckner said the same people that investigated the water issue in Flint Michigan are the same people working with Macon County.

C. Animal Cruelty – Mr. Bruckner said on the evening of May 8, 2017, Animal Control received a complaint of animals being neglected at a Macon County residence. On the morning of May 9, 2017, Animal Control and the Sheriff's department investigated the complaint and filed charges against property owner on animal cruelty issues. On May 10, 2017 Appalachian Animal Rescue along with Animal Control took ownership of 41 animals; 17 chickens, 17 dogs and 7 animal carcass'. The chickens were given to a local farm. The dogs were given to several shelters or local veterinarians. Of all 41 animals only 1 had to be euthanized. The sheriff's department did file charges against the property owner which makes them federal charges. This is the 3rd animal cruelty incident with this individual. Three donkeys were left on site because they were being taken care of. Animal Control is checking on the donkeys to make sure they continue to be taken care of.

D. Sewage Issue – Mr. Jennings said that we have had a sewage issue around Riverview Heights regarding a private connection to a municipal line. We are trying to bring this situation into compliance and have issued a notice of violation to the property owners. We have also been working with county attorney to help resolve the issue. If you come across any questions or issues please give me a call. Mr. Bruckner said our attorney has advised us that we cannot speak publically about this and we would have to have a closed session meeting with the attorney present to discuss it in greater detail.

Board Training and Information

A. Budget Update – Mr. Bruckner directed everyone to section 5A, which is the one page monthly budget update for informational purposes. He said Ms. Anthony would be here next month to do a full review.

Announcements Ms. Phillips said that she had spoken with Ronnie Beale from the Mental Health task force and they have arranged to do an event on June 14th identifying addicts/potential addicts and how to counsel in a professional way.

Mr. Bruckner said there are currently two open seats on the BOH; optometrist and engineer. The optometrist position has been vacant for over a year. We have previously sent letters to all of the optometrists in the county in an attempt to fill the vacancy. Mr. Bruckner is now calling each optometrist individually. If we don't find an optometrist the County Commissioners can appoint another citizen until we can find one. Mr. Bruckner will be sending letters to the Engineers soon. He then read off the list of all of the engineers in Macon County and asked that if anyone knows any of the people to please ask if they would be interested in the position. Also Dr. Brenner and Dr. Peterson's will be up for reappointment in June.

Next Meeting Date 6/27/2017

Adjourn - Dr. Brenner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Tate seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:04.