



Macon County
Public Health

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
6/26/2018

Members	Nathan Brenner, Dentist and Chair; Teresa Murray, General Public and Vice-Chair; Emily Porter-Bowers, Nurse; Melissa Bell, Pharmacist; Jeff Todd, Veterinarian; James Tate, County Commissioner; Julie Farrow, Physician; Mitchell Bishop, Engineer; Gena Futral and Molly Phillips, General Public.
Members absent	Dr. Nathan Brenner, Molly Phillips, Emily Porter-Bowers, Teresa Murray
Staff Present	Jim Bruckner, Tammy Keezer, Jimmy Villiard, Lynn Baker
Guests	None
Media	Mr. Ryan Hanchett -The Franklin Press; Mr. Davin Eldridge - Macon News and Trappalachia.com
Public Comment	None
Call to Order	Meeting was called to order at 6:53 by Dr. Bell.
Approve Agenda	Dr. Todd made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Commissioner Tate seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
Welcome/Intro. / Departures / Recognition	Dr. Bell welcomed everyone and thanked the media for attending.
Closed Session	None
Presentations	None
Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting	Dr. Todd made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Gena Futral seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
Old Business	A. <u>FY 19 Budget Update</u> - Ms. Keezer informed the Board that the FY 19 budget had been approved at the June 19, 2018 Board of County Commissioner's meeting. Ms. Keezer stated that our budget had reductions in expenditures from what we had originally requested but, that we had not seen the final copy of the budget yet to know the details. MS. Keezer will

update the Board next month.

- B. Grants Update – Mr. Bruckner stated that we had been approved for year two funding for the Office of Rural Health Integrated Care Grant that we currently have in the amount of \$150,000; and, the WIC grant to purchase computer equipment. Mr. Bruckner indicated that we did not receive the Office of Rural Health Medical Access (MAP) grant which would have been continuation funding for the maternal health program; nor the Evergreen Grant to support the tele-psych grant that we are pursuing and expansion of our behavioral health program.
- C. Animal Control Ordinance Update – Mr. Bruckner informed the Board that the ordinance had been passed by the Board of County Commissioner’s at their May 8, 2018 meeting, as recommended by this Board. Macon County Animal Control has implemented the changes with no significant issues at this time.
- D. Medication Takeback Event Update – Ms. Baker stated that MountainWise of Macon County and the Substance Use Task Force had partnered with Franklin Police, Macon County Sheriff’s Department and Highlands Police Department to hold two events on June 9, 2018. The first event was held in Franklin at the new Ingles on the Georgia Road and collected approximately 13 pounds of medication equating to about 13,000 pills. The second event was held at Bryson’s Food Store in Highlands collecting approximately 11 pounds of medication equating to about 11,000 pills. Macon County Public Health took the opportunity at these events to educate the community about the Lock Your Meds campaign focused on how to safely secure home medications to prevent access to children. Ms. Baker further stated that education was provided about medication drop boxes which can be accessed Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Those boxes are located at the Franklin Police Department, Macon County Sheriff’s Annex and, the Highlands Police Department. Another Medication Takeback event is scheduled for this fall but details have not yet been finalized.
- E. Rabies Clinic Update – Mr. Villiard gave an update on the Spring Rabies Clinics held on May 12, 2018 in Franklin and Highlands and on May 26, 2018 in Nantahala. Mr. Villiard stated that in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes, health departments are required to sponsor at least one community rabies clinic per year; and, Macon County public Health generally holds two – one in the spring and one in the fall. Mr. Villiard indicated that Macon County Public Health Animal Services distributes flyers about the events, posts the events on Facebook pages, and purchases newspaper ads to inform the community about the events. He stated these events are in partnership with the local veterinarians and schools as the veterinarians and their staff provide the shots and rabies tags; the schools provide the space; and Macon County Public Health staff provide support services including promotion of the events, set-up and clean-up of the events, traffic control, etc. Mr. Villiard allowed that 429 shots were given at the spring clinics. The Franklin site with the lowest turnout was South Macon with 93 vaccinations. Eleven vaccinations were given in Highland and two were given in Nantahala. Due to the continued decrease in numbers (vaccinations peak in 2009), a survey of the veterinarians was conducted this year. So far, we have only received three or four responses. Those responses indicate a desire to continue providing the clinics two times per year but to decrease the number of sites and rotate the sites between spring and fall. Mr. Villiard further stated he would like to thank all the veterinarians who participated to keep rabies down in Macon County. Dr. Todd gave a personal account of what is involved in working at the clinics and how thankful the community is for the service.

New Business

- A. Discussion Animal Services Program – Mr. Villiard shared the mission of Macon County Animal Services is to protect the health and safety of residents, to protect animals, and to promote their humane treatment. He provided the following data to the Board:

	FY 18	FY 17
Intake of animals into the shelter	915	865
Adoptions (more cats than dogs are adopted and all animals are spayed/neutered before finalizing the adoption)	229	264
Transfers to No-Kill shelters (predominately dogs)	292	330
Return to owner (most are dogs)	150	157
Euthanasia (goal is to keep below 15% and most are sick, aggressive or unadoptable animals)	118 (up due to increase in feral cats in apartment complexes. These rates are still less than half from when Macon County Public Health started managing the program in 2015)	82
Complaint Responses	597	581
• Abandoned Animals	33	26
• Cruelty/Welfare	119	92
• Livestock	32	40
Animal bites	121	104

Dr. Todd interjected that unneutered animals “running amuck is the main problem”. He stated that the conservative cost incurred by a Veterinarian to perform spay/neuter for labor and equipment is somewhere between \$50 and \$60 per animal. He stated that unless grant dollars are available to subsidize the cost it is impossible to sustain a low cost spay/neuter program.

Mr. Bruckner shared that the community sometimes doesn’t understand that we receive animals from No-Kill shelters that are older and/or unadoptable which drives our euthanasia rates up as well. We run several reduced rate adoption days, weeks and/or months and other discounts to try and get the animals adopted in addition to transports to No-Kill shelters when feasible. We also accept donations to help pay for spay/neuter services and/or other expenses associated with the care of the animals. Mr. Bruckner added that if the Board wanted to discuss options in the future of the option of implementing a “catch and release” program that we would be open to that but the challenge would be funding the spay/neuter piece.

- B. Discussion Adult Dental Services Program – Ms. Baker provided an overview and update of the program which has been located at 108 Macon Center Drive for approximately five years but was originally housed for the first 10 years in the lower level of a community dental practice that rented the space to us. She stated that we are continuing recruitment efforts for a dentist (position vacated in January 2018) and a dental assistant (position vacated in March 2018). We have posted these positions on Indeed.com, NCWorks, Macon County website,

dental schools, social media, Health Workforce Connector through the NC Office of Rural Health, newspapers, and various other public health websites as well as participated in a job fair at the Hinman Dental Conference in Atlanta. She stated that our lack of success has been due to our pay range not being competitive. Feedback received so far has been that graduates are opening their own practice or moving to cities where they can make more money. We have had several no call/no show candidates who committed to the interviews even the day prior.

Ms Baker indicated that we began contracting with a recruiting company at the end of May, beginning of June for coverage. So far the coverage has allowed us to have a dentist on site three days per week with hygiene services being provided on the fourth.

Mr. Bruckner stated that the County Manager is aware of the contract go and that we will need to ask the Board of County Commissioners to add an additional \$35,000 - \$40,000 to our next fiscal year budget. He indicated that the base salary according to the Macon County pay scale is \$113,000 per year and that of the candidates we have spoken with, one wanted \$158,000 per year in salary alone. Our position with benefits would cap at \$140,000+ depending on election of insurance packages. He further shared that Cherokee Indian Hospital is currently recruiting at the rate of \$134,000 - \$200,000+ based on experience; Haywood County is paying \$125 per hour for a contract dentist equating to \$196,000 per year. If we increased the base salary, we would also have to increase the salary for the current dentist on staff which would be an additional cost to the county.

In regard to the dental assistant position, Mr. Bruckner stated that “we are not the only game in town”. There are multiple ads in the papers and social media each week from positions across Western North Carolina and we can’t compete with the salaries which is what the candidates are focusing on. Ms. Futral asked about grants to support the positions. Mr. Bruckner explained that some of the revenue currently generated by the dental services goes to support other health department functions. He stated that we do apply for grants as previously stated and that we do so in order for the dollars to stay in the dental program. Dr. Farrow asked if we are told why we didn’t receive a grant when we apply. Mr. Bruckner responded that sometimes we do but not always. He stated that we were not told why on either of the two recent ones. He stated that we target any and all grant funds that we are eligible for but, that the grants are fewer and farther between. Ms. Futral stated that she would prefer quality of a service and not just because we were the only game in town. She further stated it is very important from a population health standpoint to offer dental services. She inquired as to whether or not we had asked Mission Health System for funding support since they don’t provide dental services but, lack of dental services impact their patient care. Mr. Bruckner replied that we had not approached them but that generally this would not be something they would consider. Mr. Bruckner stated we would have further discussion before he made his request to the Board of County Commissioners and indicated that we have not increased our request for funding by the County in several years and we have been able to do that by applying excess revenues earned through the dental programs to support other services for example Employee and Family Health Services and Nutrition Program/ Services which should help support our request. Commissioner Tate asked to continue the discussion when Dr. Brenner was here so we could include his thoughts and opinions.

Board Training and Information

Budget Update: Ms. Keezer pointed out that the monthly budget update was added to their packet for their review.

Announcements None

Next Meeting Date **7/24/2018**

Adjourn

Mr. Bishop made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Tate seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tammy Keezer