



Macon County
Public Health

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
7/25/2017

Members Dr. Nathan Brenner, Dentist and Chair; Teresa Murray, General Public and Vice-Chair; Emily Porter-Bowers, Nurse; Melissa Bell, Pharmacist; Dr. Jeff Todd, Veterinarian; James Tate County Commissioner; Gena Futral; General Public and Molly Phillips, General Public.

Members Absent Emily Porter-Bowers, Melissa Bell, Molly Phillips

Staff Present Jim Bruckner, Tammy Keezer, Jimmy Villiard, Kyle Jennings, Jennifer Garrett, Kathy McGaha, Dorota Anthony, Lynn Baker, Darice Davis

Guests None

Media Mr. Ryan Hanchett; The Franklin Press, Ms. Brittany Raby; Macon County News, Ms. Kristen Karcher; WNCC Radio

Public Comment None

Call to Order Meeting was called to order at 6:15 by Dr. Brenner

Approve Agenda Mr. Bruckner asked to reorder the items under Old Business by moving Environmental Health Update below Environmental Health Research Discussion and reordering all of the items and to add under new business C. Dr. Todd made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Commissioner Tate seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Welcome/Intro./Departures/Recognition None

Closed Session None

Presentations

2017 Consumer Survey Results – Ms. McGaha gave a detailed presentation on the process of our customer satisfaction survey and the results of our 2017 survey. In May 2017 we distributed our consumer satisfaction survey. We received 99 surveys back from customers. We had about 12% Spanish speaking individuals, the remaining were English speaking. We had more females than males. We had a wide range of ages. The majority of those that responded were white. We ask how people hear about our services. Most said word of mouth. We ask the customers opinions before and after services. Based on the results of this question we have made a positive impact based on services received. We received positive responses about the staff, convenience of the

facility location, and hours of operation. The overwhelming majority said they would recommend us to a friend. We also asked for areas of improvement. The toys being taken out of the waiting rooms was the biggest complaint. Mr. Bruckner explained that we had to remove the toys due to accreditation requirements. Dr. Todd asked if we posted a sign to explain why the toys were gone. Ms. Baker said no, but when the staff were asked about the toys we explained the situation. The last question on the survey was, use 1-3 words to describe our agency. We received many compliments on this question.

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

Old Business

- A. Year End Budget Update – Ms. Anthony gave an overview of the 2016-2017 fiscal year report as of July 18, 2017. She explained that the numbers on this report are not the final numbers for the year because we are still earning revenue until the end of August. There are also a few invoices and charges that will go on the expenditure side. The changes will be in the fee lines and Medicaid lines. It is around \$9,000-\$10,000 that will go back into the revenue side. As of July we have spent 91% of our budget and our revenue is at 104%. As of July 18th, we spent 74.5% of county money. Ms. Anthony said it looks like we left \$646,000 on the table; however some of the money we didn't spend will be carried forward until next year (this number will decrease because of the carry forward money).
- B. Impact of Maternal Child Health Funding Reductions – Mr. Bruckner sent out an email 3 or 4 weeks ago to Senator Davis and Representative Corbin about carve outs/re-allocations in block grants. In 2011, the state carved out 6% of our Maternal and Child Health grant monies. Every year since they have taken more. This year they took 26% (2.2 million). Beginning in October they will begin taking out money about \$10,000. It can come from maternal health, family planning or child health. After reviewing our budget we have decided to take \$7,100 from maternal health and \$3,500 from child health. Maternal health is receiving the greatest affect from this. Ms. Futral asked if we were taking any money from family planning. Mr. Bruckner said that family planning is our largest program and we need all the money that has been allocated. We met in Asheville yesterday with 4 legislatures to discuss the problem of re-allocations. The legislatures didn't understand until our meeting yesterday that these funds were being directly removed from clinical services. Had they known that they would not have authorized to do so. Mr. Bruckner said we will be putting together some information about the block grant for the legislatures to review.
- C. Environmental Health Research Discussion- At the most recent Board of County Commissioners meeting MCPH proposed to enact a research fee, in an effort to cut down on the workload that this has created, for the research that the environmental health staff is for providing records to the general public. However, the commissioners did not want to add a new fee. They would like for us to find another way to solve the problem without instituting a fee. Mr. Bruckner added that the County attorney, Chester Jones, said that we are not title researchers and should not be doing research at all because this could cause a liability issue. Mr. Jennings said this problem is not unique to Macon County and it is a statewide issue. Mr. Jennings talked to the County Manager, Derek Roland, and the I.T. Director, Andy Muncey, about solutions to this problem. As far as doing the research, Mr. Roland wants the real estate agents do all the research for previous owners of properties before they come to environmental health. Once we receive the names of the previous owners we will search the names. Some of the realtors are already doing this, but now we will require all of them to. Mr. Jennings has a power point presentation to send to all of the realtors with instructions on how to find the names of previous owners. Mr. Jennings also said moving forward, all of the records since 2010 will be able to go online. They will be tied to the tax and mapping website. Mr. Tate asked why we can't go back farther than 2010. Mr. Jennings said we cannot go back farther because the pin numbers changed. He also said this is an ambitious project and will take some time to accomplish. Mr. Bruckner said we need 2 things from the BOH; 1. Since the board previously voted to implement the research fee that the commissioners said no to, we need a vote

to rescind the fee and 2. We need a vote for the realtors to be responsible for providing the names of the previous property owners to environmental health and environmental health will only do research on the names provided. James Tate made a motion to rescind the research fee previously voted for by the BOH and to approve the recommendation from the County Manager for the realtors to be responsible for supplying the names of previous property owners to environmental health and environmental health staff will only do research on the names provided. Dr. Todd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Murray asked what the timeline is for informing the realtors of this change. Mr. Jennings said as soon as we can get the information out.

- D. Environmental Health Update – At last month’s BOH meeting Mr. Tate asked that Mr. Jennings give a monthly update on the heavy workload situation in environmental health in order to stay ahead of situation. Mr. Jennings said now that we have the research piece of the workload taken care of, he would like to report quarterly instead of monthly. This will give a more accurate picture. He said the last 3 quarters have been our busiest quarters since 2008. We have kept turn-around times to 2-3 weeks. Macon County gets 100% of our inspections done. We have gotten compliments from inspections about how well our program is run. Mr. Tate said when he asked for the monthly updates we were worried about getting bogged down quickly. Now it seems appropriate to keep the Board informed only if the workload is causing delays, but otherwise no report is necessary.
- E. Prenatal Services Update – Mr. Bruckner said that several of us have met with staff from Harris Regional hospital regarding OB coverage. Harris has said that they will be putting an OB provider in Macon County, but that is all we know so far. Harris will not contract with MCPH yet, as they want to wait until they are fully staffed themselves. We are currently working on coordination for ultrasounds and coordination of patient records. The contracts were sent to Harris and we are waiting for them to great back with us. We also have sent a business associate agreement to Harris for signature, once it is signed, we will begin sharing patient records. Currently, we are asking the patients where they plan to deliver and have them sign a consent form for that location to allow us to share records. We are also having conversations about other hospitals in the region and sharing records. Mr. Bruckner reminded the Board that maternal health a mandated service under NC law. Mr. Bruckner told the Board that we do have funding to provide OB physician services 4-6 hours per week. However, we do expect our patient load to increase and once that begins to happen we may ask the county for additional funding. We are hoping to contract with a provider from the community. Our current contract runs out on August 15, 2017. We have a doctor for August 22, 2017. Mr. Bruckner said that after the 22nd we should be able to get a provider in place either independent or locums tenen. Ms. Futral asked how many hours of coverage we currently have. Mr. Bruckner said 4-6 hours per week and we accounted for approximately 106 deliveries at Angel last year. Harris hospital currently operates an OB/GYN clinic here in Macon County but the provider comes only ½ day a week. Mr. Bruckner has not spoken to any providers in the community to see how many patients they will pick up. MCPH has only received 7 new patients this past month.

New Business

- A. Public Health Law Update – Ms. Keezer and Mr. Bruckner attended the Health Director’s Legal Conference in April.

Ms. Keezer gave a power point presentation on the topics of the conference. Attorney General Josh Stein was in attendance and gave a lot of data on opioids including the following: This is the first time ever that car accidents weren’t the largest cause of death, 80% of men and 100% of women in jail have drug related issues. She then reviewed the 3 priorities of Governor’s opioid action plan (June 2017): Prevention, Treatment and Enforcement. Ms. Keezer referred everyone to the websites listed on their handouts. These websites provide state and county level data on deaths- intentional or unintentional, hospital admissions for opioid use and more. The STOP Act was also discussed at the legal conference. The STOP Act passed July 1, 2017 and it covers schedule 1 and 2 opioids and limiting prescriptions. It

requires prescribers to check the reporting system, register when medications are being prescribed and there are monetary penalties included. The STOP Act also amends Naloxone standing order. It allows a standing order to be written to an organization including health departments for distribution of Naloxone by “agents” with basic instructions of how to administer.

Legislative Update: Mr. Bruckner gave an overview of the legislative changes from the 2017 long session.

- Senate Bill (SB) 74/House Bill (HB) 546 Rabies Post Exposure Management: Adoption of the Rabies Compendium passed and is effective as of 10/1/17. Mr. Bruckner thanked our local legislative delegation and the NC County Commissioners Association as we are very appreciative for all their support on this bill! We will be asking this Board to rescind the local rule as this law once in effect takes presidents. We will ask for a vote in September before the new law goes into effect. This bill originated in Macon County and was sponsored by Senator Jim Davis and Representative Kevin Corbin in their respective chambers.
- SB 256/HB 250 Regulation of Body Art: This bill did not go through this session; however, did make it from the House to the Senate, was carried forward to the next short session. This bill also originated in Macon County and was sponsored by Senator Jim Davis and Representative Kevin Corbin.
- SB 175/HB 243 Opioid STOP Act: Mr. Bruckner said that the STOP Act that Ms. Keezer told you about was another bill that began here in Macon County by Jim Davis. Mr. Bruckner again thanked our local legislative delegation and the NC County Commissioners Association for all their support on this bill!
- SB 175/HB 243 Opioid STOP Act also addressed funding of Needle exchange programs– This bill included and allowance for use of public funds for purchasing needles, syringes and other supplies for needle exchange programs. Now programs like Full Circle Recover run by Stephanie Almeida, can approach local government to request funding.

Embargo Authority: Ms. Keezer talked about Embargo is an order from a public health official requiring a person to detain or dispose of old food that may be adulterated or misbranded. Embargo is a detention order NOT a seizure order. It can be exercised by a regional EHS or a local HD only after consultation with a regional representative. Embargo is regulated under GS Chapter 130A and is for food and lodging institutions and mass gatherings

Human Trafficking Hotline Cases: Ms. Keezer reported on the chart that was handed out to everyone. She reviewed demographics, risk factors, top 5 points of access to potential help, challenges and for healthcare agencies. She then said that MCPH has annual training on human trafficking for all employees.

Zika: Ms. Keezer said this is one of the areas that the Board has authority. She then reviewed Zika and other mosquito born infections. As of June, 2017 we had 5,200 cases of Zika. There are various modes of transmission of the Zika virus, and it is important to remember that even in places with Zika, women are delivering healthy babies. In 2016 there was a study done that WCU was a part of. Macon County was not a part of the study, but they did mosquito tracking, collected over 66,000 eggs and identified over 22,000. They did not find any Aegyptus mosquitos in WNC, which carry the Zika Virus. Ms. Keezer then reviewed the various ways to reduce the spread of the Zika virus.

Religious accommodations: Ms. Keezer then reviewed religious accommodations. The religious accommodation covers all kinds of religions. If a person believes something is a religion we are required to recognize it as such. We are not allowed as an employer to question their belief. We can ask questions the about employees behavior and whether or not it consistent with the accommodations they are asking for, the timing of the request, and if there is there any other reason to believe the accommodation is being asked for. If everything checks out we can accommodate the employee. If we are unable to make

the accommodation due to a hardship on the workplace we can transfer a person to a reasonable position i.e. if a person cannot work during normal business hours they may need to be transferred to a position with different operating hours. When employee asks for accommodations it is their duty to cooperate in the process. If there is more than 1 accommodation available the employee does not get to choose which one to use.

- B. Evergreen Grant: Mr. Bruckner reminded the Board that we had discussed some grants a couple of months ago that MCPH had applied for. We were notified on June 30, 2017 that we were approved for the Evergreen grant and will receive \$54,890. This is a one year grant. It will cover the licensed clinician in our integrated care/primary care program.

Mr. Bruckner also said he met with other health directors in Raleigh last week and the Office of Rural Health is putting out a grant for up to \$150,000 per county to cover Maternal Health/Child Health cuts. They are asking to keep request close to the amount of the block grant cuts. We are pretty close to being guaranteed at least \$10,036 if we apply. We would like to ask for more this year due to the short fall for locum tenens coverage and to support for our OB program.

Board Training and Information A tour of the Health Department was given tonight to all Board members in attendance. Next month we will tour animal services. There are some monthly NALBOH News Brief's on the table in the back of the room. If you are not receiving the news briefs by email please pick one up and let Ms. Davis know and she will add you to the email list.

Announcements None

Next Meeting Date 8/22/2017

Adjourn James Tate made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Todd seconded the motion. The motioned passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.