



Macon County  
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
3/22/2016**

- Members Present** Teresa Murray; Vice-Chairman, Chris Hanners, Emily Porter-Bowers, Molly Phillips, Carole Peterson, MD, Paula Ledford, Dr. Roy Lenzo, and Commissioner Paul Higdon
- Members Absent** Melissa Bell, Dr. Nathan Brenner
- Staff Present** Jim Bruckner, Jimmy Villiard, Kyle Jennings, Jennifer Garrett, Dorota Anthony, Darice Davis,
- Guests** None
- Media** Mr. Ryan Hanchett; The Franklin Press, Ms. Brittany Raby; Macon County News, Ms. Kristen Karcher; WNCC Radio, Bobby Coggins; Independent journalist
- Public Comment** None
- Call to Order** Meeting was called to order at 6:13 by Teresa Murray; Vice-Chairman
- Approve Agenda** Jim Bruckner asked to amend the agenda by moving the closed session after new business. Dr. Carole Peterson made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Paula Ledford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Welcome/Intro./Departures/Recognition** None
- Presentations** None
- Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting** Paula Ledford made the motion to approve the previous meeting minutes as written. Carole Peterson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- New Business**
- A. Safe Kids** Ms. Phillips asked to have a discussion about training a car seat technician within the Health Department. Emily Porter-Bowers asked if other health departments have car seat technicians. Mr. Bruckner said yes.
- Ms. Garrett said at the moment MCPH does not have anyone on staff that has the time in their schedule to be the car seat technician. As an alternative, she suggested until MCPH can identify someone to be the technician she would like to get some videos on car seat

safety and play them in the MCPH waiting rooms on Tuesdays during prenatal clinic. Once the car seat training has occurred, Ms. Garrett would like to compile a list of those currently qualified in Macon County and make that list available to parents to inform them of where they can go to have their car seat inspected.

Ms. Phillips has spoken to a representative at the Jackson County Health Department and was told that they have five car seat technicians. They split the week between the five technicians. Their schedules are very flexible and they trade days whenever necessary amongst each other. She also said that all other western region counties have at least one car seat technician on their Health Department staff.

Dr. Peterson asked how much time is needed to do each car seat inspection. Ms. Phillips said according to Jackson County in general it takes 30 mins; a 15 minute video and 15 minute car seat check.

Mr. Bruckner said we don't have anyone identified at the Health Department to do this program as of yet. He presented a list of all the child programs we are currently running and explained that we would have to cut something from some other program in order to have time to devote to doing the car seat checks. Mr. Bruckner also mentioned liability insurance. He said the Health Department would be covered under our current liability policy for car seat inspections. He also mentioned that we cannot use federal funds to fund this program because we have contract agreements already in place that dictate how we use the funds.

Ms. Garrett said we don't have anyone objecting to participating in this program there just isn't any room in the schedule to allow the time for the program.

Ms. Bowers asked how many Health Departments have car seat technicians. Mr. Bruckner said there were 6 counties in the Western part of the state.

Ms. Phillips said that since the training is local and it would be nice to get someone trained. She also asked why MCPH doesn't have enough staff to accommodate this program when other counties do.

Mr. Bruckner explained that not all health departments have the same programs and those that do have this program probably have specific funding for it.

Mr. Hanners asked if MCPH would be responsible to have car seats on hand in case a car seat is expired. Ms. Raby said only Law Enforcement Officers are required to have car seats on hand.

Dr. Peterson likes the idea of having car seat safety videos playing during the prenatal visits on Tuesdays and having brochures on hand to give to parents. Ms. Garrett explained that MCPH would hand out the brochures during prenatal clinic and anytime someone asks about car seat safety.

Ms. Ledford asked if training would be done again. Ms. Raby said they are working on getting a second training in the fall.

Dr. Lenzo said he feels like the hospital should be responsible for making sure the car seat is installed correctly. Ms. Phillips said yes, but children change into different car seats all the time and car seat safety should not only be taking place at the hospital. She also said it would be a logical step if we are playing a video in the MCPH waiting room that someone

at MCPH should be trained.

Ms. Phillips made a motion to have a representative from the Health Department get certified in car seat inspection. Dr. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **B. Budget**

Mr. Bruckner gave an overview of the FY17 County Budget. He explained in detail the revenue and expenditure summaries and fee changes. He went through each department individually and spoke about the budget changes compared to last year. Mr. Bruckner explained that we would need the board to vote on the fee change for Environmental Health.

Mr. Hanners asked how much a septic repair costs. Mr. Jennings said it is \$125. A well repair is \$375.

Mr. Jennings would like to eliminate the current fee charged to the public for well repairs and only charge for the water sample fee. This is in an effort to encourage people to have their wells repaired before the problem gets bigger. He further explained that Environmental Health does 50 septic repairs, 8 well repairs and 3.5 well abandonment a repairs a year.

Dr. Lenzo asked how much is being spent by customers to get repairs accomplished. Mr. Jennings said it depends on what has to be done in the repair. It can range from a few hundred dollars to several thousand.

Mr. Bruckner said we would like to encourage people to fix the problems the right way instead of trying to do it a cheaper way. Mr. Jennings feels that lowering the fee would get Environmental Health in the door quicker and get the job done right from the beginning, which would cost the customer less in the long run.

Dr. Lenzo asked if we had the money in the budget to cover the elimination of the fee. Mr. Bruckner said we would be asking the county to cover the cost of the fee eliminations.

Mr. Hanners asked how many of these systems that need repair and don't get a permit for repair actually become public health hazard. Mr. Jennings said we don't really know because they are not getting a permit. He continued by saying we have had 50 applications for repair this year and most are public health hazards. Well repairs are usually due to a variance which is not a public health hazard.

Mr. Higdon brought up cost of repairs by saying some can cost in the thousands depending on what the problem is.

Mr. Hanners asked what happens if they get the permit for the repair and Environmental Health says it will cost a lot more than they can afford. Mr. Jennings said we have always tried to find sources within the county for low income people that just don't have the funds. We try to work as much as possible to work on timeframes that work best for all involved. We usually allow 30 days and extend 30 days more if necessary. Beyond that we may have to take legal action.

Mr. Higdon said it is common practice for counties not to charge a fee for repairs. Mr. Hanners asked if we approved the fee change could the county make us find the money in our budget. Mr. Bruckner said yes they could.

Ms. Murray asked for a motion to make any changes to the fees. Dr. Lenzo asked if we voted to change the fee and did not bring wanted results how hard would it be to change it back. Mr. Bruckner and Mr. Hanners both agreed that it would be difficult.

Ms. Ledford made a motion to approve the fee changes for onsite waste water repairs, well repairs and well abandonment. Dr. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mr. Higdon abstained from the vote.

**C. Polling BOH Members** Mr. Bruckner explained that polling BOH members is allowed as long as there are no decisions made based on the polling alone. A decision can be based on the information gathered from polling as long as the decision is made during a public open meeting.

Ms. Phillips asked if the polling that was done concerning the Strategic Plan was able to be used in making a decision. Mr. Bruckner explained that the staff can make recommendations based on the poll, but any decisions still have to be made during an open meeting.

**D. Nominations for Chair** Ms. Murray asked for nominations to fill the vacant BOH Chair position. Mr. Bruckner explained that the board could wait until the next meeting if anyone would like to have discussions and think about serving.

Mr. Hanners asked if any of the board chairs that are up this year would be willing to serve as the Board Chair next term. Mr. Bruckner said that Dr. Lenzo has reached his maximum term limit. Ms. Ledford is retiring and is willing to let someone else fill her position next term. Ms. Porter-Bowers term is also ending, but she would like to return for another term, but not as the Board Chair.

Ms. Ledford nominated Teresa Murray for the Chairman position. Dr. Peterson seconded the nomination. Mr. Bruckner asked Ms. Murray if she accepted. She neither confirmed nor declined the nomination.

Mr. Bruckner said for the board to be thinking about nominations, to contact him with any nominations and it will be on next month's meeting agenda.

## **Old Business**

**A. Closed Session** Siting a Personnel Matter in Accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11a (6)

Ms. Murray made a motion to go into closed session 7:09 pm. Roy Lenzo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 7:53 pm Mr. Hanners made a motion to come out of closed session and seal the minutes of the January 26, 2016 and Feb. 23, 2016 closed session meetings. Dr. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No decisions were made nor a vote other than to approve and seal previous meeting minutes was taken during the closed session.

The meeting was called back to order by Ms. Murray at 7:53pm.

A motion was made at 7:54 by Ms. Bowers and seconded by Mr. Hanners to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Training and Information** None

**Announcements** None

**Next Meeting Date** – 4/26/2016

**Adjourn** See motion above

Respectfully submitted by

Darice Davis

These minutes were approved as of the April meeting as submitted on April 26, 2016 with a motion by Dr. Peterson. The motion was seconded by Emily Porter-Bowers. The motion passed unanimously.