



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
7/28/2020**

Members Melissa Bell, Pharmacist and Chair, Nathan Brenner, Dentist and Vice-Chair; Teresa Murray, General Public; Jeff Todd, Veterinarian; Paul Higdon, County Commissioner; Mitchell Bishop, Engineer; Gosia Tiger, General Public; Dr. Kevin Foley, General Public, Ellen Shope; Nurse Representative and General Public, Ross Dodge

Members Absent: Gosia Tiger, Nathan Brenner and Paul Higdon

Staff Present: Kathy McGaha, Jennifer Garrett, Carrie Pazcoguin, Melissa Setzer, and Emily Ritter

Guests: None

Media: Jake Browning with the Franklin Press

Public Comment: None

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:19 p.m. by Melissa Bell.

Welcome/Intro: None

Approve Agenda:

Ellen Shope made a motion to approve the agenda. Mitchell Bishop seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentations: None

Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings:

Teresa Murray made a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. Kevin Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

A. COVID-19 Update – Jennifer Garrett, Nursing Director

As of today Macon County has 445 total cases, 74 of those are active cases, 371 are recovered, 3 in which are deaths. The majority of our cases are in the 25 to 49-age range, next age range is 0-17 at 21.1%. Macon County has the highest rate in the state for cases in the 0-17-age range. Currently it is taking 3-4 days to get test back.

There has been changes to the CDC guidelines. Those changes are as follows:

- Isolation can generally be discontinued 10 days after symptom onset and resolution of fever for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medication, and with improvement of other symptoms.
- A test-based strategy (requiring negative tests) is no longer recommended to discontinue isolation except in very specific circumstances in consultation with infectious disease expert.
- For persons previously diagnosed with symptomatic COVID-19 who remain asymptomatic after recovery, retesting is not recommended within 3 months after the date of symptom onset for the initial COVID-19 infection and quarantine is not recommended in the event of close contact with an infected person. (This information is quoted from the CDC Guidance)

This has helped to get some people off the active list and onto the recovered list. MCPH is also educating employers that are wanting to make employees have 2 negative tests. The main focus at this moment is school starting back, there will be 5 school nurses that has been helping with testing that MCPH will lose on Monday. We have several positions at this time that is open and we are working diligently to fill. There are two people with CCTO here from the state, helping along with several interpreters. She stated that they have requested two more individuals from the state with CCTO to help. The third death was a person over the age of 75. Melissa Bell asked if we have had any more individual's hospitalizations. Kathy stated as of yesterday that was five hospitalized. Only two of those five are in the ICU. Ellen asked if we have been doing testing at the nursing home. Jennifer stated that Macon Valley is doing their own testing; Grandview is working on getting a contract with LabCorp. MCPH did just test all of Grandview's staff. Eckerd Living is being tested by Highlands Cashiers Hospital. Franklin House's home office will be sending someone from their corporate office to do their testing. Dr. Foley stated that the hospital has said they will only test patients in the hospital or being admitted to the hospital. Dr. Foley does not agree with this, he states as a medical facility they should test anyone that show up at the ER and need to be tested. He asked if the board has any influence requiring the hospital to test individuals that come to the ER. Dr. Foley agrees that they are not the place for community testing, but he does think that when people come into the hospital ER they should have the ability to be tested. Dr. Foley also asked if the two contact tracers from the state could talk to the hospital. Ms. McGaha stated they would have no pull with the hospitals. Ms. McGaha stated that she will talk with Karen at Angel Medical Center again to see if there is something that can be done. Ms. McGaha also stated that she would ask someone at the state to see if there is anything that can be done. The Board of Health is concerned that there could be more community spread that we do not know about because the local hospital limiting their testing. Dr. Foley stated that he would be happy to call someone at the state if that will help. He thinks talking to anyone locally or HCA would be a waste of time. The board agrees that they need to talk to someone at the state to make sure the hospitals are assisting in the efforts.

B. Carrie Pazcoguin, Finance Officer - Y21 Budget Update

Mrs. Pazcoguin asked the board to refer to the handout that was sent to them and is displayed on the monitor. This budget comparison is a little different this year from the normal budget report, this is just a snap shot. MCPH budget was cut significantly at the county level this year. Our total budget for FY20 was \$5,778,473.00, amount requested for FY21 was \$6,186,194 and the amount approved was \$5,319,706, this is an 8% decrease from the budget last year. This has caused contract positions to be cut, the Adult Dental Clinic to be closed, travel and trainings to be cut along with many others. Ms. Pazcoguin stated that they are in the process of making plans and decisions financially due to these cuts. MCPH also did not received the grant funding for the 150K, which would have paid a portion of the salary for the dentist. Mrs. Pazcoguin stated that the two lines at the bottom are funds that we do not use for Health Department functions those are regional management and not our funds. Melissa Bell asked when the county was going to use the rainy day fund to help with these expenses.

New Business:

A. Carrie Pazcoguin, Finance Officer – Fee Plan

Mrs. Pazcoguin stated that this document is very lengthy, and is presented to the board each year for approval. This document shows the fee plans for all programs. She asked that the board refer to the 14 highlighted items; these are vaccines that need to have adjustment made to the fees. Mrs. Pazcoguin stated that she is looking for an approval of the fee plan with the highlighted items adjusted. Dr. Foley ask if the fee for the vaccine for Medicaid was correct. He thought that the only fee that would be charged on a vaccine was the admin fee and not the vaccine itself. Mrs. Pazcoguin stated that they do reimburse for the vaccine itself along with the admin. The finance committee took the cost for Medicaid and two of the bigger insurance companies to develop this fee. This is not for state supplied vaccines.

Approval of the Fee Plan

Motion to approve fee plan made by Dr. Kevin Foley. Mitchell Bishop seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Discussion:

Kathy stated that we are just trying to get ready for school to open and trying to hire staff. MCPH is also working with Warren Cabe to do a drive through clinic before school starts. Ellen Shope asked how the schools would handle it if a child comes in with symptoms. Mrs. McGaha stated that each school will have an isolation room and will receive a tool kit from the state on how to set the isolation room up. There will also be a school nurse on site and the parent would be called to pick up the child. Mrs. McGaha stated that she would send out a copy of the tool kit from the state out to all the board members. Ellen Shope is concerned that since many of the grandparents help with the children that the children will bring the virus in from school to the grandparents. Another issue that is trying to be worked through is the fact that staff is needed here and they will have the obligation of homeschooling their kids Melissa Bell stated that it is a balancing act and kids need to be in school. Mitchell stated that many places in the county that does not have WIFI and this is going to be tough. There was continued discussion between the board members about school starting back. Mrs. McGaha stated that the Board of Education meeting is Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. K and that it would be streamed.

Announcements: None

Next Meeting Date **8/25/2020**

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mitchell Bishop. Dr. Kevin Foley seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Time Adjourned 7:04 P.M.

Minutes Recorded by: Melissa Setzer