



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
9/22/2020**

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; Kevin Foley, Physician, Ellen Shope; Nurse Representative; Vacant, General Public; and Ross Dodge, General Public

Members Absent: Mitchell Bishop and Dr. Kevin Foley

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

Guests: None

Media: None

Public Comment: None

Call to Order: Melissa Bell called Meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Welcome/Intro: None

Approve Agenda:

We will be adding one item to the agenda; this will be in regards to maternal health under new business.

Ellen Shope made a motion to approve the agenda. Teresa Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentations:

A. Child Fatality Prevention Report, Jennifer Garrett, Director of Nursing

This report will always lag a year behind so this report is from 2018. During 2018, the team reviewed four deaths. They are currently reviewing the 2019 year and there have been one death to review to date. The 4th quarter report for 2019 will not be released until October. Face-to-face reviews were suspended this year due to COVID-19. They had attempted to do meetings by Zoom but the state indicated that due to the sensitive nature of the meetings they were unable to have those by Zoom. They have recently received new guidelines on how to meet remotely and will resume virtual meetings on a different platform soon.

There were recommendations made based on the reviews by the committee. The deaths that occurred were addressed in an appropriate manner. The majority of the deaths were from non-preventable causes, but they did make recommendations.

Safe Surrender Law is still one of the primary topics for this committee. Just to highlight the Community Partners collaborated with during 2019 were, law Enforcement, EMS/Firefighters, Safe Kids Coalition, Prevent Child Abuse NC, Medical Examiner's Office, and Local Child Advocacy Agency.

Legislative funds were spent by collaborating with OB Care Manager to purchase car seats and Pack and Plays. Parents who completed the eight face-to-face visits with the Care Manager could choose either one of these items. They gave away 10 car seats and six pack and plays in 2019. The CC4C Care manager also became a certified car seat checker with legislative funds and Child Fatality Task Force collaborated with Safe Kids on Safety Town Day.

Jennifer Garrett was asked to be part of the DOT Steering Committee planning roads and improvements to keep highway safety for young drivers on the forefront.

B. Communicable Disease Report, Jennifer Garrett, Director of Nursing

Jennifer Garrett gave the presentation on behalf of our CD nurse Jamie Waldrop. Our STD services are provided little to no cost to the patient. Examination, testing and treatment must follow current CDC and state guidelines. The Health Department is required to ensure that other providers in the county are following the current CDC and state guidelines as well. Communicable disease surveillance, investigation, and control are the core of public health services in North Carolina. Currently there are 79 reportable conditions in North Carolina. Currently the STD's numbers within the county are down. We have had no active TB cases in 2019. Macon County Public Health completed 455 tuberculosis encounters in 2019. Rabies prevention is also tracked by the Macon County Public Health as they fall under the communicable disease umbrella. Any exposure such as bites or scratches are reported to the CD nurse. The Flu vaccine was 45% effective for '19-'20 season. Usually we see flu out breaks are in the nursing homes. This year is going to be a little different since we will be monitoring flu season as well as COVID-19. This year two cases of hepatitis A were seen in Macon County compared o no cases last year. In February of 2019, a Macon County resident who passed away tested positive for Neisseria Meningitides. Macon County Public Health completed extensive contact tracing on this patient, due to patient having several possible exposures at Angel Medical Center, Harris Regional Hospital, Macon Funeral Home, family members and friends. At that time, Macon County Public Health set up a call center to handle the influx of calls dealing with the Meningitis related questions.

C. List of Committees and Members, Kathy McGaha, Health Director

Kathy McGaha went over a list of different committees that Macon County Public Health staff and Board of Health members participate in. Mrs. McGaha stated that this is the most up to date list at this time. This list was given out as a handout to the Board of Health members. Mrs. McGaha asked that if any member of the board were active in any partnerships outside the Board of Health that they would like to have included in this list please let Melissa Setzer know and she will get those added.

D. Review of Operating procedure, Del. Of Authority, Review of BOH Authorities & Related Laws & Regulations (103A 39), Kathy McGaha, Health Director

This is a presentation was an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Health and Health Director. The presentation was sent out via e-mail to the Board of Health members prior to the meeting for review. Copies of the handout were also providing at the meeting. This is an annual review packet that goes out each year.

Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings:

Nathan Brenner made a motion to accept the minutes. Ross Dodge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

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

We are in week 29 of COVID-19, there have been 7600 people tested throughout the county. Macon County has had 599 positive cases, 572 recovered, 185 pending results, 20 active cases, and 7 deaths.

Mrs. McGaha and Dr. Dewhurst met with Dr. Baldwin, Derek Roland, and Warren Cabe to discuss the impact on the school system when an entire class is quarantined. They discussed how to help with this impact, and how to open schools back up while remaining in our guidelines. Ellen Shope stated that the Governor stated that K-5 could reopen at normal schedule. Do we know how that is going to take place? Mrs. McGaha stated that the school system is meeting Thursday night to discuss those plans. Mrs. McGaha also stated that we believe the exposure is coming from outside of the schools and not from inside the schools. We will monitor the situation closely.

Ellen Shope asked how screening was going? Jennifer Garrett stated that our numbers were down until Labor Day and then our numbers jumped. They seem to see a jump in cases after a holiday or long weekend. We have some that are tested on a regular basis, some that are just curious, and some that are tested as a result from contact tracing. Mrs. McGaha stated that we are seeing that when we have spikes they are not having high or sharp spikes. Ellen Shope stated that 20 active cases are not that much. Paul Higdon stated that out of the 40 thousand people in the county that the 20 active cases are not a large number. Jennifer Garrett stated that an example of what we are watching is that when parents have kids in multiple schools, if one family test positive it exposes multiple schools. Mrs. McGaha wanted them to know that Macon County Public Health is working very closely with the school system. Melissa Bell stated that the battle against COVID in the school system is a balancing act.

New Business:

A. Health Director Evaluation Committee Appointment, Melissa Bell, Board of Health Chair

Melissa Bell stated it is the time of year to the job evaluation for our Health Director. Melissa Bell stated that she will need volunteers to be on the evaluation committee. Melissa Bell stated that she would love to be on that committee but due to her work being extremely busy that there is, no way can she be on the committee. The committee can be as small as 2 people. Ross Dodge, Gosia Tiger, Ellen Shope volunteered to be on that committee. Melissa Bell asked if they could do a survey. Mrs. McGaha stated that that would need to be approved through the county attorney.

B. Community Care Clinic Request, Kathy McGaha

Kathy McGaha has been working with Cathy Stiles on a project that has gone on for over a period of time. Cathy Stiles with the Community Care Clinic of Franklin has submitted a proposal to renovate the front section of the building for the Community Care Clinic. This renovation would take the Health Ed workroom and offices that are located near the front of the building. It would also require remodeling the front lobby to add a door to access the Community Care Clinic. This would allow them to see patients and allow their patients to have access from our lobby to their offices during normal business hours for the Health Department. Carmine Rocco had asked Cathy Stiles to submit this proposal in writing with plans. Mrs. McGaha stated that Cathy Stiles has submitted a proposal and is asking Leadership Committee and the PIO to review the request, the space that is in question is currently designated for the Health Educator/PIO. Leadership did not think it was a good idea to renovate this building. Jennifer Garrett as part of Leadership did recuse herself from this process due to being on the Community Care Committee. Mrs. McGaha explained that the Health Department does not have enough office space for its employees and that there is a desperate need for storage space. Items that has been purchased due to COVID-19 will need a place to be stored and there is nowhere. The lack of storage space is so bad that they have started storing things in the cubicles. Part of the space that Community Care wants to renovate would be one of our storage rooms. The proposal that Cathy Stiles submitted asked if the Health Department could store their items offsite. Mrs. McGaha stated "that is not an option". Mrs. McGaha stated that she was once a part of the Community Care Clinic and she is a great supporter for them and their mission. Kathy stated that Cathy Stiles had spoken with Mike Cope with the Macon County Maintenance Department and he had told her that they could not change cubicles into storage, due to fire code regulations. Mrs. McGaha stated that not only did she receive a proposal from the Community Care Clinic, but received other proposals from Health Department employees who are need of space. Mrs. McGaha also stated that she had talked to Cathy Stiles about different options like building offices in the lobby for Community Care to use. Mrs. McGaha asked the Board of Health if they wanted to make the final decision or if she would need to make that decision. Mrs. McGaha also stated that it is possible that the county may do something different with this building in regards to the capital improvement plan. That process will be brought back up in January to the Board of County Commissioners. Since this is a county building, any changes to this building would have to be discussed by the County Commissioners. Ellen Shope stated that she would have to recuse herself from this vote as well because she is also involved with Community Care board. Ellen Shope stated that the Medicine Assistance program started this year, and they do need their privacy. Mrs. McGaha stated that she agrees that the Community Care Clinic needs the privacy and this would help them. However, she does not believe that renovating the space in the Health Department is the best option. Mrs. McGaha asked the board if they would like to have Cathy Stiles to come to the next meeting and make a presentation. Melissa Bell stated

that she thought it would be good if Cathy Stiles could come and speak to the Board of Health about their plan at the next board meeting.

Maternal Health, Kathy McGaha

We have learned that Dr. Julie Farrow that is our physician for Maternal Health will be leaving at the end of October. We have met with MAHEC to see if they would be interested in being the provider for that program and have a meeting with Harris scheduled on Thursday.

Discussion:

Kathy McGaha asked the Board of Health members if there is anything they would like to have added to the agenda.

Jennifer Garrett stated that we have a confirmed date for County Employees and Macon County School employees' flu Shot clinic. It will be held on September 30th, from 2:00-6:00. There will also be a clinic at Old Edwards Inn, The Farm, on October 6th from 8:30am -9:00 for employees then the public after that. We will have a clinic for Senior Services October 8th from 10:00 – 12:00, and clinics will be held at the Macon County Public Health on October 7, 14, and 28th from 2:00-5:00 for public. These will all be drive through clinics. The clinic at the Farm is an entire community effort.

Announcements:

Next Meeting Date 10/27/2020

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Paul Higdon. Jeff Todd seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Time Adjourned 7:16 P.M.

Minutes Recorded by: Melissa Setzer