



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
11/15/2022**

Members: Mitchell Bishop, Engineer and Chair; Vacant, Pharmacist; Nathan Brenner, Dentist; Paul Higdon, County Commissioner; Ellen Shope, Nurse Representative; Michael Dupuis, Physician; Roy Lenzo, Veterinarian; Vacant, Optometrist; Members of General Public Teresa Murray, Jerry Hermanson,

Members Absent: Michael Dupuis, Teresa Murray

Staff Present: Kathy McGaha, Jennifer Garrett, Jimmy Villiard, Tara Raby, Melissa Setzer, Sean Sullivan, Jen Germain

Guests: None

Media: Mia Overton

Call to Order: Mitchell Bishop called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

Welcome/Intro: There are currently no new employees, the county is on a hiring freeze.

Public Comment: None

Agenda Approval: We have one addition to the Agenda. Under the item 3c, we will be adding the Family Planning Grant.

Dr. Nathan Brenner made a motion to approve the agenda, including the addition. Ellen Shope seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentations: Jen Germain and Jimmy Villiard presented the external and internal Community Health Survey

Jimmy Villiard presented the external survey, during the month of September and October we did our Community Health Survey. The external survey was handed out at the Macon County Fair. We had a good response 49 people completed the survey.

1st Question – Have you ever received services from the Health Department? 90% people responded – yes. What did you receive? List of several things we done – Maternal Health, Child Dental, etc.

Question 3 – Are the services the health Department provide sufficient to meet the needs of our community? 85% said yes, 13% said no. If not, what additional services should the health department provide? Adult Dental was the top choice, then more educational and preparedness, and Maternal Health.

Question 5, asked about the operating hours, some responses were they would like to see some hours on Saturdays, and some evening. This is something leadership has discussed and we will look into this on a limited basis.

Question 7, “Are the MCPH Animal Service operating hours (Monday – Friday, 9am-4pm), convenient for you? Most people, 90% answered yes it is. Some answered they would like after work hours, and afternoon.

In Question 9, we asked if the Child Dental Services operating hours are convenient for you? 93% answered they were convenient, but 7% said it was not. The percentage who answered no says they need Adult Dental services.

Jen German presented the internal survey. The next survey was handed out to the patients who visited the Health Department. Out of this survey, a total of 41 people responded. The first question, how did you hear about the Health Department? Most people responded, by word of the mouth, and some by other agencies.

Onto question 2, what was your opinion of your visit today? Majority of answers were excellent and good, a couple said no opinion.

Question 4, stated how would you rate the way you were treated by the staff today? They answered excellent mostly, and some good.

In question 5, how was the quality of services you received today. All answered excellent and good.

Question 6 – How would you rate the MCPH facilities? Once again all answered excellent and good.

In question 7, we asked would you recommend us to a friend? Out of the 41 people, they all said, yes.

The next question (8), “Did you used an Interpreter?” 30% said yes they used an interpreter.

Onto question 9, “have you ever used services at the Health Department before today? Close to 60% said yes, and 40% said no.

Question 10, how would you rate your ability to access care, i.e. make an appointment? Out of 41 people they all answered very satisfied or satisfied.

In question 11 they answered very satisfied or satisfied regarding the ability to understand the information the healthcare provider gave them.

Question 14, "Are the clinic hours convenient for you?" 97% answered yes, and 3% answered no.

Question 15, What the wait time fair? Please specify whether it was the time between making the appointment, and being seen, time in the lobby, time in the exam room, etc. 94% said, yes, the 6% just said no, but they did not respond to where the wait time was the longest.

Next question (16), was the location of the clinic convenient for you? All 41 respondents said, yes.

In question 17, what services did you receive today? Majority of people received Child Dental, then lab.

A couple of extra comments – loved the facility, and thought the employees were good.

Jerry Hermanson asked if we had done this on multiple days or one day? We did this survey for a month in the Health Department, and several days at the fair.

Kathy McGaha shared how we discussed this in Leadership of what areas we could work on as a Health Department. The two things that stood out were the hours of operation and need for Adult Dental services. Leadership discussed how varying hours of operation have not produced a lot of interest in the past and we will continue to look at this in the future. The additional item is the Adult Dental service needs stood out. We currently have a list of Adult Dentist who accept Medicaid. There is a current list is updated by Sheila Corbin. We have one provider in the county and a couple in Jackson County. Ellen Shope, asked where is the Blue Ridge Clinic? The clinic is in Highlands, they are for low income residents and Medicaid is accepted. Jerry Hermanson asked, how will we be sharing this information with the employees and the public? We will be doing a press release and sharing it on Facebook. Plus we are planning to have the information on the TV's in the lobby, they are currently in 4 areas in the Health Department. In addition, we have discussed this in Leadership and the minutes were sent to all employees.

Please see the attached slide show documents for additional information.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Ellen Shope made a motion to approve the minutes, including addition of Mitchell Bishop being added to the "absent members" list. Dr. Nathan Brenner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Health Director Job Description Review and Performance

The Health Directory Job Description Review and Performance will be moved to the next meeting.

Influenza Report Evaluation

Jennifer Garrett updated us on the current Influenza Vaccine participation, and Flu Season for 2022-2023. The recommended timing of vaccination is similar to last season. September and October are generally good times to be vaccinated. While ideally it's recommended to be vaccinated by the end of October, it's important to know that vaccination after October can still provide protection during the peak of flu season. This year's vaccines will protect against the following:

Egg-based vaccine composition recommendations

an A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus;
an A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus (updated);
a B/Austria/1359417/2021-like virus (B/Victoria lineage) (updated);
a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage)

Cell or recombinant-based vaccine composition recommendations:

an A/Wisconsin/588/2019 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus;
an A/Darwin/6/2021 (h3N2)-like virus (updated);
a B/Austria/1359417/2021-like virus (B/Victoria lineage) (updated);
a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage)

The 21-22 Flu Season was low with mainly 2 waves of FLU A. The activity was from 10-21 – 6/22 with AH3N2 virus being most predominant.

Key Update for Week 44 FLUVIEW ending November 5th was early increases in seasonal flu activity continue nationwide. The southeastern and south central areas of the country are reporting the highest levels of activity followed by Mid-Atlantic and South central West Coast region.

Clinical Lab positive are 12.8% - No Specimens tested Week 44 = 103,311, a number of positive specimens = 13,178 (12.8%)

Specimens positive by Type – Flu A+ 13086 (9.3%) for Flu A, and 0.7% for Flu B. The Flu A subtype most prevalent was h3N2 (75.1%) with (H1N1) pdm09 coming in second at 24.9% of the 700 tests performed. Lineages were not done on the Flu B.

According to the Outpatient Respiratory Illness Activity Map Determined by Data Reported to ILINet (this system monitors visits for respiratory illnesses that includes fever, cough, or sore throat, also referred at ILI, not lab confirmed flu and my capture patient visits due to other respiratory pathogens that cause similar symptoms)

Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, and George are at very high levels.

Mainly RSV, Flu, Strep, and Rhinovirus/Enterovirus are being seen currently per the NCDPH. Macon County is currently seeing this also.

Influenza deaths from 10/8/2022 to 5/20/23 for NC:

12 adults and 1 pediatric

Breakdowns of deaths by age:

4 of the adults were 50-64

8 of the adults were 65+

1 Pediatric death was in 15 – 17 year range.

KEY POINTS FOR THIS YEAR

Influenza activity continues to increase. Regions 4 (Southeast) and 6 (South-Central) are reporting the highest levels of flu activity, followed by regions 3 (Mid-Atlantic) and 9 (South-Central West Coast).

Three influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported this week (Nationally)

CDC estimates that, so far this season, there have been at least 2.8 million illnesses, 23,000 hospitalization, and 1,300 deaths from flu.

The cumulative hospitalization rate in the FLUSurv-NET system is higher than the rate observed in week 44 during every previous season since 2010-2011.

An annual flu vaccine is the best way to protect against the flu. Vaccination helps prevent infection and can also prevent serious outcomes in people who get vaccinated but still get sick with the flu.

CDC recommends that everyone age 6 month and older get a flu vaccines annually.

There are also prescription flu antiviral drugs that can be used to treat flu illness; those need to be started as early as possible. Jennifer has called some of the pharmacies and they do have TamaFLu at this time.

See attached North Carolina Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Regions Summary, and Surveillance Summary 2021-2022.

Mrs. Garrett said we have given out 600 to 700 flu shots at the Health Department. We have 200 doses left in house. The last drive thru flu clinic is tomorrow. We will more than likely give out all of Flu Vaccine this year. Since the holidays are coming up, remember to protect your house with handwashing, and covering cough. Kathy McGaha shared we had a brief EPI team meeting and checked in with urgent care, nursing homes and schools to see how things are going, and at that time the numbers weren't too high. We will just keep monitoring them. Mrs. Garrett says the nursing homes, jail, and the school nurses are keeping us updated on any changes as well. We always see a wave around this time, plus it's starting to get cold.

**Community Health
Center Grant
Application:**

Kathy McGaha shared it was time to submit the Community Health Center Grant. We are submitting to continue to fund the Telehealth program for an additional 3 more years. There we no questions from Board of Health members.

Nathan Brenner made a motion to approve the application for the Community Health Center Grant to be submitted. Jerry Hermanson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Family Planning Grant:

Members were made aware that MCPH submitted the Family Planning Grant to continue funding Family Planning services. Health departments must submit a grant application for these funds rather than receive the funds automatically as it was in the past. We should hear something soon.

New Business:

Billing Guide

Kathy McGaha stated that the staff put a lot of effort into the new Billing Guide and she wanted to thank them for their hard work. We are very proud of all of them.

Melissa Setzer stated the whole policy has been completely revamped and more organized. Mrs. Setzer had the board turn to page 4 and 5, under II. Fee Setting, then 1. Fee Setting Procedure, #6. We added the methodology of how we set our fees. One reason we are seeking to add this, as you know every day our costs are changing. We create purchase requisition and then go to order it and by the next day the amount has increased. Trying to increase our fees the way they are now we have to go to our Finance Committee, then to you the Board, then it is sent to the Commissioners, which can take 2 to 4 months. By that time the fees have increased again. What we are wanting to do is have the ability during the year to be able to adjust the fees to match that cost, so we are not losing so much money. All the fees will still come to the board once a year to approve all fees. Mitchell Bishop asked would this include the fee to administer the vaccine or would that stay the same? Mrs. Setzer replied, yes the administration fee would stay the same. Kathy McGaha stated there is a formula we apply to determine the cost of vaccination. As long as we apply the formula, that you all agree too, we can apply the cost to the fee and determine the amount to charge patients.

The next change we are making is on page 18, under 5. Dental Services, d. sliding fee. Our sliding fee used to discount down to 25%, we are asking for you to bring it up to 50%, the 25% was below the Medicaid rate. This percentage would get our fee to the Medicaid rate.

The next one is a newly added one, which is the School Based Health Center, on page 23, #12. These guidelines are for the Telehealth services that Julie Rogers explain to you at a previous BOH meeting. This follows that program, goes over the eligibility, finance and sliding fee. We will be following the Child Health Program guidelines, and insurance will be filed. If we have an adult come through the program, they have to be a school employee and they have to register. If the adult does not have insurance, we will do a flat fee of \$30.

If you flip to the back of packet under Appendix. We have what insurances are accepted, and the methodology of how fees are determined. They all reviewed the Methodology and formulas. Kathy McGaha stated we need to vote on the whole billing guide.

Dr. Nathan Brenner made a motion to approve the Billing Guide in its entirety. Jerry Hermanson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Fee Policy

Melissa Setzer says this a current list of our fees. We did add the flat rate for the \$30 fee for Telehealth School Based Program. Then we had 2 tests COVID/Flu Combo, \$64, includes the \$50 + \$14. The 3rd was for 83013, H-pylori test, which

is \$21. Ellen Holbrooks asked about the fees that are lower than usual. Jennifer Garrett says some of the fees are add on fees.

Please see attached Billing Guide and Fee Schedule for additional information.

Jerry Hermanson made a motion to approve the Fee Schedule. Dr. Nathan Brenner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Tobacco Free Campus Policy

Jimmy Villiard says there is a change coming down from Medicaid for the Tobacco Free Campus. Tobin Lee will be here at the next meeting to give us all the information. It will required by April 1st on the Health Department Campus. Tobin is getting clarification to see what campuses will have to Tobacco Free. It will be self-regulated, by signage and communication. The Board will look at this and determine how we want to move forward, and then it will go to the Board of Commissioners.

Employee Agent Vaccination

Jennifer Garrett stated we have made some changes to the Employee Flu Vaccination. If you do not have the flu vaccination by October 16th, you will have to wear a mask. Since the CDC has fluctuated the season, our policy states we will go by those CDC guidelines. It has now been moved up to December 1st to March 30th for this year.

In addition, the rabies vaccination have been changed from 3 vaccinations to 2 vaccinations.

Please see attached Employee Agent Vaccination policy for additional information.

Ellen Shope made a motion to approve the Employee Agent Vaccination. Dr. Nathan Brenner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Remaining Board of Health Policies

Sean Sullivan shared the changes for the remaining Board of Health Policies. The changes were made to Policy 105.03 Observing Public Health Related Laws and Regulation. We updated hyperlinks to current websites and updated reference material. The 2nd update was to the policy for Community Involvement in Public Health. We changed the wording from "faxed" to "emailed."

Dr. Nathan Brenner made a motion to approve the remaining Board of Health Policies. Ellen Shope seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Nomination of Chair/Vice Chair

Kathy McGaha says it's time to vote for Chair and Vice Chair. We will make a vote in January. If you are interested let me know. Ellen Shope asked, "how long are the officer terms." They are a one year term for the Chair and Vice Chair.

Approval of New Meetings for 2023

The approval of new meetings for 2023. Mitchell Bishop shared we will continue to meet every other month.

Dr. Nathan Brenner made a motion to approve the New Meetings for 2023. Jerry Hermanson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Board of Health Training: The Board of Health Roles and Responsibilities training items were emailed out to each of you. We need to discuss and let us know if you have any questions. We will not have any training items in December. There were no questions at this time.

Closed Session: Nathan Brenner made a motion to go into Closed Session at 7:29 p.m. Dr. Roy Lenzo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

After coming out of closed session, Jerry Hermanson motioned to recommend Charlie Vargas, MD, to fill the vacant member-at large position that Jennifer Knoepp vacated. Ellen Shope seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: None

Announcements: None

Next Meeting Date: January 24, 2023

Adjournment: Dr. Nathan Brenner made a motion to Adjourn meeting at 7:40 p.m. Dr. Roy Lenzo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Recorded by: Tara Raby