



Macon County
Public Health

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
1/24/2017

- Members** Chris Hanners, Engineer and Chair; Teresa Murray, General Public and Vice-Chair; Emily Porter-Bowers, Nurse; Dr. Carole Peterson, Physician; Melissa Bell, Pharmacist; Dr. Jeff Todd, Veterinarian; Dr. Nathan Brenner, Dentist; James Tate County Commissioner; Gena Futral, General Public and Molly Phillips, General Public.
- Members Absent** None
- Staff Present** Jim Bruckner, Tammy Keezer, Jimmy Villiard, Jennifer Garrett, Kathy McGaha, Darice Davis, Diane Keener, Lisa Marling, Dr. Donald Dewhurst, Dorota Anthony
- Guests** Carole Waldroop, Laura Vargas, Diane Cotton
- Media** Ryan Hanchett; The Franklin Press, Brittany Raby; Macon County News, Kristen Karcher; WNCC Radio
- Public Comment** None
- Call to Order** Meeting was called to order at 6:18 by Chris Hanners
- Election of Officers** Mr. Bruckner said that he had only received two nominations (Chris Hanners for Chair and Teresa Murray for Vice-Chair) and that both have agreed to serve in those roles. Mr. Bruckner asked if there are any other nominations. There being no other nominations Mr. Bruckner closed the nominations. Mr. Bruckner asked for a vote. A vote was taken to elect Mr. Hanners as Chair and Ms. Murray as Vice-Chair. By unanimous vote of the Board Mr. Hanners was elected Chair and Ms. Murray Vice-Chair.
- Approve Agenda** Mr. Hanners made a motion to add an introduction to the agenda. Mr. Bruckner asked to add Item 4d Public Health Funding and the ACA. Ms. Phillips made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Dr. Todd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Welcome/Intro./Departures/Recognition** Mr. Hanners welcomed Commissioner Tate to the Board. Everyone in the room welcomed and introduced themselves. In Mr. Higdon's absence, arrangements were made for Mr. Bruckner to get his service plaque to the Board of County Commissioners for presentation at their next meeting.

Presentations **Read to Me** Carole Waldroop gave a presentation on Read to Me. She explained that Read to Me began about 5 years ago. They have a three tiered mission; books in hands of children, teaching parents to help children read, and raising awareness of preschool literacy. Since this program began, kindergarten readiness scores have improved by 40%. There are 5 active members on the Board and 5 additional community members. They partner with public library and various media outlets. This program began as a branch of the noon day Rotary club and is a non-profit. There are approximately 9,000 students enrolled in the program at a cost of \$35,000. She went on to explain some of the events that they sponsor in the county and that they are part of the Dolly Parton Imaginary Library. Some of the events include story walks at various locations around the county, collecting and redistributing gently used books through community events, and the annual parent training event. Research shows that language and literacy begins in the first 3 years of life. Story walks combine the pleasures of reading children's book along with the enjoyment of being outside. Ann Ferguson in Vermont developed story walks. These story walks are made possible through donations. A proposed story board walk was passed around for all to view. Ms. Waldroop thought that the Health Department would be a great place to advertise due to the high volume of children and parents that we work with. Dr. Peterson asked how the Board of Health can participate. Ms. Waldroop said she doesn't really know at this time because she isn't familiar with the Health Department funding and that she is bringing it before the Board in hopes that they would have ideas. Brittany Raby said that around the country, libraries and health departments are the main supporters of Read to Me. Mr. Bruckner said that health department funding varies from state to state but he has some ideas on how we can participate. Ms. Garrett said that the school nurses can put information on the back of the BMI form that goes home with the parents. Mr. Bruckner asked how many Read to Me programs there are in the region. Ms. Waldrop said several counties already have the Dolly Library. Gary Dills a resident of Macon County has spoken to several people about getting it sponsored across the state. Ms. Phillips asked Ms. Waldrop how much other businesses paid to be sponsors and said that the health department may be able to use some of their marketing funds to become a sponsor. Ms. Waldrop responded that \$150 - \$500 has been the average sponsorship amount. Dr. Peterson asked if the books can be done in Spanish. Ms. Waldroop said that is a possibility, but they would have to speak to the publishers. Ms. Phillips asked Ms. Waldroop specifically what they are requesting tonight. Ms. Waldroop said we aren't familiar with what the Board of Health could do. She just wanted to inform the Board and see if there is any way the Board can help. Mr. Bruckner asked for contact information and said we can't grant money as that would have to go the Board of County Commissioners. He did say that he would see if they could do a sponsorship and that he would reach out to see if we could help facilitate a sponsorship from another source. Dr. Todd asked the cost of a new story. Brittany Raby said \$2000 for 2 stories. Dr. Todd asked the long range plans for changing boards out. Brittney Raby said the goal is to change boards every couple of months. Mr. Hanners asked if Mr. Bruckner would report back at next months meeting with some options.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting Melissa Bell made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dr. Todd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

A. Primary Care Fee Plan Update Ms. Garrett and Ms. Keener gave a presentation on Primary Care follow up. Ms. Garrett gave a recap of what was previously discussed in the October BOH meeting. She reminded us of the 2 challenges that Primary Care was facing – 1. It is too expensive for the group of people we are trying to reach and 2. We have done no marketing beyond word of mouth. Ms. Keener then began the suggested updates to improve the program. She said since the last presentation people are still applying for primary care, but then complain that the cost is too expensive to afford. 21% of Macon County residents are un/under insured. Ms. Keener referred everyone to the handout in their books. The suggestion from the Health Department is to reduce the sliding fee scale from 80% to 40%. She explained what the sliding fee scale would look like if we dropped fee to 40%. She said we have seen very few self-pay patients. This is mainly due to the high cost. Only 4 of 96 patients in the past year were self-pay. Ms. Futral asked how the sliding fee scale compares to the Highlands free clinic. Mr. Bruckner explained that you have to be under 250% of federal poverty and have no insurance to

be treated at the community care clinic. He also said that we would like to be at 150 patients and we don't want to compete with private providers. We are trying to reach the un/under insured. This is why we are re-evaluating. We are presenting an option to the sliding fee scale that would make it a better option for un/under insured. Ms. Phillips asked how we came to this fee scale. Mr. Bruckner said we calculated it based off of the Adult Dental program. They have been very successful in reaching their target population, which is the same population as Primary Care, and the services have similar pricing. Ms. Keener explained the sliding fee scale in detail. Mr. Tate asked how a patient proves income. Mr. Bruckner said they are required to show 2 forms of income. Dr. Todd asked why we aren't meeting the target population. Mr. Bruckner said as soon as they hear how much it costs they are stepping back because they can't afford it. He further explained that if we drop the sliding fee scale below 40% we will have to talk to the commissioners because it will cost us too much money to run the program. Dr. Peterson asked if Angel Urgent Care could refer patients because a lot of people use urgent care as their primary care doctor. Mr. Bruckner said we have had conversation with them. Mr. Hanners asked Dr. Dewhurst for input. Dr. Dewhurst said that everyone has summed up the issues at hand very well. He said the services that are mandated by the state take up a lot of his time, but there is room to add primary care to his schedule. He also said he has to be able to manage patients here at the health department on an outpatient basis because he doesn't have rights at the hospital, which means that we are selective on the patients we accept. Mr. Hanners said he wants to make sure that this won't put a burden on the commissioners or taxpayers. Mr. Bruckner said we haven't had to ask the county for any additional funding, but if we move the sliding fee scale below 40% we will have to. Mr. Bruckner added that if we are reaching self-pay clients in the dental program that we should be able to reach people in this program as well once the proposed changes have been enacted. Ms. Garrett went on to explain that another benefit of the primary care program is that if a patient comes in for a different program i.e. BCCCP, Wise Woman and so on, that we can potentially reach them for primary care as well. Mr. Bruckner said we will do target advertising in the free clinics and select locations in the community. Dr. Brenner made a motion to accept the fee changes as submitted. Dr. Peterson seconded the motion. Mr. Hanners asked if there was any further discussion. Ms. Phillips asked how long we will wait to determine if the new changes are successful. Mr. Bruckner said in 6 months we should have a good idea and can bring that information back to the Board. Dr. Brenner amended the motion that we will enact the new fee plan and that we would reevaluate the change in six months. Dr. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

A. Budget Preparation Ms. Keezer said that budget preparation for the year has begun. We will be presenting the proposed budget to the BOH on March 28th.

Ms. Anthony gave a presentation on the full budget report up to this point in the fiscal year. She explained that we are half way through the fiscal year and at this point in the year we should be at 50% of the budget. She went on to explain that we have currently spent 44% of the budget and the reasons for this are that we have had some job vacancies and some of our dues are not due until later in the year. We have spent a little more than 22% of county money. Last year at this time we had spent 26%. Dr. Todd asked what cost settlement money is. Ms. Anthony explained that it is based on federal Medicaid dollars and we get money back from each Medicaid service that we give. Mr. Bruckner said that our cost settlement money has increased significantly in the past 5 years. We earned about \$140,000 this year in cost settlement.

B. Board Procedure Mr. Hanners said that the Board procedure must be reviewed annually as an accreditation item. Mr. Hanners mentioned a couple of changes that he would like to suggest to the Board. The first change is on the 3rd page article 4 section 1. It reads The Board shall elect its own Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Only those members who have served at least one year on the Board shall be eligible to hold office. Mr. Hanners asked if the Board would like to change that rule from 1 year to 6 months service on the Board. The reason for the change would be to give more opportunity for someone to serve. The second suggested change is on Article 10 section 2 which reads; The Vice-Chairperson shall preside in the absence of the Chairperson and shall perform such duties as are assigned by the Chairperson. Should the Office of Chairperson be vacated for any reason, the Vice-Chairperson shall fill the unexpired term of office and a new

Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by the Board. Mr. Hanners asked the Board if they would like to change the second sentence to read; The Vice-Chairperson may fill the unexpired term of office and a new Vice-Chairperson may be elected by the Board or a new Chairperson may be elected by the Board and the Vice-Chair would remain unchanged. Mr. Hanners asked if the Board wants to leave the option open for the Vice-chair to not take over if they don't want to. Mr. Bruckner is going to speak to the county attorney to make sure we can make changes to the policy. The Board will revisit next month. If attorney gives the appropriate recommendation, the changes will be sent out and a vote taken next month.

C. NACCHO Grant Educational Materials MCPH has the opportunity to apply for a \$1500 TIPS grant. The grant would provide pamphlets from former smokers which including tips on how to quit smoking. Since this is a grant we will need Board approval to apply. Ms. Phillips made the motion to allow the Health Department to apply for the grant. Ms. Futral seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Health Funding and ACA Mr. Bruckner explained that within two years of implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) a portion of federal funds which had traditionally been used to fund state and local public health programs were rolled over into the ACA's Prevention and Public Health Fund. The federal funds which were originally proposed as part of the ACA specifically targeting new preventive health initiatives were either never allocated for that purpose or were only available for a short period of time. Instead, traditional state and local public health funding (\$931 million plus nationally) that existed long before the ACA was enacted were moved under the ACA. These funds which had nothing to do with the enactment of the ACA are currently being used to fund existing local public health prevention initiatives nationwide. These initiatives include: Chronic Disease Prevention, Immunizations, Diabetes Prevention, Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, Lead Poisoning Prevention, Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity, among other programs. Of these federal funds, North Carolina receives approximately \$29.6 million which goes to support the program areas mentioned above in local health departments. Macon County stands to lose approximately \$810,000. Mr. Bruckner said has already spoken to the County Manager about these potential cuts. Dr. Peterson asked if they would draft a letter for each of the Board members to send out individually. Mr. Bruckner said you can do it as a Board or as individuals, but he felt it would be better coming from the Board as a whole. We are also asking County Commissioners Association to stand up for this as well. Mr. Hanners asked if Mr. Bruckner is doing a presentation for the Commissioners. Mr. Bruckner said he had not been asked, but assumes he will be. Dr. Peterson made a motion to draft a letter to the NC Federal Legislative delegation from the Macon County Board of Health and for the letter to be signed by Mr. Hanners as BOH Chair and for it to be mailed out as soon as possible. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Training and Information Dr. Peterson asked Ms. Garret if she had spoken to Zonta about fundraising for us. Ms. Garrett said that Zonta had actually approached MCPH about fundraising and that they had done it before for BCCCP and Wise Woman. Zonta may be able to help with some mammograms and also colposcopies. Mr. Bruckner said we have received funding from Zonta three times in the past. Dr. Todd asked who decides how that money is spent. Mr. Bruckner said Zonta tells us what we can and cannot spend the money on. Ms. Garrett clarified that MCPH determines which patients receive the sponsored services by taking it to Mr. Bruckner for approval once they have determined in the clinic that there is a patient in need. Dr. Peterson said that Zonta strongly encourages businesses that receive the funding to volunteer to help with Zonta sponsorship activities and we really need BOH members to volunteer.

Announcements No announcements

Next Meeting Date 2/28/2017

Adjourn Ms. Porter Bowers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Brenner seconded the motion. The motioned passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

These minutes were approved on March 28, 2017 with a motion by Commissioner Jim Tate and seconded by Dr. Brenner. The motion passed unanimously.