



Macon County  
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
September 23, 2014**

**Members Present:** Russell Stevenson – Chair, Frank Killian MD - Vice-Chairman, Teresa Murray, Roy Lenzo DVM, Emily Bowers, Nathan Brenner DDS, Commissioner Paul Higdon, and Stacy Shannon Pharm. D.

Absent: Frederick Berger MD, Molly Phillips & Sheila Price RN

**Staff Present:** Jim Bruckner, Tammy Keezer, Becky Barr, Barry Patterson, Jimmy Villiard, Kathy McGaha, Dawn Wilde, Jennifer Garrett, Harold Faircloth & Charlene Bellavance.

**Public Comment:** There were no comments from any of the public present.

**Media:** There were no members of the press in attendance.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:25 by Chairman Stevenson.

**Approve Agenda:** Mr. Bruckner asked to have several items added or changed on the agenda: add under departures/recognition: Lions Club – Ruth Stillwell & Board of Health Resignations, move Environmental Health Update from new business to old business, add NCALHD Officer Nomination under new business, delete Annual Review of Operating Procedures, etc. and add under Board Training & Information; BOH Planning Retreat to discuss Review of Policies, Review of Laws & Rules and Review of Strategic Priorities & NCALHD 2015 Legislative Priorities. A motion was made by Dr. Killian and seconded by Commissioner Higdon to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

**Welcome/Intro/Departures/Recognition:**

**Norton Group Award:** Mr. Bruckner announced that Holly Springs Baptist Church had received the Norton Group Award at the NC Public Health Association annual meeting. The award was established in 1952 in honor of Dr. Norton in order to foster community support of public health efforts. This award is one of the highest awards given by NCPHA and is presented to a local health group for outstanding contributions or activities during the past year. Jan Lee and Carolyn Gutierrez from Holly Springs Baptist Church Health Care Committee came up to receive the award and recognition for their contribution to the health of the community. Ms. Wilde reported that she had been working with Holly Springs Baptist Church's Health Care Committee. She said that through their Health Care Committee, Holly Springs Baptist Church has partnered with various health care agencies and continues to offer numerous opportunities and incentives to not only members of their congregation, but to the community as a whole to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Activities include: 2010 Bronze Level Certification from Partners In Health and Wholeness; First Place 4 Life, a Christian based weight loss class; Host health related classes – the first in WNC to host Faithful Families Eating Smart and

Moving More with MCPH; Started a sports league; created a walking trail at the church for use by public; Pastors model good health; created a community garden; Senior Games and Health Fair participants; 2011 – Walk To Jerusalem with MCPH; Promotes Lighten Up 4 Life a program through AMC; 2012 – received Strive to Revive cardiac resuscitation grant and received AED for church; participants in, and hosts for meetings for, WNC Healthy Kids; policy changes in the areas of tobacco use, nutrition and physical activity; red table cloth – healthy options at church meals; 2012 and 2014 Silver Level Certification from Partners In Health and Wholeness; 2014 – Walk To Bethlehem; and, Chair of the Committee, Jan Lee, received 2014 Public Health Hero Award. Ms. Wilde stated that since they first started working to have a healthy congregation, Holly Springs Baptist Church Health Care Committee has continued to strive to offer services to not only their congregation, but also to the community in an effort to be a resource for health and wellness. They are thought of as an example to other churches and are worthy of being recognized with the Norton Group Award.

**Stacy Covil EH Specialist of the Year Award:** Mr. Bruckner recognized Harold Faircloth for his award for EH specialist of the year which he received at NCPHA. This award is presented by the Environmental Health Section of NCPHA to an individual EH Specialist who has made significant contributions to the betterment and practice of environmental health profession, including publications, scientific or applied research, development or implementation of new or improved concepts, procedures, etc. and for other contributions to civic or school activities or affiliations. Mr. Faircloth received this award for his work regarding his research in identifying the source of elevated lead in private drinking water wells in Macon County.

**NC Glaxo-Smith-Kline Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award:** Mr. Bruckner recognized Jennifer Garrett for her contribution to the community's health. She was nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award by the agency because of her efforts and outstanding contribution to improving children's health services in partnership with many other agencies. She established a partnership with the Essilor Vision Foundation to provide eye wear for low income school age children in Macon County who otherwise would likely go without. She was appointed to The Governor's Task Force on Early Childhood Vision Committee. She helped to establish School Health Fairs in 2001 in all Macon County K-8 schools to screen all students for vision, dental, height and weight, and BMI calculations. These health fairs have often served as an early detection vehicle for health issues of uninsured children resulting in early interventions for medical conditions. She continues to collaborate with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Collaboration involving automation of data collection during school health fairs, and sharing of BMI trend data for school age children. In collaboration with Macon County Care Network she helped establish the Backpack Program in Macon County in 2008. In Macon County, it is estimated that 1930 children or 30.6 percent (1 in 3 children) of the total population are considered 'Food Insecure'- unable to consistently access enough nutritious food necessary for a healthy life. Through this program, children are provided food over the weekend for those in dire need. She established a partnership with a local non-profit to provide essential necessities for low income children in Macon County to include winter coats, clothing, and toiletry items. Ms. Garrett established the School Health Advisory Council for Macon County which served as an early model for other counties in the State of North Carolina. She established policies and procedures to conduct on site school immunization clinics for students during the recent H1N1 Influenza campaign. She helps conduct on site annual influenza immunization clinics for school faculty and staff. She helps conduct on site TDAP immunization clinics for students entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade to meet North Carolina requirements.

**Lions Club – Ruth Stillwell:** Mr. Bruckner asked Ms. Garrett to come forward and introduce Ms. Stillwell. Ms. Garrett indicated that Ms. Stillwell had generously offered the school nurses the opportunity to use the SPOT Vision machine in the schools for vision testing during the Health Fairs. Ms. Stillwell stated that the Lions Club has been doing vision screenings in the schools since the 1980's. The SPOT Vision machine will hold records for up to 200 students. At the end of each day the information can be downloaded using a jump drive that would allow the data for each school to be stored on Ms. Garrett's computer. With the SPOT vision check machine they are able to do a screening on the eyes and will be able to give a pass/fail score and also a refraction score. The Lions will also be using the SPOT Vision machine in the community in the future. They are hoping to also begin using them in the head start program and the daycares. Dr. Killian

indicated that he felt that the printout from the SPOT Vision machine would be an excellent reference to send with a child that has never been to an eye doctor.

**Board of Health Resignations:** Mr. Bruckner indicated that Dr. Berger had submitted his resignation. This will open a physician position on the Board and Mr. Bruckner asked the current members to be thinking of any physicians that they think might be willing to serve. Mr. Bruckner indicated that he had spoken to several people in the community and it was suggested that he contact Dr. Carol Peterson to see if she would be willing to serve on the Board. Mr. Bruckner also indicated that Sheila Price has submitted her resignation as the nurse position on the Board. Mr. Bruckner noted that he had spoken with Ms. Bowers and she indicated to him that she would be willing to serve in the nursing position if nominated. This will open up a general public position on the board and again Mr. Bruckner asked the board to be thinking of anyone who may be public health minded that would be willing to serve.

### **Presentations:**

**Community Care Clinic Highlands Update:** Mr. Hermanson thanked the board for allowing him to share the efforts of the Community Care Clinic in Highlands. He indicated that they have served 3,081 unduplicated patients so far this year at the Highlands clinic. They have been able to use the facility on Buck Creek Road at no charge which allows them to use their funds for direct client related services. They have started three new specialty clinics including Diabetes Management, a Behavioral Health clinic and a physician comes in for a GYN clinic. They offer an in house medication assistance program. They also receive donated medications. Free laboratory and imaging exams are provided by the Highlands/Cashiers Hospital. Last year the value of their services was \$750,000 and the operating cost was just over \$140,000. This keeps many clients out of the emergency rooms in both Highlands and Franklin. Mr. Bruckner asked if Mr. Hermanson had seen the oral grant offer. Mr. Hermanson indicated that he had and they would be participating in a conference call to discuss the details of the grant.

**Diabetes Management Update:** Ms. Bassett reported on the progress of the Chronic Disease Management & Prevention program. Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) is one of the main programs that the program offers. We also provide Diabetes Self-Management Training. We provide these services both here in Franklin and in Highlands. They are able to track outcomes to see if there was an improvement for the patient. The patients attend a workshop; receive on-going support and education needed to learn to control their diabetes through diet. Ms. Bassett also indicated that through the school health screenings they identified 966 students that are already at risk for childhood obesity and possibly childhood diabetes. She requested permission from the Board of Health to begin conversation with the schools in order to bring the DSMT training into the schools. Dr. Killian made a motion to allow Ms. Bassett to begin having the conversation with the schools about DSMT training. Ms. Bowers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:** A motion was made by Ms. Bowers and seconded by Dr. Killian to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2014 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

**Budget Update:** Ms. Keezer reported on the revenue and expenditures for the month of August. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

**MCPH Reps on Committees:** Ms. Bellavance referred the board members to the handout in their packets. She asked the members to let her know if there were any committees, groups or associations that they participated on that she let them know so they could be added to the list. Ms. McGaha noted that it was important for accreditation to be able to see the board members participation in the community on boards, committees, etc. She encouraged board members to participate in the community assessment process to help determine what the future goals will be for our community. She indicated that Ms. Wilde is the contact for attending these planning

meetings and to please contact Ms. Bellavance if they would like to participate. Mr. Stevenson asked the board to be sure to get the information on any committees they participate on to Ms. Bellavance as soon as possible.

**EH Update Landfill and Lead in Wells:** The investigation has now identified up to 250 wells that have tested positive for lead levels above the acceptable level. They have made a connection between the galvanized pipe and the blood lead levels of family members in the homes where the wells were tested. When the families were instructed to stop drinking the water, the blood lead levels were reduced to acceptable levels and the only change was for them to stop drinking the water in the home. This should not be an issue with future wells now that the well drillers have been made aware of the problem, and since the federal law lowered the allowable lead content in plumbing linked to drinking water systems in January 2014. Dr. Lenzo asked if a homeowner selling their home was obligated to disclose this lead issue. Mr. Patterson indicated that if it is known that there is an issue with lead in the well the owner/realtor is obligated to disclose this. Mr. Patterson indicated that the state has increased the fee for water testing and they have seen direct results in a decline of requests to have water tests done. The Aquifer Protection section at the state will continue to pursue the issue. Our agency will discuss the analysis protocols with the state because they appear to result in the instrumentation to reporting lower than actual lead levels. They are starting to find similar problems in the public schools in the north. There are new scientific studies coming from Virginia Tech that support our findings, so we hope this will enhance our attempts to bring the State to an understanding of our position.

The department received a blanket variance from the State that approved the suggested abandonment protocol for approximately 81 wells in close proximity to the Old Franklin Landfill. It is our understanding that all of these wells were abandoned and the homes connected to the Town of Franklin water system back when the landfill was closed. This process is being initiated to ensure these wells cannot be used as a source of drinking water in the future. They should begin to abandon these wells in the next few weeks. Ms. Murray asked if the Environmental Health Section could give the realtors a recommendation to pass on to their homeowners encouraging them to test the water before the purchase a home. She also asked Mr. Patterson to address the permit 'renewal' issue and making sure that individuals are aware that the permits do expire and they need to reapply if the permit has expired.

#### **New Business:**

**NCALHD Officer Nomination:** Mr. Bruckner told the board that the NC Association of Local Health Directors nominated him as an officer again this year (Vice-President of the association). He indicated that it should take less time than last year as he would no longer be responsible for taking minutes. A motion to support Mr. Bruckner's nomination was made by Ms. Bowers and seconded by Ms. Murray. The motion passed unanimously.

**Appointment of Health Director Evaluation Committee:** Mr. Stevenson asked for volunteers to help him with Mr. Bruckner's annual evaluation. Dr. Killian said he was willing to do this again and Mr. Stevenson asked that if anyone else was interested to let him know.

#### **Board Training and Information:**

**BOH Planning Retreat:** Mr. Bruckner reminded the board that they had discussed having a planning retreat. Items for discussion/review include: Board of Health Procedure and other Board Policies, NCGS Laws & Rules applicable to Public Health, agency Strategic Priorities, NCALHD 2015 Legislative Priorities, and to look at the method selected for evaluating/measuring department objectives. He asked each member to please review the policies/procedure, and rules and regulations in their packets so they can discuss them at the meeting. He also took a moment to note the importance of Board Member involvement in the community health assessment process. Mr. Stevenson asked if everyone could be here by 5:30 next month. Most members present indicated that they could. They will need to have a quorum to be able to approve the Board of Health Procedure and Policies.

**Review of NCGS Related Laws & Regulations:** Handout

**Announcements:** There were no announcements.

**Next Meeting Date:** October 28, 2014

**Adjourn** – A motion to adjourn was made at 7:48 by Commissioner Higdon and seconded by Ms. Bowers. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bellavance

These minutes were approved on October 28, 2014 with a motion by Dr. Killian and seconded by Emily. The motion passed unanimously.