



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
February 25, 2014**

Members Present: Russell Stevenson – Chair, Frank Killian MD, - Vice-Chairman, Teresa Murray, Molly Phillips, Sheila Price RN, Stacy Shannon, Nathan Brenner DDS, & Roy Lenzo DVM.

Absent: Emily Porter-Bowers, Frederick Berger MD, & Commissioner Paul Higdon

Staff Present: Jim Bruckner, Barry Patterson, Becky Barr, Jimmy Villiard, Kathy McGaha, Tammy Keezer, & Charlene Bellavance.

Public Comment: There were no members of the public present.

Media: There were no members of the media present.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:16 by Chairman Stevenson.

Approve Agenda: Mr. Bruckner indicated that Becky Barr would like to be added under new business to talk about the Public Health Hero award in April. Also, under new business Mr. Bruckner asked that the proposed county position reclassifications be added and the reference to the changes to the billing guide will be just an update not a vote and the fee changes include more than just diabetes. A motion was made by Dr. Killian and seconded by Ms. Phillips to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Welcome/Intro/Departures/Recognition: Mr. Bruckner reminded the Board members that at the December 17, 2013 meeting the Board had nominated and voted to have Mr. Stevenson and Dr. Killian continue in their current roles as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board.

Presentation: There was no presentation.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings: Dr. Lenzo indicated that the reference where rabies is discussed under the SOTCH report that refers to species should be raccoons and skunks instead of squirrels and skunks. A motion was made by Ms. Price and seconded by Dr. Killian to approve the minutes of December 17, 2013 meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Budget Update: Ms. Hodgins referred the members to the report in their packets containing the expenditures and revenue so far this year. Mr. Stevenson asked about the adult dental revenue shortage. Mr.

Villiard indicated this could be primarily attributed to the time when the clinic was without a hygienist. He also indicated that they would be working on community outreach to build the clientele back up.

New Business:

Update to Sliding Fee Scale: Ms. Hodgins reported that there were some changes made in regard to the federal poverty level that affect our sliding fee scale. We have adjusted our fee scale to reflect these changes.

Fees: Ms. Hodgins referred the members to the list of fees that the finance committee is asking the board to approve. The changes are primarily due to pricing in the market. The changes requested: Round off the diabetes fees to the nearest dollar similar to other agency fees; and to add lab fee which correspond to CPT codes that we do not currently have on our fee plan.

Ms. Phillips asked if it wouldn't be easier if the board didn't have to approve every fee change and Dr. Killian asked if we couldn't try to do all fee changes on a quarterly basis. Ms. Hodgins answered that it is unfortunate that our fees change month to month but in order for us to be able to charge a patient the current rate, so we are not losing revenue, we have to present them in a timely manner. Mr. Bruckner indicated that he would be discussing the process of fee approval again with the County Attorney, Manager and if necessary the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Price asked if there was any prohibition of getting an email vote for these items to get a more timely result. Mr. Bruckner said he has discussed this with the county attorney, Chester Jones, and was advised that there was nothing in the statutes specifically disallowing this practice; however, Mr. Jones indicated that he would prefer we not be the legal test case with regard to this met. A motion was made by Ms. Price and seconded by Ms. Shannon to approve the fee changes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Lenzo asked how much of the cost to run the agency was actually county dollars. Mr. Bruckner stated that we would be discussing this with them when they present the next FY budget in the next few months, but currently it is very close to 50% of our funding.

Mr. Stevenson asked what trends Mr. Bruckner was seeing regarding the changes occurring which were outside our control. Mr. Bruckner indicated that one particular area where the state is seeing a significant change is in connection to Environmental Health tort claims which will most likely be impacting our budget next FY. He also indicated that within the next year or so we would probably stop seeing the Aid to County money. He also informed the Board that Community Transformation Grant funds were being eliminated effective September 30, 2014.

Changes to BOH Schedule: Mr. Bruckner requested several changes to the BOH meeting schedule. He requested the Board add the rabies forum to the March 25th BOH meeting and for the forum to start at 5:30 p.m. here in the A/B conference room. He also requested the Board move the April meeting from the 22nd to the 29th. A motion was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Dr. Killian to approve the changes to the schedule as proposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Dialysis Center Update: Ms. Keezer indicated she had a conversation with the Director at the center who indicated they had been open since August. They are currently serving 25 hemodialysis patients and approximately 40 peritoneal patients. The hemodialysis patients are those that have in-center treatments using a blood exchange process and are typically on the machines for approximately 4-5 hours at a time and, receive treatment at the facility on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Peritoneal patients have their treatments at home using one of a couple of type of different non-blood exchange methods. All of the current patients have either Medicare or private insurance. Macon Transit is providing transportation to those patients that need it and billing their insurance. The only patients they are not able to serve at this time are high risk patients who have not started dialysis. These patients may be on a waiting list for a transplant or their lab levels are in the high risk range but, they are not at a medical risk to start dialysis as of yet and

are still being seen at either the Sylva or Asheville offices. The director indicated that she would be more than willing to come to a board of health meeting or to give a tour of the facility.

Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility Changes: Mr. Bruckner indicated that a large number of the patients that we see in our clinic for maternal health services are no longer eligible for Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility; however, we are required by NC General Statutes and federal law to continue to provide this service. Mr. Bruckner estimating that this year we will probably lose approximately \$10,000 and that next year it would be about double that amount. This change is due to a state level DMA decision to require proof of citizenship to receive Presumptive Medicaid; he however further pointed out that the delivery and post-partum period, and the child until the age of 18 would be covered by Medicaid. He expressed concern that this change would impact access to prenatal care and poor birth outcomes which will only increase the amount of future Medicaid claims..

BC&BS Grant – Strengthening Oral Health: Mr. Villiard indicated the Department had applied for and been accepted for a two year grant. The grant is from the BC&CS of NC Foundation in partnership with the Center for Public Health Quality, NC State University Industrial Extension Service, NC Office of Rural Health and Community Care, and UNC Schools of Dentistry and Medicine. This training and support program will focus on improving access to care and increasing preventive activities for oral healthcare for pregnant women and young children, and improve revenues for the dental programs. There will be a site visit of our current clinics sometime in March. They will be using L.E.A.N Quality Improvement processes.

Public Health Hero Award: Ms. Barr indicated that April is Public Health month and we generally give a community member an award at the April board of health meeting. Ms. Barr will be publishing a nomination form that can be used to recommend someone in the community that has been volunteering in the community. The nomination form will be available on the website and she will be emailing it to all Macon County Public Health employees as well as the board of health members.

County Position Reclassification Changes: Mr. Bruckner indicated that a few years ago the County had conducted a salary survey which included a review of current job descriptions. However, this review of job descriptions did not include Health Department positions since we fall under the Office of State Human Resources. We were hoping at the time that our job descriptions would be included in the review so we would have something to take to the County to work on reclassifying some of the positions within the Department. Since this did not occur at the time we have had several conversation with the previous County Manager (Jack Horton) and have now started those conversations back up again with the new County Manager (Derek Roland).

Mr. Bruckner informed the Board that there were at least four positions currently within the agency that need to be reclassified and the pay scales reevaluated. This is important in the event a position becomes vacant, as in the case of the current vacant Public Health Nursing Supervisor I (Nursing Director) position. The old job descriptions and pay scales are not always adequately representative of the level of knowledge and experience that will be required for a new hire applicant.

Board Training and Information: Mr. Stevenson referred the members to the handout in their packets and asked that they put the 2014 updates in their board of health notebooks. Mr. Bruckner advised the board members that he included two handouts in their packets for their reference. The first was regarding the NACCHO Support of CVS Caremark's Decision to Pull Tobacco Products from their shelves. He indicated that the NALHD sent a letter to other large box pharmacy's asking them to follow CVS's example and pull tobacco products from their shelves. The second handout was the NACCHO 2013 National Profile of Local Health Departments.

Announcements: Rabies Vaccine Forum on March 25th begins at 5:30

Next Meeting Date: March 25, 2014

Adjourn – A motion to adjourn at 7:24 was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Dr. Brenner. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bellavance

These minutes were approved on March 25, 2014 with a motion by Dr. Lenzo and seconded by Dr. Berger. The motion passed unanimously.