



Macon County
Public Health

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
April 23, 2013

Members Present: Frank Killian, MD –Vice Chair, Roberta Swank, Tammy Dills, Molly Phillips, Stacy Shannon, Frederick Berger, MD.

Absent: Russell Stevenson – Chair, Roy Lenzo DVM, David Silverstein DDS, Paul Higdon & Ron Winecoff.

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

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

Media: There were no members of the media in attendance.

Call to Order: Vice-Chairman Dr. Killian called the meeting to order at 6:26 p.m.

Approve Agenda: Mr. Bruckner asked to add under new business; health director's isolation and quarantine authority, nominations of board of health member's, and update on outbreaks. A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Dr. Berger to approve the agenda as requested. The motion passed unanimously.

Welcome/Intro/Departures/Recognition

Presentations

Public Health Hero Award: Mr. Bruckner announced that April is Public Health month and thanked everyone who was committed to public health in the community both on a voluntary basis and those that work here at the health department. During Public Health month it is customary for the Health Department to recognize a local Public Health Hero. This person is someone nominated by the community for outstanding contributions that benefit Macon County residents. Mr. Bruckner asked Corban Tallent to accept recognition as honorable mention for his work with the Sheriff's department this year as a participant of shop with a cop. Corbin put together Christmas stockings for needy children in Macon County. The stockings included toothbrushes and other personal health/hygiene items. Corban was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a gift certificate for the Fun Factory. Mr. Bruckner asked Rhonda Blanton to come up and read her letter she had written nominating Bill Van Horn. Ms. Blanton explained how Mr. Van Horn is a past president and current member of the Nantahala Hiking Club. He was instrumental in Franklin being designated as an Appalachian Trail Community. Mr. Van Horn also participates in Cartoogechaye's annual hike to Siler Bald. The students and parents hike from Wayah Crest to Siler Bald and return on the Appalachian Trail. On this hike students learn about various plants and trees; as well as, how the Appalachian Trail is maintained. This hike also encourages the students (and parents) to include physical activity in their daily lives. Mr. Van Horn, by volunteering his time to promote hiking, is an excellent example of promoting physical fitness in our community. Dr. Killian and Mr. Bruckner asked Mr. Van Horn to come forward to accept the award as the Macon County Public Health Hero. In addition

to the award, Mr. Van Horn was also presented with a certificate of appreciation, and a gift certificate for dinner at the boiler room. Dr. Killian thanked both recipients for their contributions and commitment to the health of Macon County.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings: A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Dills to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 26, 2013 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Budget Update: – Ms. Keezer reported that for the month of March we were 8% spent. The year to date percentage for expenditures was 60% and with encumbrances we were 64% spent for the year to date. The March revenues were 5% earned for the month and 64% earned year to date. According to projections we should be at 75% earned and spent so we are under on both. The big difference is that CTG makes up a large portion of our budget and we have approximately \$400,000 that has not been earned or spent to this point in the year. The other programs that affect these numbers are for WIC which is underspent due to a vacant Nutritionist position and Health Education which also had a vacant position for a Nutritionist. Ms. Swank asked whether or not the salary was the main reason why we were having trouble filling these positions? Mr. Bruckner indicated that this was definitely part of the issue for both nutritionists and nurses. Ms. Keezer stated they had just posted a nurse position at the higher pay rate based on the salary study revision for that position and hope this will help in filling that position. Mr. Bruckner indicated that based on the new salary plan all health department employees will receive an increase. Most positions are going to be brought up to the base for their position. Very few of Macon County Health Department employees will experience an increase of only than 2 percent.

Environmental Health Update: - Mr. Bruckner told the board members that we still have not heard back from the state in response to the letter the board gave him permission to send regarding the Macon County lead investigation. Mr. Patterson received an email from the press with some questions that were very overly sensitive regarding matters that were not factual and were mostly rumor. After a short discussion it was decided that it would be best for the Department to discuss this directly with the individual to dispel any further rumors. Barry, Jim and Becky met with the reporter. There are some well owners that have voluntarily requested water samples.

Mr. Bruckner reported that the State Department of Natural Resource Aquifer Protection Section (APS) had joined with the State Environmental Health and Epidemiology Section's to aid in our investigation. APS staff is working with Harold Faircloth in our Environmental Health Section. The APS regional specialist (Landin Davidson) along with the regional environmental health specialist (John Brooks) will be working with Mr. Faircloth to do further sampling on several wells and placing a camera into the wells to view materials used in construction and look for problems. We have had several wells in the region where the galvanized pipe had been removed and the lead levels have gone back to normal. We do not definitively know if the pipe is the issue as there are too many other things that have not been looked at yet that could also be causing these high lead levels in newly constructed wells. Dr. Killian asked if we could determine who the driller was that put these wells in. Mr. Patterson indicated that this was a type of pipe that all of the drillers had been using over a long period of time. It was found all over the county and was not specific to one driller. The majority of the data gathered has been in the past 5 years or so since July of 08. Mr. Patterson followed up on Mr. Bruckner's response by explaining that another potential problem with the well water has been the over chlorination which is a catalyst for the water chemistry and the leaching process may even possibly be exacerbated. The water chemistry can be different when the water is moving as opposed to when it is still (positive vs. negative lead ions). We are exploring whether or not the state lab on routine water samples is testing for both.

Adult Dental Update: - Mr. Villiard indicated they only lost one day and a half of production moving from the old site to the new adult dental clinic office. He thanked our maintenance and IT departments for their efforts in getting things up and running so quickly. Dr. Killian asked if we should do something to thank Dr. Silverstein for the use of his facility. Mr. Bruckner said yes, that we plan to send him a thank you letter. Mr. Bruckner reported that we ended up under budget for the facility as well as the move.

New Business

Update on Outbreaks: Mr. Bruckner referred the board members to handouts in their packets regarding Epidemics and Isolation and/or Quarantine (I&Q) procedures. Mr. Bruckner took a few minutes to go over I&Q procedures/laws with the Board members. He indicated that under NC general statutes a local health director is authorized by the state health director to put someone into isolation or quarantine if it is deemed necessary to protect the individuals health or the health of the general public. In an instance of an outbreak of a contagious disease Mr. Bruckner has the authority to issue and enforce isolation or quarantine orders on an individual or group of individuals. There is no one else in the county that has this authority. .

MPP Board of Directors: – Mr. Bruckner asked for the Board of Health’s approval for him to take on this position of Board Chair for Macon Program for Progress (MPP). He indicated that it would not involve any more of his time than he is already spending as a general member of the MPP board which is approximately a one to two hours every other month. A motion was made by Ms. Swank and seconded by Ms. Dills to approve the nomination of Mr. Bruckner to serve as chair of the MPP board. The motion passed unanimously.

Nominations Committee: - Mr. Bruckner at the request of the Board contacted several individuals in the community to see if they were interested in becoming a member of the Board. He indicated he had several potential applicants for the positions that will be vacated by Mr. Winecoff, Ms. Swank and Ms. Dills who are rotating off at the end of June 2013. One nurse position has to be filled and two from the general population. He is talking with a Sheila Price and hopes that she will accept nomination and serve as the nurse position. Emily Bowers from Highlands and Teresa Murray from Franklin are the nominees for the general public positions. Mr. Bruckner will bring the final nominations to the Board of County Commissioners for approval at their next meeting.

Fee Changes: - Ms. Keezer asked the board to approve a new fee for the shingles vaccine. Our charge for the vaccine is 161.00 and our cost is 165.53. Ms. Keezer recommended that they approve the increased price of \$171.00 to cover our costs for the vaccine plus the ordering process. A motion was made by Dr. Killian and seconded by Ms. Swank to approve the increased price of \$171.00 for the shingles vaccine. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Training and Information

Announcements

Mr. Bruckner reminded the board members that they are planning to hold the open house for the new adult dental clinic on Thursday, April 25th. He hopes to have the new sign up before the open house. The chamber has said that they will plan to be there to participate in a ribbon cutting and photo opportunity at approximately 1:00 p.m. The county commissioners have been invited and it would be appreciated if as many of the Board members that could be there for the ribbon cutting would try to attend. As part of Public Health Month we will be having stroke screenings, oral cancer screenings and offering carbon monoxide testing as well. Please come out if you have time.

Next Meeting Date: May 28, 2013

Adjourn - A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 by Dr. Killian and seconded by Ms. Phillips. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bellavance

These minutes were approved on May 28, 2013 with a motion by Ms. Swank and seconded by Dr. Berger. The motion passed unanimously.