



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
December 17, 2013**

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

Absent: Emily Porter-Bowers, Commissioner Paul Higdon & Stacy Shannon,

Staff Present: Jim Bruckner, Barry Patterson, Becky Barr, Kathy McGaha, Diane Keener, & 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 asked to add Health Director's evaluation and job description, and Lead Content of Plumbing Material Law under new business. A motion was made by Dr. Berger and seconded by Dr. Killian to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Welcome/Intro/Departures/Recognition: Mr. Bruckner introduced the newest member Dr. Nathan Brenner as the Dentist appointed to the Board by the Board of County Commissioners. He also noted that both Dr. Killian and Dr. Lenzo had been reappointed by the Board of Commissioners to another three year term.

Presentations:

SOTCH Report - Ms. Barr reported on the 2013 State of the County Health Report. The board reviewed current data on morbidity and mortality rates and the current community health priorities. The first priority was to reduce the incidence of chronic disease related to obesity, particularly diabetes and heart disease. The second priority was to promote the recruitment and retention of physicians and dentists. Third priority was to reduce the incidence of breast, colorectal, and lung cancer. Ms. Barr reported what programs Macon County was working on and had been working on to accomplish these priorities. Ms. Barr also discussed emerging issues and local changes including suicide rates, lead in groundwater, gonorrhea, e-cigarettes, and the progression of rabies. Mr. Stevenson asked what species were the most responsible for the spread of rabies. Dr. Lenzo indicated it is usually raccoons and skunks. Another topic Ms. Barr covered in her report was the changes that may affect health in Macon County. A link to the SOTCH report will be added to the Macon County website and the SOTCH report will be widely distributed to the general public and community stakeholders. Dr. Killian asked how many patients were being seen at the new dialysis center.

Mr. Bruckner told the board members that he would ask someone from the dialysis center to come to a future Board meeting to tell them about the clinic. Ms. Phillips asked if there were statistics regarding how many of the deaths from lung cancer could be determined if they were a smoker or a non-smoker? Ms. Keener indicated that beginning in January of 2014 the death certificates would ask the questions about exposure to tobacco smoke. Dr. Berger mentioned that he understood there would be free radon testing in January but he did not know who was sponsoring this. He indicated he would find out. Mr. Bruckner indicated Barry Patterson would also check into this and let everyone know.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings: A motion was made by Dr. Killian and seconded by Ms. Price to approve the minutes of October 22, 2013 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Dr. Killian and seconded by Dr. Berger to approve the minutes of November 19, 2013 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Budget Update: Mr. Bruckner reported on the status of the agency expenses and revenue for the past quarter. He indicated this would be the new format for the quarterly report to the board. He noted that if any of the board members had any questions regarding the report or the finances of the department they should let him know. There were no questions. Dr. Lenzo asked if Mr. Bruckner would identify any categories as a problem. He indicated not at this time.

NCTracks: Ms. Keener indicated that this is our Medicaid reimbursement contractor now. She referred the board members to reports in their packets showing what we have collected so far from Medicaid. In comparison to last year when we were using another Medicaid reimbursement system the progress has been better than most. We do still have claims that Ms. Keener had to rebill due to a physician affiliation error. Her response from the NCTracks help desk has been good and the turn-around time for help requests has improved. Dr. Lenzo asked whether the change to the AFC would directly affect Medicaid. Mr. Bruckner indicated that the Medicaid enrollment numbers have increased significantly.

New Business:

2014 Meeting Schedule: Mr. Stevenson referred the members to the handout in their packets. A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Dr. Berger to approve the 2014 meeting schedule as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Fee Changes: Ms. Keener referred the members to a handout in their packets. There have been some price decreases due to our Premier pricing contract with LabCorp. We would like to pass these savings on to the public. Also, two new services were recommended, the Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine and MI paste for dental patients. A motion was made by Ms. Price and seconded by Ms. Phillips to accept the fee changes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

iMap Project Pilot: Ms. Barr reported that Macon County Public Health will partner with the NC Center for Public Health Quality and the Center for Healthy NC as a pilot county for Phase II of the Public Health Improvement Map Project (iMap). The goal of iMap is to create a web-based resource to help community health organizations select and implement evidence based population health interventions. Phase II will focus on assisting the pilot counties in improving return on investment in the areas of nutrition, physical activity, or tobacco control. Ms. Barr indicated that they have created a team and will be completing training to use the iMap process. She hopes that this initiative will show how we have improved outcomes on community health priorities through evidence based interventions. The project is on-going through September, 2014.

Environmental Health Productivity Report: Mr. Bruckner indicated he had been asked by the commissioners to start reporting productivity data for the Environmental Health Section for the commissioners to review. He referred the members to a handout in their packets comparing data from FY09 to that of the first quarter of FY14 and projected through the end of FY14. This report will be given to Commissioner Higdon to share with the other commissioners at their next meeting. This report is based on 100% FTE's. Ms. Phillips asked if the positions that were frozen in 2010 by the Board of Health and unfunded in that budget year were still frozen. Mr. Bruckner responded that yes they were. Mr. Bruckner asked the Board for their support in maintaining the current staffing levels in our Environmental Health Section and for their support of the report as presented. There was a short discussion among Board members, but no additional questions were asked. The Board acknowledged support of Mr. Bruckner's request and suggested that a meeting be scheduled in January with the Chair of the Board of Health, Commissioner Higdon and County Manager Derek Rowland to discuss this issue.

Health Director's Job Description & Evaluation: Mr. Stevenson reported that the sub-committee that completed Mr. Bruckner's review had given Mr. Bruckner very high marks. He supported Mr. Bruckner and encouraged him to continue to grow his leadership team. He asked for any input from other members. After a brief discussion among the Board members a motion was made by Dr. Killian and seconded by Ms. Price to accept the report from the personnel committee on Mr. Bruckner's evaluation and to approve Mr. Bruckner's job description as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Lead Content of Plumbing Material Law: Mr. Bruckner reported that they had asked the state to review the new rules regarding the change of lead content for materials in the construction of wells. Mr. Bruckner referred the members to press releases and newsletter articles in their packets published by the state and other entities discussing sampling protocols and other topics relating to the reduction of lead in drinking water. He indicated they were not getting a lot of support at the state level from DHHS. Our agency has been notifying owners if they have higher than normal lead levels, and providing guidance. The publicity has increased the number of requests for lead testing coming to the Environmental Health Section. Mr. Stevenson asked if anyone had questions or concerns regarding this issue. Mr. Bruckner suggested that it may be time to have another meeting to include the new county manager in the loop and bring him up to speed on the issue. It was suggested that a meeting be scheduled in January with the Chair of the Board of Health, Commissioner Higdon and County Manager Derick Rowland to discuss this issue.

Board Training and Information:

Announcements: The January 28th Board of Health meeting will be a public forum to discuss increasing the fee for the Rabies vaccine clinics. The Forum will begin at 5:30 here at the Health Department. The Health Department is offering free Healthy Heart screenings tomorrow and all members are invited to participate. Please contact Becky Barr to schedule a time.

Next Meeting Date: January 28, 2014

Adjourn – A motion to adjourn at 7:53 was made by Ms. Price and seconded by Dr. Berger. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bellavance

These minutes were approved on February 25, 2014 with a motion by Ms. Price and seconded by Dr. Killian. The motion passed unanimously.