



Macon County
Public Health

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
March 27, 2012

Members Present: Russell Stevenson - Chair, Roberta Swank, Ron Winecoff, Angie Stahl, Paul Higdon, & Commissioner Bobby Koppers

Staff Present: Jim Bruckner, Jimmy Villiard, Becky Barr, Barry Patterson, Tonya Hodgins, Tammy Keezer, Kathy McGaha, Mary Tyson, Melanie Batchelor, Dr. Bruno Kaldre, DDS, Stan Polanski & Charlene Bellavance

Media: None

Guests: Jason Peter & Sallie Tallent

Public Comment: There were no members of the public present

Call to Order: Chairman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm.

Approve Agenda: Mr. Bruckner asked for two items to be added under recognition; Mary Tyson & Paul Higdon. He also requested the addition of Budget Update and Fee Plan for Dentures under new business. The agenda was approved as amended with a motion from Ms. Swank and seconded by Mr. Koppers. The motion passed unanimously.

Welcome/Intro/Departures/Recognition

Mr. Stevenson recognized Mr. Higdon for his service to the community as a member of the Board of Health and thanked him for being willing to donate his time. He presented Mr. Higdon with a plaque from the Board of Health as a token of their appreciation. This is Mr. Higdon's last meeting as he resigned effective immediately from the Board of Health.

Mr. Bruckner recognized Ms. Batchelor as a recipient of the Jim Bernstein Community Health Fellows Grant. This is a wonderful achievement and is something that will be beneficial toward helping educate the public. Ms. Batchelor will be collaborating with WNC Healthy Kids in order to coordinate with primary and secondary prevention programs to help reduce and prevent childhood obesity. Mr. Stevenson presented Ms. Batchelor with a certificate of appreciation from the Board of Health for her achievement.

Mr. Bruckner recognized Mr. Jennings, who was not in attendance, for his election to the Mountain District Environmental Health Association as the Secretary/Treasurer.

Mr. Bruckner recognized Ms. Tyson for passing the National Board Certification for School Nurses. This is a great achievement. School nursing is a specialized practice area and this exam sets our school nurses apart from other counties. The board congratulated her on her accomplishment and presented her with an award for her achievement.

Mr. Bruckner introduced Dr. Kaldre who is the new dentist for our Adult Dental Clinic. His hire date was Monday, March 13th and he began seeing patients on the 15th of March. Mr. Stevenson told Dr. Kaldre how truly glad we all were to have him come to work for MCPH and that it is hoped he will enjoy working at the clinic as well as living in Franklin, NC.

Presentations

Community Care Clinic: Ms. Tallent reported that the Community Care Clinic (CCC) was started in 2010 as a satellite clinic of the Highlands-Cashiers (CCC) and is housed here at Macon County Public Health. The physicians, nurses and clerical staff are all volunteers and at this time they are in need of more volunteers. The clinic was opened with a 3 year grant through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services office of Rural Health which will be ending this year. There is a lot of competition for available grants so the chances of getting it again are not good. They are also looking for board volunteers who will be active fundraisers. The clinic has sent out mass mailings asking for both donations as well as volunteers. So far this year the clinic has had 506 patient visits, 160 of those visits were patients new to the clinic. Most of these people would have either done without care or gone to the Emergency Room. Ms. McGaha has approached the Young Leadership group and they have asked her to come and do a presentation in June. They received the promise of a grant from the Zonta Club. Mr. Stevenson stated that the Board of Health would continue to direct Mr. Bruckner to assist her in any way possible.

2011 Annual Communicable Disease Report: Mr. Polanski referred to a handout in the board's packet containing data from the 2011 Communicable Disease Annual Report which covers trends in infectious diseases in Macon County. He indicated that the health department's goal is to educate its patients so they do not contract these communicable diseases.

Mr. Polanski reported that there were two probable cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever but neither of the cases was confirmed. He indicated that Macon County did not have any active TB cases last year and that TB has been on the declining every year in North Carolina for the past several years. Mr. Polanski indicated that there were several cases of intestinal problems that were investigated by the health department which were traced back to a water park in South Carolina.

Mr. Polanski stated that in addition to communicable disease diagnosis, treatment and investigation the health department also does quite a few international traveler immunizations as well as education for these travelers.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: A motion was made by Ms. Swank and seconded by Mr. Koppers to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2012, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Adult Dental Clinic Update: Mr. Villiard presented an update on the Adult Dental clinic. He indicated the clinic began using contract dentists in June of 2011 after the resignation of our full time dentist in May. In November an additional \$54,000 was approved by the county commissioners to cover the cost of additional contract dentists. Dr. Kaldre, the new Adult Dental dentist, started on February 13th and began seeing patients on May 15 and has a full schedule. After the down time in the clinic, we project that our revenue

will actually only be about \$40,200 short. Our expenditures are projected to be about \$98,785 less than budgeted which was due to cut back of supplies requested, etc. Mr. Villiard recognized our contract dentists and told the board that letters thanking them for their services have been mailed. He also thanked Dr. Kaldre again and reiterated Mr. Stevenson's thoughts that we are all very thankful to have him in our Adult Dental clinic.

Tobacco Free Parks & Recreation Areas Update: Ms. Barr gave an update regarding the Tobacco Free Parks & Recreation Areas ordinance that was presented to the Board of County Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners decided to table the decision on the ordinance so the county attorney could research the difference between smoke free and tobacco free wording. There was also some question regarding what the TRU Sustainability Grant money represented, whether or not it was tax dollars. Mr. Kupperts responded saying that if they have a unanimous decision at the April meeting it will be done. Otherwise, the vote may be postponed again until May.

Public Health Month Update: Ms. Barr noted that April is Public Health Month and we sponsored a coffee and conversation breakfast for Chamber of Commerce members back in February to educate them about MCPH's programs. Dr. Villiard spoke at the event about the flu clinics, Ms. Batchelor presented information regarding the diabetes program and worksite wellness, and Ms. Leatherman discussed the preparedness program.

Public Health Hero Award Update: Ms. Barr stated that we are accepting nominations for the Public Health Hero Award which will be presented in April. Ms. Barr told the Board of Health to let her know if they had anyone in mind and to please see her for a nomination form.

Environmental Health Reception Area Update: Mr. Patterson referred to a handout in the board packets that shows the new floor plan for the Environmental Health (EH)-Code Enforcement reception area. This new floor plan has separate public windows for EH and Code Enforcement, while still providing "one stop shopping". In the past Code Enforcement collected money for both Departments; it was not always applied to the correct line items in the general ledger. Revenue flow has been corrected, appearance/impression is more professional, flow is more efficient and public feedback has all been positive.

Monthly Budget Update: Ms. Hodgins reported that our revenues were at 54.7% for February but should be at 66%. Earnings are down for the year mainly due to billing requirements for the new state system. Our money is not coming in like it should. The state had to do a conversion and our revenues were on hold. She stated we have seen an increase in March. Our expenditures for February were also down.

FY13 Budget Update: The budget was submitted to the county and Mr. Bruckner, Ms. Keezer and Ms. Hodgins discussed it with County Manager Jack Horton. The electronic health record that was originally proposed for \$120,000 was deleted from the original approved Board of Health budget by Mr. Bruckner. He stated that at the last Association of Local Health Directors meeting the Health Directors were told that the state has given HIS until 2014 to get their electronic health record up and running. It was also pointed out that health departments' that did not provide primary care services (of which MCPH is one) had until 2016 to comply with federal health care reform laws requiring meaningful use of health records.

Board Member Per Diem: Mr. Bruckner indicated that in the past each Board of Health member received a \$35.00 monthly per diem rate approved by the Board of Commissioners. The members decided in 2007 that rather than receive the per diem directly that the funds be placed in the health department administration budget, in a line titled Board of Health, to be used by the health director at his discretion for meals at Board meetings and for Board sponsored events, (e.g. four major employee events each year, holiday meals, summer BBQ, etc.) and catering of meals for staff trainings or for staff working beyond regular hours without expectation of compensation (i.e. working lunches). The board members were asked if they wanted

to continue this practice and all present agreed to continue to allow the health director to use his discretion in the distribution of funds from this account.

New Business

Adult Dental Fees for Dentures: Mr. Bruckner stated that Dr. Kaldre approached Mr. Villiard regarding the adult dental clinic making dentures. Dr. Kaldre feels that there is definitely a need in the community and he has experience in this area. The cost to make the dentures is feasible based on the time it would take Dr. Kaldre to make them. Also, discussed was that due to the increased number of patients Dr. Kaldre is seeing they are already outgrowing the clinic space they are in. Both topics were tabled for future discussion at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Board Training and Information: Mr. Stevenson referred the members to a handout in their packets that included updates for their Board notebooks.

Announcements: Mr. Bruckner noted that MCPH will be having a training day April 4th at Macon Bank from 9:00 to 4:00 and invited the Board of Health to attend.

Next Meeting Date: April 24, 2012

Adjourn: There being no further business a motion was made by Ms. Swank and seconded by Mr. Winecoff to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bellavance
Administrative Assistant to the Health Director

Minutes were approved April 24, 2012 with a motion from Ms. Swank and seconded by Dr. Killian. The motion passed unanimously.