



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
October 27, 2015**

Members Present: Frank Killian MD – Chair, Teresa Murray - Vice-Chairman, Chris Hanners, Emily Bowers, Dr. Roy Lenzo, Nathan Brenner DDS, Paula Ledford and Commissioner Paul Higdon

Absent: Molly Phillips & Carole Peterson, MD

Staff Present: Jim Bruckner, Tammy Keezer, Lynn Baker, Jimmy Villiard, Kyle Jennings, Dorota Anthony, Kathy McGaha, & Charlene Bellavance.

Public Comment: There were no comments from the individuals in attendance.

Media: Ryan Hanchett from The Franklin Press, Ms. Brittany Raby w/Macon County News & Ms. Kristen Karcher with WNCC Radio were all in attendance.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:15 by Chairman Killian.

Approve Agenda: Mr. Bruckner noted that items D & E “Addition to Billing and Collection Policies and Diabetes Prevention Program needed to be moved from New Business to Old Business and become Item E. Father’s House needs to be added under New Business and it becomes item G. A motion was made by Ms. Bowers and seconded by Commissioner Higdon to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Welcome/Intro/Departures/Recognition: Mr. Bruckner introduced April Innis who is our Registered Dietician and will be giving a presentation.

Presentations

Diabetes Prevention Program – Ms. Innis reported that we have applied for Recognition for a Diabetes Prevention Program. We have received grant money in order fund this program and once we have been piloting the program for one year we will receive full recognition. When the 3,000 participants were surveyed the reduction of type two diabetes rate was approximately 58% reduction. It promotes increased physical activity and it is a lifestyle change program. If BMI was reduced by as little as 5% over a 20 year period approximately 260,000 North Carolinians would avoid a type two diabetes diagnosis. This is a CDC approved curriculum. These are group classes for sixteen weeks followed by 8 monthly sessions. Funding is through the 1422 grant which has offered to pay for advertising. There will be scholarships offered to certain individuals who qualify based on certain criteria. Ms. Innis reported on the possible profitability of the program. A copy of Ms. Innis report is attached to these minutes. Ms. Innis is proposing to start this program in January.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: A motion was made by Mr. Hanners and seconded by Ms. Bowers to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2015 meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Hanners and seconded by Ms. Bowers to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2015 meeting as submitted.

Old Business

Budget Review: Ms. Anthony reported on the department expense and revenue budgets. We did receive our 2013-2014 Medicaid cost settlement money in the amount of just over \$407,000. Mr. Bruckner noted that the meetings with DMA have been productive but we still have not received all of our Medicaid cost settlement dollars. Mr. Bruckner will be having a conversation with the County Manager and Finance Officer to see if we can carry the additional cost settlement dollars received this FY over into next FY so we are not always operating a year behind.

Dentures: Dr. Killian reminded members that this topic had come up at a previous meeting. Mr. Villiard reviewed the basic services and billing costs of the adult dental program. The denture services were started during FY13. During 2015 with increased lab costs we still had \$44,396 of earned revenue; however, the estimates for the lab time plus staff time involved, left us with a loss of approximately \$3,300 last year. This is a value added service because it is not a service that a lot of public health agencies provide. We did find out that DSS will pay for Medicaid transportation to include mileage reimbursement vouchers to an individual and county transportation will provide a ride with a three to five day notice. The closest place for care is where county transit will take them; because of this, we are currently sitting on a number of applications for Medicaid dentures and they cannot receive services at another clinic until we take them out of our system. This year we implemented a cap on services due to the increase in lab cost. Mr. Hanners asked why there was a cap for the lab services. Dr. Brenner noted that this is the type of situation that just continues to spiral upward as far as costs. From a public health standpoint he believes that we would serve more of the public's dental needs if we stopped doing dentures. Commissioner Higdon asked if there were any other private dental practices that will take Medicaid. Dr. Brenner noted it could take as many as six visits for one individual to be completely fitted for dentures. When you look at individuals who end up in the emergency room because they cannot get into the dental clinic because we are servicing denture patients, we are not really meeting the needs of the majority of the public. The more the perception in the community becomes that we are a denture clinic the fewer general dental patients we are seeing. There are a few dentists in town that do have Medicaid patients but they do not publicize that they accept Medicaid patients. Mr. Villiard said we currently have between 40 and 60 patients who have applied to be seen for dentures. Mr. Hanners said we should be phasing out the program rather than just stopping it. Mr. Bruckner noted that we do have individuals in the system already that we have to provide the service for. Commissioner Higdon noted that there is obviously a need for dentures so how do we as a board find a way to serve that need. Dr. Brenner stated that there will always be more need than services available and we can't possibly provide services for everyone. Mr. Villiard said he would recommend that if the board were to consider a cap that it be based on the lab costs. No motion was made to change the services provided through adult dental at this time.

Environmental Health: Mr. Bruckner referred the board to the handout in their packets. He reviewed what was discussed at the Board of Commissioners most recent meeting. He noted that all of the counties measure their services differently so it was hard to compare the other county's information to our own. Some of the other counties have part time Environmental Health Specialists that issue permits, but were not reported as part of the survey and this skews some of the numbers. He reported that the Board of Commissioners made the decision not to pursue a change in the fee structure at this time but to wait until budget preparation next year. Mr. Jennings reported that as a follow up regarding House Bill 765 that was finally approved this week. This will eliminate the double charge for those who had to apply for two Construction Authorizations. There is now a private option permit that we are allowed to charge a fee for because we have paperwork to process and a site visit to perform. He will bring this back to the board for approval before the effective date of January 1, 2016. The maximum is 30% of what that application fee would be.

Fee Changes: Ms. Keezer referred the board to the handout in their packets regarding some additional fee changes. She reviewed the changes. There was some discussion regarding the Diabetes Prevention Program that Ms. Innis reported on during the presentation portion of the agenda. Ms. Hanners asked if the Diabetes Prevention Program presentation had been reviewed before or if this was the first time. Mr. Bruckner noted that they may have heard briefly about this program when Ms. Tennyson had come to present the information regarding the CDC chronic Disease grant - 1422 grant. A motion was made by Ms. Ledford and seconded by Ms. Bowers. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Animal Control/Rabies Control: Mr. Bruckner noted that the Board of Commissioners voted to change the County Animal Control Ordinance moving oversight of the animal control program from the county Managers Office to the Health Department. This was a unanimous vote by the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Bruckner restated what the County Manager said the reason for the change was so we could better serve the public and to assure that the animal control staff is trained, and that they have proper supervision by the Health Director. He and the county manager, as well as the commissioners, all feel this will be a better way to manage the process. The Animal Control officers will report to Mr. Villiard as their direct supervisor. Dr. Lenzo will be the veterinarian of record and will be under contract. The employees currently working for animal control will transfer from county oversight to public health oversight as of November 2, 2015. Dr. Lenzo noted that this will add a greater level of oversight this service.

Mr. Bruckner asked the board to amend the agent vaccination policy so as to stipulate that all employees of animal control be required as a condition of employment to have rabies pre-exposure vaccinations. A motion was made by Dr. Brenner and seconded by Dr. Lenzo to require that animal control employees be required to have a rabies pre-exposure vaccination as part of their employment. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of Health Directors Job Description: Ms. Keezer noted that the review of the health director's job description has to be reviewed and discussed annual. She reviewed the Health Directors: Responsibilities, planning duties, enforcement duties, leading and delegating, and administrative duties of the health director. A copy of Ms. Keezer's presentation is attached to these minutes. Ms. Bowers asked what Mr. Bruckner's degree was in. He responded that he has a Master's degree in Health Administration with a concentration in Public Health. There was brief discussion regarding the communication with the county regarding hiring and firing of employees and how certain positions are funded. There were no amendments made to Mr. Bruckner's current job description at this time.

Health Director Evaluation Committee Appointment: Dr. Killian noted that it is time for the Health Director's evaluation which is done annually. He indicated that Ms. Phillips had agreed to be on the committee and Ms. Murray agreed that she would be willing to serve again this year.

WIC Nutritionist: Ms. Baker noted that the WIC program has several vacancies in the department at this time. She reported that WIC is a federally funded program administered by the state to provide food (over \$700,000 annually in Macon County) and nutrition education to low income women and children. The program averages over 1,000 people every month. The department currently does not have a WIC nutritionist on staff. We have been advertising for a nutritionist position since last May on numerous websites and in local papers and have not been able to fill this vacancy. They had one candidate, but they turned the position down when they were made aware of the salary. As of September we lost our second nutritionist. They have re-worked the planning for these positions and have contracted with Nutrition Plus to temporarily fill these positions. We cannot serve our clients without a nutritionist or nurse on staff. The rate we have to pay for a contract nutritionist is unsustainable as we are going to run out of funds before the end of the year. We have never had use county funds to support the WIC program, but were are quickly reaching a critical point where if we don't fill these positions we are going to have to either request additional funding or find the funds elsewhere in the health budget to support this program. The problem in recruiting is the current salary for these positions. Currently our Nutritionist positions are posted at \$29,260 and Jackson and Transylvania County are both paying over \$40,000.

The average salary range for other nutritionist in the community is in the range of \$42,000. We have two alternatives to ask the county to cover our contract or we can look at our health department budget. Mr. Bruckner noted that sometime in the near future he will be approaching the County Manager with new salary plan to enhance recruitment and hopefully sustain this program. Ms. Baker noted that they do offer clinics in both Highlands and Nantahala. Dr. Killian suggested they continue to communicate with the college programs to try to attract local students. The problem continues to be that the students are attracted to the jobs that offer the higher salaries.

Father's House: Mr. Jennings reported that there is an individual that started a shelter and rehab facility in the community. The current location does not meet many current codes and he is looking for a new facility. He has located another location on Lake Emory Road. He has received fire code approval but this location does not meet code for the septic system. They have advised him of this and he is approaching the town to see if he can work with them to hook onto the city sewer system. The apartment he is potentially hoping to use would accommodate thirteen individuals.

Board Training and Information: Dr. Killian referred the board members to the handout in their packets which is a copy of the DHHS Report of First Flu Death.

Announcements:

- The Community Health Assessment Community Stakeholders Meeting will be November 5th from 10:00 to 2:30 at Entegra Corporate Center "Macon Bank" if interested in participating please let us know.
- Ms. McGaha noted that Operation H2O Mass Dispensing Full Scale Preparedness Exercise is set for this coming December 1st and 2nd at the Community Services Building on the Georgia Road. They are looking for volunteers to be players in the exercise and participate in the event. If you are interested please contact Melissa Leatherman.
- Bruckner asked the board to think about whether they wanted to have an official meeting in December or have a social event.

Next Meeting Date: November 17, 2015

Requested Agenda / Discussions Items (General Updates, Emerging Issues, etc.) - Follow up for the WIC Program Nutritionist.

Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made at 7:55 with a motion by Commissioner Higdon and seconded by Mr. Hanners. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bellavance

These minutes were approved on November 17, 2015 with a motion by Dr. Peterson and seconded by Ms. Phillips. The motion passed unanimously.