



Macon County  
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
12/15/2020**

**Members:** Melissa Bell, Pharmacist and Chair, Nathan Brenner, Dentist and Vice-Chair; Teresa Murray, General Public; Jeff Todd, Veterinarian; Paul Higdon, County Commissioner; Mitchell Bishop, Engineer; Gosia Tiger, General Public; Vacant, Physician, Ellen Shope; Nurse Representative; Vacant, General Public; and Ross Dodge, General Public

**Members Absent:** Paul Higdon and Gosia Tiger

**Staff Present:** Kathy McGaha, Melissa Setzer, Jennifer Garrett, Jimmy Villard, Ellen Holbrooks, Kristina Loughborough and Emily Ritter

**Guests:** None

**Media:** Brittney Lofthouse with the Southern Scoop

**Public Comment:** None

**Call to Order:** Melissa Bell called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm.

**Welcome/Intro:** None

**Agenda Approval:** Nathan Brenner made a motion to approve the agenda. Mitchell Bishop seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Presentations:**

**PETCO FOUNDATION**

Ellen Holbrooks announced that Animal Services has just won a grant from the Petco Foundation for \$5,000. On September 21, 2020 Macon County Animal Services was notified by one of its adopter that they were submitting MCAS for a Petco Foundation Holiday Wishes Grant. On October 27, 2020, MCAS was officially notified of the nomination. On November 20, 2020, Petco Foundation notified MCAS that they had been selected to receive the grant and December 8, 2020 MCAS was awarded the grant totaling \$5,000. Mrs. Holbrooks shared the story that initiated the nomination and the final selection of the grant that went to MCAS from Petco. This story is how a lost pit bull dog who is now named "Franklin", had no family, was rescued and ended up rescuing the one person who saved him. The full story of Franklin and his new loving human can be read on the Macon County Animal Services Facebook page. Facebook provided a link to vote for Shawna and Franklin's story that has the potential to win the Animal Services an even larger sum of money. Ross Dodge asked Ms. Holbrooks how Animal Services intended on using the grant money. She stated that they are focusing on things that would benefit the

animals. One idea is dampening panels to calm the dogs. The sound level in the dog kennels is so loud that it effects the dogs as well as staff and potential adopters. Jimmy Billiard stated that Shawna actually works in a COVID unit in an Atlanta hospital, and to know that they had a part in making her life better is a wonderful thing.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Nathan Brenner made a motion to accept the minutes. Ellen Shope seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

COVID-19 Update

Jennifer Garrett stated that Macon County Public Health has seen a spike in our numbers since the Thanksgiving holiday. Last Monday there were 33 new cases, this Monday there were 45 new cases, today (Tuesday) there are an additional 15 new cases, 10 people did recover today. They were expecting a spike, but not this drastic of a spike. MCPH has noticed a trend that there is a spike in numbers after a holiday. The big question now is about the vaccine. Mrs. Garrett stated that they are in the planning process and preparing for the vaccine. One challenge they are facing is how to keep testing and start vaccine clinics at the same time. The state has sent out a playbook on how they will dispense the vaccine. Health care providers are first on the list to be vaccinated. They hope to start vaccinating patients by the first of the year. MCPH did host the last flu shot clinic today. This will be the last clinic that will be held for flu shots. Ross Dodge stated concerns with security when it came to the vaccine. Does MCPH have security or a way to secure the vaccine? Mrs. Garrett explained that law enforcement will be involved from the time the vaccine has started transportation until it is secured in a secure location. There will also be law enforcement at the Health Department during vaccination clinics. MCPH will also be partnering with EMS during the vaccination clinics. Each patient that received the vaccine will have to be observed for 15 minutes after the vaccine is administered. In order for the vaccine to be effective, a person must receive both vaccinations within a certain time period. Mitchell Bishop asked if they knew how many doses MCPH would receive. Mrs. Garrett stated that from what the state is telling them they should receive 975 doses, but the final numbers and shipment dates have not been released from the state. The state has not given MCPH access yet to the program that will track the vaccine. Ellen Shope asked if MCPH will be the distributor for all providers when the vaccine arrives. Mrs. Garrett stated that MCPH would only be receiving a shipment for the Health Department. The hospital will receive their own shipment and any other provider that has signed up to provide the vaccine. Mrs. McGaha stated that at this time the list of providers within the county has not been released. Most of the nursing homes/long-term care facilities have signed up with Walgreens and CVS for their vaccine distribution. There are different phases in which the vaccine will be distributed. The list was shown at the board meeting and can be found on the Macon County Public Health's Facebook page. Mrs. Garrett walked the board through the different phases which broke down who would receive the vaccine in which phase. She also explained that once they have finished vaccinating anyone in the first phase that they could then move on to the next phase. Patients will have to make an appointment in order to receive the vaccine. At that time, the patient will be screened to see which phase they are in. This will help to make sure everyone is in the correct phase. Emily Ritter stated that they are working on the communication and information that will go out to the public. She does feel like people will try to be vaccinated before their phase. Mrs. McGaha stated that it is expected and we will work hard to make sure everyone who wants the vaccine gets it. Ellen Shope asked if they were seeing delay in getting test results back since the spike in numbers. Mrs. Garrett stated that there have been some coming back slower than others have; it is taking from 2-4 days to get results back. LabCorp is working everyday but Christmas day.

Nomination for Chair and Vice-Chair As discussed at the last board meeting the board would need to vote for the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2021.

Mrs. McGaha asked that at this time did anyone have a nomination for Chair.

Ross Dodge made a motion to nominate Mitchell Bishop for Chair. Ellen Shope seconded the motion to nominate Mitchell Bishop for Chair. Board members voted and the nomination of Mitchell Bishop for Chair passed unanimously.

Mrs. McGaha asked if anyone had a nomination for Vice-Chair.

Melissa Bell made a motion to nominate Ross Dodge for Vice-Chair. Nathan Brenner seconded the motion to nominate Ross Dodge for Vice-Chair. Board members voted and the nomination of Ross Dodge for Vice-Chair passed unanimously.

Board of Health Chair for 2021 will be Mitchell Bishop.

Board of Health Vice-Chair for 2021 will be Ross Dodge.

**New Business:**

POLICY REVIEW

Kathy stated that this is our annual policy review for the Board of Health policies. Copies of the policies were emailed to all Board of Health members. Polices were also placed in the Board of Health meeting books. Melissa Bell asked the board if everyone had had a chance to review those policies. Ellen Shope asked if the policies has had any changes made, except the signature of the Health Director. No other changes were made to the policies this year stated Mrs. McGaha.

Ellen Shope made a motion to approve the policies. Ross Dodge seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion:** Mrs. McGaha asked if there was any topic that the board would be interested in discussing for the January meeting. Ross Dodge stated that he would like to know how the Macon County Public Health is going to handle adults that need dental work and cannot afford those services since the Adult Dental clinic has closed down.

**Closed Session:** None

**Announcements:** None

**Next Meeting Date:** 1/26/2021

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Nathan Brenner. Mitchell Bishop seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 7:13 pm.

**Minutes Recorded by:** Melissa Setzer, MCPH Administration Assistant