



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
5/26/2020**

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; Dr. Kevin Foley, General Public, Ellen Shope; Nurse Representative

Members Absent: Paul Higdon

Staff Present: Kathy McGaha, Jennifer Garrett, Carrie Pazcoguin, Melissa Setzer, Lisa Browning and Emily Ritter

Guests: None

Media: Lee with the Franklin Press called in to join the meeting.

Public Comment: None

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:16 pm by Melissa Bell.

Welcome/Intro:

Approve Agenda:

Dr. Todd made a motion to approve the agenda with one change of moving the closed session after the Discussion. Ross Dodge seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentations:

A. Jennifer Garrett, Director of Nursing - COVID-19 Update

As of this meeting there are 18 confirmed positive COVID cases in Macon County. MCPH tested 131 individuals on Friday, 17 individuals on Saturday and 109 today, May 26th, with 31 already scheduled for tomorrow. Individuals are screened and scheduled for testing through the call center. There are designated staff members doing contact tracing in connection to the positive cases. Courtney Bell is currently still in the process this evening trying to update the spreadsheet from all the tests done today. MCPH has activated a 2nd phone center today due to the high volume of calls coming in. Melissa Bell gave praise to the Health Department working so hard to keep up with all the testing and contact tracing that is taking place. Mrs. Garrett also stated that we had another case today that has no connection to any of our other cases. Mrs. Bell asked what the turnaround time was getting test results back. Mrs. Garrett stated that they typically receive test results back from LabCorp in 2 days. Total number of individuals tested at the Health Department to date is 505, with 248 pending test results, 234 negative results received, 18 confirmed positive cases (15 active, 2 recovered, 1 death). Mrs. Garrett stated that some individuals are more

symptomatic than others. Ellen Shope asked if we are still only testing people who are symptomatic. Mrs. Garrett stated that we are testing the ones that are symptomatic, which are screened through the call center and then those that are identified through contact tracing. Individuals need to know that they could test negative now but test positive later on.

B. Lisa Browning, Environmental Health Specialist - Business Education

Education has been a big component. We have a team of 4 people; 2 School Nurses and 2 Environmental Health Specialists that go out and educate the businesses how to handle this and steps to reopen. These teams are going out into the field and working with facilities on the 6 ft. distance and capacity guidelines. As of this day they have 117 places in compliance with the guideline, 131 out of compliance, 96 that have had rechecks, 63 that have had a second recheck and 43 that are closed. Restaurants have also been calling for assistance with the limited seating capacity guidelines that they will be required to follow when they reopen. Staff is working diligently to answer all questions for them. Staff has also been out to the Migrant Farms with interpreters to educate the workers. Melissa Bell asked Mrs. Browning about the protocol when a facility is not in compliance and has not been either time they have been out to the facility. Mrs. Browning advised the board that those facilities are then turned over to the Fire Marshall.

C. Emily Ritter, PIO – Community Education

Spoke about what education we are doing with the public and that we are sending all education material out in English and Spanish. Stated that we have also utilized Instagram and Twitter to reach a larger group of individuals. We have tried to make sure all information is up to date and goes out to the community as soon as possible.

Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings:

Ellen Shope made a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. Todd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: None

New Business:

A. Carrie Pazcoguin, Finance Officer – FY21 Budget Update

Gave update on where the county is with the FY21 budget. MCPH submitted the budget with a 4% increase which is roughly \$600,000.00. A portion of this increase were generated from the amount of staff, equipment and supplies that will be needed to continue the fight against COVID-19. Even with a loss of revenues our work here at the Health Department has increased due to the pandemic. The budget information provided by Mrs. Pazcoguin is just a rough draft; the budget has not been approved by the County Commissioners. Melissa Bell asked if we have heard anything from the state in regards to the funds that will come from them. Mrs. Pazcoguin stated that we have already signed our Agreement Addendums; they were received before the pandemic. Things are still subject to change.

Board Training and Information:

A. Kathy McGaha, Health Director – Board Training

Rachel Wilford with UNC has forwarded our office information for two different online trainings that the Board of Health can participate in. This training will allow the individual to work at their own pace. Ms. Wilford did advise us that UNC is still exploring the option of Zoom trainings.

Discussion: None

Motion to go into closed session made by Dr. Foley, Dr. Brenner seconded that motion. Motion to go into closed session passed unanimously.

Closed Session: Discussion recorded in separate confidential document.

Motion to go back to open session made by Dr. Todd. Mitchell Bishop seconded that motion. Motion to go back to open session passed unanimously.

Ross Dodge asked for volunteers to explore funding aspects for the dental program. Mr. Dodge asked if an employee at the health department could be assigned to working with BOH volunteers. Ms. McGaha stated she would assign an employee. Board members agreed to keep looking for future funding.

Announcements:

Next Meeting Date **6/23/2020**

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mitchell Bishop. Dr. Todd seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Minutes Recorded By: Melissa Setzer