



Macon County
Public Health

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
5/28/2019

Members Present: Melissa Bell, Pharmacist and Chair; Nathan Brenner, Dentist and Vice-Chair; Teresa Murray, General Public James Tate, County Commissioner; Dr. Julie Farrow, Physician; Ross Dodge, General Public; Ellen Shope, Nurse

Members Absent: Gena Futral, General Public, Jeff Todd, Veterinarian, Mitchell Bishop, Engineer

Staff Present: Carmine Rocco, Kelly Pla, Jennifer Garrett; Tammy Keezer; Jimmy Villiard; Diane Keener; Kathy McGaha; Sheryl Young; Melissa Leatherman;

Guests:

Media: Mr. Luke Barber, The Franklin Press; Ms. Kristen Karcher, WNCC Radio

Call To Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:26 P.M. by Mrs. Bell.

Public Comment: None

Approve Agenda: Dr. Farrow made a motion to approve the agenda, Mr. Dodge seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Welcome/Intro/Departures/Recognition: Mrs. Bell and Commissioner Tate presented Melissa Leatherman with certificates and plaques for her retirement. Kathy McGaha introduced Sheryl Young with our adult dental clinic.

Presentations: *Rabies vaccine clinic update:* Jimmy Villiard presented on the rabies vaccine clinic. One clinic per year is required, MCPH does two, one in spring and one in fall. Our spring one was on May 11th and we had a good turn out with 207 animals vaccinated. Thanks to the veterinarians who volunteered and assisted with that.

Child Fatality Prevention Team – Jennifer Garrett – The task force was established in 1993 in every county and asked to review the death of all children under age 18. The health director can be the designee or he can designate someone. Jennifer Garrett is our designee. The purpose is to identify deficiencies for services in children to prevent child death and help families. We come up with recommendations that are sent ahead to the statewide Team Coordinator. Jennifer went over the case review process. Currently making recommendations for 2017, 5 deaths that year. The deaths that occurred ranged from unpreventable to preventable. Recommended Actions: There is a lack of law regarding securing loads in work

trucks or pickups, only big trucks. There are litter laws, but nothing in regards to trucks losing things on the road and causing a road hazard. The CFPT is starting an awareness campaign about debris in the road from unsecured loads. Jennifer showed the brochure that they are working on. Met with DOT on certain roadways and how to make them safer.

Legal Updates – Diane Keener – HIPAA – We are required to provide HIPAA training to the board annually. The board can count this presentation as their annual training. As part of the Legal Conference in April, the HIPAA update included a reminder of to look at the “small” things. Not only do we need to be mindful of not releasing patient demographic information such as name, date of birth, etc without an authorized release from the patient but we need to also look at other ways to identify a patient. Such as male asians that live in the Nantahla zip code. This would be such a “small” number that it could easily identify a patient. Reminder that we always need to look at the information that we release to make sure that no patient is identified when gathering data for grants, reports, etc. and how to avoid identifying patients. Local Health Dept services and staffing – Another area that was covered at the conference was mandated services and staffing of the local health departments. What is required (check 1C in the book) purpose and mission – state law makes county govts responsible for supplying local health services. Table 1 gives an idea of public health agencies across the state, compares 2012 to projected July 1 2019. There is an increase in consolidation in agencies, but some of those agencies are working on reversing that decision. There has been some discussion about the difficulties in finding board members. Table 2 has a breakdown of what is required for Boards. Table 3 shows what power that the different types of boards have, minimum staffing requirements, the roll of commissioners and agency, selection, etc. It was expressed during training that several counties are trying to leave consolidation, and a district is disbanding and going back to a local health department as well.

Tammy Keezer – emergency shelters – DSS in Macon is responsible for emergency shelters, working with Warren Cabe on when to set them up. The health department provides the medical support for that. The presentation focused a lot on what was learned from the coastal counties after the hurricanes last year. They were not good about exercising plans and drills, something that we have been diligent about under Melissa’s watch. The public communications were extremely challenged, didn’t have good plans in place for notifying staff, communicating between agencies, this is something that we practice frequently. New Viper tower in the county, improving our communications and we will purchase additional Viper radios. There is no longer any designation for special needs shelters. The category doesn’t exist anymore, so you need to be able to manage those people within a standard shelter. Our shelters are set up in schools, some other counties utilize their jails as shelters. Some others used a section of the hospital or nursing home that isn’t occupied. Shelter lists are not protected by HIPAA but intake forms are. Varicella Outbreak – Buncombe County – total of 41 cases, 38 were within the school system, 2 identified in the hospital. Issued 104 quarantine orders, 81 were due to children with religious exemptions, 23 due to people who had little or no proof that they were vaccinated. Many of the religious exemptions were not valid religious exemption. In NC they have to be signed off by a physician, not a chiropractor. In Buncombe, they had a chiropractor sign off on several of them. Three challenges were filed in court, all around the quarantine, 2 were dismissed on procedural grounds. The third was heard in superior court and the health department came out on top because in accordance with the law, the health department has the authority to issue quarantine orders and ensure that those orders are carried out. Lessons learned – Reach out to all schools prior to an outbreak. We are currently doing that now as regards measles. Buncombe also had trouble obtaining information when they asked for it. Tried to protect the school and looking at HIPAA, they didn’t want to name the school when they had to do a

press release. One of the pieces that they did in quarantine orders was children were not to participate in any activities outside of their immediate family. Extracurricular group activities is what the law states. Carmine – We have been preparing as well as stocking up on vaccine, being prepared to mobilize if necessary for measles.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: Commissioner Tate made a motion to approve the April minutes. Dr. Brenner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Director's Comments – Carmine – Telepsych program is starting to get organized, equipment set up and testing today and tomorrow. We will be starting off with 4 hours a week and expand to 8 hours a week. We continue trying to hire open position and spending a great deal of time on budget preparation. We started some reorganization with the agency after the last meeting, the budget and HR staff now report directly to Carmine. Tammy Keezer is working on transferring all HR to Diane Keener. Diane's time is being freed up to focus solely on HR, Carrie is going to be in charge of the customer service component starting in June.

Board Training and Information:

Carmine passed out budgetary summation to the board to give them an overview of the budget. Each year we start with an original budget, which is traditionally lower than what we revise it with. FY20 is what starts July 1. That column is our request from the county and the next column is what the county is returning in their review of our request. The difference between the request and what's being recommended is in the next column. Budget isn't completed yet. The last column looks at revised budget for this year as compared to what has been recommended to county. We got some good things in the budget like, vehicles for environmental health and animal services. The dental programs – the dentists' salaries have been increased to a higher level in the hopes of retaining a dentist. Areas of concern may be in vaccine line, however, as we were told that we're going to get an increase in cost from suppliers, so we'll need to revisit that with them. All other line items you can go through and if you have any questions, please ask. In some cases animal services is included, in other cases it isn't, which can lend to some confusion. The other item that gets confusing is the front page, the 1422/Mountainwise – this is a group of educators and other health professionals that work in the western region, not just Macon. Some decreases are state dictated like WIC.

Discussion items: Add closed session minutes to next month's agenda.

Closed Session: None

Next Meeting Date: 6/25/2018

Adjourn: Commissioner Tate made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Brenner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.



Melissa Bell, Chair

Date



Date



Carmine Rocco, Interim Health Director

Date



Date