



Macon County  
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
3/26/2019**

**Members Present:** Melissa Bell, Pharmacist and Chair; Nathan Brenner, Dentist and Vice-Chair; Teresa Murray, General Public; Jeff Todd, Veterinarian; James Tate, County Commissioner; Gena Futral, General Public; Mitchell Bishop, Engineer; Dr. Julie Farrow, Physician; Ross Dodge, General Public; Ellen Shope, Nurse

**Members Absent:** Mitchell Bishop

**Staff Present:** Carmine Rocco, Kathy McGaha, Jaclyn Mathis, Carrie Pazcoguin, Kelly Pla, Jennifer Garrett; Kyle Jennings; Tammy Keezer;

**Guests:** Chester Jones; Derek Roland

**Media:** Mr. Lee Buchanan, The Franklin Press; Ms. Kristen Karcher, WNCC Radio

**Call To Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:15 P.M. by Mrs. Bell.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approve Agenda:** Mr. Tate made a motion to approve the agenda, Dr. Brenner seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

**Welcome/Intro/Departures/Recognition:**

**Presentations:**

Body Art Law: Kyle Jennings gave a presentation on legislation to change how body art rules are done. He gave a history on why the laws are being looked at and changed. A few years ago a high school student was giving tatoos to other students, but in NC you are required to have a permit to give tatoos. This is to prevent the spread of blood-borne pathogens. There was a man in Macon who was violating the rules, and it is the lowest level of misdemeanor in NC. The legal route was unable to stop him. Environmental Health got backing from local representatives and commissioners to enforce the law against illegal tattoo artists. Proposed changes would make it the highest level of misdemeanor possible, another provision would be to regulate not just tattooing, but also piercing and other types of body art. The proposed bill by Senator Davis passed the House 114-4, but died in committee in the Senate. Senator

Davis contacted us on reintroducing the bill and we worked with him to see what changes we could suggest. One thing in particular is to add a blood-borne pathogen training for people who do piercings or tattoos. Senator Davis says he will introduce the legislation and we're going to see where it goes. The draft law has been sent to the state level so that people in Public Health have had a chance to look over it, see how it will affect them and their area. Mr. Dodge asked if there was a thought to offer a free course on blood-borne pathogens to these organizations. Mr. Jennings said that he thinks the local shops that we know would be on board with it and it's something that MCPH has already looked into. Mrs. Garrett said that they had already gone out to a local tattoo shop and went through some of it, but we are still waiting to see what the law would want us to offer before we start providing courses.

*Meningitis Outbreak:* Jennifer Garrett gave a presentation on the Neisseria Meningitis outbreak. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes. Mrs. Shope asked about the second case being suspect rather than confirmed. Mrs. Garrett explained that the second case had two positives and one negative test, so because we got at least one positive, they are still listed as a case. Mr. Rocco discussed some of the improvements needed to be made in communication.

**Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Dr. Brenner made a motion to approve the February minutes. Dr. Todd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Board Training and Information:** Mr. Rocco handed out a summary page of the budget for FY20 and reviewed it with the Board. Mr. Rocco requested that the board approve the budget, the motion to approve the budget passed unanimously.

**Discussion items:** None

**Closed Session:** Dr. Brenner made a motion to go into closed session citing a Personnel Matter in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11a(6) and 143-318.11a(3) and North Carolina General Statute Section 143-318.11 (a) (3) in Order to preserve the Attorney Client Privilege and for Chester Jones, County Attorney, and Derek Roland, County Manager, to stay in the room. Carmine Rocco and Kyle Jennings were also asked to stay regarding the environmental health lawsuit. Mrs. Shope seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

No further business was conducted.

**Next Meeting Date: 4/23/2018**

**Adjourn:** Dr. Todd made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dodge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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Melissa Bell, Chair

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Date

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Carmine Rocco, Interim Health Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date