



Macon County
Public Health

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
November 27, 2012

Members Present: Russell Stevenson – Chair, Frank Killian, MD, Molly Phillips, Ron Winecoff, Fred Berger, MD, David Silverstein, DDS & Roberta Swank.

Staff Present: Jim Bruckner, Jimmy Villiard, Becky Barr, Tammy Keezer, Jennifer Garrett, and Charlene Bellavance

Media: There was no one from the media present.

Public Comment: Mr. Bruce Hedden of Hedden Brothers Well Drilling spoke on behalf of the Macon County Well Drillers Association thanked Harold Faircloth for keeping him up on details regarding the wells in Macon County. He stated he felt the association had responded well to the situation. Mr. Stevenson asked how long they had been installing imported galvanized metal pipe in wells. Mr. Hedden said they had been using foreign pipe since the late 1990's and that his company had installed tens of thousands of feet of the imported pipe. This type of pipe has been proven to cause lead to leach into the well water.

Call to Order: Chairman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

Approve Agenda: Mr. Bruckner asked if two items could be added under new business; Office of State Personnel – Delegation of Authority and Lake Nantahala fish advisory. A motion was made by Dr. Killian and seconded by Mr. Winecoff to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Welcome/Intro/Departures/Recognition:

Becky Barr reported that the part time Breast Feeding Peer Counselor position had been filled. Seana Vernelson is working in WIC and will also be visiting local doctor's offices.

Presentation:

Essilor Foundation-Kids Vision Day: Ms. Garrett reported that the school nurses, for the past two days, have been partnering with the Essilor Foundation to do refractive eye exams for children that were invited to attend KIDS VISION DAYS. School Health Fairs are done yearly for grades K-8. The children are screened with a Titmus screening and if they fail that screening, they get tested with a SNELLEN chart. If the child fails both of those tests they are referred to a physician. The Community Building was used as it was a convenient site for all schools to bus the children to. Parent consent was obtained for the eye exam and the transportation of the children. There were 30 children that got glasses, 11 children that did not get

glasses, but would need them later on, 1 child was absent, and 5 children were referred to have an eye exam with dilation of the eye. Russell asked if they would send a follow up letter to the parents of the children who did not attend. Jennifer said they would probably just invite them again next year. We are the first county in North Carolina that the Essilor Foundation has partnered with.

SOTCH Report: – Ms. Barr presented the annual state of the county health report which has to be done any year we do not complete a community health assessment. There are certain things that have to be reviewed as priorities. They are also required to allow participation from the community. A copy of this report can be accessed on line at <http://maconnc.org/images/healthy-carolinians/2012SOTCHReport-MaconCountyNC.pdf>. Ms. Barr reviewed the key issues relating to the results of the report including the top six causes of death in Macon County compared to Western North Carolina and the state as a whole. There were a few new or emerging health issues that were discussed including the fact that the suicide rate this past year has increased. Ms. Barr noted that in 2012 so far we have had 8 confirmed suicides and three that are pending autopsy.

Another issue that was addressed in the SOTCH report is lead levels in well water. Our environmental health department has notified the owners of the properties where these wells exist. The cause of this lead increase has been connected to the use of imported pipe that is used in these wells. Mr. Bruckner reported that Mr. Faircloth from our Environmental Health department had done testing on several different types of pipe to see what the lead content was. The ANSI certified pipe from the US has been agreed upon by the well drillers. Mr. Stevenson asked what percent of wells that are put in require galvanized pipe. Mr. Hedden said he couldn't answer that. Mr. Hedden stated that there are certain situations that require galvanized pipe. This depends upon the depth of the well and the type of motor that is being used. He did indicate that there is a US producer that makes the galvanized pipe that meets these requirements however the cost is 240% more than the import. There were 55 wells tested that came back with higher lead levels than is acceptable. Dr. Berger asked if there were any patients that presented in the community with high lead levels. Mr. Faircloth said he did not know that information but we could test any individuals that request it. Ms. Barr commented that the state WIC numbers did not reflect any irregularities. We anticipate there will be questions in regard to this issue after this report is published. Mr. Stevenson asked Mr. Faircloth what percentage of well water vs. surface water was showing high lead levels and is there a consistent method for testing for the lead. Harold said yes they do what is called a leach test. They didn't know if the lead would compound with other elements around the bore hole and if it would still reflect high lead levels. He said the bore hole did not show the lead.

Ms. Barr asked anyone that had any other ideas for new or emerging health issues that they thought should be included in the report to let her know so she could make the changes before she submits the report for publication.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: A motion was made by Mr. Winecoff and seconded by Ms. Swank to approve the minutes from October 23, 2012 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

FY12 Monthly Budget Update: - Ms. Keezer reported that our YTD revenue was at 38%, 17% earned for the month of Oct. and the expenditures were at 8% for the month of Oct., 31% YTD. So far this year we are underspent.

Fee Plan Changes: Ms. Keezer referenced the handout in the board member packets and directed them to the changes in yellow. These changes were made at the request of a state auditor. There was also a donation policy established for the agency so individuals could make donations to Macon County Public Health. Ms. Keezer referred the board members to the spreadsheet in their packets that reflected a new sliding fee scale and CPT codes for adult dental clinic services. Additionally there were some increases in vaccine costs that

needed to be adjusted. A motion was made by Dr. Berger and seconded by Dr. Killian to accept the changes to the fee plan as proposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Silverstein wanted to congratulate the adult dental program but also stated he had concerns about Medicaid reimbursement and how long it would continue to pay for these services. Mr. Bruckner stated that he hoped in the future Dr. Kaldre might become a pre-ceptor with the UNC dental program and become a mentor to college students. This would provide us with an applicant pool once the student's training is complete.

Adult Dental Update: Mr. Villiard reported that on the 13th of November Russell Stevenson, Dr. Kaldre, Jimmy Villiard and Tammy Keezer attended the Board of County Commissioners meeting and requested the approval of the lease for the new facility, the architect for the design and the equipment purchase. The board approved all these items. On the 14th of November the representative from the dental equipment company and the architect met and they merged the drawings. Now that this is done the construction can be put out to bid. Mr. Villiard is optimistically hoping that they will be able to open by sometime in April.

New Business

Nominations for Next Year's Officers: Mr. Winecoff recommended that if Mr. Stevenson and Dr. Killian were willing to continue in their current positions they be allowed to do so. There were no other nominations. Both Mr. Stevenson and Dr. Killian agreed that they would be willing to continue as Chairman and Vice Chairman. There will be a vote at the next official meeting in January.

Approval of 2013 Board of Health Meeting Schedule: A motion was made by Mr. Winecoff and seconded by Ms. Swank to approve the 2013 Board of Health Meeting Schedule as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Office of State Personnel – Delegation of Authority: Ms. Keezer requested that the board make a motion to allow our agency to send a request for delegation of authority to the Office of State Personnel. What this would allow our agency to do is verify and approve all of the applications submitted for jobs here at the department without having to go through the office of state personnel to confirm that they meet the job description requirements. Ms. Keener and Ms. Keezer will be attending training next week in order to obtain the necessary certification to implement this procedure. A motion was made by Dr. Silverstein and seconded by Ms. Swank to send the employees to the necessary training and authorize the letter to the Office of State Personnel requesting delegation of authority for hiring of new employees. The motion passed unanimously.

Lake Nantahala Fish Advisory: Mr. Bruckner reported that the agency had been notified by the North Carolina Division of Water Quality's Environmental Sciences Section that fish sampling data indicated that there were elevated levels of mercury in certain species of fish in Lake Nantahala. Although the agency states this does not present a known human health risk for people engaging in other recreational activities there will need to be further discussion regarding the proper way to advise the public of the advisory. Mr. Bruckner will continue to update the board as this issue progresses.

Board Training and Information

N/A

Announcements: Mr. Bruckner invited all of the board members to participate in the agency's Holiday Luncheon on December 5th at noon. He also reminded them that the next meeting would be the Board of Health Christmas Social on December 12 at 6:00. Both events will be held here at the health department.

Next Meeting Date: December 12, 2012 – Social gathering only

Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Winecoff and seconded by Dr. Killian to adjourn the meeting at 8:05. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlene Bellavance". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Charlene Bellavance

These minutes were approved on January 22, 2013 with a motion by Mr. Winecoff and seconded by Ms. Phillips. The motion passed unanimously.