



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
January 27, 2015**

Members Present: Frank Killian MD – Chair, Teresa Murray - Vice-Chairman, Russell Stevenson, Dr. Roy Lenzo, Nathan Brenner DDS, Stacy Shannon Pharm. D., Carole Peterson, MD and Commissioner Paul Higdon

Absent: Molly Phillips, Emily Bowers, Paula Ledford

Staff Present: Jim Bruckner, Tammy Keezer, Becky Barr, Jimmy Villiard, Barry Patterson, Kathy McGaha, & Charlene Bellavance.

Public Comment: Dr. Killian asked if anyone had signed up for public comment. Ms. Strum from Grandview Manor wanted to thank Macon County Health Department for their assistance with a recent flu outbreak at their facility. Macon County Public Health personnel provided CDC protocol requirements to Ms. Strum and helped her implement these steps. Grandview Manor also had difficulty getting prophylactic Tamiflu for their staff members. Macon County Public Health was able to write prescriptions for prophylactic Tamiflu, though Dr. Dewhurst the agency Medical Director for staff and residents not already being treated or on prophylactic Tamiflu. She stated that most assisted living facilities don't have a health director or any medical staff that would be able to write prescriptions. It was a significant positive impact on the facility when they finally received the help they needed. Dr. Lenzo asked if we could create a plan to have in place for the future in the event this happens again. Ms. Strum indicated that there is a protocol for the assisted living facility and the recommendation is to have employees and residents vaccinated against the flu. In this instance the vaccine did not match the flu strain that was active.

Media: Mike Parks from the Franklin Press, Merritt Shaw from the Highlands Newspaper and Kristin Karcher from WNCC radio were in attendance.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:15 by Chairman Killian.

Approve Agenda: Dr. Killian noted that under new business members should add – water quality fee update, and new fees, and under old business an update on hiring a physician extender. A motion was made by Mr. Stevenson and seconded by Dr. Peterson to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Welcome/Intro/Departures/Recognition:

The Macon County Board of Health recognized outgoing Chairperson Russell Stevenson. Mr. Stevenson was presented with a plaque of appreciation from the new Chairperson, Dr. Frank Killian. Mr. Stevenson has served on the Board of Health since 2008, and served as the Board Chair from January 2012 to December 2014. Mr. Stevenson will continue to serve on the Board of Health fulfilling the position of engineer representative.

Presentations

SOTCH Report: Ms. Barr referred the members to the handout in their packets of The State of the County Health report. She briefly reviewed the highlights regarding morbidity and mortality data, and hospital admissions. The three county health priorities selected during the 2012 Community Health Assessment were also reviewed. This review included results and progress made on each priority during the 2014 calendar year. Ms. Barr also reviewed how our county rates have changed regarding the priorities selected. Ms. Barr also reviewed emerging health issues including Ebola preparation, e-cigarettes, and upward trending suicide rates. The full report can be viewed on the county's website, at the health department, or at the Macon County Public Library.

Dr. Killian asked how often this report was done. Ms. Barr said it is due to the state in December of every year that we do not perform a community health assessment. Mr. Stevenson asked how our older than average population affects the results. Ms. Barr indicated these numbers are age, race, and sex adjusted so they are an accurate reflection of the trends.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: Dr. Killian asked members to review the minutes from the last meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Peterson and seconded by Mr. Stevenson to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2014 meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Molar Roller Update: Mr. Villiard indicated that the Molar Roller will be transported back from Ohio this Friday following a 6 week retrofit. Maintenance staff will be on hand Saturday when it arrives at South Macon Elementary School. Computers will be reinstalled on Monday and they will be back up and open for business on Tuesday. Dr. Peterson asked how children get seen on the Molar Roller. Mr. Villiard indicated that a letter is sent home approximately four weeks before they visit the school so parents can make an appointment. Mr. Villiard indicated that it was to our benefit that our county maintenance took such good care of the unit during the time we've had it, so it required modest work to be done.

Rabies Clinics Update: Mr. Patterson referred the members to the handout in their packet. He indicated that they had raised the fee last year for the rabies vaccine and were concerned that this would impact the number of shots given at these clinics. When he looked at the data, including all of the vaccinations being done in the community, the rabies clinic numbers are down, but we are still vaccinating the same number of animals County-wide. Mr. Stevenson asked if we have had a positive report of rabies in the county. Mr. Patterson indicated that we had one positive test come back on a bat but no other animals have tested positive.

Update on Physician Extender and Lab Supervisor: – Ms. Keezer indicated that we had hired a new Lab Supervisor, Ann Hall, who comes from a direct practice and academic background and we are very happy to have her. We have extended a written offer to a Nurse Practitioner and have received a verbal acceptance. She plans to submit her written acceptance to us next week with an anticipated start date of May 4, 2015; 90 days out to be in compliance with her current contract. Dr. Peterson asked if this nurse practitioner was trained on colposcopies. Ms. Keezer stated that she was not but was willing to be trained.

New Business

Communicable Disease Update: Mr. Villiard referred the members to the handout in their packets that included information about the current influenza numbers in our region. The H3N3 was the predominant strain that is showing positive in testing. He also noted the flu outbreak that we had at a local assisted living facility, 64 out of 68 residents had symptoms of the flu. There were approximately 53 prescriptions for Tamiflu that were written for residents and employees. We continue to monitor the facility to be sure the flu has stopped spreading. Mr. Stevenson asked what the difference was between a nursing home and an assisted living

facility. Mr. Villiard indicated that a nursing home has to have medical personnel on staff and there are different state requirements. Dr. Lenzo asked how many days it took for us to respond once we were notified. Dr. Villiard indicated that we responded the same day we received notification. Within two days the prescriptions were obtained for the residents and employees. Mr. Stevenson asked how the Health Department was doing regarding the vaccine policy. Mr. Bruckner indicated that we had achieved 100% compliance.

Mr. Villiard reported on the current EBOLA outbreak. Although the last case in the U.S. was reported in October, globally the epidemic appears to have not peaked yet. He also pointed out the tremendous impact on public health the US cases have had to include contact tracing and monitoring.

There is a current Measles outbreak in CA linked to theme park that continues to spread. The index case appears to be a child traveling from an endemic country. Most US cases have been in unvaccinated children. Although there is a requirement for school children to be immunized against measles, a family can claim a religious exemption and the child will be allowed to attend school. Also, home schooling is becoming more popular and is not subject to the same immunization requirements.

On-Site Wastewater Permitting: Mr. Jennings indicated that the state handed down some new permitting requirements to them in December. They have stated that the Construction Authorization for a septic system installation is not transferrable to subsequent property owners. The construction authorization is not transferrable as well but the building permit is. Mr. Stevenson asked what drove the state to make these changes. Mr. Patterson reported it is probable that litigation against the state prompted the changes. Mr. Higdon asked how this was going to affect our fee structure. Mr. Patterson indicated that he and Mr. Jennings had already drafted a new fee schedule and when they have finalized it they will bring it to the board for approval. Dr. Killian asked if he thought this would slow down the recovery of the real estate market. Mr. Patterson said that he did not think so. The permit extension act that 'tolled' septic permits from 2008-2011 runs out in 2016. Ms. Murray stated that it will possibly affect the individuals that have undeveloped land and want to sell it. The new requirements may more clearly define the options for these land owners. There really haven't been any major changes to the fee structure since 2007. We are open to suggestions or ideas about the fee structure.

Water Quality Fee Update: Mr. Patterson reported that the state lab increased their fees and this has impacted us. This is not good because we are getting fewer samples as people are not checking their well water. He referred them to the handout in their packets regarding technical investigation and guidance from Virginia Tech. They are proceeding to secure funding for a graduate level thesis on lead in the wells in Macon County.

Medicaid Cost Settlement & Clinical Program Changes: Mr. Bruckner reported that we were asking for several budget amendments and would need Board approval for these. They went before the County Commissioners last week based on a short notice request by the County Manager to present on changes in this year and next year's budgets and Medicaid Cost Settlement was one of the items presented at that meeting. Due to the increase in Medicaid Cost Settlement revenues over the past few years we are requesting these funds be built into the department's budget each year so we are not scrambling at the end of a fiscal year to spend these funds. This is money that we have earned in revenue and has to be spent in the program where it was earned. He referred the members to the handout in their packets. We are proposing adding additional clinical services as the demand in the community based on our community health assessment is driving this need. Because these revenues are generated by the health department these changes will not require any additional County funding – no added cost to the County. Mr. Bruckner reviewed the FY 15 & 16 projected increase in revenues and expenses. We are asking that the board approve a FY15 increase of \$146,608. We are requesting \$99,039 of FY15 earned revenues be carried forward into FY16. All of the added positions will be contract positions and will not continue into FY17 unless we can continue to generate and maintain these additional revenues to support these positions. Mr. Bruckner asked if anyone had any questions. A motion was made by Mr. Stevenson and seconded by Dr. Peterson to approve the budget changes as requested. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bruckner indicated that Dr. Dewhurst will be bringing some of his patients with him (e.g. Macon Citizens for the Handicapped) here and will provide primary care for family planning patients who do not have a primary care medical home. We are also considering providing limited services for Macon County Employees, County retirees, and their families eligible for the counties health insurance plan as part of an Employee Health Program proposal. This would help reduce the county health insurance claims expenses by treating employees at the health department. This program would focus on treating mainly acute episodic issues and some chronic disease management. We will be discussing this further with the County Manager and will be present it to the County Commissioners as part of the budget process. Dr. Lenzo asked if he knew what the savings would be to the agency. Mr. Bruckner indicated he did have data regarding potential savings in claims payments and the hours of work time saved, etc.

New Fees: Ms. Keezer reported that we had purchased ten doses of quadravalent flu vaccine for employees who had requested it so they could comply with the agency vaccination policy, but who in the end declined the vaccination. The vaccine was then administered to patients seeking vaccination through the department immunization clinic so it would not go to waste. We now need to have the Board approve an administration fee of \$20.00 and a vaccination fee of \$40.00. A motion was made by Mr. Stevenson seconded Dr. Brenner to approve the two fees. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Training and Information:

The 2015 updates for BOH notebooks were made and the notebooks were given back to members.

Ms. Hodgins included a budget update for the month of December in their packets for their information.

Announcements:

Community Health Assessment: The kick-off event for the 2015 Community Health Assessment will take place on January 30th at Macon County Bank beginning at 8:00 am. The full Healthy Carolinians Partnership has been invited and the Board of Health is also invited and encouraged to attend. They will be serving breakfast. Ms. Barr also indicated that they would be creating a sub-committee to analyze and prioritize the data received from the Community Health Assessment. The time commitment for the sub-committee will be four to six meetings and Board of Health members are invited to participate in that data collection/analysis subcommittee.

Next Meeting Date: February 24, 2015

Adjourn – A motion to adjourn at 7:43 was made by Mr. Stevenson and seconded by Ms. Murray. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bellavance

These minutes were approved on March 24, 2015 with a motion by Dr. Peterson and seconded by Dr. Brenner. The motion passed unanimously.