

Madison County Board of Health Special Meeting
Thursday, August 28, 2014 - 6:00 pm
Health Department Board Room
Members Present

Sue Vilcinskis, Commissioner
Dr. Reese Steen, DDS
Cynthia Yancey, MD and Vice Chair
Tony Payne, Engineer
Melanie Kraft, Public
Mike Stevenson, Public

Dr. Meg Pressley, DVM and Chair
Marianna Daly, M.D. Ex Officio

Regular Meeting Special Meeting

AGENDA

I. Welcome, Call to Order

Chair Pressley

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 by Chair Pressley

II. New Business

a. EHS Fee Schedule Changes – State Lab Water Sample Fee Increases

There are some fees that the BOH has already approved that are affected by fee changes at the state lab which was mandated by the state legislature. The legislature is requiring the state lab to be self-sustaining. The fee schedule that was approved will not have money to help cover costs and operating expenses. Options are being investigated. 1. We could do the water samples in house, but it may involve additional lab techs. We are also looking into other certified labs in the Western part of the state. Jan recommends not changing fees at this time, evaluate the impact to the health department and report back to BOH in Oct. There was a discussion around the current structure vs cost of samples. 2. It may be a better option to send to another certified lab. Our Environmental Health Department feels as though the jump in fees for water samples may be more than our population could absorb. There was discussion around how the best way is to move forward. **A motion to take no action in regard to water fees was made by Mike Stevenson, Dr Steen seconded, none opposed, motion passed.**

b. School Nurse Program Changes – Request from Superintendent and BOE to consider a Health Department Program

Background: School has 4 nurses 1 is school funded and 3 funded by public health funds, all currently fall under the school. In school district job classifications they are not paid at the professional level, but once they are certified school nurses then they are bumped up to masters level. Currently there are no certified nurses in the schools. The school asked the HD to employ the nurses under the HD. The incoming salary for school nurse is significantly lower than the HD. If under HD nurses do not need to get certification. From financial standpoint all are funded under state dollars. If they come on board they will be on a 10 month school schedule and would be supervised by school. The 1 position that is funded by the school would also come to the HD along with the funding for the salary and benefits. The theory is that it will add some stability to the program. These are all full time positions who work 10 months, with salary spread over 12 months.

An advantage is that if there is an outbreak of a communicable disease then the nurses become more clinically oriented vs administratively oriented. Currently we can't cross train our nurses to serve in the schools because of the certification component.

A motion was made by Sue Vilcinskis to bring the school nurses on as health department employees, Dr Steen seconded, none opposed. Motion passed.

c. Public Health Preparedness and Accreditation Change – Contract with Chris Emory ending September 12, 2014

The preparedness position has been contracted with someone who worked in preparedness in Buncombe County. He is leaving the preparedness and accreditation coordinator positions. We need someone to fill both positions. We would like to create a position to take care of those responsibilities. We are required to have both of these. We have two open positions. While there is lap salary funds available we may or may not need to ask the county for some support. The estimate of how much would be needed from the county is \$4600. We would have to recruit someone for a full time position.

Another model could be to approach EMS taking on the public health activities which would mean the funding to the health department would decrease.

Dr Steen made a motion to reallocate funds to cover a mandated position for the remainder of the year and compensating for the funding by delaying hiring along with having some vacant positions. Mike Stevenson seconded, none opposed, motion passed.

d. PPHC Update – lack of provider and an opportunity to contract with Health-e-Schools

Dr North approached the Health Department to contract Tonya to fill the position at PP. We have not seen the contract. We are currently using some providers from HSHP to cover the gap that is vacant. They are coming 1 ½ day per week.

Pro's: school, families, children are accustomed to her. She would have dedicated time at school. This agreement would provide her office space to see our patients and see children in Yancey and Mitchell counties utilizing telehealth.

Jan asked for the board to discuss and make a decision about whether to continue to investigate the contract.

Dr Steen made a motion to have Jan and Dr Daly continue talks with Dr North and investigate the contract potential and report back in October to give options while continuing to recruit for a full time Nurse Practitioner. Seconded by Dr Yancey ,none opposed, motion passed.

For Your Information and/or Additional Comments:

III. Adjournment Meeting adjourned by Chair Pressley

Mike Stevenson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sue Vilcinskis. Meeting adjourned at 7:54

IV. Next Regular Meeting: October 9, 2014