

Madison County Board of Health Meeting
Thursday, March 25, 2021 6:00 pm
<https://zoom.us/j/91941436533?pwd=WjM3ZnVLeHdaWjA1c1V5U3BpNEFNQT09>

Members

Dr. Robert Adams DDS, Chair
Dr. Suzanne Sheldon, DVM
Andrew Thomas, Public
Crystal Webb, Public
Larry Peek, Engineer
Dr. Shannon Dowler, MD

Rachel Smith, RN and Vice Chair
Matthew Wechtel, Commissioner
Hanna Hardin, Pharmacist
Diana Rogers, RN, Public
Dr. Melissa Robinson MD. Ex Officio

Absent:

Andrew Thomas
Hanna Hardin

Dr. Dowler
Dr. Sheldon

Regular Meeting Special Meeting

AGENDA

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

Introduction of new BOH member Dr. Dowler

Chair Adams informed the Board that Dr. Dowler had been approved by the County Commissioners and is now a member of our BOH.

II. Consent Agenda - Approval of

a. Agenda:

Chair Adams asked for a motion to be made to approve the agenda. A motion was made to approve the agenda by Larry Peek and Dianna 2nd the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

b. Board of Health Minutes, January 28, 2021

Chair Adams asked that a motion be made to approve the January 28th, 2021 minutes. Matt Wechtel made a motion that the minutes be approved as submitted. Dianna 2nd the motion. The motion was approved.

III. Public Input Session

Community member:

Robert Steinglass was in attendance for the public input session. Mr. Stieglasse reported that he has retired and lives in Mars Hill. He has about 48 years of experience working with the World Health Organization helping with Smallpox eradication and provided technical support to childhood immunization programs throughout the world. Mr. Steinglass reports that he is an Infectious Disease Epidemiologist. He has worked in Africa, Asia, and the Soviet Union. He wanted to know the plan once COVID vaccine came more plentiful and how are we going to get the vaccine to people in the hollows and remote areas of the county that do not have transportation? How do we get pop up clinics out to the remote areas?

IV. Announcements

Matthew Wechtel reported that there have been lots of comments on how smoothly things went when residents came to get their vaccines. The experience was quick, easy, staff were very courteous and pleasant. Crystal Webb expressed her appreciation as well on the good job the Health Department did with the vaccination process and testing process, while keeping all the other programs running. She felt the MCHD staff did an outstanding job navigating through this complex pandemic.

V. New Business

a. State of the County Health Report (SOTCH)

Jodi Brazil presented the SOTCH- (The State of the Country Health Report). The State requires the SOTCH to be done in the off years of the Community Health Assessment which due every 3 years. Our next Community Health Assessment will be this year, 2021. We will be doing a phone survey for the Community Health Assessment working with WNC Healthy Impact and a new agency PRC Data.

b. **COVID-19 Update:**

Tammy reviewed the daily update that we post on the county website. COVID numbers are slowly coming down. Madison County is currently at 23 % for the number vaccinated. In North Carolina we have 3 vaccines. We were expecting a large shipment of J & J but the shipment was not as large as we thought that it would be. She feels that we are heading in a good direction as far as positive covid cases.

- More than 43 million Americans — 1 in 6 adults — have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, according to the CDC. More than 79 million people in the US have received at least one dose of the two shot vaccines, according to the CDC.
- More than 40% of people aged 65 and older, who carry a higher risk of serious illness and death, have been fully vaccinated for the disease, while 68% of seniors in this age range have received at least one part of the vaccine.
- Nationwide nursing homes have seen drastic reductions in COVID cases and deaths since the beginning of the year when vaccines became available.
- Accelerated Vaccine Timeline in Jackson and Macon County and others now open to everyone
- Requests for vaccine and managing the vaccine inventory, schedules, uploading the demographics into the ERH and into the state system
- Working with the Sheriff and his medical provider for vaccination at jail
- Recent report of 75 wasted doses
- Working closely with numerous community partners
- Engage the MHU nursing students in our vaccine efforts
- Spring Break concerns

c. **COVID-19 Discussion among BOH**

d. **Medicaid update**

Tammy reported that Medicaid transformation is moving forward. Dr. Dowler is the Chief Medical Officer for Medicaid for North Carolina. MCHD has their contracts in place and is making plans to move forward.

e. **Staff Evaluations:**

Tammy presented a new staff evaluation to the Board members for review and approval. Members reviewed and discussed the new form. Chair Adams asked for a motion to approve the new Evaluation form be made. Matthew Wecthel made a motion to change and approve the Evaluation form presented to the Board. Dianna Rogers 2nd the motion. The new form was approved unanimously

IV. Administrative Reports

a. **Medical Director's Report**

Dr. Robinson discussed the following information with the BOH members:

COVID-19

Increased vaccine availability. 16yo

Decreasing cases in U.S. but still the potential for surge (as seen in Europe)

Governor's Order - Effective 5 p.m. March 26:

- Still requires face coverings in all public indoor settings
- Fully lifts the 11 p.m. curfew for on-site service of alcohol
- Increases the indoor mass gathering limit to 50 people and the outdoor mass gathering limit to 100
- Increases maximum occupancy limits:
 - 100% for museums, aquariums, retail businesses and shops, barbershops, salons
 - 75% indoors and outdoors for restaurants, breweries, wineries, amusement parks, gyms, pools
 - 50% indoors and outdoors for bars, conference centers, reception venues, sports arenas, other live performance venues

Needs

- Mental Health
- Endocrinology for uninsured
- Gaps in care for underinsured who make a little too much for pregnancy Medicaid, Sliding Fee Scales and/or Project Access

Work in Progress

- Funding to continue suboxone – grant ends in June. Rachel Potter working on possible extension.
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- Maternal Health program has capacity and may be under-utilized – advertise. Need to make sure residents know we serve OB patients
- FIT tests (AGA donates the colonoscopy for qualifying low-income folks if FIT is +, but we provide the FIT.)
- MedServe/Americorp fellow for 2021-2023
- Interpreter Services grant
- Project Access might be able to expand Dental Svcs

b. Health Director's Report

Tammy reported that we have the following positions open at the Health Department:

- The WIC assistant which is still open due to COVID and WIC continuing to work remotely.
- Our BCCP nurse left us last month. This was a 24 hour a week position. Tammy has made some proposals for this position to become full time.
- Tammy has met the County HR Director concerning salaries. The HR Director did a survey of other small counties and many of our positions are clearly underpaid. Tammy has done a proposal for increases for the next budget year.
- The County Commissioner's approved 3 temporary part-time positions to help with COVID and those positions have been filled. We are very grateful for this extra help with all of the new demands.
- Water damage repair, Tarheel Basement Systems- Environmental Health has been moved to the Admin building while this is going on.
- Discussion around a decontamination room, for clinical staff use as a new addition to the MCHD
- The Outbreak at MH&R is officially closed
- Representative Madison Cawthorn
- COVID Medicaid Rates and Managed Care Rate Setting
- Additional Narcan and lock boxes
- Working on our state agreement addendums
- Continue to meet weekly with the school system, EOC
- On the state level, the NCAHLD having two separate funding conversations with state legislators: one around one-time COVID-relief funding that was part of the December 27, 2020, federal relief package, and one around the need for recurring state investment in communicable disease control.
- House Bill 196 contains a one-time award of \$84,000,000 to local health departments to be allocated based upon the percentage of the state population served for the purposes allowed under the federal ELC Enhancing Detection Expansion cooperative agreement grant (mainly costs associated with testing, contact tracing, etc.). HB 196 awaits the governor's signature as of the date of this writing. House Bill 61 contains recurring communicable disease funding and was filed on February 8, 2021, If HB 61 passes, it would provide \$36,000,000 in recurring funding to local health departments for communicable disease control.

c. Financial Reports:

Tammy reported that billing continues to be off by months, but we have a plan in place to get caught up. We now have some staff to help with getting us caught up. She did present the Revenue and Expenditure Report and that the following departments had higher revenue then this time last year: immunizations, adult health and on-site wastewater all saw increases. Tammy told the Board that with the help will be in place and billing will be started back tomorrow.

d. 2021/2022 preliminary budget:

Tammy gave the Board of Health members a copy of the preliminary budget for 2021/2022. She did point out that salaries are the highest line item we had on the preliminary budget. She will ask for salary adjustments to be made for the 2021/2022 budget.

VI. Other Business

Crystal Webb asked a follow up question concerning comp time if that had been settled. Tammy has discussed the comp issue with the County Manager and the County HR Director. Commissioner Wecthel stated that the County Manager has not presented it the Commissioners. He will push to get it on the agenda for the next Commissioner Meeting.

IX. Adjournment:

Chair Adams asked for a motion to be made to adjourn. Rachel Smith made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned and Crystal Webb 2nd the motion. The BOH member voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm. Chair Adams did remind everyone that our next meeting was **May 27, 2021** and to please make sure you have it on your calendar.