

Madison County Board of Health Meeting

Thursday, January 26, 2023, 6:00 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89489288687?pwd=bnlvZjFsNlJ0WU5TRy82R3h3TXhtdz09>

Members

Dr. Robert Adams DDS, Chair
Dr. Suzanne Sheldon, DVM
Hanna Hardin, Pharmacist
Crystal Webb, Public
Larry Peek, Engineer
Caleb Massey, RN

Dr. Shannon Dowler, MD
Matthew Wechtel, Commissioner
Cheryl Conway, PhD, RN
Diana Rogers, RN, Public
Dr. Melissa Robinson MD. Ex Officio

Present via Zoom

Diana Rogers

Crystal Webb

Absent

Dr. Robinson
Hanna Hardin

Dr. Dowler
Cheryl Conway

x Regular Meeting

o Special Meeting

Minutes

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Adams called the January 26, 2023, meeting of the Madison County Board of Health to order at 6:09 pm. The Board of Health had a new Board member joining, Caleb Massey. Mr. Massey is a RN and works at Hot Springs Health Program. He is responsible for their Quality Improvement Program.

II. Consent Agenda - Approval of

a. Agenda

Chair Adams asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. The Medical Director's report will be removed from the agenda due to Dr. Robinson's absence. Chair Adams asked for a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Wechtel made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Dr. Sheldon 2nd motion and with no further discussion, the amended agenda was approved by the Board of Health.

b. Board of Health Minutes, November 17, 2022

Chair Adams asked for a motion to approve the November 17, 2022, Board of Health minutes. Commissioner Wechtel made a motion that the minutes be approved. Caleb Massey 2nd the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

III. Public Input Session

Community member Jan Lounsbury shared the importance of having a plaque at the Health Department recognizing the move from the Roberts Hill building to the current building at 493 Medical Park Drive. This happened in 2007. She would like the plaque to recognize the following people: Jan Lounsbury, Vernon Ponder, Ricky McDevitt and Pat Franklin. Ms. Lounsbury showed the board members two different templates, one was for 700 dollars and the other one was for 74 dollars that she found online. Ms. Lounsbury stated that she would pay for the plaque herself and she very much would like the Board members to reconsider her request to have a plaque placed on the inside of the MCHD.

IV. Announcements

There were no new announcements.

V. New Business

a. Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Statement

Kathy asked that each member present review the packet that Board members were given and sign the Confidentiality form and the Conflict-of-Interest statement and return both. Time was given to the Board members for questions and completion of the forms. The Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest are required for all BOH members to sign annually.

b. Medicaid Update

Dr. Dowler was not present to give an update. Tammy discussed with the Board of Health the Healthy Opportunities Pilot. This will be starting March 1, 2023. It is available for Medicaid recipients and will address the social determinants of health. The idea is to provide healthy and safe environments and food for individuals to prevent or improve negative health issues. The nation is looking at NC to see how this prevention program impacts health outcomes and costs.

c. BOH Training, Health Equity

Kathy led the Board of Health in a training around Health Equity and how this pertains to Madison County. The Board members discussed the lack of resources, lack of mental health services, and several of our food pantries will not be able to continue due to the restrictions that Manna has put on the food pantries concerning reporting and the paperwork. Most of the pantries are run by volunteers and it's hard for them to keep up with the required paperwork.

Madison County is a large county geographically, so travel is essential and many of our residents especially those living in poverty have significant challenges getting to resources (medical, mental health, food, (etc).

Negative Pressure Rooms/Building Expansion

Tammy updated the board members on the building expansion project. The Health Department has \$178,000 dollars in AA 543 that has been approved for this project. There are no local tax dollars in this. This AA has to be spent by May 31st. We have another AA for \$200, 000 dollars in AA 546 that can also be used for this project, again it does not involve any local tax payer money and has very restrictive uses. We have until the end of the year to spent this AA. The total currently available for this project is \$494,354.00. We are using some of the funds on an ongoing bases so this amount will change. The county manager is working closely with us and making this a priority. We had a contract with an architecture firm. However, the architecture firm merged with another firm and there are questions regarding the contract. Tammy and the county manager will be meeting with our architects to clarify. These funds have been available for an extended period. We were under the impression request for bids had gone out, but no bids came in; that does not appear to be accurate.

We also must upgrade our electrical box and to do this using a special breaker panel. This breaker panel will have to be installed to provide additional electricity to the building. This will cost \$15,000 dollars and could take a year to get the necessary parts. Until we have this special electrical panel, we cannot add any additional electrical demand.

d. **BOH Operating Procedures**

Tammy discussed BOH operating procedures with the Board of Health members. These are the BOH procedures and should be updated as needed and followed in their meetings. Currently, who can be put on the agenda is vague. Anyone can be part of public comment. After discussion Chair Adams, asked for the Board to make a motion to be concerning public comment, Matthew Wechtel made the following motion, request by the public to be added to the agenda will be directed to public comment. Individuals must sign up for public comment on the sign-up sheet before the meeting begins. Individuals may speak for up to 3-minutes during their public comment time. Larry Peek 2nd the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

VI. Administrative Reports

a. Medical Director's Report

Dr. Robinson was at a medical conference and there was not a medical report.

b. Health Director's Report

- Playground update
Fence, grading and walking trail will need to be completed. The fence has significantly gone up in price since the playground was started several years ago. The most economical bid that we received was \$11, 159.00. Commissioner Wechtel asked if we had talked with our community partners about the possibility and interest in helping with the project. Tammy shared that initially there was lots of excitement and interest in the project. Several community partners had wanted to be part of this project. Tammy stated she would revisit this. We do have some money put aside that can be used for the fence.
- Accreditation process moving forward all with benchmarks due summer 2023. This is a very labor-intensive process. We continue to work on gathering information for accreditation. BOH members will be part of the site visit.
- Opioid Use/Misuse Funds This is the \$1.5 million block grant that Representative Pless advocated for. Tammy discussed with the Board that the health department will do whatever we need to do to assist in the process. There are restrictions on this money, like most monies. Rachel Potter has been collecting financial needs from the county offices and helping to keep the team on track. We have 2 commissioners actively involved on this team as well as the county manager, Mandy Bradly, Ross Young, the Sheriff and Chief Deputy, Rachel Potter, Heather Sharp, and Tammy. Meetings have been productive, but guidance has not been consistently clear.
- Case Management- The case managers have started working with Haywood County Medicaid direct residents. They are preparing to do the Health Opportunities Pilot that will start 3/1/2023 and Tailored care management will start 4/1/2023. We will monitor and evaluate how adding the new county works out.
- Med Assist mobile over-the-counter medication program. Vaya has agreed to give us the 9,000 dollars to do this one-day program that will help individuals obtain free Over-the-Counter medications. The board discussed this wonderful opportunity. Tammy shared the intent to add other options to the event for individuals. Dr. Sheldon expressed an interest in providing vaccines for pets. Tammy shared other community partners have expressed an interest in participating. Our MCHD team is looking into dates and identifying the location.
- MHAT Grant-This is a grant with SAMHSA, that Heather applied for several years ago, and we did not get it. After review, we received notification that we would be awarded \$500,000 or \$125,000 per year for 4 years to help implement Mental Health Awareness here in Madison County. We have interviewed a former employee, Bendik Clark, for the position. He will be implementing Mental Health First Aid.

- Laboratory Analysis Machines- We have received two new machines for the lab, a cholesterol machine, and an AIC machine. These machines will improve our ability to serve our patients better.
- Tammy also updated the board on Advent Health. We continue to have good conversations with them concerning Advent adding support services to our region. Tammy discussed with Advent, the possibility of the ER physicians providing on call services for our after-hours client needs. If this could happen, then we would be able to move up in tiers to a higher tier. This would allow us to bill at a higher rate for our services.
- We received a small grant from the Center for Southern Equity. This grant will be used to help pay for updates to our EHR as there are new federal requirements.
- First Amendment Audits- Buncombe County Health and Human Services had a First Amendment auditor visit. They have provided information to us on that visit. They have created a policy, but much of theirs will not work at the MCHD. We will be working on a policy but until we have one in place, we have created a plan to ensure a visit would go well.
- Stairwell Storage- Our maintenance director is checking with the Fire Marshall to see if we can add a fireproof closet with fireproof door to make the area under the steps a storage area as we have limited space in the MCHD.
- The NC Institute of Public Medicine has just released a report, Foundations of Health, and Opportunity: Investing in the future of local public health in NC. This information was emailed to each BOH member. There is lots of good information available and it is hoped that all BOH members review the report.

c. Financial Reports

Tammy reported: overall, I believe we are on track with Revenue and expenses. The budget this year is very tight. We originally offset everything we could to reduce the financial burden on the county. We are a little over halfway into this fiscal year, so we will start to see how close we maintain over the next few months. Thus far, there have been increases in the costs of most things, we had a water leak, and employee workers comp had gone up by 60% since last year. Tammy reports she is not alarmed at this time, but close monitoring of all services is essential.

VII. Other Business

- Appointment of Medical Provider for Child Fatality Prevention Team** For our Child Fatality Prevention Team, the local CFPT is required to have a physician as part of the team and the physician must be approved by the Board of Health. Dr. Karen Le Hew has stated that she will serve on the team in the role of physician. Chair Adams asked for a motion to approve Dr. Le Hew to serve on the Child Fatality Prevention Team. Caleb Massey made a motion to approve Dr. Le Hew and Dr. Sheldon 2nd the motion. The board unanimously voted to approve Dr. Le Hew to the CFPT.
- Election of Officers** Chair Adams opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson for the Board of Health. Crystal Webb nominated Chair Adams to be the chairperson for the board. Caleb Massey second the motion. Chair Adams asked for other nominations, there were no other nominations made. Commissioner Wechtel made a motion to close nominations. Larry Peek seconded that motion. The Board unanimously voted Chair Adams as chairperson for the Board of Health.
Chair Adams opened the floor for nominations for Vice- Chair. Crystal Webb nominated Cheryl Conway. Matthew Wechtel made a motion to close nominations. Larry Peek 2nd the motion. Caleb Massey 2nd the motion for Cheryl Conway to be vice-chair. Cheryl Conway was unanimously voted in as Vice Chair for the Board of Health.
- Vote on 2023 BOH Schedule**
Chair Adams asked for a motion to approve the 2023 BOH Schedule. Dr. Sheldon made a motion to approve the 2023 BOH schedule of meeting the 4th Thursday of every other month except November and that would be the 3rd Thursday due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Crystal Webb 2nd the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the 2023 schedule.

IX. Adjournment

Chair Adams asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Matthew Wechtel made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Sheldon 2nd the motion. The board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Chair Adams thanked each one for their participation.

Next Meeting: March 23, 2023, at 6pm