

**Madison County Board of Health Meeting**  
**Thursday May 26, 2022, 6:00 pm**  
**Members Present**

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

Matthew Wechtel, Commissioner  
Hanna Hardin, Pharmacist  
Diana Rogers, RN, Public  
Cheryl Conway, PhD, RN  
Dr. Melissa Robinson MD. Ex Officio

**Members Absent**

Rachel Smith, RN, Vice Chair

Regular Meeting       Special Meeting

**AGENDA**

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Chair Adams called the Madison County Board of Health Meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

**II. Consent Agenda - Approval of**

a. Agenda

Chair Adams asked for a motion to approve the agenda as written. Dr. Sheldon made a motion that the agenda be approved as written. Matthew Wechtel 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The Board members voted, and the agenda was unanimously approved.

b. Board of Health Minutes, March 24, 2022

Chair Adams asked that a motion to approve the minutes for March 24, 2022, be made. Matthew Wechtel made a motion to approve the March 24, 2022, minutes, and Dianna Rogers 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The Board members voted, and the minutes was unanimously approved.

**III. Public Input Session**

Robert Steinglass, community member, expressed concern that we are living through the biggest pandemic the nation has ever experienced and does not understand why COVID is not a standing agenda item on the County Commissioners regular meeting agenda. He suggests that Public Health cannot fight this alone. Mr. Stienglass had 3 considerations for Board of Health consideration.

1. Mr. Steinglass recommends that the Board of Health request to the County Commissioners that COVID be added to their meeting agenda as regular agenda item.
2. We revisit our methods of communications concerning Covid Vaccines.
3. Sharing COVID data with the County Commissioners before meetings.

**IV. Announcements**

Tammy requested that we continue to remember the families in Texas. Jennifer Angel's our WIC Director's mother is in the ICU due to falling and breaking her hip, which resulted in numerous issues.

Dr. Sheldon reported that she has seen alarming increase in Lyme Disease positive in dogs and to make sure we are aware when we are outside. Dr. Sheldon stated that May usually is the highest month for ticks. The Health Department needs to do tick borne testing if we see patients with strange symptoms. Robin stated that we had seen in crease in human Lyme disease for our county.

**V. Case Study -Monkey Pox**

Dr. Robinson shared a power point with the Board of Health concerning Monkey Pox. It's a viral disease, caused by a virus like smallpox. Morality rate depends on where it comes from, central Africa or Western Africa. The current outbreak is from Western Africa so the morality rate should be lower. Infectivity is nowhere near as infectious as Covid. It last up to 4 weeks. Mainly a disease of rodents. It's becoming more common in Africa. The US had an outbreak in 2003 with prairie dogs. 47 people was contained, and it did not spread. Spreads through the fluid of the pox. Not a STI but can be spread through sex. However, there are several anti-virals that will work on Monkey Pox. Smallpox vaccine may work. Isolation for Monkey Pox is 21 days. We do not know if you had the smallpox vaccine if the vaccine weans over time. There is vaccine for Monkey Pox that will work on Smallpox.

**VI. New Business**

a. Community Health Assessment

Deana and Jodi presented the Community Health Assessment. The Community Health Assessment (CHA) is completed every 3 years. The CHA helps local agencies and organizations working on health issues to ensure that the most

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pressing health concerns are being addressed, and to plan and coordinate their efforts. The CHA is also used by our Health Department in its planning of our strategic planning process. The CHA is a collaborative effort between Madison County Health Department and the Madison Community Health Consortium. Madison County residents also shared their input through surveys and additional local data collection. We have two health priorities that we will be focusing on:

1. Healthy Eating/Healthy Weight/Diabetes
  - a. Obesity
  - b. Prediabetes and Diabetes
2. Substance Use and Mental Health
  - a. Substance use
  - b. Mental Health

We do have two actions teams that will be working on these 2 priorities. Our HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Team and MSAC (Madison Substance Awareness Collation)

b. BOH Training

Tammy reminded the Board members that their yearly training is due. She also reminded them that this an accreditation requirement. Kathy will be sending out an e-mail with the link for the training. Also, if the Board members can think of something else, they would rather do, please feel free to suggest.

c. COVID-19 Updates

We are not sure of the number of positive cases. This is due to people using the home test and not reporting it as confirmed cases are no longer reportable to the Health Department. We are seeing a slight increase in the number for Madison County. This variant is highly contagious but is not appear to be attacking the lungs like this time last year. We have no residents in the hospital at this time. Dr. Dowler reported that this BA2 is more tolerated. We have learned so much over the past 2 years. We have vaccines and now Paxlovid treatment for COVID. We continue to offer vaccines and there was a community event this weekend. We want to make sure that people in the county know about the Paxlovid treatment if they do test positive. One option would be the French Board Electric newsletter that comes with the electric bill. Another option would be a Robo call. Discussion occurred about the message needed to be general information about what is available to our residents.

d. Letter of Support

Tammy discussed the letter of support for Advent Hospital. Advent has been looking in the Mars Hill, Weaverville area to build a small hospital. The proposed facility would include 67 patient rooms, labor and delivery care with a dedicated C-section operating room, surgery services, an emergency department, diagnostic imaging, and lab services. The Board of Health discussed pros and cons of submitting the letter of support for Advent. Dianna Rogers made a motion for Tammy to draft a letter in support of Advent and Chair Adams would sign the letter for the Board of Health members. Susan Sheldon 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The board voted and Dr. Dowler did not vote. Tammy will ask for more information from Advent on their proposal and arrange a meeting either via Zoom or in person at the Co-Op.

e. Clinic Fees

The Board of Health reviewed Clinic fees. Ivy Payne and Robin Wallin were present to answer questions. A workflow was typed so members could see how the fees were set. Discussion of the clinic fees and lab fees occurred. We do have a formula that we use to set our fees. Chair Adams asked for a motion to approve the fees as written. Susan Sheldon made a motion to approve the fees as written. Dr. Dowler 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The Board members voted unanimously to approve the clinic fees.

f. Medicaid Transformation

Dr. Dowler presented the following:

Data surrounding Medicaid: COVID vaccines rates continue to lag for Medicaid beneficiaries, Congenital Syphilis really on the rise -pandemic impact on screening for STD's, Integrated Physical and Behavioral Health- Tailored Plan Launch December 2022 and make sure we are signed up. Tammy reported that all counties, in the VAYA catchment area, except Madison has signed the Vaya contract.

Pregnancy Risk Screen for Madison County are low. We can get paid for them. LARC- Birth Control we continue to do well with that. Dental varnishing a good way to provide a service and generate revenue. Lead screening, we are not doing well as a county. And with the HPA vaccine – we are not doing well that vaccine. This vaccine can prevent cancers.

g. Policy Changes on the following two policies that are relevant to fees and billing

**Determining Cost and Fees for Services the following changes:**

Added under Policy, point two "...unless superseded by Federal and/or State Regulations".

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Added under Procedures, Paragraph 1, 2, 4 “Medicare”. Added under Applicable Law, Rules, and References Point four “MCHD

Collection of Fees Policy”. Removed “Deputy Health Director” throughout the document.

**Program Eligibility Billing Guidelines:**

Policy, point 7- remove “still have”

Procedure, County of residence not required point 2- Add “Tuberculosis (TB) Services, point 7-added” ...for services other than skin testing.”

Applicable Laws, Rules, and References, G. Maternal Health, point 4- remove “Clients will then not pay more in deductible or coinsurance than they would pay based upon the percentage pay”

Applicable Laws, Rules, and References, K. Family Planning- Add “/Title X” and remove “or”

Andrew Thomas made motion to approve the changes and for Chair Adams to sign the updated policies. Dr. Dowler 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The Board voted and changes were unanimously approved.

**VII. Administrative Reports**

a. Medical Director’s Report -Dr. Robinson updated the Board of Health on the following items:

COVID

Monkeypox

Substance use

- Governor’s Conference in April
- Overdose deaths
- Future partnering with Madison County Jail regarding MAT on release
- At capacity for OUD
- Investigating meth interventions
  - Transitions at Hot Springs Health Program

b. Health Director’s Report -Tammy updated the BOH on the following items:

- Staffing Report:
    - Hired: New Environmental Health Specialist, still have one full time EH specialist vacancy
    - Vacancies: EH Specialist, School COVID worker, Medical Provider for expansion of MAT clinic,
  - Grant for a new microscope
  - Admin Audit working on some policy changes
  - Continued work on COVID AAs budget and report systems
  - Purchased and installed new HVAC for upstairs, purchased new dental part
  - Fairgrounds and test – contract and temp
  - Cannon Foundation, Dental Grant received Henry Schein working on installation plan now
  - Applied for a grants to expand our MAT program
    - SAMHSA \$750,000 for five years
    - NCDHHS Opioid Settlement Grant - \$400,000 for two years
    - NC DHHS Office of Rural Health - \$21,983
    - Dogwood Health Trust - \$50,000
  - Overdoses continue to rise. Please see attached information regarding substance use issues.
  - Opioid Settlement Funding researcher position
  - Continue to provide health education throughout the community
  - Healthy Opportunities Pilot
  - Downstairs EH workspace, has insulation and sheet rock, ceiling work in progress. Still need electrical work.
  - Reaccreditation devoting routine time to tasks
  - Contracts to renew
    - Snowden Malpractice
    - Triple P
    - MedServ
    - Spanish interpretation
    - Jail Health Contract
  - Contracts currently with the county attorney
    - ETSU
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- VAYA Health
- Environmental Health partnership with NCDHHS

c. Financial Reports

As of May 25, 2022, Expenditures are at 73.16% of our budget. Last year at this time, we were at 79.16% of our overall budget. Unemployment insurance was budgeted at \$8,699 and we have only paid \$707 thus far. We had 4 long term employees terminate their employment with us this year and therefore had pay outs due to the employees that impacted our salary line.

We are at 73.93 % of our revenue compared to 89.23% last year. These numbers are skewed due to some new state agreement addendums that have come in, but we have not been able to draw down the funds.

Due to COVID and the significant increase in clinic services we have seen growth in the revenue that corresponds with this. We are also seeing an increase in development which corresponds with our EH revenue. Examples,

Adult Health Services	\$26,000	\$40,175.
Adult Health Ins	\$21,282	\$27,178.
Medicare Immun	\$79,743	\$84792
Maternal Health Ins	\$1,500	\$3,648
Child Health	\$100	\$1,190
Child Health ins	\$1,900	\$2,429

**VIII. Other Business**

a. **2022/2023 Budget Update**

Tammy updated the Board members that the County Commissioners had requested Department Heads to look at their budgets and to cut them 5% She reviewed the changes she had made to the budget.

**IX. Adjournment**

Chair Adams asked that motion to adjourn be made. Andrew Thomas made the motion to adjourn and Dr. Sheldon 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The Board members voted unanimously to adjourn.

**Next Meeting: July 28, 2022**

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Dr. Robert Adams DDS, Chairman

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Tammy Cody MHS, Health Director