

Madison County Board of Health Meeting  
Thursday, January 28, 2021 6:00 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/96589314750?pwd=UIRRV0c3bkFzajBqeUlydGpuV3haQT09>

**Members**

Dr. Robert Adams DDS, Chair  
Dr. Suzanne Sheldon, DVM  
Andrew Thomas, Public  
Crystal Webb, Public  
Larry Peek, Engineer  
Hanna Hardin, Pharmacist

Rachel Smith, RN and Vice Chair  
Matthew Wechtel, Commissioner  
Loretta Leake, NP  
Diana Rogers, RN, Public  
Dr. Melissa Robinson MD. Ex Officio

Regular Meeting       Special Meeting

**Members Absent**

Loretta Leak, NP

**AGENDA**

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

**II. Consent Agenda - Approval of**

a. **Agenda**

Chair Adams made a motion to amend the agenda and switch agenda items 4 and 5. Matthew Wechtel made a motion to approve the amended agenda and Dianna Rogers second the motion. The motion passed.

b. **Board of Health Minutes, November 19, 2020**

Matthew Wechtel made a motion that the November 19<sup>th</sup> minutes be approved as presented, Larry Peek second the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by the board.

c. **Board of Health Minutes, December 9, 2020**

The Board approved the December minutes after a typo on the date was changed to reflect December 9<sup>th</sup> and not August 20<sup>th</sup>. Matthew Wechtel made motion to approve minutes with typo fixed and Crystal Webb second the motion

**III. Public Input Session**

Community

No one from the community presented.

**IV. Announcements**

Chair Adams introduced Dr. Dowler. Dr. Dowler has recently moved to Madison County. She and her family lived in Buncombe County for twenty years. Dr. Dowler is the Chief Medical officer for the Medicaid program for the state of North Carolina. Over the last 20 years she worked at the Buncombe County Health Department. Clinical specialty area STD and she continues to volunteer at the Buncombe County Health Department and has started volunteering with our Health Department one day a month.

Tammy gave an update on Dr. Daly's memorial services. The last two weeks her children and ex-husband were by her side. The services will be on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM and will be streamed. Tammy stated that she would pass the link on when she gets the link.

Dr. Adams announced that he had worked in the dental center today and all staff were very appreciative of the meal and the chicken casserole the Board of Health provided. Tammy also voiced the staff's appreciation. It has been a challenging time, but this support was more than anyone could have ever expected! The staff sincerely appreciated the delicious meal and the casserole for their family's dinner.

**V. Case Study**

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**Dr. Robinson gave a brief update on our COVID-19 Vaccination process. We have been able to do 3 mass vaccine events.** We were allocated additional doses. We continue to do vaccinating at the Health Department 5 days a week, in addition to the events. The events are being held at the Madison County Fair Grounds. We can fine tune the events with each one and we have a lot of help. We have partnered with Hot Springs Health Program and that is going very well. The bad news is that due to the mass shortage of vaccine we will not be able to continue to do events for the 1<sup>st</sup> dose, however, we can do events for the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. If we can get more vaccine, we will do we will do more events. We feel like we could do 500 or 600 a day. Matt Wechtel reported that the County Commissioners have received positive feedback on the events. Dr. Sheldon suggested that we place an ad in the News Paper or on Facebook letting folks know to please answer their phone if they see this number on their caller ID.

## **VI. New Business**

### **a. COVID-19 Discussion among BOH**

Dr. Adams asked Tammy to discuss the COVID-19 Vaccine with the Board, so they are comfortable talking about the Vaccine if asked questions about it.

- Tammy reported that we receive about 700 calls a day concerning the vaccine. We have started using the Marshall library as a call center and we are using the COVID-19 Hotline for our vaccine wait list. The hotline is managed by volunteers and it is going very well. Kim the Director of the library has been wonderful helping us with the hotline. The rotary is looking to identify some schedulers as well. The folks on the waiting list will get called and the COVID-19 vaccine questionnaire is completed.
  - We also must enter their information in our Electronic Health Record. The state has developed a program called CVMS and the questionnaire must be inputted in that system as well. The system was supposed to be able to do somethings that it is not able to do. The system is frequently being updated.
  - Supply: there was a backlog of vaccine maybe from hospitals giving the first doses but maybe held the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. This caused a backlog of vaccine. The state of North Carolina only gets 120,000 doses of vaccine once a week. To clear out some of the backlog of vaccine several large events have been planned. Hopeful the state will be back on track soon.
  - Hot Springs Health Program asked to join forces with us, and they sent over a team. We feel like we can do over a 100 a day.
  - Wonderful volunteers are helping us with the paperwork and with the events. Some health departments are doing vaccine clinics, first come first serve. When we do our events and even at the Health Department, the folks have an appointed time to come so they know, and we know that we have the vaccines. We have a structure and scheduled routine, and we plan a head for the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose as well. We go ahead and schedule the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose the day individuals get their 1<sup>st</sup> dose.
  - Renee and her contact tracing team are at the Mars Hill Library and we have put partitions in the waiting room so we can accommodate volunteers who are helping us enter demographics into our Electronic Health Record for billing purposes.
  - We have not billed since December due to staff working on vaccine scheduling. We must get caught up on the billing. Dr. Sheldon has offered several of her staff to help with this piece. We document immediately when the vaccine is given. Rachel Smith reported that she is teaching a course at WCU and she will be mentioning to her students to contact their local Health department to see what they can do to help. Rachel stated that these nurses are fully licensed.
  - Dr. Dowler reported to the Board: the beginning of January the state was ironing out details on administrating vaccine to individuals. We were 49<sup>th</sup> in the county with our administration. The state also created a system to enter the data for the vaccine and track how much we are doing. Madison County Health Department is guaranteed for the next three weeks, 200 doses. The state is now at 99.8% vaccine in arms. The western part of the state is doing better with getting the vaccine into arms than the central part of the state. Dr. Dowler held up Madison County as a best practice in the state.
  - Tammy discussed the tier system. The older people do not do well with the COVID 19 virus, the age for vaccine eligibility was lowered from 75 to 65. If we have vaccine left over, we have a "short list" of people that can get here quickly so we do not waste any vaccine. A couple of counties have been able to get their
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teacher's vaccinated, which has caused some anxiety in our community. Both counties involved had hospitals in their county, these hospitals had extra vaccine that needed to move quickly. It was noted by Dr. Dowler and Tammy both that if you do not stay in the current tier your state is in, you could lose your allotted vaccine for several months or be fined. We are following the tiered system. Our wait list is now at 3500.

- The testing group that we are with LHI, will be moving down to the A-B Tech parking lot, and we will be focusing on vaccines here. Due to the size of our parking lot, we simply cannot accommodate both testing and vaccinating at the MCHD.
- The board was given an opportunity to ask questions before moving on to the next topic.

## VII. Administrative Reports

### a. Medical Director's Report

Dr Robinson gave the Medical Director's report with the following highlights:

#### COVID-19 – new info

- Symptoms: Long COVID (>4 weeks after onset) - fatigue, joint pain, chest pain, palpitations, shortness of breath, cognitive impairment, and worsened QOL
- Complications: Strokes, blood clots
- Prophylaxis: Vaccine – yes! Hydroxychloroquine – no!
- Disease Course: Replication, exaggerated immune response

#### Treatment

- Jury still out: BAM (balnanimab - data is good, MAHEC is offering by referral and is being used at hospital), Casirivimab Plus Imdevimab (also has good data, is in use), Ivermectin, baracitinib
- At home: Supportive care. BAM or CAS+IMD for those at risk of hospitalization – only works early in dz
- Hospitalized: Dexamethasone and remdesivir (if on O2)
- **(Medication Assisted Therapy for Opioid Use Disorder) and Hep C**
- **Mental Health** Mental Health resources overwhelmed – MAHEC Psych Residency and Pisgah Inst not accepting new pts currently.

#### **Proposal for MedServe/Americorps Fellow starting in July 2021 for 2 years**

- College grad, applying to med school. We provide clinical experience 20 hrs/wk, WCMS provides community experience 20 hrs/wk. Not licensed; tasks at our discretion; many vaccinate and draw blood if “checked off,” others not allowed to cross skin barrier and do only clinical intake, contact tracing, special programs and (limited) paperwork.
- Our cost \$7400 per yr. for 20 hrs./week plus another \$1221 if they are not on parents' insurance.
- Granville HD has 2 and highly recommends.

#### **Details of Proposal for MedServe/AmeriCorps Fellow starting in July 2021 for 2 years**

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  - **Our cost \$7400 per yr for 20 hrs/week plus another \$1221 if they aren't on parents' insurance.**
  - Granville HD has 2 and highly recommends.
  - Stipend \$20K/yr, 1/2 paid by MedServe/AmeriCorps, 1/4 by MCHD, 1/4 by WCMS.
  - \$2,400 hiring fee through NC Alliance, paid by clinical site – recommended by Granville HD to avoid county hiring policies/benefits.
  - Insurance, if not on parents' policy, through NC Alliance but costs extra \$1221/year and MedServe requires us to pay.
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- WCMS said if it is a deal-breaker that we pay the hiring fee and benefits (per MedServe policy), they'll go back to their board and ask for 1/2.
- Holidays off based on schedule of MCHD or WCMS, wherever they are scheduled to work that day.
- Need to decide on sick days and/or vacation days.
- Contract through Alliance Staffing.
- Benefits including insurance details:  
[file:///D:/Madison%20Co%20Health%20Dept/NCAPHA\\_EEComm\\_%20Benefit%20Digest%20Temp%20Staff\\_20201201.pdf](file:///D:/Madison%20Co%20Health%20Dept/NCAPHA_EEComm_%20Benefit%20Digest%20Temp%20Staff_20201201.pdf)

The Board will need to vote on this as to whether to move forward on the MedServe/ AmeriCorps. Finances would have to be looked at as well. Dr Robinson reported that this is a yearly program and if we miss this year that will be fine. Tammy stated Dr. Robinson has taken the lead on this and this person would not be on site until July. Hopefully, we will be in a normal life by summer and fall. Tammy would need to have the salary for this person built into the budget. Rachel made a motion to move forward on the applicants, Dr. Sheldon 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by the board.

#### **Interpreter Services – Grant through WCM**

- Tammy reported that last night the Commissions approved 3 part time temporary positions 28 hours a week until the end of June.
- Budgets for next year: Tammy would like to recommend to the Commissioners some salary adjustments. All nursing staff are salaried and get no over time or comp time. We have very experienced nurses, and we are paying them an extremely low salary for their skills, knowledge and responsibilities.
- Tammy is overly concerned that we could lose some of our staff, due to the low pay. She stated that she is going to put together a proposal to the Commissioners and Board. This proposal would be for staff doing COVID work. We would be able to add Comp time for anything over 50 hours comp time. Matt Wechtel reported that the Commissioners discovered that we have a huge amount of comp time setting and that comp time is not free. Suggestions were made for comp time and have a cap on it. Tammy would like to have the proposal to the Commissioners before two months. Any hours over 50 would be considered comp time, capped, and must be used by the end of the 2021. Tammy stated that she will send the proposal to the Board of Health for review before submitting to the County Commissioners. Chair Adams asked for a motion to be made to authorize Tammy to complete a plan to present on Comp time to the County Commissioners. Crystal Webb made the motion and Dianna Rogers 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

#### **b. Health Director's Report**

Tammy reported the following highlights to the Board:

- **Staffing Report:** WIC administrative assistant, School RNs, Temp admin positions  
WIC position still on hold, both school nurses have been filled, the Commissioners approve 3 temporary positions, 28 hours a week until the end of June.
  - **Outside exam room**  
We still do not allow sick people in the Health Department but if Melinda needs to see someone, she can use this room.
  - **Awning installation**  
Awning's were installed and we also purchased a curtain to go with the awning to help block the wind.
  - **Water damage repair, Tarheel Basement Systems**  
Will start working in two weeks to do damage repair. This work is guaranteed.
  - **Decontamination room** is a need at the MCHD. Tammy is hopeful we can identify funds to build.
  - Respiratory Illness space, Flu,  
This is slowly moving; we do have architect working on this space.
  - **Dental Grant, Dental Society**  
We did not get this grant, it would have provided funding for uninsured individuals.
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- **Parking improvements**

We were able to take some of the COVID 19 money and Maintenance has been working on improving parking.

- c. **Financial Reports**

Tammy reported that due to everyone working on COVID vaccination since December there will not be a financial report this meeting.

## **VIII. Other Business**

- a. **Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Use of A-B Tech Madison Center**

The testing LHI will be moving to the A-B Tech. This will free up parking here. A motion was made to give permission to Tammy to sign the contract to move the Testing to A-B Tech. Motion was made by Matthew Wechtel and a 2<sup>nd</sup> was made by Larry Peek. The board voted and the motion was unanimously approved.

- b. **Confidentiality Statements**

These statements are done yearly as well.

- c. **Conflict of Interest Statements**

This statement is required by accreditation and this is done yearly. If you have a conflict of interest, please let Tammy know via e-mail or text. We will sign both forms when we can meet face to face.

- d. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2021**

A nomination was made to re- elect Dr. Adams as Chair. Matthew Wechtel made a motion to close all nominations, the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rachel Smith. By unanimous consent of the Board, the Board voted Dr. Adams in as Chairperson.

Vice Chair: Rachel Smith was nominated. Matthew Wechtel moved that nominations be closed, Crystal Webb 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Board unanimously voted to close the nominations. By unanimous consent Rachel Smith was voted as Vice Chair.

Brief discussion about the Board of Health doing something for Dr. Daly for the newspaper, Tammy stated that the resolution could be edited and that could be used. Rachel Smith volunteered to clean up the resolution. Tammy would submit to the paper for publishing.

## **IX. Adjournment**

The next meeting will be March 25, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Chair Adams asked for a motion to be made to dismiss. Motion to dismiss was made by Crystal Webb and Larry Peek 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Next Meeting: March 25, 2021**

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