

**Madison County Board of Health Meeting**

**Thursday, January 27, 2022 6:00 pm**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84798078417?pwd=eXJGSk50ENwZVjMa2daaW51d2crQT09>

**Members**

**Dr. Robert Adams DDS, Chair**  
**Dr. Suzanne Sheldon, DVM**  
**Andrew Thomas, Public**  
**Crystal Webb, Public**  
**Larry Peek, Engineer**  
**Cheryl Conway, PhD, RN**

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

**Absent**

Rachel Smith, RN and Vice Chair  
Dr. Suzanne Sheldon, DVM

**Regular Meeting**       **Special Meeting**

**AGENDA**

- I. Welcome and Call to Order** Chair, Adams  
Chair Adams call the meeting to order at 6:00 PM
- II. Consent Agenda - Approval of** Chair, Adams
- a. **Agenda**  
Chair Adams asked for a motion for the agenda to be approved. Diana Rogers made a motion to approve the agenda and the motion was seconded by Cheryl Conway. The Board of Health members unanimously approved the agenda.
- b. **Board of Health Minutes, November 21, 2019**  
Chair Adams asked for a motion for the minutes to be approved. It was noted that the agenda did state BOH minutes for 11/21/2019. The minutes that were up for approval were the November 18, 2021, minutes. Diana Rogers made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for 11/18,2021 and the motion was seconded by Cheryl Conway. The Board of Health members unanimously approved the 11/18/2021 minutes.
- III. Public Input Session**  
Two community members were present. Jan Lounsberry and Robert Steinglass  
Ms. Lounsberry spoke to the Board of Health concerning having a historic plaque placed inside of the health department. She feels strongly that the plaque needs to be put up, recognizing the people who were involved with making the move from the old Health Department on Roberts Hill Road to the current location. She stated they worked extremely hard, and she would like for the Board of Health to revisit this request.  
Mr. Steinglass reported that he was on a call with DHHS last week concerning COVID data. The current data is very dense and hard to understand. Mr. Steinglass also asked the Board members how many more residents in Madison County must die before we do more on vaccines.
- IV. Case Study –**  
Dr. Robinson briefly presented three cases:
1. 60ish year old patient committed to improving their health. This patient had headaches and was diagnosed with COVID.
  2. A diabetic patient with A1C of 9. Hot Springs Health Program has a RN who will be working with patients who have diabetes.
  3. 50-ish year old patient with opiate addiction which was a hidden from their family. The patient is doing very well.
- Announcements:**  
Tammy briefly discussed local news and several neighboring counties giving out rapid home tests and masks. This can be misleading because they are handing out small quantities of tests and mask. We will look for opportunities to provide these to our residents as they become more plentiful, but that is not the case at this time.
- V. New Business**  
Tammy shared a brief update with the board on COVID 19 for the county. The positivity rate for the state is running about 30%. Across the state we have 242 ICU beds open. Emergency rooms are seeing people with COVID like symptoms less frequently, so hopefully this trend will remain, and we will start to see fewer cases. The last wastewater system report for this area, was showing all time COVID positivity rates.
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### Debt set off:

Tammy presented the BOH with the debt set off policy. Due to staff being consumed with COVID tasks, we got behind on our normal billing. Therefore, we were unable to follow the policy and we did not send out twelve monthly bills as our policy outlines. We had a limited number of staff prioritizing tasks, sending monthly bills out did not consistently occur. We cannot turn these claims over to bad debt set off because we were not able to follow our policy. BOH members discussed how to best proceed. Larry Peek made a motion to go back and start over on delinquent invoices and rebill following our policy. Cheryl Conway second the motion. The Board of Health unanimously approved the motion.

## VI.

### Administrative Reports

#### a. Medical Director's Report Dr. Robinson provided the following report to the board members:

##### Covid

- Omicron , virulence vs transmission. Hospitalizations up. Mission said "Beginning this Wednesday 26, 2022, the Mission operating room and other procedural areas in the hospital (Endoscopy, cath lab, IR and others) will only proceed with urgent and emergent cases
  - Outpatient tx inaccessibility
    - Supply and clinical issues
    - Virus-specific and patient factors
  - Vaccination:
    - Two vax's 56% of total population, 88% in 65+.
    - Boosted 29%- but others not necessarily due
- Endemic
  - Defined as ever-present with generally 1:1 transmission but could be variable if predictable like flu
  - NOT related to severity (polo, TB, malaria still endemic in part of world).
  - Being "out of the barn" NOT the same and may or may not lead to endemic status depending on mutations.
- Timing of updates-pros and cons of releasing info on scheduled vs immediate basis

##### HD Clinics

- Some routine health clinics at HD delayed during outbreaks.
- Acute care, maternal health, Hep C clinics are stable.
- MOUD (MAT)
  - Clinic at overflow after minimal advertising – doing evening telehealth now to make room in clinic. Part-time provider position advertised, interviews to occur soon

#### b. Health Director's Report Tammy reported on the following:

- Staffing report: Hired: no new employees
  - Vacancies: lab supervisor/ preparedness coordinator, EH specialist, school COVID worker, medical provider for expansion of MAT clinic, opioid settlement planning position – funded for two years through a Dogwood Health Trust grant
  - COVID AA's budget and report systems a priority at this time
  - There will be future reoccurring funding for Communicable Disease responsibilities
  - America Rescue Plan funding to look at regional initiatives-data as a topic for consideration
  - Providing COVID vaccine at the MCHD daily
  - COVID testing has seen all-time highs, weather and supplies present challenges
  - DPI and DHS meetings continue as we partner together
  - Weekly meeting with School, now test to stay options with 5-day quarantine and 5-day mask
  - Cannon Foundation, Dental Grant received Henry Schein working on installation plan now. Will add another operatory to help facilitate getting patients seen
  - Applied for a MAT grant through State, \$50,000 per year plus 5% admin fee
  - Looking at grant for MAT in our jail through the state, funds from SAMHSA April 1, 2022-Sept 2023 \$ 550, 000, huge challenge as the turnaround time is ridiculously tight
  - Continue to provide health education throughout the community
  - Electronic Scorecard for community health assessment, health improvement plans
  - Phone contract has expired with Frontier, our IT director is working with TSA on a new contract
  - Downstairs EH workspace, needs electrical, work insulation, sound proofing, drop ceiling and sheet rock.
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- c. **DHHS and Medicaid Updates** Dr Dowler provided the following updates:
- o Dr. Dowler shared some slides from a power point on Medicaid.
  - o Madison County DSS is doing an excellent job with collecting race & ethnicity data.
  - o Immunizations rates for Medicaid recipients are down. Especially flu vaccines. This is due to COVID. Dr. Dowler pointed out an opportunity to emphasis flu vaccine next flu season.
  - o She also shared that the PHP's offer incentives to Medicaid recipients. There is an opportunity for us to encourage people with a PHP to take advantage of those incentives.
  - o Due to the Federal Public Health Emergency declaration, the state of North Carolina is seeing more Medicaid recipients because the recipients cannot role off until the declaration ends.
  - o In Madison County Medicaid recipients are doing poorly getting the COVID vaccines.

d. **Financial Reports**

Our current Revenue and Expenditures are on track for what we expect. Some expense items such as vaccines have been over our estimated budget. This is good as it indicates we had a bigger need than expected. We were able to administer additional doses. We will receive reimbursement.

Our current revenue is at 54.87% of our projections. Our current expenses are at 43.94% of our projections.

We continue to be on track to have higher revenue and fewer expenses then originally budgeted.

**VI. Other Business**

a. **Confidentiality Statements**

b. **Conflict of Interest Statements**

Kathy explained that the Board would be signing the two from listed above using Google Forms. If you were not able to sign the forms using this method, she will e-mail those forms to you.

c. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Chair Adams asked for nominations for Chair for 2022. Crystal Webb made a motion for Chair Adams to remain as Chairperson. Chair Adams was agreeable to remaining Chair. A motion to close the nomination for Chair was made by Dr. Dowler and second by Dr. Robinson. The board voted unanimously for Chair Adams to remain as chair.

Chair Adams asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Larry Peek nominated Rachel Smith and Andrew Thomas second the nomination. Matthew Wetchel made a motion to close the nominations and Dr. Dowler second the motion to close nominations. The Board voted unanimously to have Rachel Smith serve as Vice Chair for 2022.

**VII. Closed Session, Personnel**

Chair Adams asked for a motion for the board to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters. Dr, Dowler Made a motion to go into closed session and Crystal Webb seconded the motion.

**X. Adjournment**

The Board returned to open session at 8:30. Chair Adams asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting be made.

Andrew Thomas made a motion to adjourn and Dr. Dowler second the motion. The board voted unanimously to adjourn.

**Next Meeting: March 24, 2022**

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