

**Madison County Board of Health Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 18, 2021 6:00 pm**

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

Regular Meeting       Special Meeting

**AGENDA**

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Vice Chair Smith called the meeting to order. Chair Adams could not be present for this meeting.

**II. Consent Agenda - Approval of**

- a. Agenda
- b. Board of Health Minutes, September 23, 2021
- c. Board of Health Minutes October 18, 2021

Vice Chair Smith asked that a motion be made to approve the agenda, BOH minutes for September 23 and October 18 Motion was made by Diana Roger and seconded by Crystal Webb.

**III. Public Input Session**

Robert Steinglass community member was wanting to know how many school age children were vaccinated. Tammy reported that we have had vaccine clinics at the school and the health department. For the 5- 11-year-old range we feel like the majority will be vaccinated by their primary care provider as parents may have questions.

We have 85 children 5–11-year age range. We have offered to provide vaccine clinics in all the elementary schools. Mr. Steinglass stated that the numbers are very low. We feel that maybe there was some missed information concerning the vaccine. We feel that maybe there was some missed information concerning the vaccine. Parental consent is required some parents are waiting to see how things go with the vaccine.

Mr. Steinglass felt that we should not rely on the primary care providers for the COVID vaccine due to many families not having a primary provider. Tammy reported that we have school nurses in the schools, and we have committed to the schools to come back any time and if only one or two children need it, we are committed to getting the vaccine to the school nurses when needed. Tammy continues to meet weekly with the superintendent, assistant superintendent and BOE chair.

**Announcements :**

Tammy asked that the BOH members keep Deborah Norton in your thoughts and prayers. She lost her husband unexpectedly.

**IV. Case Study -**

Dr. Robinson present the following nonidentifying information on patients who are in our Suboxone through our clinic. She discussed how the patient became addicted, length of their addiction and how long they have been taking Suboxone and as well as how they are doing now. They are doing well. It was interesting to see the vast majority of our patients first became addicted through pain medications that were prescribed to them. This was a good reminder of the serious nature of prescription pain medication and the devastating consequences they can have in a community. We still have more people we need to reach. We have seen many successes firsthand.

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## New Business

- a. COVID-19 Updates: Before Tammy shared the updates, she showed a quick video. Looking back on the video and looking at all we have learned about the COVID. Tammy discussed that we have had 5 county residents to pass away in the last 7 days. She shared the following: Number of Lab reported tested for Madison County Residents: 38,951; Total Post Vaccination Cases in Madison County Residents: 290; Total Madison County Residents partially vaccinated: 56%  
We are starting to see break through cases. Last Friday we did a Covid vaccination clinic at the school for the teachers Robin stated that 28 showed up for boosters and 1 was 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. We feel that we have provided more vaccines because many school personnel have already come to the HD throughout the week.
  - b. COVID-19 Quarantine Information:  
At the Board of Education meeting this week they voted to make mask optional. There are state statues that outline protocol for Communicable disease and COVID is a communicable disease. Your handout has been highlighted. The back page that is in your handout comes the school toolkit. This discusses the guidelines of quarantine and mask wearing. The school is now going with 7 days quarantine- non symptomatic and negative test. For quarantines, we go by the information that is given to us because we are not there. Due to transitioning to masks optional we will see an increase in school children in quarantine. Tammy stated that due to the Holidays, we will see an increase but hopefully we will not see a surge. Dr. Dowler stated that numbers are starting to see a slight increase. This is worrisome because it is happening prior to the Holidays. Dr. Dowler stated that she wished the school had waited until after the holidays to make masks optional. A discussion occurred concerning religious exemption. Robin stated that each school nurse has a list of students who are religious exempt. She also stated that it's up to the school to decide whether the child attends school if they do not have an up-to-date immunization record
  - c. Staff Vaccine Requirements  
Tammy stated that this was addressed in the Health Director's meeting. If local government has more than 100 employees all employees will have to be vaccinated or tested. As of this morning this was all put on hold by the Federal court of appeals, who stated it was unconstitutional. It was recommended to the Health Directors to encourage the county commissioners to look at county employees either be vaccinated for COVID or be tested.
  - d. Ex Officio position  
Tammy reported that as of today, based on how the Board of Health operating procedures are written, Dr. Robinson can vote. If the board wanted that changed, then the operating procedures would need to be changed.
  - f. Medicaid Update  
Dr. Dowler reported that Managed care launched in July. She reported that each prepaid health plan has value added services that they offer with their plan and providers. Providers are being encouraged to remind participants to take advantage of the services. Different plans offer different services. Some may offer help with tutoring, transportation, afterschool and food boxes. These services are not being utilized. Dr. Dowler would like to see the county help remind people of their added services through the health department as well as through the schools. Some good things were changed with Medicaid for the upcoming year. Postpartum Medicaid was extended form 60 days to a year for women who were receiving pregnancy Medicaid. Dr. Dowler also reported that across the country Medicaid recipients are behind on COVID vaccines and the state is encouraging providers to increase education. Going out of network December 1<sup>st</sup> could be an issue if providers do not have contracts with the prepaid health plans. Excluded population that have disabilities or serve mental health their Medicaid changed, has been delayed until December 2022.
  - g. BOH Handbook/ Training  
Kathy explained to the Board members that each were given a packet with a jump drive. The jump drive is the Board members updated Handbook, Operating procedures, Accreditation and Yearly training. Kathy also explained to the Board members how to get to the website for the yearly training. She reminded the members to make sure and send in their training certificates to her via e-mail if possible since this was a self-study. Kathy also reminded the Board members that for re accreditation purposes, Benchmark 36 states that we can do your annual training as a group together, in modules or self-guided. The annual training for 2021 will be individual with a specific training. NC Board of Health Rule Making Authority- updated in 2021.
  - h. BOH Training
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Vice chair Smith reviewed with the board members what their roles are as board members. This will be a self-study training.

i. Opioid Settlement

Tammy reviewed the Opioid Settlement with the Board members. Madison County will be awarded 1.5 million annually over the next 18 years. There are very clear guidelines on how the money can be spent. Tammy referred the board members to their handouts and asked that they look at the one titled United Madison. The Dogwood Health Trust awarded Madison County a planning grant to help evaluate and plan for the best use of the settlement funds. The exact opioid mitigation efforts to be targeted in our county will be determined by county commissioners.

j. Dogwood Health Trust Planning Grant

Tammy referred the board members to their handouts and asked that they look at the one titled United Madison and this is planning grant 175,000 for two years and we have received two e-mails asking that we sign the grant. The position would help with planning on how to best use the money from the opioid settlement. We will accept the money and we can later decide if the person is a county employee or a health department employee. Also, there is MOU that needs to be signed as well. We will get a 10% admin fee for managing this grant. Vice Chair Smith asked that a motion be made that the Board of Health ask the County Commissioners to agree to accept this money that we have been awarded. Crystal Webb made the motion and Dr. Dowler 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. Tammy will present this to the county commissioners at their upcoming meeting.

k. CFPT Report

Kathy shared with the board members the annual CFPT report 2021. The Madison County CFPT reviewed 4 child deaths, identified 6 system problems, and recommendations for future prevention efforts. Dr. Dowler pointed out that one of deaths possibly could have possibly been avoided if the child had his flu vaccine and if not, that could also have been a system failure.

l. Bad Debt Report

Tammy presented Bad Debt Report to the Board. After much discussion and questions concerning some dates on the report that goes as far back as 2014 to table the report until the next meeting so clarification can be made on the dates of the debts. Vice Chair Smith asked that motion be made to table this until next meeting. Dr. Sheldon made a motion to table the report until the next meeting. Dianna Rogers 2<sup>nd</sup> that motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

**V. Administrative Reports**

**a. Medical Director's Report**

**Medical Director Report – 11/18/21**

County Needs

- Healthcare staffing issues
- Prep by BOH for “next wave” if there is one
- Substance Use. Opioid “Stakeholders Meeting” sponsored by Dogwood Health Trust - Working on new connections to identify needs
- Affordable pharma. Grant helping!
- Mental health
- Bariatric issues – Copays, limitations

Internal

- Attended training updates in pain management, geriatrics, opioids
- Updating policies.

Dr. Robinson told the Board we need to get ready for the next wave of Covid and as Board Members we need really to understand what we are charged with, and the Board may to be more assertive.

Dr. Robinson asked for an update on the proposal for compensation for salaried staff who had put in a lot of over Time dealing with COVID. Commissioner Wetchel reviewed the compensation amounts with the Board members. This information should be coming back to the BOH in the form of a letter with explanation

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Dr. Robinson also expressed concern over the letter that BOH members received. As a Board member, she feels very uncomfortable accepting the letter. Dr. Robinson felt budget data had been provided to the county commissioners. Mr. Wetchel replied that the budget the Board members signed off and sent to the Commissioners did not include anything about retention. Tammy reported that the reason she did not include it, she was under the understanding that it would come from additional money earned by the health department. The Board submitted a couple of plans to the commissioners, including one to add comp time for staff and no commissioner ever stated that anything needed to be built into the upcoming budget. Mr. Wetchel reminded everyone that even though we are billing more, the county Dr. Robinson stated that if we needed to have a line item in the budget that would have been very helpful to have been told. She is recommending that the Commissioners rewrite the letter. It was a reprimand and was insulting. Mr. Wetchel stated he would present a letter from the BOH to the county commissioners if the BOH wrote something that indicated what the BOH felt the letter needed to state. Dr. Dowler suggested that the BOH request the letter sent strike out the specific changes the BOH wants made by County Commissioners. Dr. Robinson made a motion that she would work on the letter to the County Commissioners and send it around to the Board members to review. Dr. Dowler 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion to approve Dr. Robinson rewriting the letter was voted on unanimously.

Dianna Rogers also expressed concern about the letter and stated that she found it to be insulting as well for the health department and Tammy. She reminded everyone that this was a pandemic and we only had so many staff that were trained. Dr. Dowler reminded everyone that Madison County was an example of being a strong partner and had a very good name in the state in reference to our COVID response.

**b. Health Director's Report**

November 18, 2021

- Staffing Report:
    - Hired: WIC administrative assistant, Billing position,
    - Vacancies: Lab Supervisor/Preparedness Coordinator, EH Specialist, School COVID worker
  - COVID AAs – School, Health Dept Liaison, RN til 6/30/2022 Advancing Equity 6/30/2022
  - Providing COVID vaccine at the MCHD daily, as well as community events
  - High School Vaccine 11/18/2021
  - FEMA helped to provide vaccines at the Fairgrounds, had all 3 vaccines available
  - DPI and DHS meetings, BOEs transitioning to masks optional
  - Downstairs EH workspace, needs electrical work, insulation, sound proofing, drop ceiling and sheet rock
  - Playground work, grading work, moving forward with retaining walls
  - Pisgah Health Trust, Health Champions identified safe and affordable housing as a county priority. We toured Givens Estates and invited them to make a presentation to our commissioners, as we will need their full support and will be asking for county land for the development.
    - Community Housing is under contract to purchase the building at 798 Walnut Creek Rd in Marshall (currently Happy Cinco de Mayo restaurant) to house it's program operations and Reclaim Madison store. In addition, there is an opportunity to develop housing on the 3 acres above the building. Pisgah Health Trust is in the process of raising \$100,000 to help with down payment and renovation costs. Here is a link to our video about the project: <https://youtu.be/9MbZcpPcSCA>
  - Cannon Foundation, Dental Grant Week of Dec 7 (site visit, audits, quotes for equipment)
  - Continue to provide health education throughout the community
  - 2021 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps
  - Electrical issue with fire system
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- Phone Contract has expired- Frontier, TSA Choice
- Public Record Request and Press Request Routinely
- Federal COVID funding one time and reoccurring
- COVID-19 reports on funding

c. Financial Reports:

Tammy reviewed the financial reports with the board members. As of November 16, 2021, the Madison County Health Department has generated 48.99% of the expected revenue for the year. Due to technical issues \$26,000 dollars of Medicaid Money is not reflected in this report, so we are in better shape that the reflected numbers show. Last year currently, we were at 34.22% of our anticipated revenue. Expenses are currently at 31.65% of our expected expenses which is slightly below where we should be at this time.

Overall, we are in very good financial shape

**VI. Other Business**

a. Health Department Plaque

Dianna discussed the plaque. The cost would be 637.00. It was never determined who would pay for it. Discussed the examples included in the packet. This has not been in the budget. There are concerns about starting to add plaques and others who may want/need recognition. There is also the issue of leaving someone out anytime you acknowledge individuals. There were clearly many more individuals involved in moving the MCHD. What role did others play in the very important project and who might be left out? BOH asked for suggestions for other things to do that would recognize the 4 people very involved to make the move to this building. Concern that this would take a precedence other people wanting plaques here and in other properties.

b. Health Director Evaluation

Tammy has seen her evaluation. Vice Chair asked that a motion to approve the summary letter be made. Mr. Wetchel mad a motion to approve the summary letter and Andrew Thomas 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

**IX. Adjournment**

Vice Chair asked for a motion to adjourn, and Cheryl Conway made a motion to adjourn, Dr. Dowler 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The Board unanimously approved to adjourn.

**Next Meeting: January 27, 2022**

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