

Madison County Board of Health Meeting

Thursday, May 25, 2023, 6:00 PM

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Meeting ID: 233 284 947 938

Passcode xctRGt

Members

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

Jeremy Hensley, Commissioner
Cheryl Conway, PhD, RN Vice Chair
Diana Rogers, RN, Public
Caleb Massey, RN
Dr. Melissa Robinson MD. Ex Officio

Absent:

Dr. Suzanne Sheldon, DVM

Hanna Hardin, Pharmacist

Regular Meeting Special Meeting

Minutes

I. Welcome, Call to Order, Introductions

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

II. Approval of

a. **Agenda**

Chair Adams recommended that item VII, the historic Plague be moved up to item number V, and item number V be moved down to VII. Chair Adams asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda. Caleb Massey made a motion to approve the amended agenda and Larry Peek seconded the motion. The board voted and the amended agenda was unanimously approved.

b. **Board of Health March 23 minutes**

Chair Adams asked that a motion be made to approve the March 23rd Board of Health minutes. Crystal Webb made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Diana Rogers 2nd the motion. The Board of Health voted to approve the minutes as written and the minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Public Input Session

Jan Lounsbury reported to the Board of Health that she had names of all the Board of Health members who were on the board when the decision was made to move the Health Department into the current building. Ms. Lounsbury also reported that she had researched where to purchase the plaque and that Johnson City has a plaque shop that will do the plaque and will not charge for the engraving of the names. Ms. Lounsbury also stated that she had anonymous donors that would be paying for the plaque. Jeremy Hensley reported that he had the list of County Commissioners and the County Manager for that time period.

IV. Announcements

- a. The Health Department will be participating in NC Med Assist -This is a free OTC medicine giveaway. Our event will be Friday, August 11, 2023, at Madison High School. Deana is facilitating the set up. We are looking for volunteers and health related agencies or companies to set up tables so this will always be a way for the residents to learn about services here in Madison County.
- b. The county will be having an Opioid Community Engagement Session Wednesday May 31st from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM at A-B Tech Madison Campus. Dr. Robinson wanted to know when this was posted? She wondered if our residents knew about the event. Also, would there be other events scheduled and at different times? Tammy stated that yes, hopefully, we will have a grant coordinator soon, who can help lead our efforts. The flyers were posted in the community and online at least two weeks ago.

V. Historic Plaque

Dr. Adams asked Jeremy Hensley what his thoughts were on the plaque since he gathered the names for the County Commissioners during that time. Mr. Hensley stated that almost all the county buildings have plaques. Dr. Robinson shared that she is glad that the Board of Health took oversight for the plaque process, and she feels our Board should have input on who will be on the plaque. Chair Adams asked if the BOH was in agreement that the County Commissioners, Board of Health Members, County Manager and Health Director

be listed on the plaque. The BOH agreed that those would be the appropriate names. The BOH has processed this on previous occasions; they want to be sure no one is left out. Chair Adams asked for a motion to have Jan pursue having the plaque made, with the above listed and it be paid for with private donations. Jan did ask if we had an electronic copy of the Public Health logo and Tammy stated she would send it to her. Dr. Robinson made a motion that the Board of Health vote to approve having the plaque made as proposed by Jan and that it be financed by private donations. Caleb Massey 2nd the motion. The Board of Health unanimously voted to have Jan pursue getting the plaque.

VI. State of the County Health Report (SOTCH)

Deana Stephen and Jodi Brazil presented the SOTCH to the Board of Health. Deana explained that the SOTCH provides an update on the progress made addressing our health priorities and highlights new and emerging initiatives. The full report will be on the website and Tammy will present it to the County Commissioners at their upcoming meeting. Deana showed a video of the SOTCH to the Board of Health discussing the two health priorities.

a. Health Eating/Healthy Weight and Diabetes b. Substance Use and Mental Health

Jodi discussed the Madison County Health Consortium. She also discussed the resource manual that was created. Jodi also discussed the mini grants that we distributed to food pantries to help with food storage. We could not buy food with the mini grants, but we could buy storage items. After the presentation, Joey Chandler had two questions. Are we doing anything with the elementary school age kids to provide education on vaping, the children are bringing e-cigarettes to school that have a high amount nicotine and THC. Also, with school being out are there any agencies that are going to help with food for the kids during the summer? Jodi reported that previously Manna had provided a summer feeding program. There are not a lot of hot food distribution sites in our county.

Robin reported Heather Sharp is a train the trainer for Catch My Breath, which is an evidence-based curriculum that we are using in middle school and high school for children that are caught vaping. She has trained the elementary school nurses and may train the PE coaches and they have started implementing some of the curriculum toward the end of the school year. Tammy also reported that we had hoped we would be able to hire two people to work with the Elementary schools from the opioid block grant but that was not able to occur this year. A child brought an e-cig to school that had THC in it and an ambulance had to be called to transport the child to the hospital. The BOH expressed concern around this growing problem.

VII. A View from Here Communication

Deana discussed the new regional media campaign called a View from Here. It is a social media campaign tailor made to meet the specific needs of WNC Health Communicators who need timely, reliable, hyperlocal, and relevant social media content related to the following three priority health topics:

- a. Mental Health
- b. Substance Misuse
- c. Healthy Eating + Active Living

Deana has already started using the tool kit. Deana encouraged the Board members to go to our face book page and like it so they can follow our Facebook page. It is a real treat to have a toolkit to use on our social media outlet. They can insert surveys and collect data for us. Also discussed was the need for volunteers for the Med Assist.

VIII. New Business

a. Fee schedule (clinic, dental, environmental health)

Clinic fee- This would go into effect July 1, 2023, if the BOH and County Commissioners both approve. Tammy presented the clinic fee schedule, along with the formula used to create the fee schedule. Comparisons were made with Medicaid reimbursement rates, BCBS rates, Medicare reimbursement rates and vendor costs where appropriate. The Board members asked questions for clarification. Robin explained the sliding fee scale, which is based on the Federal Poverty guidelines. Robin also explained that we have several agreement addendums such as Maternal Health Care, that will not allow us pass on cost if the patients are 0 pay and below, we cannot charge them anything for services they receive. The same goes for Child Health for an uninsured child. We cannot deny services for in ability to pay. After discussion ended, Chair Adams asked for a motion to approve the clinic fees as presented. Crystal Webb made a motion to approve the clinic fees as presented, and Caleb Massey 2nd the motion. The Board members voted, and the clinic fee schedule was unanimously approved.

b. Dental Fees

Tammy stated that she was not completely comfortable with the dental fees, she wants to go deeper and get more comparisons. She stated that there is a need for dental services in the county as we only have 3 total dental practices, including the MCHD center. She did want to ask the Board of Health to approve the fees recommendations with the understanding that she would have a better comparison with additional recommendations for the next BOH meeting. The Medicaid reimbursement rate is very low. Dental does have a sliding fee schedule, but the fee schedule does not follow the federal poverty guidelines. The dental center does payment plans. Also, Dental is not a required service, so if you owe a large bill, and need additional services, we can deny those. Chair Adams asked that a motion be made to approve the dental fee schedule with the understanding that Tammy and the dental team will look at other Public Health dental clinics to gather a more detailed view of charges for services. Diana made a motion to approve the dental fees as presented and Crystal 2nd the motion. Chair Adams asked the board members if there were any more questions and there were none. The Board members voted, and the dental fee schedule was unanimously approved.

c. Environmental Health

The fees schedule for environmental health were compared to Toe River, Haywood Co. and Buncombe Co. Savannah Kent, from environmental health was present to answer questions. Tammy shared the recommendations and pointed out that environmental health fees don't go by CPT codes so the language can be different in counties. Tammy and the EH team looked at what we were charging, the amount of time involved for each process as well as what other counties were charging for the services. Savannah shared the example, swimming pools, Savannah explained that it takes 8 to 10 hours to review a swimming pool.

We did not have a fee before for spas and we reviewed 3 spas last year and were not able to collect any fees because we did not have any established. We anticipate seeing more public spas in the future. If you were putting in a pool at your house EH does not inspect them. Savannah answered questions for the Board members. After discussion of different fees for services, Chair Adams asked that motion be made to approve the Environmental Health fee schedule. Larry made a motion to approve the Environmental Health fee schedule. Cheryl 2nd the motion. The Board members voted unanimously to approve the Environmental Health Fee schedule.

Once the Board of Health approves the fee schedule, this will be presented to the County Commissioners. The fee schedules will go into effect July 1, 2023, if the county commissioners approve them.

d. New Clinical Option

Robin presented to the board members a new clinical option for appointment reminders to be text messages instead of calling. Several patients have asked for text message reminders. We surveyed patients from April 26th to May 12th. We collected 79 surveys. The results were for text messages. We are at the beginning of this process. Our EHR does have a patient portal; the text messaging would be set up through the patient portal, to ensure compliance. Diana asked about the security of sending text and Robin explained the EHR text system was HIPPA compliant and that it would be an opt in system. Crystal asked for more information about the opting in process. After discussion the BOH felt offering this option to clients would be a benefit to patients.

Chair Adams asked for motion to approve the new clinical option of text messaging appointment reminders. Caleb Massey made a motion to approve the option of text messaging appointment reminders and Joey Chandler 2nd the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the option of text messaging appointment reminders.

IX. Administrative Reports

a. Medical Director's Report- Dr. Robinson reported on the following:

Infectious Diseases

Returning to normal

Flu season is waning.

Recent Covid spike warning. Less virulent than in past, but still likely will be #3 cause of death in U.S. for 2022. Johns Hopkins stopped collecting COVID data on March 10. Please help distribute COVID test.

Nationally, TB increased again in 2022. No known Madison County cases.

CDC will publish a report today about increasing autism rates, especially among minority populations which typically had lower reported prevalence. Likely explanations:

- o better screening among minorities
- o “Catch up” diagnoses from missed well-child-checks during pandemic.

Maternal Health- in process of updating provider training and revising policy and manual to align with current guidelines.

MAT program

Previously at capacity, increased approx. 30% in past 5 Months since Dr. Le Hew joined the clinic.

Governor’s Institute conference – 5 staff attending.

Looking at ways to make Narcan more easily available.

Dr. Robinson reported that she and Dr. Sheldon had been discussing Lyme disease and Dr. Sheldon reports seeing an increase in the disease in dogs and has a rapid test she can administer to check to see the dog has Lyme’s. Dr. Robinson is concerned that we may see an increase with humans. Dr. Robinson attended a Rural Health conference for ETSU but there are a lot of similarities. The concern about the world maternal infant mortality rate is increasing mainly due to rural hospitals being closed. Dr. Robinson does not see that happening in our area. Our county does not have a rural hospital.

b. Health Director Report

Following up on Dr. Robinson’s report, we did receive a very large shipment of Narcan. Robin will be attending the County Director’s meeting in June to do a training session on how to administrate Narcan. Each Department head will be given Narcan to take back to their departments.

Staffing Report:

- Vacancies: EH Specialist, the replacement car for Jamie List has been ordered
- Salary Adjustments- 3% increase approved by county commissioners.
- Life in Public Health is not always what it appears to be. One of our school Nurses, Tiffany Jamerson, went on a field trip to Dollywood with the middle school. One of the children attending the school trip has a heart condition. When they arrived at Dollywood, the child went to the bathroom, and he came back out, he was in distress. Tiffany was called and came to the aid of the child. The EMS for Dollywood was called as well, and the child was transported to a hospital in Knoxville. Tiffany’s family had come with her on this field trip. Tiffany rode in the ambulance with the child and her husband followed the ambulance in their family car. Tiffany stayed with the child until his parents were able to get to the hospital. It was about 9:30 PM before Tiffany and her husband headed home. Tiffany stayed in contact with the family throughout the weekend to make sure they were getting what they needed. We are grateful for our dedicated staff.
- Animal Control: There seems to be some challenges with Animal Control. Staff resignations have been submitted. Tammy understands that a new interim manager has been hired. The county manager asked Tammy if she would take supervision of Animal Control back, if needed and Tammy agreed that if it was in the best interest of the residents she would. Changes could occur as early as next week.
- Playground update. – Fence installation will start next week. We also have learned of an opportunity to complete work at the outdoor learning center as well as add adult exercise equipment.
- Care Management- Kathy reported that things are going well.
- Audits:
 - 1.ADA audit has been complete; waiting for the report. This is an accreditation requirement.
 2. Child Fatality Prevention Team- We had an audit for that program. Tammy reported that she has been here for eight years and does not ever remember having an audit for this program. Kathy had everything ready for the audit and we feel like that audit went very well.
 3. Women’s Health Section pre-audit. That happened this week and the first part of the audit will be the last week in June. Robin had everything ready. This part of the audit will focus on policies and the record part of the audit will happen in July.
- MCHD Building RKP, Contract awarded, and funding update. The bid has been awarded and we are eager to get started.
- Generator update

A backup generator will be delivered in the fall. Discussion occurred about the generator. Joey has extensive experience with generators and had questions regarding the one we purchased. Joey Chandler asked Tammy to send him the information about the generator.

- Reaccreditation process moving forward all benchmarks due fall 2023.
- Opioid Block Grant updates
 - Purchases: Vehicle and fuel, funds for lab renovation and vaccine refrigerator, funds to support patients in MAT program, training and travel to substance use out of state prevention conference, Narcan, fentanyl test strips, eye washing station, laptops, e-cribe fees, electronic medical record fees, refrigerator, electronic sign on medical park drive, communication equipment for exam rooms, numerous county departments who serve individuals with SUD and their families were able to benefit from these funds
- Liability Insurance Updates (rates, NCALHD potential business endeavor) Terry Snowden will be retiring, and our insurance will be going up 9% NCALHD is looking at buying her company. General medical liability rates are many times higher than what we pay with the group of LHDs.
- Our Med Serve fellow will be leaving us June 16th to attend Med School.
- Dr. Le Hew is interested in serving veterans. We are looking into doing medical assessments for the VA for our county veterans. This would generate money for us and allow our residents to be seen sooner and closer to home.
- May 11, 2023, marks the end of the federal COVID-19 PHE declaration. After this date, CDC's authorizations to collect certain types of public health data will expire.
 1. Vaccines will remain available.
 2. COVID-19 at-home tests may not be covered by insurance.
 3. Treatments will remain available.
 4. National reporting of COVID-19 may change Monitoring the impact of COVID-19 and the effectiveness of prevention and control strategies remains a public health priority. With the COVID-19 PHE declaration ending, some metrics will remain the same, but some will change in frequency, source, or availability. (Hospitalizations, deaths, ER visits, wastewater surveillance, Vaccine documentation)
 5. Tammy has revised our translator's contract. Tammy and Kathy will be meeting with them next Friday. With our ARAPA money we bought two tablets that will be on a stand that will be used for translation services as well. This will be a live version; the interrupter will be on video. Our current backup plan requires phone services where the tablets only require internet so will work in the dental center.

c. Financial report

Tammy reviewed our financial reports with the group. The Revenue and Expenditures for this month seem to be balancing with some things are over and a few things under predicted budget. Our finance director is not available this week so there are some balances to be resolved. Next meeting's financial report will be more detailed as that will demonstrates our annual balance. Tammy feels that we will finish the year out ok, but will not see the large reduction in local tax payer funds we saw last year based on COVID funds that were able to be used.

X. Other Business: N/A

XI. Adjournment: Chair Adams asked for motion to adjourn be made. Crystal Webb made a motion to adjourn, Joey Chandler 2nd the motion to adjourn. The board members voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:46 PM.

Chair for the Board of Health

Health Director

Date _____