

Madison County Board of Health Meeting

Thursday, May 27th, 2021, 6:00pm

<https://zoom.us/j/91866372325?pwd=UWgvMGw3TE5vREILbG9DS2R1ZzIXZz09>

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

Absent

Andrew Thomas
Rachel Smith

Hannah Hardin
Matthew Wechtel

Regular Meeting

Special Meeting

AGENDA

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. He introduced new BOH member Cheryl Conway to the Board Members. Cheryl told the Board members a little about herself. She has lived in Madison County since 6th grade. When she graduated from Madison High School, she earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Chapel Hill. She started her career in nursing at St. Joseph's and stayed through the merger. Cheryl is currently working at the VA in Quality Management. Cheryl also is on the Board for My Sister's Place.

II. Consent of Agenda- Approval of Agenda

a. Chair Adams asked for a motion to approve the agenda be made.

Crystal Webb made a motion to approve the agenda, Dr. Dowler 2nd the motion to approve. The agenda was approved anonymously by the board.

b. Board of Health Minutes, March 25, 2020- Chair Adams asked for a motion to approve the BOH minutes for the March 25, 2021, meeting. A motion to approve was made by Dianna Rogers and Dr. Dowler 2nd the motion to approve. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Public Input Session

Mr. Rob Steinglass was present for the public input session. He asked for an update on our community events we had for COVID-19 vaccine. Mr. Steinglass asked if we had a way to know how many COVID-19 vaccine had been given by Doctor's offices, Ingles and other places that administer COVID 19 Vaccine. Tammy explained that in North Carolina vaccine is tracked but we cannot tell how many vaccines Ingles does, but we can see how many of our residents in Madison County have been vaccinated. Vaccinations are down in the North Carolina. Dr. Dowler shared that NC Vaccine Dashboard is available for people to look at and that over all vaccinations are down across the state. There are some pilot programs using incentives. Dr. Dowler also reported that Western Carolina Medical Society is going mobile with vaccines.

Dr. Robinson shared Hot Springs Health Program had started giving vaccines in all their clinics and she feels that is important for people to be able to get the vaccines at their doctor's offices. There is peer pressure to not get the vaccine and if people who are being peer pressured, they can go to their own physician and get the vaccine behind closed doors.

IV. Announcements

Tammy shared a picture of Emery, Dr. Daly's first grandchild.

V. Case Study

Dr Robinson presented the following case study to the BOH.

Young female, low income, uninsured, patient at HSHP but rarely comes in now due to finances. Feb. 2021: Referred patient to Project Access for transvaginal ultrasound which returned within normal limits. Patient had not had a pap smear for many years. The health dept has a program that provides pap smears to low-income individuals, so she was able to get one here. Pap resulted in low grade squamous intraepithelial lesion. This means cells showed mild abnormalities. Colop was performed at MCHD. Results from Pathologist given to patient for cancer. The patient was referred to local Cancer Center.

Patient had a total hysterectomy. The path report indicated the cancer is endocervical. Pt. has followed up with surgeon. Very thankful for this program that provides life-saving services. Medicaid for catastrophic illness only covered hospital cost and treatments given while in the hospital. There is not a lot of options for men either. There are people who have died early because they choose not to get treated. The BCCCP program is wonderful if a woman has breast or cervical cancer. Dr. Dowler did add that in January Medicaid changed the enrollment for BCCCP. If you are diagnosed out of the program you can still enroll in the program once you receive your diagnosis.

VI. New Business

a. COVID-19 update

Tammy reported COVID cases is continuing to slow down and reported today one million COVID case with 450 days after the first case. We have 13,055 deaths in North Carolina. Deaths due to flu in North Carolina is 193. That tells us that the control measures worked. Dr. Dowler reported that usually North Carolina spends well over a million dollars on Tamiflu this year only \$50,000. The most deaths from COVID 19 occurred on January 15th which was 127 with 5,484 deaths in our nursing homes and Long Care facilities.

b. Fee Schedule

There have not been any significant supply changes this year, therefore, there are no recommendations for fee adjustments currently. If that were to change, Tammy will bring those recommendations back to the BOH for consideration.

c. Strategic Plan

Kathy discussed the Strategic planning process. The North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation requires health departments to have a strategic plan and to update it yearly. We are currently in the process of updating our Strategic Plan for 2020-2025. This will be sent to the BOH once complete.

d. Jail Health Plan

Tammy presented the Jail Health Plan to the Board of Health for their review and approval. The Board will need to vote for Chair Adams to sign off on the jail health plan. Dr. Dowler stated that she will abstain from voting on the Jail Health Plan since Dr. North is a friend and is a consultant for Medicaid on telehealth. Dr. North is the Medical Director for the jail health providers. Tammy reported that things seem to be working well with the current jail health providers and that our primary jail provider is a resident of the county and works well with us. Chair Adams asked that a motion to approve the MOU and approval for him to sign on behalf of the Board members. Dianna made a motion to approve for him to sign on their behalf. Larry 2nd the motion. All were in favor and one Abstention. The motion passed.

e. Medicaid Update

Dr. Dowler provided an update on Medicaid transformation. Managed Care will start July 1st for the state of North Carolina. We are decreasing in COVID Cases. Our Long-term care facilities also started seeing a decrease in deaths in December and that is when we started giving out the vaccines to our elderly residents. We are amongst the worse of the states as far as vaccine given. Still a lot of work to be done.

North Carolina is not an expansion state. We are a Managed Care state beginning July 1. 1 and 4 to 5 residents received Medicaid. Benefits. Half of the beneficiaries are under the age of 18 years.

Managed care was a political decision about 5 or 6 years ago. The legislation felt that we were spending too much money and wanted to follow other states in outsourcing the Medicaid. The goal is to improve health of North Carolinians on Medicaid. Healthy Opportunities – Dogwood Trust received some money to help with this. There are 5 Prepaid health plans that will be providing Medicaid Health Plans in the state. Mr. Steinglass asked if we knew the number of Pediatric immunizations for the county. Dr. Dowler reported that Western North Carolina has a very high rate of non vaccers. The Health Department is audited every year on our immunizations. We can pull data. This data is look out at the state level all the way to the county. Robin reported we are seeing more parents who are choosing not to get their children vaccinated. Tammy reminded everyone that most pediatricians offices will not see children who are not vaccinated so the Health Department is the safety net for these children. We welcome all individuals and are happy to provide any vaccine, even if the family is not willing to get all vaccines.

f. 2021/2022 Budget

Tammy presented the proposed 2021/2022 budget. Salary is biggest cost for the budget. We found out this week that the school system applied for a grant and received it. This will add a 5th nurse to our school nurses' this will add to the bottom line, but it will be a pass through, so will not impact the amount needed. Tammy stated that we are always very budget conscious. That we apply for grants throughout the year to provide quality services at the best cost available. You are voting on the operating budget for 2021/2022.

Dr. Dowler stated that she has worked with several Health Departments across the State and that she noticed that a lot of people especially young men do not receive treatment for STD due to the cost of the labs Test that are not covered by our state lab and must go out to ancillary labs. This can be costly. Have we thought to ask the county for money for lab cost? Robin reported that some of the STD testing could cost about 70 dollars out of pocket. Other counties write grants or negotiation with Labs for cost of the test. Our charges at Lab Corp are based on the volume of the test. We did try to do the indigent fund with Lab Corp and that was very difficult and was not working as intended. Tammy recommended that we revisit the indigent fund and Dr. Dowler will also research grants.

Revenue for the Health Department this year and next year will be much better than in the past. We can bill for Medicare now as our contract was renewed. It had been allowed to lapse and getting a new contract with very time consuming. That was the only insurance we could not bill. Dental Center has exceeded our expectations for revenue and so has some services provided by environmental health.

Diana asked about Mission and looking at the Dogwood Health why are other counties getting money and we are not. They have not distributed a lot of money thus far. Pisgah Health has developed Health Champions and Tammy is heading our county group for them on helping identify some of the county's greatest problems/needs. The Board members were given opportunity to ask questions.

Chair Adams asked for a motion for approval of the 2021/2022 budget. Larry Peek made a motion to approve the 2021/2022 budget as presented and Dr. Dowler 2nd the motion. The budget was approved anonymously.

VII. Administrative Reports

a. Medical Director's Report

Dr. Robinson reported on the following:

- She is very happy that they are now able to give vaccine at the doctor's offices. There is a pocket of people who do not want people to know that they are receiving the vaccine.
- The health department staff were amazing, and our community partners were as well.
- AmeriCorps Intern selected for 2021-2023, Isabela Cantor. Shared w/ WCMS who is the "employer" to simplify HR issues. \$5K/year plus up to \$1,000 in benefits for a half-time employee with college degree, planning to enter medical school in 2023.
- MAT grant ends in 4 days. Hopefully will be a temporary lapse.
- New resources – TRACTOR (food), HOPE4NC (mental health targeted toward COVID stress), colonoscopies for uninsured
- Jail Health plan

Needs

- Mental Health – there are still shortages, high turn-over, and Behavioral Health providers who discharge saying "too complex for me" without referral to higher level of care
- Endocrinologist for uninsured (Project Access)

Work in Progress

- Catching up on work delayed due to COVID – policy reviews, TB training, attend program meetings, etc.
- MAT: New modes of advertising. New grant proposal.
- Maternal Health program has capacity and may be under-utilized – advertise?

b. Health Director's Report

- Staffing Report: WIC administrative assistant, School RNs, Temp admin positions, BCCCP RN
- Staff Health Issues
- Intern update, been very fortunate with recent interns, they have been an asset to the dept.
- Public Health Workforce – participated in a webinar on the value and importance of the Public Health Work Force. There are significant issues with lack of staff and understanding for their work and critical role they play in society. "We have lost troops and must prioritize and take care of them," was stated many times in the presentation.
 - Workforce should be celebrating, but coming back to a backlog of work
 - New funding should be used to help build a strong foundation in understaffed and underfunded health dept. which tend to be small health depts.
- Regional Vaccine Meetings and swap shops have been very helpful
- School Vaccines & Community Vaccine Events
 - Spring Creek Community Center, Spill Corn Church of God, Homebound residents
- MOU with Department of JJ to provide vaccines to their staff

- DPI and DHS meetings have been ongoing, strong partnership with school system leadership
- Ongoing meetings with our school leadership regarding public health issues
- Public Health Bills
- Haywood County Vaccine Trailer
- Co-Op Research Best Practice Project
- Downstairs EH workspace,
- Pisgah Health Trust, Health Champions
- Hep B Program, awarded \$30,000
- WART and local paper interviews
- Land of Sky
- MedServ Update
- French Broad Broadband assistance for The Emergency Broadband Benefit
- Hep A outbreak in the East. 790 cases with more than 500 of those in the last year, 68% hospitalized
- Parking updates
- EH Updates the week of April 4th the state sent regional consultants to Madison County to work with our EH staff and do a review of properties. The county was overdue for their EH audit.

c. Financial Update

Tammy reported that we are still catching up in billing. We have made it through January. We have not billed for February, April, and May. Expenses are down and revenue is above expectations. There are several line items coming in much higher than we projected last year. There was a long discussion on ways we could show appreciation to the staff. The board voted unanimously that a letter be written on their behalf to present to the County Commissioners for compensation to the salaried employees for significant unpaid time that has been put in over the past 16 months due to the pandemic and keeping our residents safe.

VIII. Other Business

a. Environmental Health Pit Requirements

Tammy updated the Board of Health In 2005, the county implemented requirements for 4 feet by 4 feet pits to evaluate soils for septic permits. Tammy has heard from the state EH division about options for soil evaluations and will report back on any options the BOH may want to consider.

V. Adjournment

Chair Adams asked that a motion be made to adjourn. Larry Peek made a motion to adjourn and Crystal Webb 2nd the motion. Chair Adams adjourned the meeting at 10:00 PM