

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

Members

Dr. Robert Adams DDS, Chair
Dr. Suzanne Sheldon, DVM
Hanna Hardin, Pharmacist
Crystal Webb, Public
Larry Peek, Engineer
Caleb Massey, RN

Diana Rogers, RN, Public
Jeremy Hensley, Commissioner
Cheryl Conway, PhD, RN
Joey Chandler, Public
Dr. Melissa Robinson MD. Ex Officio

Absent

Dr. Robert Adams DDS, Chair
Diana Rogers, Rn Public

Dr. Suzanne Sheldon, DVM
Hanna Hardin, Pharmacist

Virtual

Joey Chandler, Public

Crystal Webb, Public

Regular Meeting Special Meeting
AGENDA

I. **Welcome, Call to Order, Introductions**

Vice Chair Conway called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

II. **Approval of**

a. **Agenda**

Vice Chair Conway asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, she asked that a motion be made to approve the agenda as written. Larry Peek made a motion to approve the agenda as written and Jeremy Hensley seconded the motion. The BOH voted and the agenda was unanimously approved.

b. **Board of Health July 27, 2023, minutes**

Vice Chair Conway asked if there were any changes or additions to the July 27, 2023, BOH minutes. There were no changes or additions. Vice Chair Conway asked that a motion be made to accept July 27, 2023, as written. Larry Peek made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Caleb Massey seconded the minutes. The BOH voted and the minutes were unanimously approved.

III. **Public Input Session**

No items were presented.

IV. **Announcements**

County Fair: Tammy announced that the Madison County Fair is scheduled for this weekend. The Fair's schedule is as follows: Friday: 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM Saturday: 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Tammy informed the attendees that there would be one large tent at the Fair, where all county departments would be represented. This presents an excellent opportunity for networking and showcasing the county's various departments and services.

Test to Treat: Tammy referred to the flyer included in the Board of Health member's packet, which discussed free COVID test kits available for testing. The services include six free at-home tests and free telehealth appointments to treat positive cases. You can find more information about these services and their availability on www.test2treat.org.

Mental Health First Aid:

This is a grant we received. Mental health is a huge concern for many people. Bendik Clark has been teaching Mental Health First Aid -Question, Persuade, Refer. Every 11 minutes, someone loses their life to suicide. Participants will learn the skills needed to • recognize the warning signs of suicide. • Offer hope to someone who may be in crisis. • Refer to appropriate support services

Breast Cancer Awareness & T-Shirt, bags, and raffle: October is highlighted as a significant month for the Health Department as it is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of

cancer deaths for women in North Carolina. Each year over 6,000 NC women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and over 1,000 will die from the disease. Women in North Carolina have a one-in-eight lifetime risk of developing breast cancer. During this month, the department focuses on various initiatives related to breast cancer awareness. It was discussed that the Health Department operates the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (BCCP), which offers services to women who do not have insurance, including mammograms and cervical exams. Some key points discussed regarding the BCCP program include:

- There is a \$300 limit for mammograms for eligible participants.
- For individuals who do not qualify for Medicaid, there is a financial threshold.
- Eligibility for Medicaid requires a positive biopsy result after a mammogram.
- Biopsy costs were mentioned as being approximately \$3,000.
- A line item labeled "Pink Out" was noted, and it was mentioned that Tammy prefers to maintain a balance of at least \$6,000 in this line item that will pay 2 biopsies. The sales from the T-shirts, tote bags, and raffle will help provide funds for uninsured women to get biopsies and other essential services.

Preparedness Trailer: Tammy shared pictures of the preparedness trailer that will be acquired using Regional ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. Robert Davis, the manager of the regional ARPA funds, informed Tammy that they had secured two preparedness trailers. The following key points were discussed:

Three preparedness trailers were acquired through the regional ARPA funds. One of these trailers will be stationed at the Health Department. The other counties within the region will also have access to the trailers. In the event of an emergency requiring the opening of a shelter, the preparedness trailer would be utilized effectively. One specific purpose discussed was to provide a space for nurses to stay and carry out medication storage for individuals seeking shelter. Individuals staying in emergency shelters cannot keep their medications with them; instead, the Health Department staff secure medications. This ensures the overall safety of the individuals seeking shelter. In addition, the trailer could be used if the county was doing search and rescue activities.

Tall Cop: Tall Cop, Jermaine Galloway, is a highly experienced law enforcement officer from Texas who provides valuable insights into the latest drug trends affecting today's youth. Heather Sharp attended one of his training sessions and found it to be very informative. During his presentations, Tall Cop highlights various products, brands, and illegal substances that are marketed to teenagers. His next presentation is scheduled for October 10, 2023, at McDowell Technical College, starting at 9:00 AM and concluding at 4:00 PM.

Oral Rabies Vaccination: Tammy handed out a flyer on Oral rabies vaccination in our area. The Wildlife Services will be distributing Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) from October 3- October 14, 2023. Tammy wanted the BOH members to be informed about this event in case someone asked them questions.

DOT: Tammy reported that Deana Stephens had applied for a grant through the DOT for Bicycle helmets and we received 40 helmets for different age groups. These helmets were distributed to Mars Hill Baptist and Parks and Rec Summer program and the Hot Springs Elementary School.

Larry Peek updated the Board of Health on Habitat for Humanity is building a house in Mars Hill and hopefully breaking ground on another house next week.

V. New Business

a. : Evaluation of need for amendments of tobacco-free rule

I. Tobacco-Free Rule Background During the meeting, it was discussed that in 2017, the Board of Health passed a rule prohibiting tobacco use and the use of e-cigarettes in County Buildings and County Vehicles. It was noted that tobacco use is a public health issue and that the BOH has a responsibility to provide input. This BOH rule is being brought back to the attention of the board for further discussion, evaluation and to see how the BOH wishes to proceed with this rule. Once the BOH votes on a rule involving tobacco, the next step is to present it to the County Commissioners for approval. Previously, this rule was unanimously approved by the BOH but the rule was never put on a County Commissioner meeting agenda for consideration.

II. Revisiting the Rule Tammy expressed the need for the current Board of Health to review all county specific health rules. This would include the tobacco-free rule once again. Deana Stephens, Director of Community Health Programs, provided background information on the tobacco rule. Deana emphasized that considerable thought and effort had been

put into developing the rule, including a presentation by a Tobacco specialist in 2017. She also highlighted that having a county policy aligned with broader state and national efforts on tobacco control is essential.

III. Data and Facts Presented by Deana provided the Board of Health with information from the CDC and the NC Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch. She pointed out that most counties have county-wide policies regarding tobacco, whereas only 16 counties, including Madison County, do not have such policies in place.

IV. Discussion and Concerns A substantial discussion took place regarding the policy, including concerns about county employees using tobacco, particularly dipping tobacco, in county vehicles.

V. Motion to Adopt the 2017 Rule A motion was made by Joey Chandler to adopt the tobacco-free rule as written and Crystal Webb seconded the motion. The Board of Health voted, with 6 votes in favor and 1 vote against the adoption of the rule. The motion to readopt the rule as presented was passed by the BOH.

VI. Next Steps Tammy indicated her intention to discuss the rule's adoption with the County Manager and work towards getting it on the agenda for consideration by the County Commissioners.

b. County Regulations for Pits and Exotic Animals: Tammy reported that she is searching to find two additional county rules or ordinances that have been approved by the county commissioners. One related to exotic animals and she also noted that the decision to dig pits for septic tanks was made back in 2005. Tammy has enlisted the assistance of Mandy Bradley in searching through the County Commissioners' minutes for this information. Furthermore, Tammy shared that a few years ago, an exotic zoo was established within the county. The zoo's owner successfully obtained USDA approval, which takes precedence over any county ordinances.

c. BOH Operating Procedures: During the meeting, Tammy asked the members of BOH if they had any updates to share regarding the operating procedures. Jeremy Hensley recommended that they add a clause in the voting section stating that members could vote even if they were attending the meeting via video or audio. Caleb Massey then made a motion to allow BOH members to vote virtually or in audio. Melissa Robinson seconded the motion, and after the board voted, the motion was unanimously passed.

VI. Administrative Reports

a. Medical Director's Report: Dr Robinson discussed the following:

Infectious Diseases *Lyme more prevalent *Flu – Vax starts next week. *Covid

- "Free" test supply is nearly gone, first-come-first serve. Vax and tests are now reverting to HD policy for strep/flu - vax of healthy person only needs nurse appt, test needs provider visit.

Pediatric vaccine preventable diseases: Deaths per year in the United States prior to recommended vaccines compared to COVID-19

	Hepatitis A ¹	Meningococcal (ACWY) ²	Varicella ³	Rubella ⁴	Rotavirus ⁵	COVID-19 ⁶
Age	<20 years	11-18 years	5-9 years	All ages	<5 years	6 months-<18 years
Time period	1990-1995	2000-2004	1990-1994	1966-1968	1985-1991	2022
Average deaths per year	3	8	16	17	20	≤1 year: 156 1-4 years: 101 5-19 years: 292

¹Vogt TM, Wise ME, Bell BP, Finelli L. Declining hepatitis A mortality in the United States during the era of hepatitis A vaccination. *J Infect Dis* 2008; 197:1282-8. National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System with additional serogroup and outcome data from Enhanced Meningococcal Disease Surveillance for 2015-2019.

²Meyer PA, Seward JF, Jumaan AO, Wharton M. Varicella mortality: trends before vaccine licensure in the United States, 1970-1994. *J Infect Dis*. 2000;182(2):383-390. doi:10.1086/315714

³Roush SW, Murphy TV. Historical comparisons of morbidity and mortality for vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States. *JAMA* 2007; 298:2155-63.

⁴Glass RI, Kilgore PE, Holman RC, et al. The epidemiology of rotavirus diarrhea in the United States: surveillance and estimates of disease burden. *J Infect Dis*. 1996 Sep;174 Suppl 1:S5-11

⁶<http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10-provisional.html> on Aug 1, 2023. COVID vaccine first introduced in 12-17 years in May 2021; in 5-11 years in November 2021 and in 6 months - 4 years in June 2022

- Vax updated for 2023/2024 should be received next week. Single dose 5 years and up, regardless of vax status. Two doses 6 months through 4 years.
- Perspective on the need for pediatric vax impressive even when stats are viewed through the lens of varying vaccine efficacy and population growth (≈ 2X 1966-2023).

MAT Program

- Major Vivitrol study statistics revisited. Less effective at OD prevention than Bupe/Methadone.
- The program continues to grow. Active patients: 66; 39 insured, 27 uninsured covered by grants

Regional Epidemiologist Surveillance Report: Tammy reviewed the Epidemiologist Surveillance Report. MSD wastewater report showed a rise in mid-September for COVID cases.

c. **Health Director Report:** Tammy reported on the following:

Staffing Report: Vacancies: EH Specialist, we continue to look for EH specialists who are already credentialed.

- School Nurse: We have a new school nurse starting on October 3, 2023
- WIC Staff: The administrative assistant for WIC's last day was today and the WIC department has been doing interviews.
- Salary Study Meetings/interviews Tammy has met with the company that was contracted by the County to evaluate the county's pay scale.
 - Tammy attends a meeting with a group that was formed during the Covid pandemic, WNC Health Alliance. During their latest meeting, they discussed staffing shortages and the importance of having staff who are committed to their work. Tammy shared that she believes the staff in our county are dedicated to helping the residents and their needs. The group emphasized the importance of applying common sense, flexibility, and having common goals to overcome any challenges they face.
- Bridge Access Program- Tammy reported that the Health Department applied for and was approved for the Bridge Program, which aims to provide free COVID-19 vaccines to uninsured individuals in our community.
- MCHD Food Pantries- Our MCHD emergency food pantries are being used more than ever. We are providing about 400 pounds a month of food.
- Playground update Fences a grant was submitted to do the grading, add the walking trail, and some adult equipment awaiting results.
- Audits - EH
- MCHD Building Expansion project. We are moving along with our building expansion project. Footers have been poured.
- Building projects (**Lab cabinet, counter and countertop project, drainage project, parking project**) The lab cabinets and counters have been installed. We also had a drainage project down in the back completed. We are hoping if we get our grant for the playground, we can get some grading done in the playground and ditches done for the side road parking.
- Reaccreditation process in final 3 months of submission. Confirmed on-site date March 21, 2024
- Opioid Settlement Committee- This committee meets weekly.
- Electric Informational Sign: We were able to purchase an electronic sign from the block grant. The electronic portion will go inside the big sign at the bottom of the roads fork. Tammy asked French Board Electric to come out and explore electrical options. She learned that this project would require 5 poles and come from a main power source. This is planning for future needs. Several board members thought this was for a large electrical project and that an electrician might be able to help get the minimal amount of power needed for the small sign. Tammy will contact a local electrician to see if there are options.
- Parents Bill of Rights (school RNs, health class) Tammy shared the Parents Bill of Rights with the Board members because it impacts the schools, and we have school nurses. We enjoyed participating in school health fairs however those will not occur this year. Flu shots have always been done as an opt in activity with a permission form completed by the guardian. That same model will be followed this year. Flu clinics will occur at all schools for staff and students.
- Dietitian, nutritional analysis: Our senior centers need a nutritional analysis that needs to be done by a licensed dietitian and our WIC director is the only one employed by the county. Tammy is working with Connie Harris on how we can help meet this need in our senior centers. Now is not a good time since WIC is down a staff person.

d. **Financial Report:** During the meeting, Tammy provided a financial report of the Health Department for the Madison County BOH This report provides an overview of the financial situation of the Madison County Health Department, including both challenges and positive developments.

Current Fiscal Year Status: Tammy mentioned that they are still early in the fiscal year and stated that they should ideally be at 25% of both revenues and expenditures at this point.

Janitorial Supplies: She noted that in the past, they were able to offset the cost of some janitorial supplies. However, currently, they are over budget in the janitorial line due to the absence of extra funds and increased supply costs.

Unplanned Building Maintenance Costs: Tammy mentioned that we have incurred some unplanned building maintenance costs that have disrupted the budget balance in that specific line.

Grant Funding: She highlighted that grants are on their own cycle and do not align with the county's fiscal year.

However, she reports that all their grants are on track.

Increased Demand: Tammy noted an increase in demand for Medicare immunizations and maternal health insurance. Additionally, in environmental health, they are ahead of expected revenue in areas like restaurant plan reviews and water samples.

Overall Budget: Tammy concluded by stating that, at this time, the overall Madison County Health Department Budget appears to be moving as expected.

This report provides an overview of the financial situation of the Madison County Health Department, with detailed line items for review and discussion.

VII. Other Business

a. FirstNet: Joey Chandler briefly discussed FirstNet: FirstNet, the First Responder Network Authority, was established as an independent government agency in the United States in 2012. Its creation was prompted by the 9/11 Commission's recommendation to improve communication capabilities for first responders after the difficulties experienced during the 9/11 attacks and subsequent emergencies.

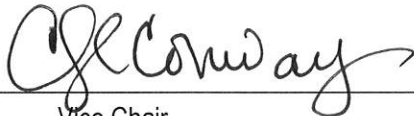
In March 2017, FirstNet announced a 25-year contract award to AT&T to build and operate the FirstNet network. This partnership between FirstNet and AT&T marked a significant milestone in the effort to provide first responders with a dedicated, nationwide public safety broadband network. AT&T committed to investing over \$40 billion over the life of the contract to develop and maintain the network infrastructure.

Since the contract award, AT&T has been actively working to deploy and expand the FirstNet network, offering first responders priority and preemption capabilities during emergencies, ensuring they have access to reliable, high-speed wireless broadband communication services to support their critical missions. This collaboration between FirstNet and AT&T represents a vital step in improving public safety and emergency response capabilities across the United States. For more information, you can go to the following website: <https://firstnet.gov/about/history>

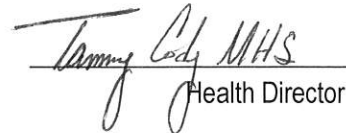
Joey has been in discussion with Tammy about this option for cell phone services at the MCHD.

IX. Adjournment: Vice Chair Conway asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Caleb made a motion to adjourn and Jeremy Hensley 2nd the motion. The board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:40 PM

The next meeting will be November 16, 2023



Vice Chair



Health Director

