

The Cleveland County Board of Health met on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 6:30 p.m., at the Cleveland County Public Health Center.

Board members present: Michael Alexander, Kendalyn Lutz-Craver, Stan Pitts, Johnny Hutchins, Tom Spurling, Kale Meade, Dianne Sanders and Randy Sweeting.

Public Health Center staff present: Dorothea Wyant, Rodella Gold, Anne Short, Alisa Leonard, Sam Lockridge, Nathan McNeilly, DeShay Oliver, Debbie Clapper, Tripp Bowling, Brittney Smith and Debbie Dyer.

Katie Herndon, representing the County Attorney, was present.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair Lutz-Craver called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Tom Spurling gave the invocation.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens requested to appear before the Board.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA:

Chair Lutz-Craver presented the proposed agenda for the March 8, 2016 Board of Health meeting for consideration of adoption.

Motion: A motion was made by Randy Sweeting, with a second by Dianne Sanders to adopt the agenda as presented for the March 8, 2016 Board of Health meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 9, 2016 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Lutz-Craver presented the February 9, 2016 Board of Health meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

Motion: There being no corrections, additions, nor deletions to the minutes of the February 9, 2016 Board of Health meeting minutes, a motion was made by Randy Sweeting, with a second by Tom Spurling, that they be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**CLEVELAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER EMPLOYEE TURNOVER RATE
2015:**

Dorothea Wyant stated that a requirement for accreditation is that the Cleveland County Public Health Center employee turnover rate be reported to the Board of Health annually. The turnover rate for 2015 was 9%. This is a decrease of 2% in the turnover rate from 2014. The turnover rate including retirees is 14.0%, which is an increase of 9% from 2014.

**CLEVELAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER - 2016/2017 FISCAL YEAR
BUDGET PROPOSAL:**

Dorothea Wyant presented the Cleveland County Public Health Center proposed 2016/2017 Fiscal Year Budget. A copy of the proposed budget was included in the information packet received by Board members. Information was highlighted through a power-point presentation. Ms. Wyant noted that department heads were asked by the County Manager to maintain a very conservative budget, and that is reflected in the proposed budget. Changes from current year's budget were identified and discussed. Ms. Wyant noted the proposed budget does not include increases in health insurance premiums or an employee cost of living adjustment (COLA) as information regarding these two items has not yet been made available to department heads.

The Carolina Access Program, a managed care program funded by Medicaid and Medicare, has experienced a 10% decrease in Medicaid funding during FY 2015-2016, and there will be an additional decrease in FY 2016/2017. Since July of 2015, the program has experienced a loss of \$522,509.00 in Medicaid revenue. As a result, six vacant positions have been frozen.

The Public Health Center Medicaid Cost Settlement history for the past five years was reviewed and discussed, highlighting that revenue received for FY 2012/2013 was approximately half the amount received during the prior year. Ms. Wyant noted that in past years, Medicaid has reimbursed the agency 75% of the amount submitted for claim during the year. At the end of the year, Medicaid reviewed claims submitted vs. payment rendered and provided the agency an additional cost settlement of approximately 25% of the initial claim. Last year, Medicaid developed a new formula to determine cost settlement funding. Unfortunately, this formula is so complicated that it cannot be understood. Ms. Wyant stated that cost settlement funds have not been received yet for FY 2013/2014, and that the Department of Health and Human Services and Medicaid are discussing the formula at this time. The North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors is working with an attorney in efforts to reverse the present formulary back to the original.

Ms. Wyant reviewed the proposed County funds request for FY 2016/2017, stating that electronic health records were implemented and are operating very well, but there is a 5% increase annually for vendor upgrades and annual maintenance, tech support, and costs to interface the local system with the State system in order to file claims. Ms. Wyant noted that operational expenses are basically flat within the proposed budget request.

A comparison was provided of the 2015-2016 budget and the proposed 2016-2017 budget in relation to the funds received from State and Federal grants, Medicaid, grants/fees/Medicare and County funds. Ms. Wyant noted a slight decrease in County funds requested for FY 2016-2017. State and Federal funding continues to decrease each year, although mandated services remain the same. Ms. Wyant noted that many local health departments across the State are unable to continue providing mandated services due to these decreases in funding. General Statutes require that local health departments provide the mandated services or assure that someone within the County is making those services available.

Animal Control Program services will continue efforts with animal control enforcement and awareness during 2016-2017, including providing four free rabies vaccination clinics and the "Get on the Bus with Us" rabies vaccination/microchip/spay-neuter program. Spay/neuter awareness and education efforts will continue as well. In addition, education will continue to be provided on standards of care for commercial breeders (puppy mills) and 5 in 1 vaccine will continue to be provided for impounded animals. Changes to the budget were identified and discussed, including request for funds to provide computer mount systems, MiFi, and laptops installed in nine animal control vehicles which will allow officers to complete required paperwork at the scene of the call and verify rabies vaccinations from the vehicle. The cost of rabies vaccine has increased and is included in the budget request as well as requested funds to cover heart worm testing for animals prior to adoption/rescue. The proposed budget also includes funding to provide all Animal Control Officers with training and certification in Animal Cruelty and Investigation. Sam Lockridge provided information to the Board regarding the need for heart worm testing, stating that many animal rescue groups depend on "fund-raising" for animals they rescue, and need to know approximate vetting costs to determine the amount of fund raising. In addition, the public needs to be aware if animals have heart worm disease prior to making a decision to adopt an animal, as treatment options are very expensive.

A comparison was provided of the 2015-2016 Solid Waste budgets and the proposed 2016-2017 budget. Ms. Wyant noted there is a slight decrease in solid waste collections, likely due to increased recycling efforts. Solid Waste Disposal/Landfill/Capital Projects were reviewed and discussed, including efforts in litter

prevention, recycling, enforcement, safety education and awareness. Ms. Wyant reviewed projected revenue for the Solid Waste Program according to trend. Proposed funding for professional services and environmental monitoring (ground and surface waters), maintenance of capped landfill/monitoring, design and construction of a new landfill cell – 18 acres, major repairs to heavy equipment and the replacement of scales at the airport road landfill, disposal of CRT/TV glass, replacement of six computers at the scale house, purchase of a Wheel Loader for a recycling transfer station and the replacement of two vehicles were identified and discussed. The proposed budget for the Manned Sites and Collections includes the purchase of a 2017 Volvo Roll-off Truck to replace a 2003 model that has accumulated a total of 433,539 miles and the replacement of three trash compactors to enable recycling centers to convert to single stream recycling. The projected payment to the State for 2016/2017 State Disposal Tax was identified as \$271,930.00 and was discussed.

Cleveland County Public Health Center revenue streams and their percentage of the total budget were reviewed and discussed.

Ms. Wyant reviewed the Cleveland County Public Health Center mission statement, which is: “To assure, enhance and protect the health of Cleveland County Citizens through education and prevention”.

Significant increases in medication line items was questioned, and explained by Ms. Wyant that these increases were for drugs dispensed from the Cleveland County Public Health Center pharmacy to County employees. Medications for County employees are not filed on health insurance, keeping County insurance premiums lower. The medications are purchased at the lowest cost possible, and passed along to the employees, resulting in a significant saving to them as well. Ms. Wyant noted that funds for these medications are provided by the County.

The Affordable Care Act was discussed and the challenges to individuals who were unable to pay premiums, pay extremely high deductibles or ineligible to purchase insurance were identified and discussed.

Chair Lutz-Craver stated that this budget will be the Board of Health’s recommendation to the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners for their consideration of adoption.

Motion: Tom Spurling made the motion that the Cleveland County Board of Health approve the proposed Cleveland County Public Health Center 2016/2017 Fiscal Year Budget as presented and forward to the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners for their consideration of approval. Motion was seconded by Michael Alexander and passed unanimously.

PAUL SARAZEN JR. FORUM ON CHILD HEALTH ISSUES:

The Paul M. Sarazen, Jr. Forum on Child Health Issues is scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 7, 2016, at the Cleveland County Public Health Center at 12:00 pm until 1:30 pm. Lunch will be served. The Public Health Center, partnering with the Alliance for Health, sponsors this forum to address an outstanding child health issue annually. This year, based on results of the student drug use survey and the Community Health Assessment, the topic of the forum will be "Today's Tobacco-Free Environment & Lifestyle", with presenter Sally Herndon, MPH, Branch Head of the North Carolina Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch. The event will be held during National Public Health Week in conjunction with that celebration. Board members will receive an invitation to attend the event.

Johnny Hutchins noted that he had seen recent documentation stating that heavy coffee drinking could have more negative impact on the human heart than smoking.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Rodella Gold presented the following budget amendments included in the Board of Health packet for consideration of adoption by the Board of Health:

Item Number One: The Cleveland County Public Health Center has received a donation in the amount of \$60.00 to be used for eye examinations for the indigent. A request was made to budget this amount in the General Department (530) to be used for that purpose.

Item Number Two: The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Epidemiology/Communicable Disease Branch has allocated an additional \$49.00 to be used for STD Prevention. A request was made to budget this amount in the STD/CD/TB Department (532) to be used to purchase medical supplies.

Item Number Three: The Cleveland County Public Health Center has received \$300.00 from Gardner-Webb University as payment for having provided precept services to students. A request was made to budget this amount into the Maternal Health Department (538). This amount will be added to a "savings fund" set aside to purchase scales that will enable staff to weigh patients confined to a wheelchair.

Motion: Randy Sweeting moved, with a second by Stan Pitts, that the Board of Health approve the budget amendments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Dorothea Wyant announced that the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Cleveland County Public Health Facility will be held on April 5, 2016 at 4:00 pm and the Open House Reception will be held on Sunday, April 10, 2016 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. During the Open House Reception, light refreshments and tours of the facility will be provided. The Open House Reception will be open to the public. Ms. Wyant noted that Board members will receive invitations to both events.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Chair Lutz-Craver called for a motion to adjourn, noting that a tour of facility is available for those interested immediately following adjournment.

Motion: Randy Sweeting moved, with a second by Stan Pitts that the Cleveland County Board of Health meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

**Dorothea Wyant, Secretary
Cleveland County Board of Health**