

The Cleveland County Board of Health met on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 6:30 p.m., at the Cleveland County Health Department.

Board members present: Michael Alexander, Charles Hayek, Randy Sweeting, Robert Miller, Steve Rackley, Tom Spurling and Stan Pitts.

Health Department staff present: Dorothea Wyant, Rodella Gold, Anne Short, Brittney Smith and Debbie Dyer.

Guests present: Dianne Sanders.

Bob Yelton, County Attorney, was present.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair Hayek called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Robert Miller gave the invocation. Dorothea Wyant introduced guest Dianne Sanders, stating that County Commissioners had approved her appointment to the Board of Health, effective June 1, 2015. Ms. Sanders will replace Ms. Gina Ayscue as the Registered Nurse representative.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens requested to appear before the Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR APRIL 14, 2015 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Chair Hayek presented the proposed agenda for the April 14, 2015 Board of Health meeting for consideration of adoption, with a requested addition of one budget amendment.

Motion: A motion was made by Robert Miller, with a second by Randy Sweeting to adopt the revised agenda for the April 14, 2015 Board of Health meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 10, 2015 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Hayek presented the March 10, 2015 Board of Health meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

Motion: There being no corrections, additions, nor deletions to the minutes of the March 10, 2015 Board of Health meeting minutes, a motion was made by Tom Spurling, with a second by Robert Miller, that they be approved as written. Motion carried unanimously.

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS 2014/2015

Anne Short reviewed the 2015 County Health Rankings produced by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin. These rankings have been published annually since 2010 and provide information on 3000 counties across the United States. Ms. Short provided a packet of information included in the board packet that identifies the health ranking information for Cleveland County as well as demographic information from the American Community Survey for the county, a comparison of Cleveland County to the surrounding counties and a comparison of Cleveland County data to the data of “peer counties” as designated by the State. Ms. Short identified the top five counties in the state as Orange, Wake, Watauga, Union and Mecklenburg. The lowest ranked counties were identified as Richmond, Vance, Scotland, Halifax and Columbus. The full report may be accessed on line by going to www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Ms. Short identified factors that should be considered in the interpretation of this data, such as; some of the data is two to three years old. These rankings use identified factors that can be compared uniformly across counties in the United States. Counties/States report data in different time frames and consequently, the data available from the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics for our county is older data. In addition, some data is reported on a regional basis rather than on a single county basis. Questions originating from the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Study conducted by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for Cleveland County are reported as the Piedmont region, stretching from Cleveland County to Orange County, and including large urban areas such as Mecklenburg, Guilford and Forsyth counties. In addition, definitions of indicators and choice of indicators appear to change annually within this ranking process. Evidence of this is shown on the county’s 2010-2015 comparison charts included in the packet. Data for each category carries a weight in computing the final ranking. Finally, some of the data is skewed due to the source. For example, data on diabetes screening percentages and mammogram screenings is drawn solely from Medicare reports and does not include information for individuals under the age of 65.

Ms. Short reviewed the health outcomes ranking of 86 of 100 counties which places Cleveland County in the bottom quartile for North Carolina. She explained the indicators which are used to develop this ranking, especially the indicator of premature death or years of life lost. Ms. Short then discussed the health factors that carry a ranking of 55 out of 100 counties. This category is composed of health behaviors, clinical care measures, social and economic factors and physical environment measures. The health behavior categories are those areas where individual choices

may be impacted and where the real work of prevention/education is critical. Cleveland County data shows a slight improvement in the percentage of the adult smokers in the population and in the reduction of adult obesity to 29%. The percentage of adults who are physically inactive has also decreased slightly, while access to exercise opportunities has increased. A slight increase in excessive drinking has occurred, as have deaths caused by alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents. The teen birth rate has decreased to 53 per 1000 females ages 15 – 19, and there has been a slight decrease in the rate of sexually transmitted diseases as well per 100,000 populations. All of the factors in this category are impacted by personal choices. The ranking in this category has improved from 72 in 2013 to 55 in 2015.

Clinical care data is documented from provider and hospital sources. The percentage of uninsured adults in the county is 18%, while preventable hospital stays have decreased. Data in the social and economic factors indicate a slight increase in the population who has some college attendance, and the unemployment rate has decreased to 8.9% compared to 14.6% in 2011. The percentage of children living in poverty has decreased from 36% in 2014 to 31% in 2015, and the percentage of children living in single-parent households is 40%. In the physical environment area, the county's rank is 94, primarily due to an increase in drinking water problems. 11% of the county's population has been impacted by violations from municipalities – the City of Shelby, the City of Kings Mountain and the Cleveland County Sanitary District as issued by North Carolina Environment and Natural Resources. Additional information related to this factor was secured by consulting with Nathan McNeilly, Cleveland County Health Department Director of Environmental Health Services.

Identified data was discussed, and Ms. Short encouraged board members to refer to the 2014 State of the County Health Report that was presented to the Board on March 10, 2015 for more current data on health issues within the county.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT FACILITY UPDATE

Dorothea Wyant reported that construction on the new health department facility is progressing on schedule. There have been no delays to this point. Ms. Wyant, along with Roger Holland, Rodella Gold and Alisa Leonard recently toured the facility and were very impressed with the progress. Employees now housed within the Health Department building, the Health Department Annex and the County Employee Health and Wellness Center will be housed within the facility. In addition, staff now located in the Ollie Harris Building will be housed in a separate wing of the facility. A facility tour is planned for the County Commissioners on April 28, 2015.

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 Health Department has received notification of the annual Food and Lodging distribution from the Department of Health and Human Services, Food Protection and Facilities Branch in the amount of \$11,668.00. A request was made to budget this amount into the Environmental Health Department (541) to support salary, fringe and operating expenses associated with inspections of food and lodging establishments.

Item Number Two: An additional allocation of \$167.00 has been made by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Communicable Disease Branch to be used for STD prevention. A request was made to budget this amount into the TB/STD/CD Department (532) to offset a portion of travel expenses incurred by staff.

Item Number Three: The Shelby Lions Club has donated \$100.00 to be used for eye exams. A request was made to budget this amount into the Adult Health Department (533) to be used for this purpose.

Item Number Four: The Cleveland County Health Department has been approved to receive \$7,500.00 from Community Care of North Carolina for the Project Lazarus Community Coalition. The Project Lazarus funds will allow us to continue supporting community efforts in drug overdose prevention. Funds not spent by June 30, 2015 should carry forward into the 2015-2016 fiscal year budget.

Rodella Gold presented the following budget amendment that was not included in the Board of Health packet, and distributed to Board members prior to this meeting.

Item Number One: The Cleveland County Health Department has been awarded \$75,000.00 annually for a four year period effective June 1, 2015 for an Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program. The overall objective is to reduce the teen pregnancy rate in Cleveland County by providing preventive education. These funds will enable staff to provide Smart Girls curriculum to targeted eighth grade females at Shelby Middle School, Burns Middle School and Turning Point Academy. In addition, Wise Guys curriculum will be provided to targeted ninth and tenth grade males at Shelby High, Burns High School and Turning Point Academy. These sites were selected initially based on their high rate of teen pregnancies. Other sites will be included in future years. Both programs require parental approval for participation and will be delivered in collaboration with Cleveland County Schools and Communities in Schools. The Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program grant will fund a full time Health Education Specialist to carry

out the scope of work for this project, and will be slotted into an existing, unfunded position. A request was made to budget these funds into the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Department (536), to be used to subsidize the position and operating expenses related to the program.

Motion: Stan Pitts moved, with a second by Robert Miller, that the budget amendments be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Anne Short presented a framed resolution from the Cleveland County Commissioners in honor of National Public Health Week.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Hayek called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Robert Miller 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