

The Cleveland County Board of Health met on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 6:30 p.m., at Deer Brook Golf Club.

Board members present: Michael Alexander, Gina Ayscue, Charles Hayek, Johnny Hutchins, Randy Sweeting, Kendalyn Lutz-Craver, Robert Miller, Steve Rackley, Tom Spurling, Stan Pitts and Theresa Taylor.

Health Department staff present: Dorothea Wyant, Rodella Gold, Anne Short, DeShay Oliver, Alisa Leonard, Stacie Rhea, Sharon Chapman and Debbie Dyer.

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.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens requested to appear before the Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR APRIL 9, 2013 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Chair Hayek presented the proposed agenda for the April 9, 2013 Board of Health meeting for consideration of adoption.

Motion: A motion was made by Robert Miller, with a second by Randy Sweeting to adopt the proposed agenda for the April 9, 2013 Board of Health meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 12, 2013 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Hayek presented the March 12, 2013 Board of Health meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

Motion: There being no corrections, additions, nor deletions to the minutes of the March 12, 2013 Board of Health meeting minutes, a motion was made by Tom Spurling, with a second by Steve Rackley, that they be approved as written. Motion carried unanimously.

ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH RESOLUTION

Anne Short requested the Board of Health's consideration to adopt a resolution declaring May as Asthma Awareness Month. A copy of the proposed resolution was included in the Board of Health packet. Asthma awareness is publicized annually through resolution and the media. To recognize that May 1st is celebrated as World Asthma Day, on May 4, 2013, the Health Department, the Cleveland County Alliance for Health and the Asthma Coalition will partner with the Dover Foundation YMCA to sponsor a Healthy Kids Day and Asthma Expo event. Johnny Hutchins stated that within the Charlotte region ozone ratings, Cleveland County is the only area without any restrictions at this time. Further information was shared. Ms. Short stated that the Shelby City Council will vote to accept or reject the tobacco free parks resolution on April 15, 2013.

Motion: Robert Miller moved that the Cleveland County Board of Health approve the resolution to declare May 2013 as Asthma Awareness Month, as presented. Motion was seconded by Randy Sweeting and passed unanimously.

MATCH – COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS 2012/2013

Anne Short reviewed the MATCH County Health Rankings for 2012/2013, published by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation with the University of Wisconsin. A copy of the report was included in the Board of Health packet. The actual numerical rankings have been converted to a graph form by health education staff for clarification purposes. The data in this report is not always current; some data is as old as 2009 and 2010. Each data measure is weighted per ratio. Definition and measures are changed each year. This report may be accessed on the website, which shows that Cleveland County is ranked number eighty-three in the State; however, data provided by CDC surveys is often skewed as the information is self reported. Statistical data, such as the number of low birth weight infants born in Cleveland County, is accurate. Overall statistical data for Cleveland County showed a slight improvement since 2010. Ms Short reviewed the following statistical information for Cleveland County. There was a slight improvement in the area of mental health- possibly due to an improved economy; and an improvement in health factors, which is a combination of health behaviors, clinical care and socio-economic factors. The percentage of binge or heavy alcohol drinking among adults decreased as well as the number of deaths resulting from motor vehicle crashes. As a point of interest, it was noted that motor vehicle crashes is no longer the leading cause of death among teenagers in the United States, having been replaced by unintentional poisoning and drug overdose. Ms. Short noted that while Cleveland County showed a decrease in the birth rate to teenage mothers, there was an increase in the rate of sexually transmitted infections. The issue of increased sexually transmitted infections will be addressed at the Minority Health Conference

to be held on April 13, 2013, as the highest percentage is within the minority population. More than 80% of total reported sexually transmitted infections are found within the age group 15 to 24 years of age. This is a critical issue in Cleveland County. Data was reviewed regarding clinical care, quality care and preventable hospital stays, diabetic screenings and mammogram screenings. Socioeconomic factors indicated an increase in high school graduates and college attendance and a decrease in the unemployment rate. The percentage of children under the age of 18 living in poverty is 32% which is a major factor, and the percentage of adults who report they have little or no emotional and/or social support has remained constant. 44% of the children in Cleveland County live in single parent households. Ms. Short stated the State of the County Health (SOTCH) report that was presented to the Board in January, 2013 contains more valid data pertaining to Cleveland County. The question was asked what can be done to provide assistance to the children of single parent households. It was noted that society has been programmed to think that single parent households are a result of unwed mothers, but thinking should be re-conditioned to acknowledge that many of these single parent households are a result of divorce. Further discussion followed.

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE LEGISLATION TO WEAKEN MOTORCYCLE HELMET LAWS

Dorothea Wyant presented information regarding House Bill 109 which would weaken motorcycle helmet laws to allow individuals over the age of 21 to ride without a helmet. A copy of House Bill 109 is included in the Board packet. The Health Directors Association has written a resolution opposing this change of law, and has asked local health directors in enlist support of this resolution from local Boards of Health.

Johnny Hutchins stated that he is opposed to the Board of Health supporting this resolution, feeling that this Bill is an infringement of the rights of individuals. Mr. Hutchins noted that many States have partial helmet laws, requiring riders under the age of 18 and riders with a learners' permit to wear helmets; while older, more experienced riders are able to choose for themselves. Mr. Hutchins further stated that requiring individuals to wear a helmet while riding a motorcycle is not a public health related issue, but a public safety issue. Kendalyn Lutz-Craver noted there were significant increases in health care costs within the state of Florida when motorcycle helmet laws were weakened. Chair Hayek stated this is a situation of private individual rights versus public health; by increasing individual rights, there is a possibility of increasing the amount of public dollars spent to provide medical care. In the event the weakened helmet laws result in an increased number of injuries or more severe injuries, it becomes a public health issue.

Robert Miller stated that he had spoken with motorcycle dealerships, who stated helmets are definitely a benefit if you are involved in an accident. Further discussion followed.

Motion: Robert Miller moved that the Cleveland County Board of Health support the resolution to oppose legislation that would weaken motorcycle helmet laws as presented by the Health Directors Association. Motion was seconded by Kendalyn Lutz-Craver and passed by majority vote. There was one dissenting vote.

SENATE BILL 417 – ESTABLISH STATE PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY

Dorothea Wyant presented information regarding Senate Bill 417, which would establish a State Public Health Authority. A copy of Senate Bill 417 is included in the Board packet. This bill was introduced by Senator Hartsell from Cabarrus County, who last year introduced a bill in the Senate to establish regionalization of local health departments. Presently, there are eighty-five local health departments in North Carolina. Senate Bill 417 proposes that four Public Health Authorities be established across the State, and the remaining eighty-one departments will be managed by one of the four Public Health Authorities, depending on which region the department is located in. The four Public Health Authorities will be located in Greenville, Concord/Kannapolis, Asheville and Wilmington. Cleveland County will be grouped with the Concord/Kannapolis agency. All State funds will be granted to the Public Health Authorities, who will have the authority to delegate funds to health departments within their region as they choose. Ms. Wyant stated that Concord/Kannapolis is a very strong department, and expressed concern that Cleveland County would not receive adequate funding to provide services to citizens at the level we presently provide.

Anne Short commented that Cabarrus County is the lead agency involved with the Regional Community Transformation Grant that she is working with closely, and Cabarrus County authorizes the amount of funds Cleveland County receives. This past year, Cleveland County received an allocation of \$3,000.00, while the Cabarrus County Health Alliance received adequate funding to add seven full time members to their staff. Ms. Short stated Cleveland County has had difficulty achieving the goals Cabarrus County has set for us with the limited resources they have allowed our County to receive.

Ms. Wyant stated this bill has not progressed very far at this time, however, she is deeply concerned for the future of public health, and specifically the Cleveland County Health Department should it pass. Discussion followed.

Chair Hayek requested that Ms. Wyant monitor the status of Senate Bill 417 closely and keep the Board of Health informed.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM REPORT

Stacie Rhea, Interim Environmental Health Director presented information about the Cleveland County Environmental Health Program. Ms. Rhea stated that environmental health is a State mandated program and environmental health specialists are authorized State agents empowered to enforce State laws, rules and regulations as they pertain to environmental health, but are supported 100% by County funds. Ms. Rhea provided a brief introduction of each environmental health staff member in Cleveland County, their years of experience and their area of expertise. A description of the educational and experience requirements each environmental health specialist must meet in order to be authorized was shared. Ms. Rhea reviewed the eight authorizations in Environmental Health which are: On-Site Wastewater, Food, Lodging & Institutions, Private Wells, Public Swimming Pools, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, Tattoos, Child-Care & School Sanitation and Migrant Housing, stating that Private Wells is the most recent program to be implemented in North Carolina. Each authorization is varied and requires different levels of training, so the specialists in Cleveland County have different levels of expertise in the various programs. Additional training involved with environmental health include Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratories, Bioterrorism, Epidemiology and Vector Control (rats, mice, ticks, bedbugs, mosquitoes, mites). A power point presentation and an in-depth review of each of the eight authorizations in Environmental Health was shared and reviewed with Board members, as well as statistics contained in the most recent health department annual report. Cleveland County Environmental Health user fees were shared and reviewed with Board members.

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 a donation in the amount of \$375 from the Cleveland County Medical Society. A request was made to budget this amount in the Child Health Department (537) to be used to support activities for the Asthma Summer Camp.

Item Number Two: The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Resources, Environmental Health Section/Food Protection and Facilities Branch has allocated \$12,496.00 for Food and Lodging facility inspections, determined based on compliance of mandatory inspections. A request was made to budget \$11,746 (\$750 was previously budgeted) in the Environmental Health Department (541) to be used for salaries, longevity expense and operating expenses.

Item Number Three: The Cleveland County Health Department has received a donation in the amount of \$100 from the Shelby Lions Club. A request was made to budget this amount in the General Department (530) to be used for eye examinations for indigent clients.

Item Number Four: The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has allocated \$19,306 in Healthy Communities funds (formerly Health Promotions). A request was made to budget \$13,100 (\$6,206 was previously budgeted) in the Health Promotion Department (535) to be used for expenses associated with this program.

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Proposed Legislation

Dorothea Wyant provided information about Senate Bill 675 that has been introduced and if passed, would change the dynamics of public health.

Senate Bill 675, introduced by Senator Daniels, would prevent minors from seeking treatment without parental consent for venereal disease, abuse of alcohol and/or controlled substances, emotional disturbances and pregnancy. Many clients seen at the health department are minors who do not have parents or guardians available to care for them, and some of these minors have been abused sexually by parents, guardians or relatives. Senate Bill 675 would take away the ability of public health professionals to intervene on behalf of the child. There was discussion that the purpose of this Bill was to keep parents informed, however, there is concern that some minors will not seek medical treatment if they are forced to have parental consent, or are unable to obtain parental consent. This could result in unreported sexual abuse, untreated venereal disease and a lack of, or significant delay in prenatal care for affected minors. Ms. Wyant stated these factors will negatively impact the health and well being of many minors in Cleveland County.

National Boards of Health Conference

The Cleveland County Health Department has been asked to present information regarding the *E-coli* outbreak related to the 2012 Cleveland County at the National Boards of Health Conference this summer. Alisa Leonard and Stacie Rhea will travel to Utah to make the presentation.

Minority Health Conference

Robert Miller extended an invitation to attend the Minority Health Conference to be held on April 13, 2013. The conference will take place at the T.R. Harris Conference Center located at Cleveland Regional Medical Center and will take place from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Admission is free and lunch will be provided.

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