

The Cleveland County Board of Health met on Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at 6:30 p.m., at the Deer Brook Golf Club.

Board members present: Michael Alexander, Gina Ayscue, Randy Sweeting, Johnny Hutchins, Charles Hayek, Robert Miller, Tom Spurling and Theresa Taylor.

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

Bob Yelton, County Attorney, was also present.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair Charles 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 JUNE 11, 2013 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Chair Hayek presented the proposed agenda for the June 11, 2013 Board of Health meeting for consideration of adoption, with the following revision: *Budget amendments noted on the agenda will not be presented.*

Motion: A motion was made by Randy Sweeting, with a second by Kendalyn Lutz-Craver to adopt the revised agenda for the June 11, 2013 Board of Health meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MAY 14, 2013 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Hayek presented the May 14, 2013 Board of Health meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

Motion: There being no corrections, additions, nor deletions to the minutes of the May 14, 2013 Board of Health meeting minutes, motion was made by Randy Sweeting, with a second by Robert Miller, that they be approved as written. Motion carried unanimously.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CLEVELAND COUNTY FAIR STUDY
COMMISSION**

Recommendations made by the Cleveland County Fair Study Commission, appointed to investigate the *E-coli* (STEC) outbreak associated with the 2012 Cleveland County Fair that resulted in 106 cases, including 7 with HUS and 1 death, were presented by Dorothea Wyant. A copy of the recommendations is included in the Board packet. Ms. Wyant noted that Epidemiologic analysis of the outbreak indicated that acquisition of the disease was associated with direct animal contact and contact with contaminated environments. The Cleveland County Fair is a sanctioned Agricultural event, therefore animal contact exhibits are subject to Aedin's Law and requires inspection by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. At the time of the inspection at the 2012 Cleveland County Fair, they were found to be in compliance with those laws. In addition, the Cleveland County Fair had initiated additional safeguards beyond those required.

The Cleveland County Fair Study Commission (CCFSC) began meeting in December, 2012 to review factors contributing to the outbreak, and develop an action plan to improve those risk factors. Ms. Wyant noted that Cleveland County has a strong agricultural heritage and the Cleveland County Fair has provided an opportunity for the public to learn about and experience agriculture, including animal agriculture since 1924. The CCFSC recognizes that, and felt it was important to maintain that relationship. The CCFSC has not recommended that petting zoos or animal contact exhibits be banned from the Cleveland County Fair, rather, a set of recommendations has been developed to further separate the public from animals not intended for public contact and from animal waste as much as possible. If Cleveland County Fair management elects to eliminate animal contact exhibits, that action will stand independent of recommendations from the CCFSC.

Recommendations made by the CCFSC, in an effort to reduce the risk of disease transmission, focused primarily on *Set Up and Separation* to provide a clear separation between food vending and animal exhibits and animal entertainment; *Hand Washing, Pedestrian Traffic Flow and Signage* to assure that adequate hand washing facilities and supplies are available, that pedestrian traffic flow is restricted in animal traffic and housing areas, and enhanced signage is displayed promoting proper hand washing; *Traffic Flow and Run-Off Control* to restrict the public's access where animals are loaded and unloaded, limit public access to barn areas housing exhibition animals, evaluate and revise run-off prevention strategies for temporary waste storage areas and install underground drainage piping to handle surface water and run-off from animal areas.

Ms. Wyant reviewed each recommendation individually, noting that implementation of recommendations made by the CCFSC, adherence to recommendations in the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) animal contact compendium and

compliance with Aedin's Law will not guarantee that outbreaks will not occur in the future, but should make the Cleveland County Fair as safe as is reasonably possible. The Health Department and Fair staff will continue to partner together during the 2013 event.

Johnny Hutchins stated the Cleveland County Fair Board met recently, and has been unable to procure a petting zoo for the 2013 Fair that is able to meet the required criteria. Discussion followed.

Chair Hayek noted the *E. coli* outbreak resulted in countless hours of exhausting and tedious investigative work. On behalf of the Board, he thanked Ms. Wyant and the Health Department staff for their response to the public and to the medical providers in the community, who were notified promptly and kept well informed throughout the event.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Health Director Annual Job Performance Evaluation/Job Description

Chair Hayek stated that he conducted the Health Directors' annual job performance evaluation and reviewed the job description with Dorothea Wyant this week. A copy of the Health Director's job description is included in the Board packet. He stated that the evaluation was very favorable, and thanked Ms. Wyant for her positive leadership skills, stating that her response and the response of the health department staff during the 2012 *E-coli* outbreak was an excellent example of her strong leadership. Chair Hayek thanked the Board of Health for their input on the evaluation. Board of Health members reviewed and discussed the job description of the Health Director.

ADJOURN

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

Motion: Robert Miller moved, with a second by Michael Alexander that the Cleveland County Board of Health meeting be adjourned.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Dorothea Wyant, Secretary
Cleveland County Board of Health