

The Cleveland County Board of Health met on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Deer Brook Golf Club.

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

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

Andrea Leslie-Fite, representing the 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 SEPTEMBER 10, 2013 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING:

Chair Hayek presented the proposed agenda for the September 10, 2013 Board of Health meeting for consideration of adoption.

Motion: A motion was made by Robert Miller, with a second by Stan Pitts to adopt the agenda for the September 10, 2013 Board of Health meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 13, 2013 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Hayek presented the August 13, 2013 Board of Health meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

Motion: Robert Miller moved that the minutes of the August 13, 2013 Board of Health meeting be approved as presented. Stan Pitts seconded and motion carried unanimously.

2012/2013 ANNUAL SCHOOL HEALTH REPORT

Linda Kiser, School Health Program Nurse Supervisor, reviewed information contained in the 2012/2013 Annual School Health Report. A copy of the report is included in the Board packet.

Ms. Kiser noted that the data reported is based on students served for school health services rather than the school's student enrollment.

Ms. Wyant commended Ms. Kiser for the success of the School Health services in Cleveland County, stating that Ms. Kiser has developed an exemplary working relationship with the schools administrators and staff that enables the program to run smoothly and allows our staff to provide the best possible care to students.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT FOR YEAR 2012

Kim Crane, Public Health Nursing Supervisor, reviewed information contained in the 2012/2013 Annual Communicable Disease Report. A copy of the report is included in the Board packet. Ms. Crane noted there were eleven different communicable diseases reported during this time period. The report shows statistics indicating a six year trend. Sexually transmitted diseases and vaccinations given are highlighted in the report. Calendar year statistics indicate a small increase in cases of Chlamydia, a small decrease in cases of Gonorrhea, and an increase in cases of Syphilis from 2011 to 2012. HIV cases remained the same. Ms. Crane reviewed statistics of HIV/STD cases in Cleveland County during the years 2010-2012, broken down by race/ethnicity and age. Robert Miller noted the number of HIV/STD cases within the African American population has increased since last year and shared concerns with this trend, further stating that despite great efforts being made within the African American population of the County, numbers continue to rise. Discussion was held regarding efforts that are being made to prevent these diseases. The Cleveland County Minority Council, in conjunction with the Cleveland County Health Department, the Alliance for Health and other civic organizations will continue to bring this information to the attention of the African American community in an effort to educate and decrease numbers. Ms. Crane noted that screening services are automatically provided when patients present for a specific services and education is provided to the patient at that time. Anne Short stated that health educators are presenting a curriculum of prevention education in schools, and are making efforts to reach the college age population through Cleveland Community College. Health Educators continue to present anatomy and contraceptives education to ninth grade classes, and Ms. Short believes this curriculum has far reaching ramifications for the students. Dr. Hayek noted there are much faster testing procedures available now than in years past, and this sometimes shows a rapid increase of cases when they are in fact only being diagnosed more quickly. Cleveland County is presently contracting with the Western North Carolina Community AIDS Project (WNCCAP) to provide counseling and support services to HIV/AIDS clients within the County. Further information was shared and discussed.

Dorothea Wyant commended Ms. Crane for the excellent work she and her staff do in all areas but especially in efforts to control communicable disease as exhibited in the 2012 Cleveland County Fair *E. coli* outbreak.

2012/2013 ANNUAL SOLID WASTE REPORT/HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY REPORT

Sam Lockridge presented information contained in the 2012/2013 Annual Cleveland County Solid Waste Report and Household Hazardous Waste Collections Day Report. Copies of the reports are included in the Board packet.

Data regarding materials collected were reviewed and percentages were explained.

The three year trend of solid waste collection, including recycling centers, was identified by graph and discussed. Solid waste collection is a good indicator of the economic status of the County. Mr. Lockridge noted that an increase in fees was requested this year to accommodate future needs of the Solid Waste Program. Further information was shared. Mr. Lockridge stated that Cleveland County is experiencing an overall increase in solid waste.

Solid Waste enforcement activities data was identified. Solid Waste Officer, Rick Greer, is a certified Sheriff's Deputy. Civil violations are chosen over criminal, due to the type of investigation required for criminal violations. Further information was provided.

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, which is a part of the ten year plan, was held on April 20, 2013. Mr. Lockridge reported that 1,940 pounds of pesticides were collected, along with 840 pounds of batteries. 1,280 pounds of electronic waste was disposed of.

Operation Medicine Drop was held in conjunction with the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. This event is conducted by the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department and allows the public to bring expired or unwanted medications to be disposed of safely without contamination to the waste stream. Data contained on the report was discussed and further information was presented. Mr. Lockridge noted that household hazardous waste is allowed in the landfill. However, this event is held annually to assist the community with disposing of their toxic materials.

2012/2013 ANNUAL ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT

Sam Lockridge presented data and information contained in the 2012/2013 Cleveland County Animal Control Report. A copy of the report is included in the Board packet. Data was identified and discussed. Mr. Lockridge stated that Animal Control is the most progressive

program he is involved with presently, noting that a total of 1,138 animals were rescued during FY 2012-2013 increasing from 331 in 2011-2012. A rescue/adoption coordinator was hired this year and has been instrumental in the increased rescues and decreased euthanasia numbers. Rabies cases decreased in the County, with four (4) positive cases out of forty-eight (48) tested.

Data regarding investigations, including animal bites, cruelties, nuisances, dangerous, and livestock, was identified and discussed. Data of animals impounded and euthanized was identified and discussed. It was noted there were more cruelty charges this year than previously. Overall, there were twelve (12) felony charges and two hundred thirty five (235) misdemeanor charges for a total of two hundred forty seven (247) charges. Discussion was held and information was discussed regarding methods of euthanasia and the costs of lethal injection versus carbon monoxide. Dr. Theresa Taylor noted the cost of the medication that is injected is low, but the costs become extreme due to staffing costs to accommodate the difficulty managing the animals to be injected.

Mr. Lockridge noted that the goal of Animal Control is rabies control, and the free drive-thru rabies clinics and awareness campaign continues to be successful and is making a difference. Data regarding vaccinations given at each clinic was identified and discussion was held. The drive-thru rabies clinics are held in conjunction with other health department vaccination clinics when warranted. Dr. Theresa Taylor noted that most animals vaccinated during rabies clinics have never seen a veterinarian and would not be taken to a veterinary office for rabies vaccinations. She noted these clinics are a needed service to the community.

Mr. Lockridge stated that a new enterprise fund has been established to fund a gun range to be owned and operated by Cleveland County. Commissioner Johnny Hutchins has been working to make this project a reality during the past three years. Funds have been committed by the Wildlife Commission and plans are to construct the facility on property located adjacent to the Self-McNeilly Solid Waste Disposal Facility.

WRITE-OFF OF ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Rodella Gold requested the Board of Health's consideration of approval to allow \$27,705.93 in private pay and Medicaid fees to be written off as uncollectible for services rendered through June 30, 2010. Health Department staff work with all clients to give them the option to set-up a payment contract if they are unable to pay the entire amount due at the time of their visit. If an inactive client should return to the Health Department for services, the policy is to reinstate charges that have been written off and apply payments to the oldest claim.

Motion: Tom Spurling moved, with a second by Stan Pitts, that the Cleveland County Board of Health approve the write-off of accounts receivable in the amount of \$27,705.93

for uncollectible fees for services rendered through June 30, 2010, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding treatment of patients with outstanding accounts. Services are provided to patients, regardless of their ability to pay outstanding debts.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PERMITS UPDATE

Stacie Rhea provided information regarding Environmental Health fees for expired permits. Ms. Rhea shared that this fee was implemented in 1999 to accommodate builders and home owners who purchased permits and were unable to begin construction before the permit expired due to a busy economic climate. In 2009, during a declining economic climate, the State Department of Environmental Health expanded the life of permits, eliminating the need for the expired permit fee. Surrounding Counties were canvassed and results indicate that no other County offers a decreased fee for expired permits. Ms. Rhea requested the Board of Health recommend to the County Commissioners that the expired permit fee be eliminated from the Cleveland County Environmental Health fee schedule.

Motion: Robert Miller moved, with a second by Kendalyn Lutz-Craver, that the Cleveland County Board of Health approve the elimination of the Environmental Health expired permit fee from the Environmental Health fee schedule, and send to the County Commissioners as a recommendation for their approval. The motion was seconded by Tom Spurling passed unanimously

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Dorothea Wyant introduced Dr. Stephen Jones, who joined the Health Department staff effective July 1, 2013. Dr. Jones is providing services at the Employee Health and Wellness Center, the agency Diabetes Clinic and other areas. Ms. Wyant noted that Dr. Jones is a definite asset to the Health Department and to Cleveland County.

HIPAA POLICY:

DeShay Oliver proposed a revision to the HIPAA Patient Privacy and Confidentiality: Breach Notification and Sanctions Policy. A copy of the policy with highlighted proposed revisions is included in the Board packet. Ms. Oliver noted this policy revision was necessary before October 1, 2013 in order to be compliant with new HIPAA omnibus rules. Ms. Oliver reviewed verbiage changes. There was discussion regarding encryption of e-mailed information.

Motion: Robert Miller moved, with a second by Michael Alexander, that the change to the HIPAA Patient Privacy and Confidentiality: Breach Notification and Sanctions Policy be approved by the Board as proposed. Motion passed unanimously.

“SINK THE GERMS” CAMPAIGN:

Anne Short shared information regarding the “Sink The Germs” education campaign to be implemented at the 2013 Cleveland County Fair. The focus is to sink the germs and send them down the drain by utilizing proper hand washing techniques. A Corn Hole game will be available for children at the Health Department exhibit located in the Dorton Hall. Children will toss “germ” bean bags into the hole, which represents a drain, demonstrating that germs should be tossed down the drain. Health Department employees, along with and volunteers will wear “Sink The Germs” themed t-shirts and provide Glo-Germ exhibits with selected fair patrons during peak hours. Hand washing stations will be manned by Health Department staff and volunteers during peak hours as well to educate and encourage patrons to wash their hands properly. Education information is being shared with day cares, elementary schools and churches within the County in an effort to create awareness and encourage proper hand washing and reduce the risk of contracting infectious diseases.

OPERATION MEDICINE DROP:

Anne Short provided a flyer providing information pertaining to Operation Medicine Drop events. These take-back events all coincide with other events, such as rabies vaccination clinics, with the exception of the event held in Boiling Springs. During the past year, approximately 120,000 dosage units were collected at the take-back drop box located at the Shelby Police Department alone, so the option is being utilized. Through Project Lazarus, Health Department Pharmacy staff are partnering with the Sheriff’s Department to place a take-back box in the Health Department Pharmacy to accommodate clients in the proper disposal of expired or unwanted medications.

BROWN BAG REVIEW:

The Brown Bag Review is a pilot project which will allow individuals to bring all medications, including over the counter medications they are taking to the Health Department Pharmacy for review and counseling regarding implications and possible interactions. These events will be held each Wednesday during the month of October.

WALKABILITY:

The Walkability Project is part of the Regional Transformation Grant with the goal of using collected data to improve conditions for walking within communities. Board members were provided with a questionnaire to complete within their community. Completed questionnaires should be submitted to Anne Short at the Cleveland County Health Department.

STEP ONE CHALLENGE:

Anne Short shared that one hundred thirty one runners/walkers participated in the One Step 5k and Fun Run event held on September 7, 2013 at Aldersgate Methodist Church, and more one hundred participants are enrolled in the 6 week Step One Challenge to promote exercise for better health.

FACILITY UPDATE:

Dorothea Wyant provided information regarding plans for the new health department facility. Ms. Wyant and other staff are meeting weekly with architects to review and revise plans. All Health Department staff members have been involved and consulted regarding their needs for the new facility. Roger Holland will attend the October Board of Health meeting to share information with Board members. Discussion followed regarding consolidation of meeting space with other County agencies.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE:

Affordable Health Care becomes effective October 1, 2013. Because the State of North Carolina did not opt into Medicaid Expansion, there is very little funding available to hire Navigators to enroll the population. Ms. Wyant stated that it is very important that be individuals available in Cleveland County to assist individuals with the enrollment process, but it will be very challenging as only 40 Navigators have been funded for the entire State of North Carolina. Ms. Wyant stated she feels it is imperative that the Health Department become educated and use available staff and recruited volunteers to assist the population. Ms. Wyant stated that she has communicated with the director of the Department of Social Services (DSS) who indicated to Ms. Wyant that DSS has no plans to participate with the enrollment process and will refer inquiries to federal information phone lines and web sites. Johnny Hutchins shared that Commissioner Jason Falls has received some training in this area and could be a possible resource for Health Department staff. Ms. Wyant stated that her desire is to be able to provide assistance to anyone who presents at the Health Department seeking help. Robert Miller commended Ms. Wyant for her strong leadership and initiative in seeking to educate herself and other staff to assist citizens in the County during a critical time.

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. Motion passed unanimously.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Dorothea Wyant, Secretary
Cleveland County Board of Health