

The Cleveland County Board of Health met on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 6:30 p.m., at the Cleveland County Health Department.

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

Health Department staff present: Dorothea Wyant, Rodella Gold, Anne Short, Alisa Leonard, Sam Lockridge, Nathan McNeilly, 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 FEBRUARY 11, 2014 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING:**

Chair Hayek presented the proposed agenda for the February 11, 2014 Board of Health meeting for consideration of adoption.

**Motion: A motion was made by Gina Ayscue, with a second by Theresa Taylor to adopt the agenda for the February 11, 2014 Board of Health meeting as presented.**

#### **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 14, 2014 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Hayek presented the January 14, 2014 Board of Health meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

**Motion: Robert Miller moved that the minutes of the January 14, 2014 Board of Health meeting be approved as presented. Theresa Taylor seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

**OATH OF OFFICE: GINA AYSCUE – RE-APPOINTMENT**

Debbie Dyer administered the Oath of Office to reappoint Gina Ayscue, Registered Nurse Member to serve one three year term. The term period is January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016.

Chair Hayek extended thanks to Ms. Ayscue for her willingness to continue serving as a member of the Cleveland County Board of Health.

**PROPOSAL TO RE-APPOINT MEMBER TO THE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY BOARD**

Sam Lockridge presented the names of four members of the Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) whose terms of service expired effective December 31, 2013. A copy of those SWAB members is included in the packet provided to the Board of Health. Mr. Lockridge reviewed the members and their qualifying experience, and proposed these members be re-appointed to the Solid Waste Advisory Board for an additional term.

**Motion: A motion was made by Johnny Hutchins with a second by Steve Rackley that the Cleveland County Board of Health accept the proposal to re-appoint members to serve an additional term on the Solid Waste Advisory Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

**COMMISSIONERS UPDATE ON ANIMAL CONTROL PROGRAM**

Dorothea Wyant stated there have been significant changes and progress made with the Animal Control Program since the placement of a Rescue/Adoption Coordinator in July 2013. Ms. Wyant reviewed information from the handout provided in the packet received by the Board of Health. The animal adoption rate has increased by 2%, increasing from 6% during 2012 to 8% during 2013. The animal rescue rate has increased by 38%, increasing from 8% in 2012 to 46% in 2013. The total number of animals saved during 2013 was 59% as opposed to 18% in 2012. There has been a 42% decrease in the euthanasia of animals, with 37% of animals euthanized in 2013 as opposed to 79% of animals euthanized in 2012. The number of animals euthanized by carbon monoxide has decreased by 28% during 2013. 64% of all euthanasia was performed by injection (EBI) during 2013 as opposed to carbon monoxide. Ms. Wyant noted that Commissioners established a goal last year to decrease by 50% the number of animals euthanized by carbon monoxide over a five year period, and staff has been able to surpass that goal within a 6 month period. Ms. Wyant credited this significant improvement to the addition of a position designated as a Rescue/Adoption Coordinator.

---

Sam Lockridge noted there were two issues the Commissioners had specifically asked be addressed; the number of animals being euthanized and the method by which they were euthanized. Commissioners provided the necessary tool to allow Animal Control staff to address these issues, a full time staff member able to focus on adoption and rescue. As a result, staff has greatly reduced the number of animals euthanized during the initial six month period of having a Rescue/Adoption Coordinator position in place. Mr. Lockridge reviewed information provided in the packet received by the Board of Health regarding capital improvements to the Animal Shelter. One of the Commissioners top six goals was to reallocate funds for capital improvements to the Animal Shelter. During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the intent is to continue replacing flooring at the Animal Shelter in phases, at an approximate cost of \$30,000 per phase. During the next two years, there are plans for other general property improvements such as ceiling replacement, lighting, etc. Discussion followed regarding program growth and restructuring.

Johnny Hutchins stated that County Commissioners are very pleased with the progress made in addressing their goals relating the Animal Control Program. Mr. Lockridge had informed the Commissioners when these goals were set that additional funds would be necessary to implement the requested changes, and the additional monies allocated to the Animal Control Program has been money well spent. Capital improvements have been made to the Animal Shelter, more animals are being adopted and rescued, and fewer animals are being euthanized. On behalf of the County Commissioners, Mr. Hutchins expressed his thanks to Ms. Wyant, Mr. Lockridge and the Animal Control staff for their efforts to improve conditions at the Animal Shelter and project a more positive public image.

### **ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD UPDATE**

Rodella Gold shared that a contract has been signed with Patagonia Health to provide software for agency electronic medical records. On-site training with practice management is scheduled during April, 2014. Johnny Hutchins noted that if needed, the LeGrand Center could be used for training purposes. Discussion followed regarding the training process.

### **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 North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Women's and Children's Health division has allocated \$11,631.00 in TANF funds to provide family

---

planning services to low income patients. A request was made to budget this amount in the Family Planning Department (539) to purchase supplies and program support.

**Item Number Two:** The North Carolina Community Care Network, Inc. has allocated a total of \$35,000.00 to be used for quality improvement measures for providers that accept Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA). Currently, we have \$29,233.00 budgeted, and a request was made to budget the difference of \$5,767.00 in the Carolina Access Department (546) to be used for part time salaries.

**Item Number Three:** The Family Planning Department has received \$337.50 from Charlotte AHEC for serving as a preceptor for a nurse practitioner student. A request was made to budget this amount in the Family Planning Department (539) to be used to enhance the training of staff within that program.

**Item Number Four:** The North Carolina Office of Rural Health and Community Care (ORHCC) has implemented a program called HealthNet, designed to strengthen health care delivery systems in rural and underserved communities, enhance quality and coordination of care and help contain unnecessary growth in healthcare expenditures. The target population of this program is uninsured adults with a family income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. A request was made to budget \$57,129, (12/1/2013-6/30/2014 revenue) into the Carolina Access Department (546), to be used for salaries/fringe (duties will be absorbed by existing positions), healthcare provider fees (negotiated rates), software license fees and other operating expenses associated with this program.

**Motion: Robert Miller moved, with a second by Steve Rackley that the Budget Amendments be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

#### Commissioners Update

Johnny Hutchins reported the number one goal of County Commissioners in preparing the budget for the coming fiscal year is to provide a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for County employees. There are more than five hundred employees who have not been able to follow the progression of salary steps due to a salary freeze implemented by the Commissioners during the past poor economic climate. The County Manager has been asked to develop a system to slowly re-introduce salary step increases back into the County budget.

CLECO Update

Dorothea Wyant provided a brief history of CLECO, which consists of four rural health centers located throughout the County. Ms. Wyant serves as a member of the CLECO Board of Directors. CLECO is currently managed by Cleveland Regional Medical Center, who has in the past provided approximately \$250,000 annually to subsidize operations. However, with the recent transition between CRMC and Carolinas Health Care, this subsidy was not included into the contract. When the omission was realized, local hospital management negotiated for an allocation for this year, but no future financial commitments were made. The clinic was originally established to serve Medicaid and uninsured clients in efforts to reduce Emergency Room visits and provide primary care for these individuals who were ineligible for care elsewhere. A letter has been written by the CLECO Board to the Chair of the County Commissioners, requesting financial assistance from the County to help maintain the CLECO Network. Ms. Wyant stated there have been several meetings involving the County Manager, hospital personnel and County Commissioners to discuss different options. Future meetings are scheduled, and different options are being discussed, one option discussed has been the possible dissolution of the CLECO clinics. Ms. Wyant stated that she has concerns about the clients served within that network, and their options for medical care should CLECO be dissolved. Chair Hayek raised the question of how, as a community, can we provide care for those who have no insurance and cannot afford expensive care. Chair Hayek further noted that this needs to be a collective, community undertaking. There was further discussion.

Chair Hayek noted the next Board of Health meeting will be held at the Cleveland County Health Department on Tuesday, March 11, 2014. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 will be presented.

**ADJOURN**

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

**Motion: Johnny Hutchins moved, with a second by Gina Ayscue that the Cleveland County Board of Health meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Dorothea Wyant, Secretary  
Cleveland County Board of Health