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

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

Health Department staff present: Dorothea Wyant, Rodella Gold, Anne Short, Debbie Clapper, Alisa Leonard, Sam Lockridge, Nathan McNeilly, DeShay Oliver 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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MARCH 11, 2014 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING:

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

Motion: A motion was made by Randy Sweeting, with a second by Michael Alexander to adopt the agenda for the March 11, 2014 Board of Health meeting as presented.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens requested to appear before the Board.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 11, 2014 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Hayek presented the February 11, 2014 Board of Health meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

Motion: There being no corrections, additions, nor deletions to the minutes of the February 11, 2014 Board of Health meeting minutes, motion was made by Robert Miller, with a second by Kendalyn Lutz-Craver, that they be approved as written. Motion carried unanimously.

**CLEVELAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE TURNOVER RATE
2013:**

Dorothea Wyant stated the Cleveland County Health Department employee turnover rate for 2013 was 11.8%. This is an increase of 5% in the turnover rate in 2012. Ms. Wyant attributed the increased turnover rate in part to staff members not receiving a cost of living increase for four consecutive years and the discontinuing salary step increases and merit increases.

CLEVELAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT:

A copy of the 2013 Cleveland County Health Department Annual Report was included in the packet received by board members. Anne Short stated this report is themed “To Do List: Education, Prevention, Promotion, Collaboration and Completion”, and reflects some of the accomplishments celebrated by the health department during the past year. The annual report is not meant to be a complete reflection of health in Cleveland County as that is outlined in detail in the State of the County Health (SOTCH) report, but rather a brief summary that highlights some of the more significant accomplishments. This report was designed and produced internally by health department staff at a significant cost savings to the County. Further information was provided about the report. The Annual Report will be placed on the Cleveland County Health Department website, mailed to elected officials and made available to the general public. Additional hard copies of the annual report are available from Ms. Short or Henry Earle upon request.

2014/2015 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET PROPOSAL:

Chair Hayek expressed appreciation to Dorothea Wyant for the work she has done and continues to do with funding challenges.

Dorothea Wyant presented the Cleveland County Health Department 2014/2015 Fiscal Year Budget. Information was highlighted through a power-point presentation. Changes from current year’s budget were identified and discussed. Ms. Wyant noted the proposed budget does not include increases in health insurance premiums or an employee cost of living adjustment (COLA) as this information has not yet been made available to department heads. A comparison was provided of the 2013-2014 budget and the proposed 2014-2015 budget in relation to the funds received from State and Federal grants, Medicaid, grants/fees/Medicare and County funds.

The budget proposal reflects a decrease in funding for purchasing birth control methods. In the past, the health department pharmacy has provided free birth control to all family planning clients. Clients who receive Medicaid or are covered by private health insurance are now referred to outside pharmacies for their birth control method. The health department pharmacy continues to provide birth control to clients who are uninsured or underinsured.

A request to increase funds to purchase drugs used in the treatment of sexually transmitted disease (STD) results in a reduction in funding provided by the State for this purpose with no decrease in need.

Two new positions are requested for the Carolina Access Program, a public health nurse case manager and a pharmacy technician. These positions will be funded and sustained by Medicaid dollars.

Ms. Wyant noted the budget proposal reflects a decrease in preceptor fees as Dr. Stephen Jones, who joined the health department staff in July of 2013 has assumed responsibility for the supervision of some of the agency practitioners who in the past were supervised by private physicians within the community at a cost to the County.

The budget proposal requests an increase in funding to support 1st Year Community Health Assessment due to significant increases in requirements from the State.

The Nurse Family Partnership Program, (NFP) initially funded through the Kate B. Reynolds and Duke Endowment foundation grants began five years ago and was designed to run five to seven years. Grant recipients were told at that time there would be lobbying for Medicaid dollars to sustain this program at the culmination of the grant. Ms. Wyant stated that funding for NFP will end effective December 31, 2014, with no Medicaid funds available at this time. Ms. Wyant shared information about NFP, stating that it is a very expensive program to manage with stringent requirements; however, evidence based data supports that the program is having a significant impact in the lives of program participants. Dorothea Wyant met with Chair Hayek and Commissioner Johnny Hutchins to discuss the situation, and after review of the of the evidence based results, Commissioner Hutchins agreed to speak with other County Commissioners to discuss the possibility of providing some funding to assist efforts to sustain the program through June 30, 2014.

The Cleveland County Health Department budget proposal for 2014/2015 includes a request for \$86,580.00 to support an annual maintenance fee for electronic medical records. Ms. Wyant shared information regarding Patagonia Software, stating all coding updates are included in this annual cost and there are no additional clearing house fees to be purchased. The proposed budget includes a request to fund new software/hardware for the Environmental Health Program as well. The requested software will enable Environmental Health staff to enter data during on-site inspections, eliminating the need for double entry and allowing Environmental Health staff to perform more efficiently in the field. Board of Health member Tom Spurling noted that as an experienced Environmental Health Specialist, he feels this is an advantage to the employee as well as the consumer and provides more efficient, accurate information.

A request for increased funding to purchase new influenza vaccine that provides protection for a

greater number of the influenza virus strains is included in the budget request. Ms. Wyant stated the expense is warranted to provide additional protection to the public against influenza.

Ms. Wyant discussed CLECO funding, stating the County budget reflects funds received from Carolinas HealthCare to support CLECO. Ms. Wyant stated that the various CLECO clinics within the community serve 22% of the County's population. Future funding will be reviewed annually.

Animal Control Program services will continue efforts with animal control enforcement and awareness during 2014-2015, including four free rabies vaccination clinics during the year as well as providing spay/neuter awareness and education. Changes to the budget were identified and discussed. The 2014-2015 budget requests reflect two additional full time employees; one Animal Shelter Attendant and one Euthanasia Technician. Ms. Wyant reviewed recommendations made by the Task Force to Address the Overpopulation of Animals that was appointed by the Board of Health at the request of the County Commissioners. A recommendation has been made to increase the number of hours the Animal Shelter is open to the public, allowing additional opportunities for animal adoption, and discontinuing use of the animal "drop pens" where unwanted animals are left during hours the Animal Shelter is closed to the public. The requested Shelter Attendant position will be necessary to clean and maintain the Animal Shelter prior to opening, taking photos of adoptable animals to download onto the internet and assisting the public. The requested Euthanasia Technician will be responsible for planning, record keeping of drugs, coordinating Shelter Attendants and managing all aspects of euthanization by injection. Beginning July 1, 2014, plans are in place to begin a spay/neuter project called "Get on the Bus with Us". The Euthanasia Technician will serve as coordinator for this program, implement the use of Pet Point software, and provide rabies vaccine and micro chipping for all animals upon their adoption from the Animal Shelter. The proposed budget includes a request for funds to replace one vehicle in the Animal Control fleet and funding to replace kennel gates, replace floor sealant in kennel floors, complete wall construction, purchase ballistic vests for Animal Control Officers for personal safety, purchase and maintain new animal control software, and support the "Get on the Bus with Us" program. Ms. Wyant reviewed the process of the "Get on the Bus with Us" program with Board of Health members. Cost justification/fee methodology is included in the packet received in the Board of Health and reviewed with Board of Health members.

Ms. Wyant reviewed projected revenue for the Solid Waste Program according to trend. The new Recycle Logo was presented. Changes in the proposed Solid Waste Program budget were identified and discussed. Ms. Wyant reviewed additional maintenance responsibilities for County fleet vehicles that will now be performed by Mechanics with the Solid Waste Program. An additional Mechanic position is proposed to assist with these responsibilities. Additional/replacement equipment requested was reviewed and discussed. Proposed funding for

the maintenance and repair of aging recycling centers was reviewed and discussed. Ms. Wyant reviewed the projected State Disposal Tax payment of \$277,351 for 2014/2015. Solid Waste/Landfill Capital projects were reviewed and discussed, including construction of a new landfill cell to be opened in 5 years. Services in the Solid Waste department will remain the same as in 2013-2014, including efforts in litter prevention, recycling, enforcement, safety education and awareness.

Cleveland County Health Department revenue streams and their percentage of the total budget were reviewed and discussed.

Ms. Wyant reviewed the Cleveland County Health Department mission statement, which is: “To assure, enhance and protect the health of Cleveland County citizens through education and prevention”.

There was discussion regarding future plans with Republic Services to implement curbside recycling outside the municipalities within the County. Sam Lockridge shared information regarding recent discussions that have taken place with Ms. Wyant and representatives with Republic Services to provide these opportunities.

Chair Hayek stated that this budget will be the Board of Health’s recommendation to the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners for their consideration of adoption.

Motion: Robert Miller made the motion that the Cleveland County Board of Health approve the Cleveland County Health Department 2014/2015 Fiscal Year Budget as presented and forward to the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners for their consideration of approval. Motion was seconded by Stan Pitts and passed unanimously.

CLEVELAND COUNTY TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS THE OVERPOPULATION OF ANIMALS UPDATE:

The Cleveland County Task Force to Address the Overpopulation of Animals has met regularly for more than year at this time. Sam Lockridge reported that significant progress has been made in those efforts. The task force made a recommendation to increase fees for animals in heat running at large. This recommendation was adopted by County Commissioners. The “Get on the Bus with Us” spay/neuter effort was developed as a result of information shared during task force meetings. The Cleveland County Humane Society presently operates a similar program, providing transportation for animals to a spay/neuter clinic owned and operated by the Human Society of Charlotte once each month. The “Get on the Bus with Us” program will provide animal transportation twice each month. This service will provide Cleveland County residents a much greater opportunity to receive low cost spay/neuter services. The task force continues to work diligently, and will make recommendations in the near future to (1) initiate a licensing

fee/privilege tag program, and (2) require cats to wear a rabies tag or be micro chipped. Mr. Lockridge noted that during the budget presentation, Ms. Wyant proposed additional staff for the Animal Control Program, and Mr. Lockridge stated that over time, a licensing fee program will generate revenue to support the additional positions. If approved by the County Commissioners, a licensing fee program will be phased into place following a year of information and education to the public.

Sam Lockridge reported that during a recent County Commissioners work session, Commissioner Jason Falls requested that he and Ms. Wyant develop a plan to eliminate the use of the Carbon Monoxide chamber used to euthanize animals in Cleveland County. The number of animals euthanized in Cleveland County has greatly decreased since the establishment of a position dedicated to animal adoption and rescue, making this plan feasible. Mr. Lockridge noted that he and Ms. Wyant are working toward this effort, and will keep the board of health informed of progress.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Livestock Running At Large

Sam Lockridge updated board of health members regarding a recent incident involving livestock roaming at large that was reported in the Shelby Star. Mr. Lockridge stated that Animal Control Officers received a complaint that livestock was roaming at large on private property and in the highway in an area in upper Cleveland County. Because of the potential for personal injury due to the proximity to Hwy. 18, Animal Control Officers responded to the situation, attempting to establish and contact the owner of the livestock. No one claimed ownership for the livestock and Animal Control Officers were unsuccessful in their attempts to capture and restrain the animals. As a result, Cleveland County claimed the livestock as County property, and contracted with experienced livestock herders who were able to capture and restrain the animals. As payment for their services, the herders were allowed to sell the cattle for beef, and keep half of the revenue generated from the sale. In turn, Cleveland County received half the generated revenue which will be used to offset costs for expenses incurred by the Animal Control Department in the attempt to capture and restrain the livestock as well as other projects within the Animal Control Department. Board of Health member Tom Spurling stated his appreciation that the Animal Control staff accepted the responsibility, stating that cattle were roaming freely in the area of a major highway; there was one serious automobile accident caused by the cattle which could have resulted in death or serious injury, and there was potential for other accidents had the cattle not been captured and restrained.

New Health Department Facility

Rodella Gold informed the Board of Health that plans are being finalized for the new health department facility and details are being incorporated into the plans. The project will be presented for bid on March 24, 2014 and will remain open for one month. The bids will be

presented to the County Commissioners on May 6, 2014. The goal for completion of the project is tentatively set for October of 2015.

ADJOURN:

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

Motion: Kendalyn Lutz-Craver 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