



Macon County  
Public Health

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
10/26/2021

**Members:** Mitchell Bishop, Engineer and Chair; Vacant, General Public; Vacant, Pharmacist, Nathan Brenner, Dentist, Teresa Murray, General Public; Vacant, Veterinarian; Paul Higdon, County Commissioner; Vacant, General Public; Vacant, Physician, Ellen Shope; Nurse Representative; Vacant, General Public

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Kathy McGaha, Melissa Setzer, Jennifer Garrett, Jessica Baucum, Ruthie Capaforte, Dr. Dewhurst, Jamie Waldroop and Courtney Bell

**Guests:** None

**Media:** Bobby Coggins with Macon Media and Jake Browning with The Franklin Press

**Call to Order:** Mitchell Bishop called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

**Public Comment:** Tracey Dogan came to speak in regards to the Animal Control Ordinance. She doesn't think that public comments should be held first, because when the board discusses the topic during the meeting she is unable to speak at that time. Ms. Dogan also stated that she had submitted documents with all the changes she wanted made to the ordinance and she does not see those revisions added.

Diane Miller came to speak to the board and show her appreciation to the Health Department and the local hospitals for everything they have done during the pandemic. Getting information out to the public and keeping the public informed is very important. She stated that her and her husband were both confirmed positive and were able to receive the Monoclonal Antibody Treatment. She is at high risk and due to all the information and the Monoclonal Antibody Treatment her and her husband had a mild case.

Rebecca Tipton came to speak and show her appreciation to the Health Department. Her parents both had COVID-19 along with her husband. Since this she has learned more about COVID and Monoclonal Antibody Treatments. She stated that everyone has been super helpful and cooperative and thanks to the treatments available to the community her mother is here today. She stated that if we could make sure to keep getting valuable information out to the public it will make a huge difference. She stated that she was unaware that there is no cost for the Monoclonal Antibody Treatment and that it is such a great treatment if people can get it within the first 10 days.

Dr. Gus Wilde came to speak to the board and show his appreciation for the Health Department and everything they have done during the pandemic. He stated that as a physician, he appreciates all the support that his office has received from the Health Department for testing, information on Monoclonal Antibody Treatments and supplying his office with the COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Wilde also stated that he has heard numerous people complaining that the Health Department is not offering Monoclonal Antibody treatments. He stated that the Health Department cannot do the antibody treatments because those are given intravenously in a certain setting and the individual has to be observed for an hour after the treatment. The Health Department is there for disease prevention. He also stated that Monoclonal Antibody Treatments are available at the local hospitals as well as his office.

**Welcome/Intro:** Mrs. McGaha introduced Jamie Sanders as the new lab tech, Haley Arriaga as the new MOA in the clerical section and Jon Fouts has moved into the Environmental Health Program Specialist position.

**Agenda Approval:** Nathan Brenner made a motion to approve the agenda. Ellen Shope seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Presentations:** Dr. Donald Dewhurst gave a presentation on Monoclonal Antibody Treatment. He wanted to make the community aware of the availability of the treatment. Like Dr. Wilde stated the Monoclonal Antibody Treatment is available at Angel Medical Center and Dr. Wilde's office. Monoclonal Antibodies are laboratory produced, they have been designed and produced specifically for antibodies to treat COVID 19. These antibodies help to develop an immune response to the virus. Like all treatments for COVID-19, the Monoclonal Antibody Treatment is being used under an emergency authorization. Even under the emergency authorization we still have to use precautions. That is why there are certain criteria on how vaccines and these treatments are used and administered. The real key is getting the information about the treatments and availability out to the community.

Mrs. McGaha stated that information on the Monoclonal Antibody Treatment along with testing and vaccines have been posted on Facebook and ads have been run through the media to let people know of the availability of the treatment.

#### **Approval of Previous**

**Meeting Minutes:** Paul Higdon made a motion to accept the minutes. Nathan Brenner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Old Business**

COVID-19 Update Ruthie Capaforte gave an update for COVID-19 cases in Macon County.

Kathy advised the board that the Board of Education met last night and made the decision to go optional for mask wearing, with the exception that masks will have to be worn on the buses.



Jennifer Garrett stated that they are getting ready to start administering the booster. The reason it takes longer for the Health Department to start giving boosters is because after the FDA approves the vaccine booster there are several steps in this process before they can start. Tomorrow afternoon they will start administering all boosters. All three vaccines will be given and those vaccines can be mixed with each other. There are several criteria that have to be met in order to receive the vaccine. For Moderna and Pfizer you do have to wait 6 months after the last vaccine and for J&J you will have to wait 2 months after the first vaccine. Mrs. Garrett read off all criteria for the booster.

Mrs. Garrett also stated that she does have a meeting scheduled with Josh Lynch at the school system. This meeting is concerning the COVID-19 testing program that will be starting in the schools. School nurses will be assisting with the self-administered test. The parents will be there as well and can administer the test. Parent consent will be required.

#### Animal Control

##### Ordinance

Melissa Setzer updated the committee on the Animal Control Ordinance. All Comments and concerns that have been brought to the Board of Health have been taken in consideration. The draft of the ordinance has been sent to the County Manager and County Attorney.

#### Salary Study Update

Kathy McGaha updated the Board of Health members on the salary study. The salary study was voted on and approved at the last commissioners meeting. All salary increases have been distributed to staff. This will take effect starting on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioner also approved premium pay of \$2 for every hour worked over a 6 month period to all staff. The funds to cover the premium pay came from federal funds that the county has received. This will hopefully help retain and obtain personnel.

Ellen Shope spoke that she is very pleased with this, over the years she has seen many staff leave due to the pay scale.

#### **New Business:**

##### Review of Operating Procedures and Authorities

Kathy McGaha explained to the board members that there were three different items in their packet that need to be reviewed. Since the department is still has restrictions due to COVID there are no in person trainings and reviews for the board members. She asked that each member spend some time reviewing the documents and then it will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### Holiday Schedule and 2022 Meeting Schedule

Melissa Setzer presented the Holiday schedule for the November and December 2021 meetings. Those meetings will be held on the second and third Tuesday, instead of the fourth Tuesday due to the upcoming holidays. Mrs. Setzer then presented the meeting schedule for 2022. She stated that the Board of Health members will need to vote on the 2022 schedule.

Paul Higdon made the Motion to approve the 2022 Meeting Schedule. Nathan Brenner seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

**Discussion:** Mr. Bishop stated that since Ross Dodge has resigned we need to appoint a Vice Chair to finish out this year. Mr. Higdon asked how many vacancies were currently open on the board. It was stated that there are six open positions for the Board of Health at this time.

Those positions are; Pharmacist, Veterinarian, Optometrist, Physician, and (2) general public members. Mr. Bishop stated that three board members have stepped down this past week. Several members of the board have resigned due to work conflicts.

**Closed Session:** Paul Higdon made the Motion to go into closed session. Nathan Brenner seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 7:24 p.m.

Closed Session – Minutes are sealed.

Nathan Brenner made the Motion to come out of closed session. Ellen Shope seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 7:37 p.m.

**Announcements:** None

**Next Meeting Date:** November 16, 2021

**Adjournment:** Nathan Brenner made the Motion to adjourn. Paul Higdon seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 7:38 p.m.

**Minutes Recorded by:** Melissa Setzer, MCPH Administration Assistant