



Macon County
Public Health

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
7/26/2016

- Members** Chris Hanners, Engineer and Chair; Teresa Murray, General Public and Vice-Chair; Emily Porter-Bowers, Nurse; Dr. Carole Peterson, Physician; Melissa Bell, Pharmacist; Dr. Jeff Todd, Veterinarian; Dr. Nathan Brenner, Dentist; Paul Higdon, County Commissioner; and Molly Phillips, General Public.
- Members Absent** Dr. Peterson, Dr. Brenner, and Ms. Bowers
- Staff Present** Jim Bruckner, Health Director and Secretary to the Board; Jimmy Villiard, Kyle Jennings, Jennifer Garrett, Dorota Anthony, Cheryl Ramey, and Darice Davis
- Guests** None
- Media** Mr. Ryan Hanchett; The Franklin Press, Ms. Brittany Raby; Macon County News, and Ms. Kristen Karcher; WNCC Radio
- Public Comment** No Public Comment Made
- Call to Order** Meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Mr. Hanners
- Approve Agenda** Mr. Hanners asked to amend the agenda by removing Tattooing from 4B and adding legislative update to 4B and closed session to 4C. Mr. Higdon made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and Ms. Murray seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Welcome/Intro./Departures/Recognition** Mr. Hanners introduced and welcomed Dr. Todd, the newest Board of Health member to the Board of Health. Mr. Hanners asked everyone around the table to introduce themselves.
- Presentations**
- A. **Child Fatality Report** Jennifer Garrett gave an update on the 2015 Macon County Child Fatality report. She explained that MCPH reviews all of the child fatalities in Macon County for the previous year. The purpose is to identify any deficiencies the county may have and offer suggestions for improvements to help reduce the number of child fatalities in the future. There were four child fatalities in Macon County in 2015 and three in 2014. Ms. Garrett went on to explain that most of the child fatalities in Macon County are unpreventable, meaning that we would not be able to change the

outcome no matter what. After reviewing the child fatalities report, the findings are sent on to state wide coordinator for additional review. This report is used by various agencies in the state.

MCPH teamed up with Safe Kids to offer free inspection of proper installation of baby car seats. Courtney Bell and Mercy Avila will be attending car seat training at Southwestern Comm. College.

MCPH is holding a “hot car” event at the Macon County Fair in September to demonstrate how quickly a car heats up in hot weather and how dangerous/fatal it can be to leave a child or pet in a hot car.

The Franklin Police and Fire Departments will be holding a Safe Kids Demonstration. This event will be held in downtown Franklin on Iotla St. They will be serving food and other refreshments.

- B. Communicable Disease Report** Ms. Ramey gave a report on North Carolina Communicable Diseases and had a handout for review. She explained that there are about 90 reportable diseases in NC. She gave an overview of various reportable diseases and explained the MCPH procedures for such diseases. MCPH collaborates with local providers and state officials to report and track the diseases. Local Health Departments are required to offer free STI testing and treatment. There are a couple of exceptions to this rule, but the CDC and State guidelines must be followed. The state monitors all Health Departments for compliance with state laws and rules regarding communicable diseases. Ms. Phillips asked what Campylobacter is. Ms. Ramey explained and gave a brief description. Dr. Villiard said that Campylobacter is the most common food borne illness in the U.S.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting Mr. Higdon made motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- A. Arbovirus Illnesses** Mr. Jennings explained that Arbovirus is a mosquito borne illness. MCPH has been involved with Dr. Byrd at WCU who has been researching mosquitos for eight years. MCPH has created handouts directly related to mosquito control. These are currently being handed out at various public places and events. We are also doing mosquito presentations at local events and places of employment. Environmental Health has received a few complaints from the community about properties with mosquito problems. They are investigating and seeking to get help to resolve the issues. Mr. Hanners asked if Ziki was the primary concern in Macon County. Mr. Jennings said Encephalitis and West Nile virus are the most common mosquito borne illnesses in our area. Dr. Todd asked if there have been any Ziki issues reported in NC or neighboring states. Mr. Jennings said not that he was aware of. Mr. Bruckner said that, to his knowledge, states in the southeast have only travel related cases, but not locally acquired cases. Dr. Villiard add that there are currently no locally acquired Ziki cases in the US, but there are 1,404 travel associated cases.
- B. Update to lead in Water** Mr. Jennings explained that there are some private drinking wells in Macon County that have elevated levels of lead. Environmental Health is continuing to monitor all water samples that come into our department for elevated lead levels. Also, Virginia Tech recently came to Macon County and did a well sampling study, testing for lead content in drinking water. We are beginning to see a decreased amount of elevated lead levels in drinking water. This may be due to the fact that before 2010, plumbing materials were allowed to contain up to 8% lead to be considered lead free. In 2014, the standard for plumbing materials being considered lead free was reduced to .25 %. Also, well drillers in Macon County are more being more conscience of the materials they are using.

New Business

A. Swimming Pools and Inspections Mr. Jennings said that all public swimming pools and spas are inspected by environmental health. There are 35 public swimming pools in Macon County. This does not include private swimming pools. Every year all public pools and spas must submit an application for inspection. Some will be inspected twice in a year. He went on to explain all of the safety standards and signage that must be met before the pool/spa will pass inspection. Mr. Hanners asked what pools are inspected twice a year. Mr. Jennings said any pool that is open year around would be inspected twice.

Ms. Murray said that Environmental Health did a great job on their presentation to the Board of Realtors.

B. Legislative Update Mr. Bruckner spoke on NC House Bill 972 which became law in North Carolina on July 11, 2016. This law was originally written to regulate law enforcement body camera footage. Legislators added the language authorizing syringe exchange programs as an amendment. This bill does not fund syringe exchange programs and it prohibits the use of public funds to purchase syringes and other injection supplies. Public funds may be used for all other expenses, including personnel, health care costs, HIV and Hepatitis C testing, Naloxone, wound care, treatment and social service referrals, etc. This bill makes it legal for a governmental or nongovernmental organization, including health departments, to establish and operate a needle and hypodermic syringe exchange program.

The Harm Reduction Coalition in NC is going to provide the first 600 syringes and needles free of charge to Health Departments that would like to participate. MCPH has begun talking locally with the Substance Abuse Task Force about where best to place this program. Mr. Bruckner is planning to meet with Sheriff Holland from the Macon County Sheriff's Department and the Chiefs of Police from Franklin and Highlands as well. Mr. Bruckner will keep the Board updated.

Mr. Hanners asked about the criteria that must be met for a person to participate in the syringe exchange program. Mr. Bruckner said he did not have the criteria in front of him, but said the legislation required state DPH approval to operate a program and included reporting requirements. There were also some client educational and referral requirements that had to be met before providing clients with syringes and/or needles.

SB734 is a new law in NC that allows a practitioner acting in good faith and exercising reasonable care to directly or by standing order prescribe an opioid antagonist (Naloxone). This drug is for those who are experiencing an Opioid related overdose. Under a new standing order signed by the Deputy Secretary for Health (state health director) pharmacies are now permitted to dispense Naloxone to (1) a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose or (2) a family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose. From 1999-2015 we have had 50 deaths in Macon County due to opiate-related overdose. Ms. Phillips asked if there has been a steady increase in overdoses in the county. Mr. Bruckner said that the numbers vary from year to year.

C. Closed Session: Mr. Higdon made a motion to go into closed session siting a Pending Legal Matter in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11a (7) and for Mr. Bruckner, Macon County Health Director, Kyle Jennings, Environmental Health Supervisor, and Jennifer Garrett, Section Administrator Personal Health, to stay in the room. Ms. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hanners called the meeting back into open session at 7:12 pm.

Mr. Bruckner read the Tattoo press release regarding unlicensed tattoo artists in Macon County. This is due to be released to the media at the conclusion of this meeting.

Mr. Hanners asked if it is permitting fees that are keeping people from getting permitted. Mr. Jennings said that Macon County does charge the highest fee that the state allows. He also explained that the required equipment for tattooing is very expensive.

Ms. Raby asked what the fee is to permit an establishment. Mr. Jennings said it costs \$700 annually to permit a tattoo establishment and each additional tattoo artist is \$500 annually. In the essence of time, Mr. Hanners asked Ms. Raby to email her remaining questions to Mr. Bruckner. Mr. Hanners then asked for any comments on the press release. Ms. Phillips made a motion to support the immediate release to the media of the press release. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Update Mr. Bruckner referred to the handout provided. He said this is not the final budget for the year as that would come when the county closes out the county budget year.

Board Training and Information None

Announcements None

Next Meeting: Requested Agenda / Discussions Items (General Updates, Emerging Issues, etc.):

- Mr. Hanners mentioned the possibility of adding a second BOH meeting in September if necessary
- The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for 8/23/2016

Adjourn Mr. Higdon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Melissa Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darice Davis

These minutes were approved during the August meeting as amended on August 23, 2016 with a motion by Mr. Higdon. The motion was seconded by Ms. Phillips. The motion passed unanimously.