



Macon County  
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
10/27/2020**

**Members** Melissa Bell, Pharmacist and Chair, Nathan Brenner, Dentist and Vice-Chair; Teresa Murray, General Public; Jeff Todd, Veterinarian; Paul Higdon, County Commissioner; Mitchell Bishop, Engineer; Gosia Tiger, General Public; Vacant, Physician, Ellen Shope; Nurse Representative; Vacant, General Public; and Ross Dodge, General Public

**Members Absent:** Paul Higdon

**Staff Present:** Kathy McGaha, Melissa Setzer, Jennifer Garrett, Carrie Pazcoguin, Emily Ritter, Kyle Jennings and Tracy Lee

**Guests:** Cathy Stiles with Community Care of Franklin

**Media:** Jake Browning with the Franklin Press

**Public Comment:** None

**Call to Order:** Melissa Bell called Meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

**Welcome/Intro:** Introduction of Tracy Lee as a new clerical clerk. Departures this month have been Tiffany Mason, Darrell McDaniels, and Haley Bell.

**Approve Agenda:**

Ross Dodge made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Jeff Todd seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Presentations:**

COMMUNITY CARE OF FRANKLIN Cathy Stiles gave a presentation on how Community Care Clinic of Franklin serves our community. Ms. Stiles spoke about the partnership that the Community Care Clinic has with Macon County Public Health. Through this clinic and with the help of Macon County Public Health they have been able to accomplish their mission of primary health care for the uninsured members of the community. Up until this point, they have been using cubicle space within the Macon County Health Department. Under normal circumstances, they were able to see patients after hours at the Health Department so not to interfere with normal Health Department services. Since COVID-19 the Macon County Health Department has restricted patients in the facility; therefore, they have been using telehealth to see patients. Just recently, the Health

Department has allowed them to start seeing patients with chronic illnesses on Wednesday evenings, and continuing seeing patients using telehealth for those who are unable to come in. Ms. Stiles stated that she is checking temperatures and screening patients before they are able to enter the building. They have recently expanded their medication program through the North Carolina Medication Assistance Program, this is one of the reasons they have requested the extra space. They have always been able to give out a month supply of simple meds to the uninsured patients, and then refer them over to the Medication Assistance Program. Patients do not always make it to the Medication Assistance Program to pick up their medication. This is why the Community Care Clinic has been looking at expanding their Medication Assistance program. They would also like to expand and make this program available to Health Department patients and people who receive assistance from the Department of Social Services. With this expansion, they would be able to see patients during the day instead of just in the evenings.

### **Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings:**

Nathan Brenner made a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. Jeff Todd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

COVID-19 Update, Jennifer Garrett gave an update on the COVID-19 numbers for Macon County and how the virus is affecting Macon County Public Health. As of today, Macon County has had 748 cases, with only one new positive today. That means as of today there are 30 active cases, 711 that have recovered, 7 deaths, 90 test that are pending results and 6,321 has been tested. The call center has taken over 15,000 call, some days the call center has received over 200 calls. Mrs. Garrett stated that they are still testing 3 days a week. Monday & Friday from 8:30-2:00, and on Wednesday from 8:30-12:00 then switch over to flu shots from 2:00-5:00. We will still test Wednesday and Friday through the hurricane/tropical storm. Mrs. Garrett stated that Macon County Public Health has received the new COVID-19 rapid test, but it will be sometime before they are able to start using it. New policy and procedures for the rapid testing will be in place before it we will start using the test, stated Mrs. Garrett. A question was asked if this test had to be sent off site; Mrs. Garrett advised the board that this test does not require a lab off site to process it; our lab at the health department or a nurse can process the rapid test. Those that will be performing the test will have to have training before testing begins. Mrs. Garrett also stated that they are encouraging the community to get a flu shot this year.

Mrs. McGaha stated that the Animal Service's staffed is short, due to COVID-19. They are still operating, but at a very limited capacity. The earliest Animal Services can open back up to the public will be Monday, November. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Appalachian Animal Rescue is working with Animal Services to house any animals that being are brought to Animal Services.

COMMUNITY CARE OF FRANKLIN, Mrs. McGaha gave an update where they are with finding space for Community Care of Franklin within the Health Department. Mrs. McGaha asked Emily Ritter to speak about the use of the Health Ed room, which was the space Community Care was suggesting be remodeled. Ms. Ritter stated that Cathy Stiles plan wants to reutilize the Health Ed workroom. This room is not only a workroom for Health Education; it is used by Population Health, BCCCP program, CC4C program along with many other programs and serves a meeting room. The different programs use this room for training, education, and essential projects that are required in order for Macon County Public Health to maintain state and federal funding. Ms. Ritter also wanted the board members to keep that in mind when discussing the decision about Community Care that our other two meeting rooms are used by the call centers and the A/B room, which this meeting is held in, is shared with the Department of Social Services. Mrs. McGaha stated that she and Cathy Stiles have been meeting to look at different options. Mrs. McGaha had suggested changing the cubical area around, or building offices in a section of the lobby. They recently met with Mike Cope, Director of Maintenance to discuss the different options. Mr. Cope stated that the cheapest option would be to build the two offices in a portion of the lobby. This would meet two of the three goals that they have for expansion. The only thing they would not be able to do provide sick visits. Each one of the offices built in the lobby will be 10x11,

one would be an office and the other would be for the Medication Assistance Program. Mr. Cope also stated that this project could be finished by the end of the year before the grant ran out. Cathy stated that they see about 1000 patients a year and they hope to work more with Macon County Public Health and the Department of Social Services to provide services to patients.

### **New Business:**

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH APPLICATION, Kyle Jennings advised the board members that there is a copy of the additional page in their packet will included to the Onsite Wastewater and Well application. This page will be attached to the front of the application with a list of items that need to be completed prior to a site visit. The reason for this additional page is that Environmental Health has been receiving a lot of application, when inspectors arrive at the site; the property owner has not completed the necessary steps prior to the visit. This additional page has a list of items that is to be completed prior to site being evaluation. Many people are not familiar with the process and this is causing the site visit to take a lot longer than it should. With this guidance, they will know exactly what is needed to be complete before site evaluation so no additional revisit fees are accrued. Some examples of what is needed from the homeowner are things like; mark house placement, mark property lines, and etc. This information will be forward to the Board of Realtors so they will be able to get a feel for what to expect as well. The goal with this additional page is the ability to complete sites in a timelier manner. Mr. Jennings was asked if he was having a hard time filling the positions in Environmental Health. Mr. Jennings replied that it is hard to find someone that is already authorized as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist. If a person is not authorized as an REHS it would be approximately 9 months before they would be able to be out on their own due to strict certifications. Melissa Bell stated that she thinks the cover sheet is a good idea in helping the process.

BILLING CODE, Carrie Pazcoguin stated that Macon County Public Health has received notice that there is a new billing code for COVID-19 testing that the departments can use to bill Insurance Companies and Medicaid. This code would allow MCPH to be reimbursed \$23.46 for each COVID-19 test done. This charge will only be billed to the insurance companies, no patient will be billed this fee.

Ross Dodge made a motion to approve the new code. Gosia Tiger seconded that motion. Motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET UPDATE, Carrie Pazcoguin gave an update on the FY21 budget, and explained that the numbers this year are off due to COVID-19. The department has not been able to generate much revenue since we have limited our services for the last 6 months. They have been able to drawn down most of the money from the State Aid to County budget. No budget set for Adult dental because the program is now closed. Mrs. Pazcoguin covered the expenses and revenues up through the end of September and explained that most programs have waivers that run through the end of the year.

HOLIDAY MEETING SCHEDULE, Kathy McGaha stated that the next two meeting would be on the same week as a Holiday, therefore would the Board like to move those meetings to a different week? This would change the November meeting from November 24<sup>th</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup> and change the December meeting from December 22<sup>nd</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Ross Dodge made a motion to approve the change for the November and December meeting dates. Dr. Jeff Todd seconded that motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2021 MEETING SCHEDULE, Kathy McGaha asked the board members to refer to the 2021 schedule in their handouts. The one change that was made to the schedule for next year is for November and December, the

dates are already been moved to a week that does not include a holiday. Several board members stated that they liked the idea of setting that date now instead of having to vote on a schedule change next year.

Motion to go into closed session made by Ellen Shope, Ross Dodge seconded that motion. Motion to go into closed session passed unanimously.

**Closed Session:** Discussion recorded in separate confidential document.

Motion to go back to open session made by Ross Dodge. Gosia Tiger seconded that motion. Motion to go back to open session passed unanimously at 8:08 p.m.

**Discussion:** None

**Announcements:** None

**Next Meeting Date** 11/17/2020

### **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Nathan Brenner. Gosia Tiger seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

**Time Adjourned** 8:09 P.M.

**Minutes Recorded by:** Melissa Setzer