



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
4/27/2021**

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

Members Absent: Gosia Tiger

Staff Present: Kathy McGaha, Melissa Setzer, Jennifer Garrett, Carrie Pazcoguin and Emily Ritter, Jimmy Villiard

Guests: None

Media: Jack Browning with The Franklin Press

Public Comment: None

Call to Order: Mitchell Bishop called the meeting to order at 6:23 pm.

Welcome/Intro:

Agenda Approval: Ross Dodge made a motion to approve the agenda. Ellen Shope seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentations: None

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Ross Dodge made a motion to accept the minutes. Ellen Shope seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

COVID-19 Update Mrs. McGaha and Mrs. Garrett gave an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. As of today, there are only 17 positive cases. Testing is taking place on Monday's and Thursday's. MCPH has been notified of an additional death, bringing our total to 34. MCPH are still vaccinating as much as possible. Right now, we are doing mostly second doses. We are not having as many calling to sign up for the vaccine as we have been having. National Guard team 6 will be leaving to go home at the end of this week. Strike team 11 which are

the vaccination group will remain here for a while longer. The National Guard has been a huge help during this pandemic. MCPH would not have been able to do what they have done without them. Due to things slowing down team, 11 will be able to start performing all the vaccinations along with one nurse. This will free up the nurses and other staff so that the department can start opening up some of their programs. Mr. Bishop stated that he is very thankful for Phil Drake letting the Health Department use his facilities. Mr. Drake stepped in when the phone system at the Health and Human Services building could not handle the call volume that was coming in. Mr. Bishop initiated the discussion as to what point does the Health Department start transitioning back to regular services and move all operations back into the department Mrs. McGaha gave all board members handouts to review showing the number of calls that has been coming in and out of the call center to demonstrate call volume. Most calls at this point are reminder calls to patients for their appointments. Mrs. McGaha stated that she has asked Mrs. Garrett and Courtney Bell to develop a plan to start opening different programs back up while incorporating testing and vaccinations into our normal work load. The Molar Roller (Children's Dental Health) has resumed services this week.

Ellen Shope stated that Macon County has the highest number of vaccinated residents in this region. Mrs. McGaha stated this has been a community effort. Clinics have taken place in Highlands, the Health Department and Joey Gibson with Emergency Management vaccinating the homebound residents. Emily Ritter will continue to get material out to the community to encourage residence to be vaccinated.

Rabies Clinic Update

Dr. Jimmy Villiard gave an update on the rabies clinics that were recently offered to the public. These were three highly successful clinics vaccinating 573 animals. Thank you and appreciation to Animal House Veterinary Clinic, Lenzo Animal Hospital and Noah's Ark Companion Animal Hospital. Discussion for a fall clinic is in progress.

Rabies Outbreak Update

Dr. Jimmy Villiard gave an update on the recent rabies outbreak. Since the last meeting, there has been one additional positive rabies case in a raccoon. Since December, there have been seven (7) positive raccoons and two (2) positive skunks. An additional raccoon that has been sent for testing this week. They are still waiting the results for that case. The USDA is currently doing research in the area and will probably perform a rabies bait drop in the fall. Dr. Villiard stated that if you encounter a raccoon assume it is positive and leave it alone.

New Business:

COVID Administration Fee:

Mrs. Pazcoguin stated that the new fee is \$50.00 straight across the board. This fee is for either one of the three COVID-19 vaccines that is being given. This information comes down from the state and is based off what Medicaid and Medicare are reimbursing. This administration fee is only billed to the insurance company. If a patient does not have insurance, they will not be billed for anything. This is only for the insurance companies for Health Departments to recuperate expenses. The vaccine for COVID-19 is free of charge; there is no out of pocket expense. If the Board of Health approves this fee, it will then be presented to the County Commissioners for approval. If the County Commissioners approve this fee, it will become active the day after.

Ross Dodge made a motion to approve the increase in the COVID vaccine Administration fee. Nathan Brenner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: None

Closed Session: None

Announcements: None

Next Meeting Date: May 25, 2021

Adjournment: Ross Dodge made the Motion to adjourn made by. Ellen Shope seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 7:04 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by: Melissa Setzer, MCPH Administration Assistant