



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
4/28/2020**

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; Dr. Kevin Foley, General Public, Ellen Shope; Nurse Representative

Members Absent: Paul Higdon

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

Guests: None

Media: None

Public Comment: None

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:21 pm by Melissa Bell.

Welcome/Intro:

- Melissa Bell spoke about Carmine as this is his last day. Kathy McGaha presented him with a plaque on behalf of the Health Department and Board of Health.
- Melissa also stated that she had received an email from Chester Jones the Attorney for Macon County, advising the Board of Health that a line item needed to be added to the agenda under new business to ratify the appointment of Kathy McGaha as Health Director.

Approve Agenda:

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

Presentations:

Jennifer Garrett –

Presented a presentation update for COVID-19. We are 8 weeks into COVID, with 1 positive case (now deceased), 1 positive case (recovered) 1 Presumptive case (out of state resident) released from quarantine on 3/26/20 and 2 returned travelers released from quarantine on 4/5/20. 123 targeted tests performed by MCPH, 116 negative and 7 pending results. As of the end of day on 4/27/20 the call center had received a total 834 calls since the call center activated. Currently Macon County Detention Center has no cases. Inmates are being isolated for 14 days before they are added to general population at the jail. Currently there are no cases in any of the assisted living or congregate living centers. We are continuing to do testing per the state criteria. MCPH is also preparing in the event that mass testing becomes available.

MCPH is also looking toward flu season for this fall to do an aggressive flu campaign to decrease the likelihood of flu to hopefully assist medical centers in not being overwhelmed with flu and COVID. We are also looking at the ability to resume services and do clinics for childhood vaccinations. During this presentation a slide show was running with this information and charts showing the amount of cases surrounding our county.

Carmine -

Stated that he and Kathy had met with the policy committee, this committee will be working to evaluate the county as we open up. This committee has worked on information so the county can project how they will open up within the guidelines of the state. July we should see a lightening up on the restrictions. One of the major obstacles they have seen are individuals that work for construction companies coming from out of town testing positive. Also, they should find out next week if we can get any free tests from MAHEC and Dogwood Trust.

Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings:

Ross Dodge made a motion to accept the minutes with a revision to correct page 2 of the minutes from the meeting held on 4/14/2020. On page 2 of the minutes from 4/14/2020 “except” needs to be changed to “accept”. Dr. Todd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- A. Carrie gave an update on the budget as of this time of year. We will not meet some of our revenues because of COVID. This was our first full month of scaled back services. We are expecting some relief funding from the state to contribute to our COVID-19 response.
- B. Carmine Rocco as Interim Health Director for the Macon County Health Department will end as of midnight tonight. Macon County Board of Health would like to give its sincere thanks to Mr. Rocco for his leadership over the last year and a half. At this time the Board of Health will ratify the Board’s appointment of Kathy McGaha as the Health Director for the Macon County Public Health effective at the beginning of Wednesday, April 29, 2020.

Ross Dodge made a motion to approve the ratification of Kathy McGaha as Health Director of the Macon County Public Health. Dr. Todd seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Health Director Comments:

- Carmine stated that he, Kathy and Carrie had met with county finance to go over budget, and that we received notice from the state that we will be receiving cost settlement money for Medicaid.
- Carmine also stated that we had an individual that has contributed to help with the fight against COVID-19. This individual has donated a new tent with heat and air for our department along with scrubs and crocs for our nurses so we can continue to test the individuals of Macon County. We have been very fortunate that this individual has contributed to our department.

Board Training and Information:

Melissa Bell asked if we could check to see if there are any Board of Health trainings that can be done by Zoom. She would like to do the training for the board soon.

Discussion:

Ross Dodge asked if the Health Department could reach out to the public members that are not wearing masks to protect themselves or others. Kathy stated that we have been sending out material in every way possible to educate the community, we have even went out to the retail stores and spoke with managers and worker. Ross Dodge stated that he thinks it would be good for someone who has recovered from COVID to give a testimony. He thinks this would make a bigger impact than just a flyer. Melissa Bell asked Kathy McGaha to give an update next month on any other ways we have tried to reach the public. She also if the Health Department could start using Twitter and Instagram along with Facebook because that will draw a broader audience. The young people follow Twitter more than Facebook.

The Board asked if Carmine had any outgoing remarks and then once again gave him their appreciation for his service over the last 18 months.

Announcements:

Melissa Bell stated that Kathy will be sworn in tomorrow morning at 7:45 here at the Health Department.

Next Meeting Date **5/26/2020**

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Todd. Ross Dodge seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Minutes Recorded By: Melissa Setzer