



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
9/28/2021**

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

Members Absent: Nathan Brenner, and Melissa Bell

Staff Present: Kathy McGaha, Melissa Setzer, Jennifer Garrett, Jimmy Villiard, Jessica Baucum, Charles Womack & Carrie Pazcoguin

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 6:20 p.m.

Presentations:

Committee Member Melissa Setzer presented the Partners, Boards and Committees to the board members. This is a list of all committees and boards that different staff members and Board of Health members serve on as well as different organizations that Macon County Public Health partners with in the community. The board was asked to review the list and advise Mrs. Setzer of any changes or additions that need to be made.

Welcome/Intro:

Charles Womack has accepted the Environmental Health Supervisor position. Charles has served with Macon County Public Health for many years.

Public Comment: No public comment

Agenda Approval: Ross Dodge made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Environmental Health Update being added to Old Business. Ellen Shope seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Paul Higdon made a motion to accept the minutes. Ross Dodge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Animal Control Ordinance

Jimmy Villiard presented the draft of the revised Animal Control Ordinance and asked the Board of Health members to review the revisions. Mr. Villiard stated that all comments and concerns from the general public were taken into consideration along with ideas from local large animal vets. The draft of the revised Animal Control Ordinance will go to the County Manager and the County Attorney before it moves onto the Board of County Commissioners.

COVID-19 Update

Mrs. McGaha stated that case numbers are slowly starting to come down, and they hope that trend continues. At the school board meeting last night they voted to keep the mask mandate in place. She has recommended that the mandate stay in effect until Macon County moves into yellow. This information comes from the CDC COVID tracker for each state and county. Everyone still needs to be watching and listening to the state mandates and recommendations. At this time, Macon County in the red, the state is seeing a lot of younger children becoming positive. Child positivity rate is currently at 21%.

MCPH is still testing 80-90 people per day. Those include symptomatic, those discovered through contact tracing and employer required testing. Mrs. McGaha stated that she has spoken with the local hospitals and they are starting to see some relief.

Mrs. McGaha stated that there is a high level of burn out among staff. Along with the clinic nursing staff and positive call center, the school nurses are doing contact tracing in the schools all week and weekend long. MCPH is looking at a new tool for the school system through CCTO. The school nurses would be able to upload the case and their contact information into the system, then the state would do all the contact tracing and release letters. This would free up the school nurses to concentrate on other activities that they handle on a daily basis. Mrs. Garrett stated that there will be things that staff has to adapt to, but the state can fit this program to the current process that is already in place.

As of now MCPH is still testing, administering COVID-19 and flu vaccines and hope to start Pfizer boosters next week. The booster process will not be as easy as the 1st and 2nd vaccine. There are seven different scenarios that a person can fall under to receive the booster. In order to get the booster you have to have waited six months after your last shot and fall under one of the seven different scenarios. Immunocompromised individuals are able to get a 3rd vaccine (this is not the booster) if they received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. Also, there will be a clinic at Old Edwards Inn, in Highlands on October 6th for flu shots.

Environmental Health Update

Kathy McGaha welcomed Charles Womack as the Environmental Health Supervisor. Mrs. McGaha stated that there are still several vacancies within the department that they are trying to fill which is still the main reason pending applications are still several weeks out. They were able to bring in four contract workers from other counties to help out with the backlog. These contractors will be working some evenings and weekends. Funds were moved around from salary lines for those vacant positions to fund the contract workers. Mr. Womack stated that the contractors have been given 17 application so far, and that the oldest application they have at this time is from July 21, 2021. Mr. Higdon stated that there is a shortage of Environmental Health professionals. Mr. Bishop asked if the current, Environmental Health staff was offered what the contract workers were offered. Environmental Health staff was offered the ability to earn overtime. Mr. Higdon stated that the contract workers are contracting for \$50.00 an hour. Mrs. McGaha stated that the contract workers are held to a maximum of 16 hours a week up to a certain dollar amount. Mr. Higdon stated that he would

like to get that for the current Environmental Health Specialist as well and that the Salary Study that is being done is looking good for the Environmental Health staff.

New Business:

Fees and Codes

Carrie Pazcoguin presented the fees for the child dental clinic (Molar Roller). Fees for dental have not been updated in some time, therefore this is simply an update on the billing fees. Mrs. Pazcoguin asked the board members to review these fees.

The next documentation will be the fees for vaccines. These fees have been updated as well. Several fees increased where others decreased. There are two new vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) have both been added to the billing guide. Mrs. Pazcoguin stated that they will be seeking approval from the Board of County Commissioners for the fees. Revisions are still taking place to the Billing Guide, once those are complete it will be taken to the Board of County Commissioners as well.

Ross Dodge made the Motion to approve the fees. Ellen Shope seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Discussion: None

Closed Session: Ross Dodge made the Motion to go into closed session. Teresa Murray seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 7:37 p.m.

Closed Session – Minutes are sealed.

Paul Higdon made the Motion to come out of closed session. Ellen Shope seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 7:40 p.m.

Announcements: None

Next Meeting Date: October 26, 2021

Adjournment: Paul Higdon made the Motion to adjourn. Teresa Murray seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 7:41 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by: Melissa Setzer, MCPH Administration Assistant