



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
11/14/2023**

Members: Garrett Higdon, Engineer; Paul Higdon, County Commissioner; Vacant, Optometrist; Dr. Roy Lenzo, Veterinarian; Vacant, Pharmacist; Dr Matt Corbin, Dentist; Ellen Shope, Nurse Representative and Vice Chair; Dr. Michael Dupuis, Physician; Members of General Public, Jerry Hermanson Chair, Dr. Charlie Vargas; Vacant, General Member

Members Absent: Paul Higdon

Staff Present: Kathy McGaha, Amanda Cowart, Melissa Setzer, Julie Rogers, Jimmy Villiard

Guests: None

Media: Mia Overton, Franklin Press

Call to Order: Jerry Hermanson called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

**Welcome/Intro/
Departures/
Recognition/
Announcements:** Mr. Hermanson began by welcoming everyone including Mia Overton with the Franklin Press and new board members, Garrett Higdon and Dr. Matt Corbin.

Announcements: Kathy McGaha announced departures of employees: Josh Wilson, REHS in Environmental Health and Charles Womack, Environmental Health Supervisor who is retiring at the end of December. She introduced new employees: Dawn Roberts, Finance Assistant, Nancy Roman, WIC Processing Assistant. Ms. McGaha also introduced current board members to Mr. Garrett Higdon and Dr. Matt Corbin.

Public Comment: Jerry Hermanson asked if there was Public Comment, to which there were none.

Agenda Approval: Dr. Michael Dupuis made a motion to approve the agenda with the following changes: Remove Items number 5 and 6, remove Closed Session and add Environmental Health Fees as Item D under New Business. Dr. Charles Vargas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentation:

**School Based
Health Center
Demo**

Julie Rogers Physician Assistant II with Kayla Waters Medical Office Assistant presented the School Based Health Center.

Ms. Rogers began by sharing a graph of MCPH Telehealth Visits. School Based Health Center is a Telehealth model. Equipment is in all 11 Macon County Schools. All students and staff can enroll in School Base Health Center. Students and/or staff may be seen for any acute same day illness. Parents will not have to be present, but can attend the visit remotely. The goal is to increase access to care, which is number one on the list of our community health care goals. The program quietly rolled out last March in an effort to work out the details before it was widely advertised. This year, it was implemented while letting the public know it was available. A link is on the schools website for a one-time enrollment. Ms. Rogers spoke on advertising efforts and passed out mugs that have QR codes for enrollment. She provided information regarding school nurses and trained staff that assist in School Based Health Center visits. On-site testing can be done for Strep, Flu/Covid and urine analysis.

Jerry Hermanson asked about obtaining consent. Ms. Rogers replied consent is built into the enrollment process.

Mr. Hermanson also asked the percentage of students on Medicaid. Ms. Rogers said she believes, of the students enrolled, that number is approximately 50%.

Ms. Rogers, with the assistance of Kayla Waters, gave a live demonstration of a School Based Health visit. Ms. Waters was setup remotely at a local school with a student volunteer. Board members were able to observe the examination of ears, lungs and heart.

Ellen Shope inquired regarding cases of head lice and injuries. Ms. Rogers said she has treated one case of head lice. However, she does not see cases of injury, which requires her to physically touch the patient.

Ms. Shope also asked about students who are not on Medicaid or uninsured. Ms. Rogers said they have fees based on a sliding fee schedule.

Mr. Hermanson asked how prescriptions are handled. Ms. Rogers said she could write a script and follow up with the parent to verify health history and parameters.

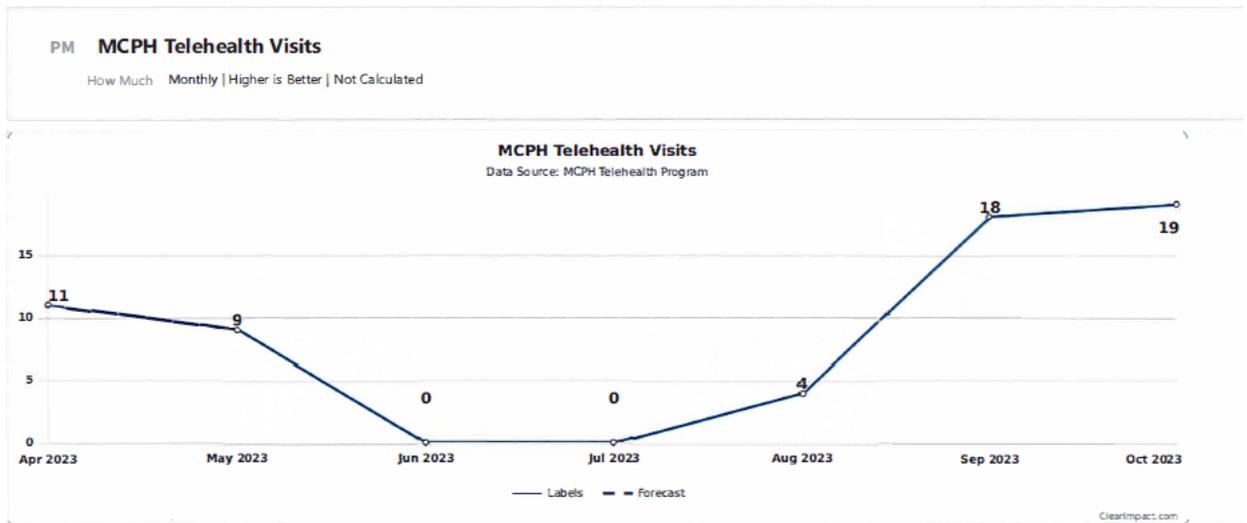
Surveys were sent last year to obtain feedback on enrollment.

All children enrolled in Macon County Schools or employed by Macon County Schools are eligible for this program. If employees do not have county insurance, there is a set fee of \$30 per visit.

Dr. Matt Corbin asked if a child could be seen that has not yet enrolled. Ms. Rogers responded, they can do the enrollment "day of", but it will need to be completed before they are seen.

Mr. Hermanson thanked Ms. Rogers and requested updates on the progress of this program in the future.

Please see graph on next page.



Relationships

Containers

- New Program School Based Health Center

Measures

Measures that Aggregate this Measure

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Dr. Michael Dupuis made a motion to accept the previous minutes. Ellen Shope seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Changes to Environmental Health Policies

Kathy McGaha referred to and followed up on the presentation Jon Fouts gave at a previous Board of Health meeting. Mr. Fouts' presentation was on the changes coming for Environmental Health Departments across the state for wastewater systems. She spoke on the more complicated, larger (possibly engineered) system applications and the time and labor those require. At the time of Mr. Fouts' presentation, there were concerns of how to outsource or limit the impact on other applicants, in the event these types of applications are received. Ms. McGaha has since researched these concerns. After speaking with the county attorney, our Environmental Health consultants, and other counties: there would need to be an internal policy written. The policy would be written into the rules as to which systems may be outsourced to an engineer. It can specify that nothing in addition to the list may be outsourced. She also discovered no other county is limiting the number of these types of applications. Ms. McGaha will continue to research questions regarding this issue before implementation of a policy change. She would also like to include the new Environmental Health Supervisor in any decision making, as Charles Womack is retiring at the end of December 2023. She will continue to keep the board informed regarding this matter.

Mr. Hermanson asked for an estimated time frame when the board would hear more about this. Ms. McGaha answered she could come back to the board within the next few meetings.

New Business:

Review and Make changes to Board of Health Policies

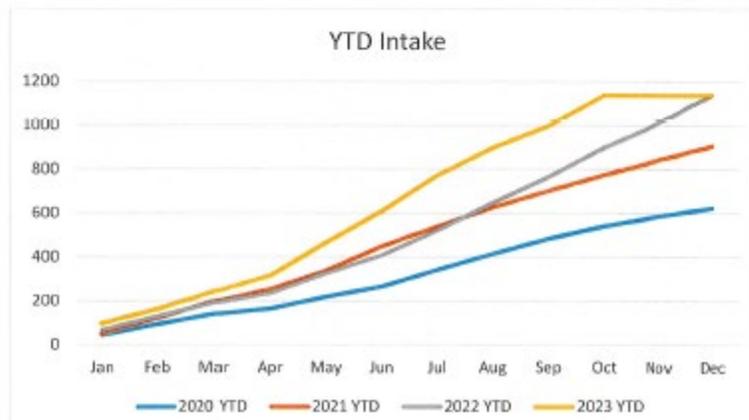
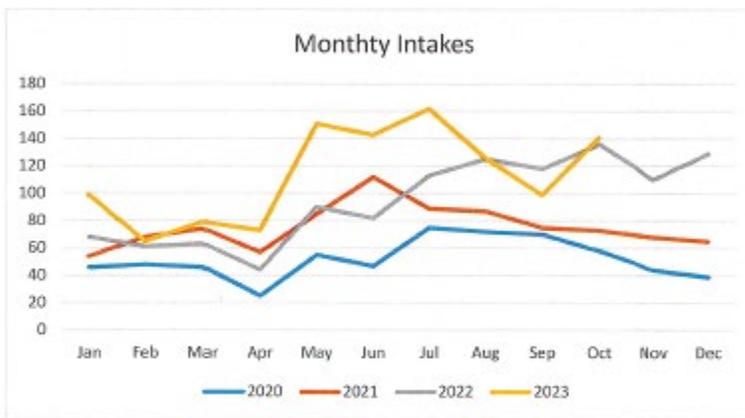
Kathy McGaha reminded the group of Board of Health Policies emailed to them prior to the meeting and of the copies provided in their individual binders. She did not recommend any changes. She presented the board with the option to approve during the meeting or to take the policies home for review and approve at the next meeting in January.

Ellen Shope made a motion to approve the Board of Health Policies. Dr. Michael Dupuis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Animal Control Staffing

Jimmy Villiard directed the group to a graph showing monthly intake comparisons for Macon County Animal Services.

Month	2020	2020 YTD	2021	2021 YTD	2022	2022 YTD	2023	2023 YTD
Jan	46	46	54	54	68	68	99	99
Feb	48	94	68	122	61	129	65	164
Mar	46	140	74	196	63	192	79	243
Apr	25	165	57	253	44	236	73	316
May	55	220	85	338	90	326	151	467
Jun	47	267	112	450	82	408	143	610
Jul	75	342	89	539	113	521	162	772
Aug	72	414	87	626	125	646	126	898
Sep	70	484	75	701	118	764	99	997
Oct	58	542	73	774	136	900	141	1138
Nov	44	586	68	842	110	1010		1138
Dec	39	625	65	907	129	1139		1138



Mr. Villiard highlighted the intakes of 625 in 2020 versus 1139 in 2022, noting an 82% increase. He added total intakes this October were nearly the same as total intakes for the entire year of 2022. These numbers put a tremendous strain on staff and he would like to ease their burden. Current staff consists of 3 full time Animal Control Officers, one full time shelter attendant and one part time shelter attendant. He congratulated his staff for the euthanasia rate of below 10%, which is way below the national average. He noted, this a real testament to their work and being an open shelter. Mr. Villiard acknowledged having this many animals contributes to more time spent cleaning and less time on the roads for Animal Control Officers.

Ellen Shope asked how many animals are housed at the shelter at any given time. Mr. Villiard answered, around capacity at 70-75 (dogs and cats). He added, usually they see seasonal variance; however those numbers stay consistent year round now. Ms. Shope asked if someone is at the shelter during daytime hours only. Mr. Villiard answered, yes and added one Animal Control Officer is on call for emergencies. Between the current ACO's they working 12 days in a row. They have recently adjusted a few things so they may have a break.

Dr. Roy Lenzo asked if they were seeing twice the amount of animals on the same amount of money. Ms. McGaha answered, stating that during budget it was requested to change an administrative position to an additional control officer position. Not only was the request denied, but also the money budgeted for the administrative position was taken away. She emphasized that burnout has resulted from dealing with the increase in numbers versus the number of staff. Adding, that the number of complaints from the community are a direct result of a staffing shortage. However, she has received some of the strongest letters of support from the community for this staff. She acknowledged the low euthanasia rate is because this staff works exceptionally hard using every trick in the book, getting these animals adopted or transported to no kill shelters. Ms. McGaha added that there is a need for additional staff, from a part-time attendant to another control officer. She asked if the board would help inform our county commissioners of the need.

Mr. Villiard added, on Tuesday's, Thursday's and Saturday's there are between 25-30 volunteers. He stated the shelter could not survive without those volunteers. He also clarified Macon County Animal Shelter is an open shelter, while others are a closed shelter; example the Macon County Humane Society. Closed shelters have the option to refuse animals. Open shelter means we have to accept any animal. He also noted, due to the economy they see not only strays, but many surrenders.

Jerry Hermanson petitioned the other board members to get involved and advocate on behalf of the shelter. He requested Ms. McGaha keep the board abreast of the budget process and how the board can help with this issue.

Nominations of Chair/Vice Chair

Kathy McGaha informed the group that Jerry Hermanson has agreed to continue as Chair and Ellen Shope has agreed to continue to be Vice Chair. Mr. Hermanson asked the group if anyone was so inclined to make a nomination.

Dr. Michael Dupuis made a motion to accept Jerry Hermanson as Chair and Ellen Shope as Vice Chair. Dr. Charles Vargas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Environment Health Proposed Fees

Kathy McGaha asked the board to refer to the list of proposed Environmental Health fees for 2024. If the board approves of the fees, they would be added to the agenda for approval at the

next commissioners meeting. The fees in light blue are proposed fee changes. The darker blue is a fee change the state put in place September 2023. All other fees remain the same for now.

Garrett Higdon asked for clarification on the Session Law Permit that states “see IP/CA fees” in the fee column. Ms. McGaha answered; those are not set fees and calculated on a percentage.

Dr. Charles Vargas made a motion to approve the fees. Dr. Michael Dupuis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Environmental Health Fee Schedule - Effective January 1, 2024
INCLUDING CHANGES TO 15A NCAC 18E FROM S.L. 2023-63 (S582), S.L. 2023-77 (11627), AND S.L. 2023-90 (11628)

Division	Fee Name	Fee Description	Current	Proposed
Food, Lodging, & Institutions	Food Service Plan Review	Charged for food service plan review and evaluation	\$200	\$200
Food, Lodging, & Institutions	Limited Food Establishment Permit	Charged for food service plan review and evaluation	\$75	\$75
Food, Lodging, & Institutions	Mobile Food Unit Permit	Charged for food service plan review and evaluation	\$200	\$200
Food, Lodging, & Institutions	Public Swimming Pool Plan Review	Charged for pool/spa plan review and evaluation, per body of water	\$100	\$100
Food, Lodging, & Institutions	Public Swimming Pool Permit, Annual	Charged to permit public swimming pools and spas, per body of water	\$100	\$100
Food, Lodging, & Institutions	Public Swimming Pool Permit, Seasonal	Charged to permit public swimming pools and spas, per body of water	\$100	\$100
Food, Lodging, & Institutions	Tattoo Parlor Permit	This fee is charged to permit a tattoo artist (owner)	\$700	\$700
Food, Lodging, & Institutions	Tattoo Artist Permit	This fee is charged to permit a tattoo artist	\$500	\$500
Food, Lodging, & Institutions	Temporary Food Establishment	These fees are set by NC General Statute and charged for food vendors associated with temporary events/festivals	\$75	\$75
On-site Wastewater	IP/CA - 1 Bedroom Equivalency	Charged for septic permits; includes Improvement Permit, Construction Authorization, and Operations Permit	N/A	\$400
On-site Wastewater	IP/CA - 2 Bedroom Equivalency	Charged for septic permits; includes Improvement Permit, Construction Authorization, and Operations Permit	\$500	\$500
On-site Wastewater	IP/CA - 3 Bedroom Equivalency	Charged for septic permits; includes Improvement Permit, Construction Authorization, and Operations Permit	\$500	\$500
On-site Wastewater	IP/CA - 4 Bedroom Equivalency	Charged for septic permits; includes Improvement Permit, Construction Authorization, and Operations Permit	\$1,000	\$1,000
On-site Wastewater	IP/CA - 5 Bedroom Equivalency	Charged for septic permits; includes Improvement Permit, Construction Authorization, and Operations Permit	\$1,000	\$1,000
On-site Wastewater	IP/CA - 6 Bedroom Equivalency	Charged for septic permits; includes Improvement Permit, Construction Authorization, and Operations Permit	\$1,188	\$1,188
On-site Wastewater	IP/CA - 7+ Bedrooms Equivalency	Charged for septic permits, per additional bedroom over 6	\$1,386	\$1,386
On-site Wastewater	IP/CA - Commercial	Charged for commercial septic permits, per gallon of daily flow rate	\$1.65	\$1.65
On-site Wastewater	Repair - Residential	No fee levied for this service	\$0	\$0
On-site Wastewater	Repair - Commercial	Charged for commercial septic repairs, per gallon of daily flow rate	\$0.42	\$0.42
On-site Wastewater	Addition to System	Charged for septic permits, per added bedroom	\$250	\$250
On-site Wastewater	Tank Relocation	Charged for septic permits	\$125	\$125
On-site Wastewater	System Compliance Check	Charged for septic compliance inspection	N/A	\$150
On-site Wastewater	System Location	Charged for general services	\$125	\$125
On-site Wastewater	System Relocation - EHS Visit	Charged for septic permits	\$125	\$125
On-site Wastewater	System Relocation - Affidavit	Charged for general services	N/A	\$35
On-site Wastewater	Engineered Option / AOWE Permit*	Charged for general services	\$35	\$35
On-site Wastewater	Session Law Permit	Charged for general services, at max of 40% for equivalent system design	see IP/CA fees	see IP/CA fees
On-site Wastewater	Relocation of System	Charged for septic permits, per IP/CA fee schedule; for non-failing septic systems	\$125	\$125
Private Drinking Water	Private Well Construction Authorization	Charged for well permits	\$375	\$375
Private Drinking Water	.1700 Well Construction Authorization	Charged for well permits	\$375	\$375
Private Drinking Water	Well Relocation / Permit Revision	Charged for well permits	\$125	\$125
Private Drinking Water	Well Repair - with water samples	Charged for well permits	\$129	\$129
Private Drinking Water	Well Repair - without water samples	No fee levied for this service	\$0	\$0
Private Drinking Water	Construction Authorization Revision	Charged for well permits	\$125	\$125
Private Drinking Water	Well Abandonment	No fee levied for this service	\$0	\$0
Private Drinking Water	Private Well Variance Request	Charged for well permits	\$254	\$254
Private Drinking Water	Water Sample - Full Panel Inorganic	Charged for water sample collection and analysis	\$78	\$78
Private Drinking Water	Water Sample - Bacteria	Charged for water sample collection and analysis	\$20	\$20
Private Drinking Water	Water Sample - Metals Only	Charged for water sample collection and analysis	\$67	\$67
Private Drinking Water	Water Sample - Select Metals	Charged for water sample collection and analysis	\$53	\$53
Private Drinking Water	Water Sample - Volatile Organic Compounds	Charged for water sample collection and analysis	\$129	\$129
Private Drinking Water	Water Sample - Nitrate/Nitrite	Charged for water sample collection and analysis	\$36	\$36
Private Drinking Water	Water Sample - Pesticide	Charged for water sample collection and analysis	\$79	\$79
Private Drinking Water	Water Sample - Herbicide	Charged for water sample collection and analysis	\$79	\$79
Private Drinking Water	Water Sample - Bacteria, MPN	Charged for water sample collection and analysis	\$30	\$30
Private Drinking Water	Water Sample - Full Panel w/o nitrate/nitrite	Charged for water sample collection and analysis	\$75	\$75
Private Drinking Water	EHS Sample Collection Fee	Charged for water sample collection and analysis; for existing wells or loan requirements	\$50	\$50

* Went in effect September 2023

**Board of Health
Training Item:**

N/A

**Next Meeting
Date:**

The next meeting will be September 26, 2023

Announcements:

Ms. McGaha explained Ruth Stilwell had withdrawn her board membership application, citing other obligations. Ms. McGaha will continue to pursue other leads for potential board members.

Adjournment: Dr. Matt Corbin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Michael Dupuis seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 7:26 p.m.

Minutes Recorded
by: Amanda Cowart

