



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
12/16/2021**

Members: Mitchell Bishop, Engineer and Chair; Vacant, General Public; Vacant, Pharmacist, Nathan Brenner, Dentist, Teresa Murray, General Public; Vacant, Veterinarian; Paul Higdon, County Commissioner; Vacant, General Public; Vacant, Physician, Ellen Shope; Nurse Representative; Vacant, General Public

Members Absent: Paul Higdon

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

Guests: None

Media: Jake Browning with the Franklin Press

Call to Order: Mitchell Bishop called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Welcome/Intro: Kathy McGaha welcomed Angela Senften as a new school nurse.

Agenda Approval: Nathan Brenner made a motion to approve the agenda. Teresa Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentations: Jennifer Garrett spoke in regards to COVID-19 testing in the school system. Several months ago the Macon County School System contracted with a company called MetDx Labs to start testing inside the schools, with supplies coming from Ginko and UPS picking those test up daily. When a child becomes sick during the day the child can be tested at school. The parent does have to be there and give consent. This is a self-administered test if the child is old enough or the parent may administer the test. The Health Department is only working in partnership with the school system.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Nathan Brenner made a motion to accept the minutes. Teresa Murray seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

COVID-19 Update

Jennifer Garrett gave an update on COVID-19 in Macon County. There are currently 57 active cases and 86 deaths. Testing has increased and the department has seen a slight bump in cases over the holidays but nothing like last year. Omicron variant has been confirmed in NC, which has become a concern. This week the Health Department gave 10 - 1st doses, 9 - 2nd doses, and 106 boosters of the COVID-19 vaccine. Since the call center opened it has now had 86,920 calls, with 196 of those being from today.

Review of Operating Procedures and Authorities

Kathy McGaha stated that last month the Board of Health members were provided with a training handout along with current Board of Health policies for members to review. Since there are no in person trainings at this time Mrs. McGaha asked that they take some time and review these documents. Mrs. McGaha stated that one item she would like for them to look at is the number of meetings that are held each year. At the current time the board meets monthly. Several members have resigned in the last six months due to work related issues. She asked the board if they would like to continue meeting monthly or would they like to meet every other month. There are pros and cons with each option. By doing lesser meetings this would be easier for board members to schedule around work and hopefully keep members active. If items come up that need the board's vote during an off month a special meeting could be called.

Ellen Shope made a motion to move meetings to every other month. Teresa Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mitchel asked about approving fees. Mrs. McGaha stated that what Mr. Bishop is speaking about fees that will need to be changed and how this will affect those. The finance committee is still in the process of completing those revisions to the fee guide. Once those revisions are made they will present to the Board of Health. These revisions would simplify the process of obtaining approvals to fee changes without having to bring them to the Board of Health and the County Commissioners under certain circumstances

Nathan Brenner made a motion to approve the policies with the updated change to the number of meetings per year. Teresa Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Nomination for 2022 Chair and Vice Chair

Kathy McGaha advised the board that officers will be nominated and voted on during the January meeting. Now is a good time to start thinking of nominations and/or if a member would be interested in taking an office.

Vaccine Fee for Boosters

Carrie Pazcoguin asked the board to take a look at the fee sheet for the COVID-19 vaccine booster located in their packet. Included in the form is the admin fee for the COVID-19 booster, a consultation fee that is charged when a patient consults or receives counseling from the Health Department physician. Also included is a home visit admin fee for Medicare patients that receive treatment at home. Mrs. Pazcoguin explained that this is only an admin fee, there is still no cost to the patient for the vaccine and that the admin fee

is only billed to the insurance company. The patient will not be billed for any fees for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Nathan Brenner made a motion to approve the COVID-19 booster fee. Teresa Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: None

Closed Session: Nathan Brenner made the Motion to go into closed session. Teresa Murray seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 6:45 p.m.

Closed Session – Minutes are sealed.

Nathan Brenner made the Motion to come out of closed session. Teresa Murray seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 7:23 p.m.

Announcements:
None

Next Meeting Date: January 25, 2022

Adjournment: Teresa Murray made the Motion to adjourn. Nathan Brenner seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 7:24 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by: Melissa Setzer, MCPH Administration Assistant

