



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
7/25/2023**

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

Members Absent: Ellen Shope, Michael Dupuis, Roy Lenzo

Staff Present: Kathy McGaha, Jennifer Garrett, Jimmy Villiard, Melissa Setzer, Jen Germain, Amanda Cowart, Kristina Loughborough

Guests: None

Media: Thomas Sherrill, Franklin Press

Call to Order: Jerry Hermanson called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m. He welcomed Thomas Sherrill from the Franklin Press.

**Welcome/Intro/
Departures/
Recognition/
Announcements:** Kathy McGaha began the meeting by telling our new staff that have been hired: Meredith Taylor-Finance, Jordan Revis-Clerical and Khloe McMillan-Animal Shelter. We are happy to have all of them join the Health Department.

We have also lost 6 staff. Some due to higher pay elsewhere, some daycare issues and one to another department.

We want to congratulate Ashley Woody with Environmental Health as she just passed her REHS test (Registered Environmental Health Specialist).

Public Comment: None

Agenda Approval: Mitchell Bishop made a motion to approve the Agenda. Dr. Charles Vargas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentation:

Child Fatality Report

Jennifer Garrett, Nursing Director gave the Child Fatality Report. She discussed causes and how to prevent it. She is part of a large group of people that review this. They make recommendations and send to the state. A report is sent to the County Commissioners. Parents have to travel to Asheville. All of the 2020 reports have been handed in. She's now working on 2021 and reviewing 2022 cases. They have paid for Darlene Deby to be cars eat certified. We have bought car seats and give them to those that qualify. We partner with safe kids to do projects, some hot house projects. We have also bought some pack and play for parents that qualify. There have been some SID's deaths over the last couple of years. Dr. Carlos Vargas talked about reviewing the outcomes from the cases. Jennifer said they talk about what happened and how to prevent it from happening again. Mitchell Bishop talked about updates that are to be made on Cowee Mountain for road safety. See the 2022 Report below:

Macon County Child Fatality Task Force 2022 Report

Macon County Commissioners and Macon County Board of Health

I. Introduction

In 1993, the North Carolina General Assembly established a network of local Child Fatality Prevention Teams (CFPT's) across the state to confidentially review medical examiner reports, death certificates and other records of deceased residents under age 18. Each local team consists of representatives of public and nonpublic agencies in the community such as law enforcement, Guardian Ad Litem, health departments, among others, that provide services to children and their families.

The purpose of this report is to give a summary of the causes of death, the number of cases reviewed, recommendations for prevention, if any, that have been made and to share local team activities and accomplishments.

II. Role of the MACON County Commissioners and Board of Health

- Receive annual reports which contain recommendations and advocate for system improvements and needed resources, if requested.
- Appoint members of the local team as identified by the membership.

III. Child Deaths by Cause, System Problems Identified, Recommendations for Prevention & Proposed Action

In 2021, the Macon County CFPT reviewed 5 child deaths and identified 5 system problems and recommendations for future prevention efforts. Below are highlights:

Cause of Death	System Problem Identified	Recommendation	Proposed Action
Illness	Child remained ill after seeing MD 2 days prior to death and seen by an outside agency day before death but no intervention of returning to MD	Agency workers need to be trained in assessing if an ill child needs reassessment with MD if not improving after MD visit.	Recommendation to State Child Fatality Task training for Agency workers on how to assess when to return to MD for care.
Illness	Child passed away in ER and was severely ill. DSS and Law Enforcement were not notified nor was an illness history taken	Recommendation that ER policies reflect that when a child dies from severe illness - should at minimum get illness history from the parent/guardians It there is a question why treatment not sought in timely manner - call DSS and Law enforcement to investigate	Recommended to State Child Fatality Task doctors awareness of when to seek DSS and Law involvement
Illness	No local chronic disease support groups for parents in Macon County. Must travel to Asheville to attend most meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of local endocrinology office • Lack of parental support for chronic condition. 	Macon County Public Health will look into online for diabetes, Mountain Wise is working on regional grant for and activities.

Accident-	Dangerous stretch of road - dark , no guardrails	Install guardrails and possibly lights for area	Guardrails have been placed since accident by DOT would of helped this case but may prevent other ac
Accident –	Inconsistency of who tested for drugs and alcohol – all persons involved in an MVA should be tested for drugs and alcohol in groups opinion	Recommend looking at drug testing and alcohol testing all victims and drivers in fatal MVA accidents.	Recommendation to State Child Fatality Task Force persons involved in an MVA with fatality be alcohol tested.

IV. Macon County CFPT Activities and Accomplishments

Examples:

- The annual CFPT Activity Summary was completed and sent by the date requested.
- All 2020 Child Fatalities were turned in and reviewed.
- CPFT monitoring for 2021 was completed and no deficiencies were found.
- Team members were offered a webinar on safe sleep sponsored by the Children and Youth Branch, Division of Public Health.
- Individual reports were completed on child deaths reviewed by the team and were forwarded to the State Coordinator.

V. Conclusion

Thank you to the members of the Macon County Commissioners/Board of Health for the opportunity to share with you the successes and dedicated work of the local team as we continue to review child fatalities, make recommendations, and take actions to prevent future child deaths. Please feel free to contact the Child Fatality Chairperson, Jennifer Garrett, at 828-349-2466, respectively, should you have any questions about this report.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Mitchell Bishop made a motion to accept the previous minutes. Paul Higdon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Molar Roller Purchase Update

Jimmy Villiard, Population Health Section Administrator, gave an update on the new Child Dental Unit project (Molar Roller). On May 1, 2022, the Request for Proposals for a new Dental trailer was released to the public for bid. The bid proposals were due NLT May 31, 2023. They received 4 bids ranging from \$646,900 to \$994,769. The lowest bid did not meet the requirements in the Request for Proposals. Bid proposals were reviewed by health department staff to include Child Dental staff, and on June 28th a recommendation was presented to the Board of Commissioners to accept the bid submitted by LifeLine Mobile. The Macon County Board of Commissioners voted 5-0 to award the contract to LifeLine Mobile for \$700,419. As of this afternoon, July 25, 2023, the contract has been signed by the County Manager. The new Molar Roller should be built and completed within 18-24 months. Jimmy also formally thanked Melissa Setzer for all her hard work on the project. Melissa talked about the budget for the Molar Roller and Medicaid Cost Settlement funds received to help offset the cost to the county for the new unit. She also discussed the possibility of maybe getting \$50,000 for the old Molar Roller according to estimates provided by LifeLine Mobile.

FY24 Budget Melissa Setzer, Finance Director, presented and explained the final FY24 Budget that was approved in June by the Macon County Commissioners. (Handouts of the Expenses and Revenues for FY24 were presented to the board.) Mrs. Setzer explained that the Health Department stayed flat for FY24 with the exceptions of budgeting for the new mobile dental unit and the department losing a couple COVID Agreement Addenda's.

New Business:

FY24 Fee Plan Approval

Melissa Setzer, Finance Director presented the most current Macon County Public Health Fee Schedule to the board. (Handouts were presented to the board) Mrs. Setzer explained that fees have been updated over the last six months using the methodology that is presented in the billing guide and was approved by the Board of Health and the County Commissioners. Normally, the fee plan is only presented annually in the beginning of the new fiscal year. As stated all fees are current and are adjusted based on cost of test, vaccines, supplies fluctuate during the year. The only fees that are not included in this fee plan are the Flu Vaccine fees. The cost of those vaccines will not be available until late August or early September. Once those cost are in, those vaccines will be calculated using the methodology approved as an attachment to the billing guide. The board was informed that a vote would be needed to approve the fee pan.

Mitchell Bishop made a motion to approve the FY24 Fee Plan as presented. Dr. Charles Vargas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

FY24 Billing Guide

Melissa Setzer, Finance Director presented the FY24 Billing Guide. Mrs. Setzer presented the Billing Guide to the board and explained that the only things that has been revised in this guide is verbiage and two attachments added. Due to program monitoring over the last couple of months, the state consultants have advised the department of new verbiage that is required in the Billing Guides. Mrs. Setzer stated that changes highlighted in yellow were recommendations from the state representatives and all verbiage in red are new required verbiage based on new Title X changes. The bases of the new verbiage is to insure that all patients across the board either covered by private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, or patient pay are all treated equally and have the same opportunities. Two attachments added to the Billing Guide include the patient waiver request form and the response letter to the patient.

Mitchell Bishop made a motion to approve the MCPH FY24 Billing Guide. Dr. Charles Vargas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Board of Health Training Item:

N/A

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be September 26, 2023

Announcements:

Kathy requested the members to let her know if there was, anything they would like added to the next meeting.

Adjournment: Paul Higdon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by: Kristina Loughborough

