



Macon County
Public Health

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
9/27/2022

Members: Mitchell Bishop, Engineer and Chair; Vacant, Pharmacist; Nathan Brenner, Dentist; Paul Higdon, County Commissioner; Ellen Shope, Nurse Representative; Michael Dupuis, Physician; Roy Lenzo, Veterinarian; Vacant, Optometrist; Members of General Public
Teresa Murray, Jerry Hermanson,

Members Absent: Paul Higdon, County Commissioner; Jerry Hermanson; Mitchell Bishop

Staff Present: Kathy McGaha, Jennifer Garrett, Jimmy Villiard, Tara Raby, Melissa Setzer, April Biagoni, Julie Rogers

Guests: None

Media: Mia Overton

Call to Order: Teresa Murray called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

Welcome/Intro: Kathy McGaha introduced new employees - April Biagoni, she is another Health Educator, and we are happy to have her, and look forward to all the experience and ideas she has to help us in the Health Education Department. We have a second Medical Office Assistant who was hired in the clinic, Angela Mangas. We are glad to have her in the Clinic. We have hired our 2nd Processing Assistant in Environmental Health, Amanda Cowart. There is now 2 people at the window, and we are so glad to have Amanda part of the Health Department. Jessica Baucum has done a great job with getting these positions filled. Ellen Shope asked if we're close to being fully staffed? Mrs. McGaha said, "we are getting there, and currently have 5 open positions in the Health Department."

NBC Nightly News is coming on 11th of October to film a segment for Rural Maternal Delivery shortage. They started investigating Rural Maternal Health, and they ran across this article where Jennifer Garrett was quoted in about HCA leaving this area for delivering. Then contacted Kathy, and then Jennifer. They have been talking to Susan Dixon from MAHEC as well. They are coming here from New York City, and will be interviewing couple of patients, which we made arrangements with. Melissa Setzer has been working hard with Maintenance to get the building cleaned up.

Public Comment: None

Agenda Approval: We have some additions and changes which have been made to the Agenda. Under Item #3 Old Business and Molar Roller, April will be giving an update about a grant we are submitting to replace the Molar Roller. Jimmy, under Old Business, will be giving an update on Rabies Bait Drop. Please change under Item #4 – New Business under c. Delegation of Authority to Board of Health Trainings. We need to add an e. to new business to review the lease the County has with Community Clinic.

Dr. Dupuis made a motion to approve the agenda including the additions and changes. Dr. Brenner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentations: Julie Rogers, presented School Based Telehealth Program. We received a grant and have been awarded \$150,000 for the School Based Telehealth Program, and after the one year period we had to provide a progress of where we are. As of right now, we have 1 year of funding to begin the program. The program is Telebased Health Care. This would put myself and/or Dr. Dewhurst in the building here. Then through Telehealth equipment, we would be contacting students who are currently with the School Nurse. For example a student comes to the school nurse, the nurse does an assessment, and feels it may be an ear infection or something more serious, and they have received the permissions from the parent. In using various tools, the school nurse is on the other end of visit with the provider. The provider will evaluate the patient and see what is needed. They will have the prescription called if needed and it can all be done before student leaves the school.

In getting the equipment the minimum allowed was 25, but we were able to negotiate down to getting 17, 11 of those will go to the schools, and use the other 6 at Macon County Habilities Homes. Some people at these homes struggle with getting a ride to be seen by their primary, so this would be very helpful in those moments they are not well.

We will be offering it to the school staff as well. During the grant period, we will be filing the employees insurance, and there will be no copay. There is also no copay for the students, even if they don't have insurance. They will be encouraged to follow up with their primary care doctor. Mrs. McGaha shared since COVID, there are more Telehealth opportunities. Ellen Shope asked if there will be one in the school in Highlands. Mrs. Rogers answered, "yes there will be one in Highlands School"

Julie Rogers played video showing how the equipment would be used during the Telehealth visit.

Dr. Dupuis asked, "Will the equipment belong to the County?" Mrs. Rogers stated the equipment will be leased. It's a subscription for us to have the platform to use the equipment, and there will updates and if anything breaks they will replace it. Dr. Dupuis asked, "How many hours would it add to the doctor here?" Mrs. Rogers responded, "This is why I'm here, 75% of my time will be devoted to this program." Dr. Dewhurst is here as well, and if he has an opening he will take care of the patient. We will be available 5 days a week. I think it will be slow at first, because of the enrollment process, but as of next year I hope to be busier. Mrs.

Rogers says her goal is to have 5 billable visits per day, either staff or students. Then we should be able to sustain this program. Mrs. McGaha shared we are working with our state consultants, to see how our current child health program will mesh with this new health program. Dr. Dupuis asked, “can they sign up online?” Mrs. Rogers responded, “yes they can access it online.” Dr. Dupuis asked, “could they see someone in an emergency?” Mrs. Rogers response, “if all the paperwork is completed, and it’s get processed in the program, we then would possibly be able to see them later in the day. Jennifer Garrett stated this does not take away from them taking care of them on the school nurse side. Julie Rogers says we encourage them to see their primary doctor, and to be sure to follow up with them. She has spoke to Dr. Foley, and he said this would be very helpful with taking care of some of the sick visits they are not able to get to. Mrs. Garrett says this would be very similar to Urgent Care Facility. Ellen Shope asked, “Is it open for any age child?” Mrs. Rogers responded, “any age student from preschool – 18, and any staff who work for the school can be seen. Kathy McGaha shared we will not be doing Family Planning. If they have any questions, we will make referrals for those.

Approval of Previous

Meeting Minutes: Dr. Brenner made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Dupuis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Molar Roller

Kathy McGaha discussed the issues with the Molar Roller. Kathy, Melissa, and Mike Cope went to the County Manager to discuss replacing the Molar Roller unit. The Molar Roller is 20 years old and the under carriage need repairs. The machine shop said they could rebuild the under carriage. It will be moved on Monday from Macon Program for Progress to the shop. We are not sure how long this will take to rebuilt it. The staff from the Molar Roller is currently at the health department and will do some education with students, and will be working on various things while they are waiting for the unit to be rebuilt. This will keep the program going, and while we are trying to gather enough information to do the bid, and the grant opportunity, which April will be sharing with us. Then go back to the Commisioner’s and hopefully it would be part of next year’s budget and the Capital Improvement Plan. Dr. Brenner asked, “what is the time frame and the cost?” The timeframe we are not sure of, the cost could be more than expected once they start working on, but should be no more than \$20,000.

April Biagoni shared about a Grant opportunity for the Molar Roller. Mrs. Biagoni found a grant called the American Academy Pediatrics Providers, The goal of the AAPP is to make sure all children have a dental home. The Molar Roller is the dental home for the majority of our children in Macon County. The AAPP grant is for \$20,000 for one year. The grant is due on Monday, but may be extended. The Health Department would like a letter of support from the Board of Health to apply for the Grant.

Dr. Brenner made motion to approve and give a letter of support to the American Academy Pediatrics Provider Grant. Dr. Dupuis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Rabies Bait Drop

Jimmy shared the news concerning the rabies bait drop. They are planning to do another bait drop on October 5th – 21st in Macon County and our surrounding counties. They will be dropping 50,000 plus baits. This will become an annual process. We will be starting a public information campaign to make everyone aware. As part of getting information out, we would like to send letters out to the Town of Highlands, Town of Franklin, and the Coon Hunters Club from the Board informing them of the Bait Drop. We will be getting a Press Release out, making the public aware. Kathy asked if the Board of Health had any additional groups they suggested to send the letter. They did not.

Ellen Shope made motion to approve and send the letter to Town of Highlands, Town of Franklin, and the Coon Hunter's Club. Dr. Dupuis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Environmental Health Resolution/Updates:

Kathy McGaha discussed the Environmental Health Resolution – the Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution to decrease the number of science hours for Environmental Health Specialist. This Resolution is going to the North Carolina of County Commissioners. In addition to the Resolution, you know this office has been struggling. We have people from other sections to assist with the work load. Jacob has been working in Well program along with tattoos. Charles and Jon have been addressing the complaints, repairs and training the new hires. We are down to 4 to 5 weeks. Some of the new guys are getting closer every day to be able to be authorized, hopefully by the end of year. In addition to that, we have been looking at the technology process. We have met with Dereck and IT Depart and are trying to get 3 things completed. The first thing is researching septic permits online, and our EH Specialist can research when they are out in the field. The 2nd thing is collaborating with Blue Prince on approvals. The 3rd thing is giving the EH Specialist the ability to be able to draw their permits while in the field. We are still running into issues with properties not being ready. In our office we now have a printer to verify the property is ready for an inspection. You can print the picture from your phone to the printer. It's an easy process to include with the application. We can also accept pictures by email as well. Ellen Shope asked about clearing the area. Mrs. McGaha, stated it needs to be cleared showing the area for the driveway, home, septic and well placement. We also need the property lines marked. Mrs. Shope asked if there is a fee if the site is not ready? Mrs. McGaha, yes we have a fee, but have not been charging them at this time. We are also putting them to the back of the line. Teresa would like the new form sent to her so she can send it to the Board of Realtors.

Health Director Evaluation Committee:

Kathy McGaha says it's time for us to set up and evaluation committee for her position. We need some volunteers, Dr. Dupuis, Mitchell Bishop, since he's the chair, and we will check Jerry Hermanson. We still have some time, but wanted to start preparing for it. Please communicate with Dr. Dupuis by text on his cell phone for information related to this.

Board of Health Training:

Kathy McGaha each year we need to show we are doing some training. We would like to start sending out an email of a Training to you, and then you could send back an email saying you completed the training. It would then be evidence for the accreditation. We would still have the opportunity to discuss any questions you

may have at the next meeting. Dr. Dupuis would like us to email and mail the training sheets, and then he will send an email back saying he completed the training.

Local Ordinance:

We currently do not have Board of Health Ordinance, but we need to discuss if this is something we would like to do. Do you want us to get started researching something? It has to be specific to the Health Department. Ellen Shope said we do not have any reason to have an ordinance at this time. The Board agreed.

Community Care Lease Agreement:

Jennifer says we are still waiting to hear from Russell Bowling regarding the Community Care Lease Agreement. He currently has still not have had a chance to review. Ellen Shope contacted him to see if he needed help, and Mr. Bowling said he did. There were some updates that needed to be done, especially updating the new space in the Health Department. The next step is to send to Mike Decker, and he is currently not in the offices. We are still waiting to hear form Mr. Decker.

Ellen Shope made motion to support Community Care Clinic leasing space Dr. Dupuis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

Discussed Next Meeting Topics, we will be trying to get Vencino's here for November and how many flu shots were given.

Announcements:

None

Next Meeting Date:

November 15, 2022

Adjournment:

Nathan Brenner made the Motion to adjourn. Dr. Dupuis seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 7:17 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by:

Tara Raby, MCPH Administrative Assistant

