



Macon County
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
11/27/2018**

Members Present: Nathan Brenner, Dentist and Chair; Melissa Bell, Pharmacist and Vice-Chair; Teresa Murray, General Public; Jeff Todd, Veterinarian; James Tate, County Commissioner; Gena Futral, General Public; Mitchell Bishop, Engineer; Dr. Julie Farrow, Physician

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Carmine Rocco, Tammy Keezer, Kathy McGaha, Diane Keener, Jaclyn Mathis, Carrie Pazcoguin, Kelly Pla, Kyle Jennings, Melissa LEatherman

Guests: N/A

Media: Mr. Ryan Hanchett, The Franklin Press; Ms. Kristen Karcher, WNCC Radio

Call To Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:15 P.M. by Dr. Brenner.

Public Comment: Mr. Rocco asked the Board if they would be interested in meeting new employees when they come on board. The Board agreed it would be a good idea.

Approve Agenda: Ms. Bell made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Dr. Todd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Welcome/Intro/Departures/Recognition:

Presentations: Jennifer Garrett made a presentation about Hepatitis A,B,C. They have become an increasingly larger threat in the last few years, due to the Opioid crisis. A & B have vaccinations, C does not, though the CDC has been working on one. NC has had a Hep A death recently. Hep A is spread oral/fecal route, B and C is spread by blood. MCPH is participating in the CCNC/WNCAP Hep C Steering committee. Dewhurst has been trained and is participating in the CHAMP Hep C program. We offer testing in our lab for A, B, and C, Some testing for C is free if done through Communicable Disease for certain populations. Although NC is not currently experiencing an outbreak at the same magnitude of surrounding states, we are seeing an increase in the numbers. A statewide outbreak of Hep A was declared in July of this year. Identified risk groups eligible for Hep A vaccine are – persons who use injection and/or non-injection drugs; homeless; men who have sex with men; persons with

chronic liver diseases; persons who are currently incarcerated in a county owned jail. Macon County will be working on a Prevention focused Hep A campaign that has been encouraged by NCDHHS. Phase one is a Hep A vaccine clinic in December 2018 at Macon County Recreation Park. There will be fliers put up in areas where the target populations for the Hep A campaign congregate. We will also partner with other agencies to advertise for the clinic. Persons who receive the vaccine will be entered in NCIR and given educational materials on how to get the second vaccine, about Hep B vaccine, prevention of Hep C and other useful information. (There are 2 shots in the series, if you only get one shot you are covered 95%. The second shot is 6 months later). Phase two is to do follow up events in January and February. MCPH will partner with New Beginnings to offer a Hep A clinic at one of their Thursday night community dinners, which is open to the general public. A Highlands Hep A vaccine clinic similar to one offered at Macon Rec Park will also be offered. Phase three will have us working with the sheriff and medical director to devise an ongoing plan for vaccination of inmates for Hep A. Also devise a plan for inmates to get education on Hep A, B, and C when they are released from the jail. We will evaluate the program by collecting the number of Hep A vaccine that we give away, the number of patients returning for second dose and requests for additional clinics and educational opportunities.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: Mr. Tate made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Todd seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Kathy McGaha asked the Board if there were any changes they wanted made to the policies. Mr. Bishop asked about people reference in the policy who were no longer here, would that be an issue. Dr. Brenner agreed that everything was fine other than the names. Mr. Tate made motion to approve the policies with updated names, Dr. Todd seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mrs. McGaha then asked the Board to look at the proposed meeting dates for next year, and asked them to decide if they wanted a December meeting for this year and for their approval of next year's meeting schedule. Dr. Brenner said we do need a December meeting. Dr. Todd motioned to approve next year's schedule, Mr. Bishop seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The Board then agreed to meet December 18, 2018. Mrs. Bell made motion to approve, Dr. Todd seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

New Business: Diane Keener presented the Board with proposed fee changes for January. The first two are lab services for family planning for tests that we may or may not use, depending on what the patient needs, but we need to have them available. Third is a lab test that we have needed to add to the program, and it encompasses inflammatory diseases. The next one is a new code as well, a code that Dr. Dewhurst or any of our providers could use if they refer a clinic patient for behavioral health services. The code is a meeting code for after the patient has had their visit with a mental health provider. Blue Cross and Medicare haven't added the fees yet, hope to have them for the next meeting. We currently have a Hep C reflex test on the fee schedule, but this test takes it to next level, automatically reflexes over to a higher standard. Hep C test is \$32, but doesn't give us the flexibility. Processing and handling fee is at \$15 currently, the neighboring counties have gone up to \$25 as well and with the breath alcohol, again, we looked at neighboring counties regarding the costs. There was also a request for animal services for \$1 leashes, which the fee is not established and we've been providing leashes for free. Dr. Todd made a motion to accept the fees as presented, Mrs. Futral seconded, the motion was approved unanimously.

Board Chair and Vice-Chair nominations/elections:

Mr. Rocco asked for chair nominations. Dr. Brenner and Melissa Bell were nominated for chair. Dr. Todd moved to close, Mrs. Futral seconded. Dr. Brenner and Mitchell Bishop were nominated for vice chair. Mrs. Bell moved to close, Dr. Todd seconded.

Board Training and Information: Tammy Keezer asked the Board to look at the budget update, the current target is 33.2%.

Announcements: Mr. Rocco told the Board that we are still looking for dentist, but have a temporary dentist for the month of December. A nurse practitioner has been identified by Physicians Solutions and should be starting soon. Discussion about salaries for the dentist position, we have done research and the county manager and finance department want to look at it before the Board does. Mr. Rocco mentioned that tomorrow he will be meeting with Derek Roland and Dr. Baldwin to discuss mental health in the school system. The only school system that has a mandated education mental health program is in New York state, they are providing mental health education, grades K-12. Mr. Rocco has done some recruitment for board members. The board currently needs an optometrist, nurse, and general public member. We can replace the optometrist with a general public member until an optometrist can be found to serve. Dr. Baldwin might be a good person to as to serve.

Closed Session: Dr. Brenner made a motion to go into closed session citing a Personnel Matter in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11a(7) and for Mr. Rocco, Macon County Interim Health Director, and Diane Keener, Administrative Services Section Administrator, to stay in the room.. Mr. Bishop made the motion, Dr. Todd seconded.

No further business was conducted.

Next Meeting Date: 12/18/2018

Adjourn: Dr. Todd made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tate seconded the motion. The motioned passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Dr. Nathan Brenner, Chair

Date

Carmine Rocco, Interim Health Director

Date