



Macon County  
Public Health

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
July 28, 2015**

**Members Present:** Frank Killian, MD - Chairman, Teresa Murray – Vice Chairman, Dr. Roy Lenzo, Paula Ledford, Commissioner Paul Higdon, and Molly Phillips

Absent: Chris Hanners, Nathan Brenner, DDS, Emily Bowers & Carole Peterson, MD

**Staff Present:** Jim Bruckner, Jimmy Villiard, Kyle Jennings, Diane Keener, Jennifer Garrett, Dorota Anthony & Charlene Bellavance.

**Public Comment:** There were no members of the public in attendance.

**Media:** Ms. Kristen Karcher with WNCC Radio and Mike Parks with the Franklin Press were in attendance.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:12 by Chairman Killian.

**Approve Agenda:** Commissioner Higdon asked if Dental Health could be added under old business. Dr. Killian noted that an addition was needed to the Welcome/Introduction section. He also noted that Vaccine Fee Changes needed to be added under new business. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Higdon. The motion passed unanimously.

**Welcome/Intro/Departures/Recognition:**

Mr. Bruckner introduced Ms. Dorota Anthony as the new Finance Officer.

**Presentations:**

**Annual Child Fatality Prevention Report:** Ms. Jennifer Garrett reported on the local task force reviews for Macon County. The goal of the local task force is to review child deaths for the previous year and make recommendations to help prevent future deaths through policies, letters to legislators, etc. The statistical information indicated that for 2013 there were 4 deaths to review. For the first three quarters of 2014 there have been no recorded deaths.

The committee continues to communicate to involved parties regarding the safe surrender law so everyone is aware of the process and what should be done. Car seat safety is an ongoing topic due to 911 calls from people seeing others with children in vehicles without car restraints. They also handed out “tickets” with the car seat law on them to parents in the school car rider line who were noted transporting children without restraints. EMS receives some funding for car seats. EMS uses these car seats mainly for accident incidents. The Local task force is trying to raise awareness with the community that there is a need for car

seats. The trainings for certified car seat inspectors are some distance mainly in Raleigh and towards the east, and the Sheriff's office and EMS do not have a budget for this training. (Training is free. Any costs would be for travel and lodging). Ms. Garrett and the local Child Fatality Prevention committee have recommended splitting the trainings across the state to make these more available to the community partners.

The Bedroom Project came to Tartan Hall on September 29, 2014. This was a workshop for parents to give them an opportunity to actively participate in a process of how kids become addicted to prescription medications and where they may hide them.

The local task force will be discussing an issue that came up this past school year regarding an increase in children expressing suicidal ideation in the school system. This was most alarming due to the young age of the individuals. There were nine students at the high school. Mr. Villiard asked if any of the four deaths in 2013 were suicides. Ms. Garrett noted that she didn't know the answer and she would have to get back to him. The data is a year behind so she will have to check.

**Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force:** Ms. Jennifer Garrett reported that this was a committee started by the Sheriffs' department and in cooperation with Western North Carolina Health Network. Tony Corbin chairs this committee. There was a 9,000 grant awarded for the pill drop box for proper disposal of medications. Youth Empowerment Solutions provided training for young adults. Fred Branson spoke on how the Project Lazarrus model works. Narcan is being carried by law enforcement officers and some school nurses are carrying it as well in other counties. Narcan kits are given to families and friends of certain types of drug abusers. These kits can be used in the event of an overdose to possibly reverse the overdose. The majority of the overdoses are related to the use of Heroin or prescription medications.

**Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:** A motion was made by Ms. Ledford and seconded by Ms. Murray to approve the minutes of June 23, 2015 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Old Business**

**Meth Lab Clean Up:** Mr. Jennings reported that there haven't been any changes regarding the three sites we are monitoring. The Health Director is delegated the task of reviewing properties that have been used as meth labs to be sure there are no inhabitants in the dwelling until they are cleaned up. Mr. Jennings reviewed the steps of decontamination, including bulk decontamination, the pre-decontamination assessment and the post-decontamination procedures. The property owner is responsible for the decontamination and can contract with a private party. The bulk decontamination is done by the law enforcement agency that processed the violation. Pre-decontamination includes both a visual assessment for outside of the building, development of a waste disposal plan, and determining the protective gear that must be worn during cleanup. The law enforcement agency must notify the local health department of any ground contamination. Liquids must be absorbed, solids must be wrapped, washable fabrics must be cleaned twice, carpets & other non-washable fabrics must be disposed of in such a way that it is not accessible or can be a contaminate any longer. All plumbing, HVAC services, filters, appliances, etc. must be removed. All other surfaces in the area must be cleaned, including the ceiling, walls and then must be aired out for three days. The Health Department is authorized to visit the premises during any part of this process they are also allowed to require further testing if they think the decontamination has not been completed correctly. There are currently three properties condemned for meth lab activity. Dr. Lenzo asked if these properties were restricted or boarded up in any way? Mr. Jennings indicated that there is no requirement for us to enforce this. The only authority the health department has in this instance is to monitor the property. The only authority we have is to monitor to see if there is anyone living there. Teresa Murray asked if the property addresses were public record. Mr. Bruckner indicated that SBI maintains a website with the addresses of these properties.

**Environmental Health Update:** Mr. Bruckner reported that he and Mr. Jennings had gone before the Board of County Commissioners last month with the proposal for the Environmental Health fee changes. This proposal was based on the motion to support the changes to the Environmental Health fee structure contingent on the

Board of Commissioner's approval of funding to support the \$46,000 reduction in revenues caused by these suggested changes. The contingency money which the Board was told would be made available and which was incorporated into the Boards motion to change Environmental Health fees was not approved. Dr. Lenzo asked what the status of the fee changes were at this time. Mr. Bruckner noted that the fees will remain unchanged for now, but the County Manager was tasked by the Board of Commissioners to see if there was any way we might reduce fees without appropriating contingency funds.

**Primary Care Update:** Mr. Villiard referred the board members to a Cost Analysis in their booklets. The projected costs of \$77,522 included salary, operating, and laboratory cost. The projected revenue, based on one physical exam and one sick visit a year for the initial 200 patients, was projected at \$74,383. The revenue projections were a conservative estimate and did not include our family planning patients or Macon Citizen Habilities patients. Mr. Villard asked if there were any questions. Dr. Killian asked if we had a projected start-up date. Mr. Villiard said he thinks we are very close to a start-up date. Dr. Killian asked if we had the adequate space. Mr. Villiard said we are using our current space and there will be a little bit of fine tuning to do but it seems to be workable.

**Budget Update:** - Ms. Anthony referred the members to the handout in their packets indicating that the second and third pages included details on programmatic information. The first page is the monthly year to date totals for expenditures and revenues. Ms. Anthony reported that our expenditures were on budget and the revenues were a little below our expected goal but this was primarily due to the Medicaid Cost Settlement money not having been received. Mr. Bruckner noted that at this point we could finish the year in the black without our Cost Settlement money. He indicated that we had budgeted approximately \$359,000 in cost settlement money in our last year's budget, but we did our best not to spend it. We did as we have in the past and held off on buying several items until we receive our money. Commissioner Higdon noted that the Food & Lodging revenue looks really good. Mr. Bruckner noted that this is primarily due to the end of year check that we get, approximately \$11,000, that we don't budget because it is based on inspection rates and you never know what you are going to get until it's received. Commissioner Higdon also noted that the adult dental revenue looked good as well. Mr. Villiard noted that the child dental unit was out of service being renovated for six weeks and they were still able to make their target revenue.

**Update Cost Settlement:** Mr. Bruckner noted that they had a face to face meeting with DMA and they are very supportive of the Health Director's bid to get the settlement dollars paid out. There was a conference call today and things are looking very good for the mitigation process in resolving the issue through DMA to work with their advisors in how to apply this new formula "Top Level Statistic" to help the health departments. On the call with Mr. Bruckner was Dave Richard, Deputy Secretary for DMA, Trey Sutton, Operations Director for DMA, Jim Flowers with DMA, Danny Staley, Deputy Director with DPH, and Buck Wilson, Colleen Bridger, Dennis Joyner, Doug Urland, Local Health Directors and Lynette Tolson, Executive Director with NCALHD.

- DMA, DPH and the officers agree on all points regarding 2011 and 2012 10% holdback. Those payments will be processed immediately and should take 30-45 days.
- For the 2013 10% hold back and the 2014 full cost settlement, DMA is still working on clarifying the definition for applying the "Top Level Statistic". This item is at the heart of what Medicaid considers to be an allowable cost. They expect to have a clarified definition in the next two weeks. If there is still disagreement on the definition, DMA will send out a "tentative settlement" which would be about half of what we received last year. They will continue to explore the options until a permanent solution is agreed upon and the issue of full payment is resolved.
- In addition, DMA has noted that there are several chargers that Health Departments could be counting toward cost settlement that they are not. DMA would like to explore in depth with five Health Departments (billing experts) to learn more about why this is happening and work with us to fix it. When fixed, this will result in additional Medicaid funds to local Health Departments. Mr. Richard has agreed to meet regularly with NCALHD Officers as well as regularly attend the monthly Association meetings in Raleigh.

**Dental Health** – Commissioner Higdon noted that he has received three phone calls from consumers complaining that they can't get dentures. Mr. Bruckner noted that the issue with dentures is that there is only a certain amount of money that is budgeted for dentures per year. There are other individuals who have different dental needs and if we use all the money for dentures we wouldn't be able to serve these other patients. Dr. Killian noted that he had a conversation with Dr. Brenner regarding the time that dentures can take away from the dentist's time. There is a lot of chair time for dentures as well as the revisits that are required to fit the dentures properly. Mr. Villiard indicated that he has instructed the dental staff that this budget year they only have a certain amount of money set aside for dentures. When they have reached the limit for the number of patients for dentures they need to let him know and then they will have to cut off the procedures for dentures. Mr. Bruckner noted that we are not running a denture service and that there has to be a balance between the denture patients and all of the others who need other dental services. We get complaints, but most are consumers who have had teeth pulled and don't want to wait the entire time for their gums to heal before the denture is molded. Dentures cannot be molded until the gums are completely healed or the dentures won't fit properly and we wind up replacing them. Dr. Lenzo noted that it was his understanding from this conversation that these revisits take away clinic time from other clinic needs. We can only give so many hours of the clinic time to the process of providing dentures to those clinic patients. Commissioner Higdon noted that perhaps this is something we need to be considering further. Mr. Bruckner said at this point we are at capacity for this clinic and the only way to meet the increased need if it is really there is to expand the clinic. Mr. Villiard indicated that they did approximately 40-50 sets of dentures last year. The dentures are done on a first come first serve basis. There is definitely a need in the community for another dental clinic to provide these services. Commissioner Higdon noted he would definitely like to have more conversation with Dr. Brenner regarding this topic.

## **New Business**

**Legislative Update:** Mr. Bruckner noted there are three bills that could have an impact on local public health agencies.

- HB 97 – Budget bill which has passed in the house and Senate is now headed for conference committee will eliminate the Physical Activity and Nutrition Branch at the state which in turn eliminates all health promotion funding to local health departments. These are the only funds Local Health Departments receive specifically targeting public health primary prevention activities in our counties. For the current fiscal year, these funds total approx. \$27,000 per local health department. For future years, the amount for local health departments would be approx. \$17,000.
- HB 44 - Local Government Regulatory Reform 2015 – Will have an impact on Local Public Health Maintenance of Effort Monies. In 2012 the house and senate put a bill through that requires counties to maintain the same funding level as FY 10-11. Macon County has not had a problem maintaining this. HB 44 is proposing the elimination of the requirement of counties to maintain these limits. The counties having the most problem with this are those that have consolidated. At the end of June the Governor signed a continuation to maintain the funding level through the end of August. The potential is that they could zero out these accounts until the budget is signed.
- HB 765 - Regulatory Reform 2015 - There were a number of items in a Private Option Permit (POP) part of a bill that allows a professional engineer to design and install an on-site wastewater system. There is currently a limited liability clause where they have a liability for the system. The senate version of the bill also renders all on-site program improvement permits (IP) and construction authorizations (CA) valid without expiration. This is an invitation for Environmental Health to participate in the post-construction conference. It is being recommended that the Environmental Health section does not become involved in this process. The Health Director's Association has asked to revise the wording of the bill to allow Health Directors to revise the rules of vision process and to give these folks until July to answer these questions. The question is after the point of liability of the installer who becomes responsible for the liability.

**Vaccine Fee Changes:** Ms. Keener referred the members to the handout in their folders showing the proposed vaccine fees. (copy attached) She indicated that the majority of the fees were due to increased charges for the vaccines. There were a few that decreased. One of the additional charges is an administrative charge that had not been charged in the past. A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Ledford to approve the fee changes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Training and Information:** The members were referred to the NALBOH Newsbrief (handout) in their books.

**Announcements:** Mr. Bruckner noted that we are still looking for a Pharmacist to fill the vacant position on the board. He asked that if anyone knows a pharmacist who would be willing to serve to please let him know.

**Next Meeting** – Discuss Denture program if Dr. Brenner is in attendance

**Date:** August 25, 2015

**Adjourn** – A motion to adjourn was made at 7:40 by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Murray. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bellavance

These minutes were approved on August 25, 2015 with a motion by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Dr. Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.