

Moore County Board of Health January 9th, 2023

Members Present

Tony Price, Chair
Benjamin Wacker, OD
Leo Santowasso, PE, PLS;
Robert Lupski, R. Ph., M.S.
Janice Baker, DVM, MS, DACVPM;
Alex White, Dr.P.H, M.S., M.P.H., D.D.S.
Frank Quis, Moore County Commissioner
Pauline Sandness R.N., B.S.N
David Williams B.S., M.A.
Matt Garner, Secretary to the Board

Members Absent

Mark Brenner, MD;
Paul Kuzma, MD., MPH Vice Chair;

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting of the Board of Health was held in the Community Room of the Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center in Carthage, NC. Chair Tony Price called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Health Department staff present were Melissa Fraley, Nursing Director and Miriam King-Gill, Administrative Officer. Stephan Lapping, Associate County Attorney, was present for the meeting. Jaymie Baxley from The Pilot newspaper was also present. Miriam King-Gill called roll for all members.

Invocation: Interim Director Matt Garner gave the invocation.

Secretary to the Board: The following statement was read: *“Does any Board Member have a conflict of interest concerning agenda items the Board will address in this meeting?”* None were noted.

Approval of, and/or Adjustments to, Agenda: There were no adjustments to the agenda. Leo Santowasso made motion Commissioner Frank Quis second all in favor motion carried

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Committee Reports: There were no committee meetings nor any reports. Tony Price suggested disbanding the Communications Committee due to a potential lack of need. Board members discussed and came to the conclusion that the MCBOH Communications Committee would continue to operate. Tony Price made a motion to continue this committee and see how it goes in 6 months. Leo Santowasso Seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Health Director's Report:

Interim Director Matt Garner mentioned that due to the countywide power outage that began on the night of Tuesday December 6th many county residents relied on the shelter at Hillcrest Park for meals, bathing, and electrical power. Matt Garner highlighted the environmental health division worked with 684 restaurants to ensure food safety. There were no cases of food borne illnesses related to this event.

Moore County's case trends for COVID-19 show a potential increase through January, followed by a decline similar to last year's percentages. Moore County enters orange zone for community load spread. The BA and BQ variants are the dominant strain which account for 80% of infections.

The newest bivalent booster vaccinations are available for anyone age 12+ and offer the most up to date protection against all variants of COVID-19. Oral antiviral medicines are also a recommended course of action when an individual has tested positive for COVID-19. Primary care physicians can prescribe medicines to their patients.

Telemedicine outreach is available for all NC residents testing positive for COVID-19. This service is provided through StarMed and will last until funding has been expended. This service provides free consultations, telemedicine appointments and free prescriptions. The COVID-19-Shot-Line at the health department continues to actively fills appointments for individuals interested in receiving booster doses.

Vacant positions and the status of hiring within the department were shared by Matt Garner along with the acknowledgement of new Moore County Health Department employees.

Leo Santowasso requested an update on the permitting timeframes for Environmental Health's onsite program, which Matt shared are approximately 4 weeks and will continue to lessen as more staff are hired.

Approval of Agenda Minutes Tony Price asked for a motion to approve minutes. David Williams made the motion and Dr. Alex White seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Nursing Director's Report:

The nursing division of the health department was awarded the grant applied for in the Family Planning Program. This grant will support contraceptive supply. Nursing Director, Melissa Fraley, shared that the program has advertisements placed in the local movie theater and on billboard. The department is working on collaborative projects that involve local partner agencies and resources.

New Business

Tony Price asked for a motion to continue operations with the current Chair and Vice Chair through June of 2023. New appointments are expected to be made after the timeframe concludes. Dr. Alex White made a motion Leo Santowasso seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

MCBOH Meeting Calendar

Board members discussed the calendar meeting for 2023. Matt shared that statutorily, the Board is required to meet quarterly. The members came to the consensus of holding bimonthly regular meetings. Tony Price asked for a motion to move to a bimonthly meeting schedule, Dr. Alex White made the motion, Leo Santowasso seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Operating Procedures Annual Review

There were no modifications to the Operation Procedures. David Williams made a motion to approve the procedures which was seconded by Leo Santowasso. All were in favor and the motion carried.

FY2024 Budget Resolution

The resolution was ready by Matt Garner to the Board. The Board will adopt this resolution. Leo Santowasso made the motion to adopt the resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Frank Quis. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Policy Review:

The Board of Health's: Orientation and Training Policy, Approval of Minutes Policy, Policy on Policies, Environmental Health Fee Policy, Clinical Fee Policy, were all reviewed by members of the board. Tony Price asked for a motion to collectively approve these policies. David Williams made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ben Wacker. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Chair Tony Price shared the current state of board membership and outlined those who are due to close out their terms, presenting to the board potential considerations for extending appointments.

Strategic Plan

An upcoming Strategic planning for the Moore County Health Department is set to take place. Tony Price suggested the use of a facilitator to enhance the planning. Matt Garner welcomed board members to be a part of the strategic plan meeting for expertise and input. The meeting will be held toward the end of February or beginning of March. David Williams asked if there was a public involvement in the strategic planning efforts. Matt shared that the Community Health Assessment which pools data given by Moore County citizens is used.

Topics in turn: Commissioner Frank Quis updated the board members of the ongoing partnership with stakeholders who are engaged in an initiative to combat the opioid issues in the county. He mentioned that a representative who spearheads the initiative would come to present to the board during the March meeting.

Closed Session: Matt Garner read the closed session rules. Closed session began at 7pm. Tony Price asked for a motion to enter the session. Leo Santowasso made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Alex White. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Adjourn: Chair Tony Price asked for a motion to adjourn Leo Santowasso made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Frank Quis. All members were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.