

Moore County Board of Health March 6th, 2023

Members Present

Tony Price, Chair
Benjamin Wacker, OD
Leo Santowasso, PE, PLS;
Robert Lupski, R. Ph., M.S.
Tom LoSapio;
Alex White, Dr.P.H, M.S., M.P.H., D.D.S.
Julie Baugher, M.D.
Kurt Cook, Moore County Commissioner
Pauline Sandness R.N., B.S.N
Matt Garner, Secretary to the Board

Members Absent

Janice Baker, D.V.M., M.S., D.A.C.V.P.M.
David Williams, B.S., M.A.

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 6:00p.m. Health Department staff present were Melissa Fraley, Nursing Director; Jennifer Wallace, Administrative Officer; 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. Newly appointed members: Commissioner Kurt Cook, Dr. Julie Baugher, and Tom LoSapio briefly shared aspirations of service to the Board.

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: At the recommendation of Matt Garner, the Q2 Performance Measures Report was tabled until the May meeting. Dr. Alex White made a motion to table which was seconded by Leo Santowasso. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comments: The following offered comments: Marge Swierz, Mike Freidel, Steve Woodward, Kevin Lewis, Robert Thrush, Beth Ann Pratt

Presentations/Recognitions

Oath of Office

Miriam King-Gill administered the Oath of Office to new members: Dr. Julie Baugher, Commissioner Kurt Cook, and Tom LoSapio.

Opioid and Substance Use Disorder

Commissioner Frank Quis presented briefly, giving an update of the county's Opioid Initiative settlement, reached between Moore County and large pharmaceutical companies for the drug abuse that has occurred due to prescription opioids.

Roxanne Elliot, Policy Director at FirstHealth of the Carolinas, gave a formal presentation on the use of opioids and other substances within the county. (Attached in the Appendix as Document 1)

Tom LoSapio inquired of the efficacy of syringe exchange programs and if such programs prolong the use of illicit drugs. Roxanne stated that the program's aim and outcome is the reduction of communicable disease by reducing needle sharing among drug users, and that the availability of clean needles is not causative to extend use of illicit drugs.

Leo Santowasso inquired of the Board of Health's role in opioid addiction reduction, and how the health department can aid in the effort. Roxanne stated that the health department has referred patients, helped link patients to care, and that Matt Garner has and previously serves on the board which spearheads the effort.

Dr. Julie Baugher inquired about peer counseling in the local jail and the initiative's progress within the school system. Roxanne stated that the program has worked in Lee and Moore County jails, and preventive programs are on the rise in Moore County Schools.

In response to questions from community members, Sheriff Ronnie Fields expressed the severity of the opioid issue in Moore County and highlighted the importance of the education of families, parents, and children of all ages concerning harmful effects of opioid use.

Child Fatality Task Force Annual Report:

Given by Matt Garner (Attached in the appendix as Document 2)

Tom LoSapio offered additional input, relaying that the deprivation of social activity during the COVID-19 “*Stay at Home Order*” negatively impacted children, which in turn increased the rate of suicide or suicidal thoughts among children.

Committee Reports:

Dr. Ben Wacker shared that the Communications Committee desires to suggest that the Board of Health redirect its efforts to continuously speak on COVID-19 as there are multiple and more present points of conversation to focus on within the county.

Dr. Alex White inquired about the logistics of meeting of Board’s decision to meet bimonthly, to which Dr. Wacker responded that it is efficient and they plan to continue.

Nursing Director’s Report

There was no report given.

Health Director’s Report:

Interim Director Matt Garner shared that the Environmental Health office renovations have been completed and are well appreciated by staff. The onsite permitting times have decreased to between 4-5 weeks and as the Spring and Summer are the heaviest permitting seasons, the department looks to fill the last vacancies in Environmental Health. There are only two vacancies that remain in the Onsite division, while the Food and Lodging division has been fully staffed since December.

COVID-19 Update:

COVID-19 trends continue to decrease as hospital bed usage is well below 10% occupancy by COVID-19 patients in our local hospital. The variants of COVID-19 that are prevalent now, are reported to be highly transmissible but less severe. The Biden Administration has officially ended the State of emergency for COVID-19 as cases and resources decline. Vaccinations, early treatment, resources and consultations will remain available largely at no cost to State and local citizens. The last testing day at MCHD for drive-thru testing will be March 29th, 2023. The departmental COVID-19 call center was dissolved as of February of 2023.

Moore County Dental screenings were completed for all 13 elementary schools within the county. The outcome of assessments saw school children referred to primary dental care providers. Tammie Fox, who serves as the health department’s dental hygienist, provides screenings to grades: K, 3, 5, and completes education in schools deemed high risk. A sealant project will be conducted in the fall for the most at-risk children based upon findings of the screenings.

Matt Garner shared the status of staffing and vacancies in the health department.

Approval of Agenda Minutes:

Dr. Alex White made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Leo Santowasso. All were in favor and the motion carried.

New Business:

Election of Board of Health Vice-Chair

Leo Santowasso made a motion to appoint Dr. Alex White as the Vice Chair which was seconded by Dr. Ben Wacker. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Approval of FY24 Clinical Fee Schedule

The Fee Schedule was presented by Matt Garner and reviewed by the board. Leo Santowasso made a motion to approve the schedule which was seconded by Dr. Alex White. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Approval of FY24 Environmental Health Fee Schedule

The Fee Schedule was presented by Matt Garner and reviewed by the board. Leo Santowasso made a motion to approve the schedule which was seconded by Dr. Julie Baugher. All were in favor and the motion carried.

FY23 2ND Quarter Financial Report

The report was reviewed by the board and no action was required.

Topics in turn:

Tony Price opened the floor to board members for topics in turn. None were had.

Closed Session:

There was no closed session.

Adjourn:

Leo Santowasso made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Alex White. All members were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Appendix

Click on the image or document link to open.

Document 1

Opioid and Substance Use Disorder
(OUD/SUD)

Resources and Programs
In the Sandhills

Roxanne Elliott, MS
Policy Director
FirstHealth of the Carolinas
Community Health Services

www.firsthealth.org

FirstHealth
OF THE CAROLINAS

Document 2

