

Moore County Board of Health January 8th, 2024

Members Present

Alex White, Dr.P.H, M.S., M.P.H., D.D.S.;
Benjamin Wacker, OD
Tom LoSapio
Kurt Cook, Moore County Commissioner
Pauline Sandness R.N., B.S.N
David Williams, B.S., M.A.
Tyler Brady, DVM
Phillip Picerno, P.E
Matt Garner, Secretary to the Board

Members Absent

Julie Baugher, M.D.
Robert Lupski, R.Ph., M.S.
Nick Ellis, Ph.D., M.B.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 to the Board, Dr. Alex White, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Health Department staff present were: Melissa Fraley, Nursing Director; Jennifer Wallace, Administrative Officer; Jeanie Garcia, Administrative Assistant; Marisa Ramos, Health Educator; Melissa Chestang, Social Work Supervisor; and Miriam King-Gill, Administrative Officer. Stephan Lapping, Associate County Attorney was present for the meeting. Interim Health Director Matt Garner called roll for all members.

Invocation

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

Dr. Alex White requested a motion to approve the consent agenda with no adjustment. Tom LoSapio moved, seconded by Dr. Tyler Brady. All members were in favor and the motion was carried.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Special Presentations/Recognitions

None

Board of Health Education/Staff Reports

Communications Committee Report

Matt Garner shared that a contract amendment for the Family Planning program's billboards has been approved. Changes to the billboards include new vinyl overlays with updated imagery and wording for clearer messaging. In the next several weeks, final revisions for billboard modifications will be completed.

Moore County Health Department Second Quarter Activity Report

The Moore County Health Department's Second Quarter Activity Report was presented to the board. Dr. Alex White mentioned that it would be helpful to interpret the data with a document showing a comparison of the prior year's data. Matt Garner shared that collated data can be accessed on the Administration page of the county website.

Moore County Health Department Second Quarter Fiscal Report

The Moore County Health Department's Second Quarter Fiscal Report was presented to the board. All questions posed by board members about interpreting line items, metrics, and understanding monetary figures were answered by Jennifer Wallace.

The board discussed the 'resource salary' line item for Environmental Health. Jennifer Wallace explained that resource staff are not budgeted for but are used on an as needed basis by departments. These staff members are paid for by the county. In the case of Environmental Health, resource staff were used to meet the demand of permit issuance during COVID-19 when the department was understaffed. It was the Moore County Board of Health who approved and supported the health director's request for additional resource staff during that time.

Moore County Health Department Second Quarter Performance Measures Report

The Moore County Health Department's Second Quarter Performance Measures Report was presented to the board. There were no questions nor any discussion about this report.

Health Director's Report

Public Health Dental Hygienist, Tammie Fox, began her annual screening project of Moore County students in November and will finish in January. These screenings assess the oral health of students in kindergarten, third, and fifth grades. The parents/guardians of students with urgent dental care needs receive referral letters linking the student to local area pediatric dentists. Tammie will facilitate two dental sealant projects later this year. After all data has been collected and mapped, she will be available to present her findings for the 2023-2024 school year's screening project to the board. Tom LoSapio asked, "Who covers children with immediate dental referral needs?" David Williams shared that several clinics in Moore County offer pediatric dentistry for children of families that are uninsured or underinsured.

At the request of the board, a presentation about the formation of a clinical fee schedule will be given during the March meeting. Steven Garner who is the Public Health/Medicaid Consultant for the North Carolina Alliance of Public Health Agencies (NCAPHA) is the regional consultant for the health department and will be delivering the presentation.

The bidding window for the new Electronic Health Record (EHR) system closed on December 14th, 2023. Three bids were made, all of which will have forthcoming in-person and virtual demonstration proposals. Key health department staff will join to assess the best fit for the health department. The go-live date for the new EHR software is set for May 30th, 2024.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) diagnoses are elevated in North Carolina, regionally, and in Moore County. Currently, Moore Regional Hospital has twenty-six patients hospitalized for respiratory illness—ten individuals are hospitalized for COVID-19, four being Moore County residents; eight individuals are hospitalized with Flu,

four being Moore County residents; and seven individuals are hospitalized with RSV, three being Moore County residents. Although elevated, numbers for respiratory illness show trends of stabilizing.

The health department is hiring for its Nutritionist III and Foreign Language Interpreter II positions. A candidate has been selected to fill the last vacancy for Social Worker II. The department welcomed Madison Maness, RN, as its newest CD/TB Nurse on January 8th, 2024.

Severe weather has been predicted for Jan 9-10th in North Carolina. Heavy rain, strong winds along with the potential for flooding and tornados will begin Tuesday afternoon. If power outages or damages severe enough to open a shelter occur, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will notify the county.

David Williams inquired if immunity education was offered by the health department. The response given by Matt Garner, clarified that the health department through its health education program, promotes healthy lifestyle decisions in exercise, sleep and nutrition as outlined by NCDHHS and CDC. The response given by Dr. Ben Wacker, stated that due to the superabundance of marketed 'immunity' products there is no standard instruction nor unanimously accepted regimen that would allow for the recommendation or endorsement of specific products by the health department.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Dr. Alex White requested a motion to approve the minutes from the December 4th, 2023 meeting. David Williams moved, seconded by Tom LoSapio. All members were in favor and the motion was carried.

Old Business

None

New Business

Election of Board of Health Chair and Vice-Chair

Dr. Alex White was nominated as Chair to the board and Dr. Ben Wacker was nominated as Vice Chair to the board. Dr. Tyler Brady moved, seconded by David Williams. All members were in favor and the motion was carried. Both Dr. White and Dr. Wacker serve as Chair and Vice Chair through the end of the calendar year.

FY 24/25 Budget Resolution

Dr. Alex White requested a motion to approve the budget resolution. Dr. Ben Wacker moved, seconded by Dr. Tyler Brady. All members were in favor and the motion was carried.

Bad Debt Write-Off

Dr. Alex White requested a motion to approve the write-off in the amount of \$543.03. David Williams moved, seconded by Dr. Tyler Brady second. All members were in favor and the motion was carried.

Policy Review

Board members received and reviewed each of the following policies: Policy on Policies; Board of Health Orientation and Training Policy; Board of Health Approval of Minutes Policy; Environmental Health Fee Policy; Clinical Fee Policy.

Dr. Alex White requested a motion to concurrently approve the five policies. Dr. Tyler Brady moved, seconded by Dr. Ben Wacker. All members were in favor and the approval of the policies would be made concurrently.

Dr. Alex White requested a motion to approve the policies. Dr. Ben Wacker moved, seconded by David Williams. All members were in favor and the motion was carried.

Closed Session

The board voted to enter Closed Session. No action was taken during closed session, and the Health Director Search Committee will provide process updates as time moves forward.

Adjourn

Commissioner Cook requested that the Pledge of Allegiance be recited at the opening of all Moore County Board of Health meetings, beginning in March 2024. Dr. Tyler Brady seconded. All members were in favor and the motion was carried.

Dr. Alex White requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Tyler Brady moved, seconded by Dr. Ben Wacker. All members were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.