

**WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES**

April 13, 2015

The Wilkes County Board of Health held a regular business meeting Monday, April 13, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Wilkes County Health Department Conference Room. Board of Health members attending were:

Mr. Don Manus, Chair
Dr. Joe Fesperman
Ms. Teana Compeau
Mr. David Gambill, Jr.
Mr. Carl Page
Dr. Robert Ricketts
Ms. Brenda Sales
Ms. Sandra Sheppard
Dr. Robert Taylor

Ms. Ann Absher, Ms. April Edwards, Mr. Chris Huffman, and Ms. Rachel Miller were also in attendance. (Prior to the April meeting, packets containing the materials to be discussed were mailed to each Wilkes County Board of Health member for review.)

Adoption of Agenda:

Mr. Don Manus, Chair, called the meeting to order. The first item was the adoption of the agenda. Dr. Joe Fesperman made the motion to adopt the agenda and Ms. Teana Compeau seconded and unanimously approved.

Introduction of New Management Staff:

Ms. Absher introduced Ms. Rachel Miller, MSPH as the new health promotion coordinator. She has accepted the position vacated by Allison Marron.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Ms. Brenda Sales to approve the minutes; seconded by Dr. Robert Taylor and unanimously approved by all Wilkes County Board of Health members.

Administrative Report:

Addition to Quality Improvement Annual Report

Ms. Absher present the addition to the report of the QI 101 team on internal and external customer service. This team met last summer and fall with a Kaizen event from NC State. The goals of the team included improving staff meeting attendance, employee recognition by giving

service pins for 1 year, 5 year and every 5 years after and catering the public health picnic. These processes have already been implemented. The initial service pins were distributed at the annual Thanksgiving meal. The public health picnic was held on April 2 the day after our reaccreditation site visit and catered by Brushy Mountain Smokehouse. Even though the weather was overcast and cool, everyone reported enjoying the picnic. The addition to the report was distributed to the board of health members.

Correction to the Child Fatality Prevention Team Annual Report: Ms. Absher presented the Child Fatality corrected report with the correction of three meetings instead of two meetings and the addition of Kevin Brown, DSS supervisor and Cindy Coffey, DSS. Several staff members changed from DSS throughout the year, thus the additions.

Reaccreditation Report

Ms. Absher reported to the Board of Health that she received the report today from the Reaccreditation Site Visit on March 31 and April 1, 2015. Wilkes County Health Department met 146 of 147 activities. The health department is recommended for reaccreditation. The activity not met was 30.6 documentation of calibration of blood pressure cuffs. Our policy states that when the cuff doesn't set to "0" the cuff is replaced but we did not document on the logs those checks every day. Ms. Absher thanked the staff and management team for their hard work, the Board of Health for their assistance. She thanked Mr. Manus, Ms. Sales and Ms. Sheppard for the interview by the Site Visit Team and the Community Partners for their interviews as well. Mr. Manus was very complimentary of this Board of Health and the work we do. Ms. Absher was very pleased with the results. The results will be adjudicated by the Accreditation Board on May 15th in Raleigh at their next meeting.

Update on Legislative bills that impact public health:

Ms. Absher discussed the handout in the packet with the update so far from Chris Hoke who is the attorney for Public Health on the state level. The legislature is still in session. Many of the bills have been filed and are waiting for action.

Tobacco: SB 662: Appropriate Funds for Tobacco Use Prevention and HB 450. Actively support. Support bill to be introduced to increase tobacco tax to \$1.54 and taxes on all other tobacco products to the same level. Other bills to monitor are SB 286, SB 407; SB 461; and HB 580.

Healthy Food Access: HB 250, Healthy Food Small Retainer/Corner Store Act. Actively support. Appropriates \$1 million to create the Healthy Corner Store Initiative. Monitor HB 455; SB 27, Reagan's Rule/ Childhood Diabetes Screening and monitor bills expected to be introduced by Rep. Holley by April 15th to create administrative office for all things food and create a health food financing initiative (grocery stores).

Medicaid Reform: Dr. Fesperman asked if there was anything on Medicaid reform yet. Ms. Absher reported that the House is pushing for reform using the ACO (accountable care

organizations) and our current care management system through CCNC as recommended by the governor but the senate is still pushing for managed care Medicaid. Not sure yet what the final reform package will be for reform of Medicaid.

Immunization Bill that would eliminate the religious exemption has been pulled.

Temporary Food stands: Bill that would allow seating without requiring inspection of up to 8 people is not supported because restaurants who have outdoor seating have to be inspected. The question of “fairness”.

Committee Reports

No committee reports

Unfinished Business

Adding E-cigarettes to Board of Health Rules for government property and vehicles: Mr. Gambill reports that the County Commissioners are not ready to commit to this addition to the tobacco rules which now states “no smoking” rather than “no tobacco products”. The votes are not there to approve. Ms. Absher recommends that we table until better support. Dr. Taylor states we should table until commissioners ready to support, Dr. Fesperman states that the FDA is making decisions yet about e-cigarettes so it may be better to wait for their recommendation. Mr. Manus agrees we should table until firm data released and so does Mr. Gambill. The consensus of the board of health was to table for now. Dr. Fesperman requested that Ms. Absher discuss with Dr. Miller since he was unable to be at the meeting tonight.

New Business:

Annual Budget proposal including setting fees:

Ms. Absher and Mr. Huffman presented the budget proposal for FY 2015-2016. The budget information was included in the packets to the Board of Health members. Mr. Manus asked the Board of Health members to turn in salary information at the end of the meeting for shredding.

General budget: Ms. Absher stated that the county appropriations are essentially the same percentage at about 29% at approximately \$1.9 million up from \$1.8 million from last year due to the 1% raise increase and capital requests increase from \$38K to \$102K. This amount would be higher if the dental clinic was not included. We are fortunate to have our successful dental clinic as many health department dental clinics are closing. The Dental clinic was fortunate to get Golden Leaf money to help purchase the new mobile dental unit last year. Included in the county budget (general) budget is a 1% cost of living raise for employees, increases probationary employees and a certification increase for four employees. Attached is a request to move the preparedness coordinator back from a contract position to a salaried position. The contract employee resigned in September and we are filling in the gaps with another employee who has health education degree. This position has been approved by the state office of human resources so it would not be a new position but the position has been vacant on the county budget for several years. Mr. Gambill states it should not be a problem to get the position approved. In the

budget are capital requests for replacement of two county vehicles for Environmental Health since those vehicles are 20 years old (\$64,000), repaving of the parking lot (\$38,000) and replacement of a CBC machine (\$13,500) in the lab from the programs budget. In patient fees general is included immunizations not covered in clinic programs including rabies vaccine to the uninsured. This year the state would not approve rabies vaccine without going through the CDC approval process. We had a few rabid animal incidents where pets were not vaccinated and multiple family exposures. Dr. Fesperman asked if we get any contributions from third party payers. Ms. Absher explained that most of those go to the hospital for the vaccine and we do the uninsured and some Medicaid. Dr. Fesperman asked if we do awareness programs and the program was explained. Mr. Gambill states that the animal shelter does not give the vaccine but gives a voucher to get the vaccines for pets that are adopted. Mr. Gambill and Mr. Manus felt that the vaccine should be given before the animal goes with the adopted family. Mr. Gambill will discuss with Junior Simmons, Department Head of the animal shelter about this and establishing a Rabies Committee to include health department staff.

Program Budget: Our program budget consists of the many grants we receive which has increased with several “big” grants from \$813K to \$1.13 million, patient fees increased by \$25K due to increases in fees last year and a little private insurance, Medicare/Medicaid; Medicaid Maximization; state DPH grant funds which are decreasing every year. We have not received the amount of our Medicaid Max payment for next year yet so this is not included. We have just received a Duke Endowment grant, Health Foundation grants for Diabetes Center and MESH, United Way grant for MESH, School Based Health Center grant for MESH and are waiting to hear about an Office of Rural Health grant for Access to Care in the clinic. Environmental Health has received several grants to implement the Food Code program through the CDC. We also have several CDC/NACCHO grants for health promotion activities. The health department continues to provide sick visits and influenza vaccine to county employees. We could grow the county wellness program if we had more space. Mr. Gambill asked how many employees are treated and how much this saves the county. Ms. Absher reported that this information is provided to the County Wellness Committee but likely the numbers are low because our fees are lower than most providers. Ms. Absher explained that now we assure maternal health services so the referrals for pediatrics and family planning tend to go to private physicians rather than back to public health. We always get back the uninsured. Dr. Fesperman felt it might be a good time to advertise for these services. Dr. Fesperman asked about our payer mix. We serve about 30-35% Medicaid; 10% Medicare and private and the rest are uninsured which is about 60%. The uninsured pay based on a sliding fee scale except for adult health which slides to \$20. Dr. Fesperman stated the “big” item changes were big decreases in contractual fees. Ms. Absher explained that this was due to the one time advanced imaging contract to get all the medical records on the new EMR and contracts with the Locums Company to provide doctors and nurse practitioners when we had a provider shortage which is now resolved. The other item is the contract interpreter line item. Ms. Absher states this line item is decreasing as we hire the interpreters and train them for other positions such as clinical assistants, switchboard operators,

and management support staff. This way the interpreters perform dual roles and it saves money. Mr. Huffman states he can answer any other questions. Dr. Ricketts asked how our budget compares across the state. Ms. Absher states it varies widely but in a report completed by UNC School of Government in 2011 we were a little below the average county appropriations based on population for a health department our size. She states the report has not been repeated since then but she would send it to the Board of Health again. Programs vary across the state so health departments vary based on this especially primary care versus core public health services. Hearing no other questions, Mr. Manus asked for a motion to approve the budget. Mr. Carl Page made the motion to approve the WCHD budget proposal for FY 2016 and Ms. Brenda Sale seconded the motion and the members approved unanimously.

Setting Fees: Ms. Absher presented the recommendation regarding fees for medical and environmental health. The information was shared with the Board of Health Members in the packets and email. The clinic fees were compared with another health department like us and in some areas we were a little higher and in some areas they were but the total average was close. We tried to compare fees with other private doctors and the Wilkes Physician Network but they would not share their fees for comparisons so we do not have those comparisons this year. Dr. Fesperman stated this may be due to new stark laws. There is no recommendation for fee changes this year in the clinic. Ms. Absher presented the fees for environmental health services. The fees were adjusted last year and Ms. Rhodes compared us with other county health departments our size. Most of them are charging fees that are higher than us but we are not recommending additional fee increases this year since we increased last year. The fee recommendation is that that fees remain the same for Medical services and Environmental Health services. Mr. Manus asked for a motion to approve the fee schedules. Mr. David Gambill made a motion to approve the fees schedules for Medical and Environmental Health and Dr. Fesperman seconded and the members approved unanimously.

MESH Approval for United Way Grant for 2016:

Ms. Absher presented the United Way grant proposal. The grant covers adolescent mental health services for high school students in the four high schools. Mr. Ryan Ward with DonLin Counseling has provided this service through an ongoing contract for several years. He has good outcomes and the students trust him. If the students need increased services, they are referred to the office where they can get specialized counseling services. Mr. Ward is then able to bill private insurance and Medicaid. We are asking for \$8,000 from United Way. This is the amount recommended by Rick Stegall. Ms. Teana Compeau made a motion to approve the proposed United Way Grant for \$8,000 and Ms. Sandra Sheppard seconded and members approved unanimously.

Venture Grant for Childhood Obesity and the Diabetes Center to offer Brenner Fit from Wake Forest Baptist:

Ms. Absher presented a grant proposal to ask the United Way for Grant support to help bring Brenner Fit to the Diabetes Center. This program is an obesity program for children but this program educates the entire family to make life style changes for nutrition and activity. The

head of the program, Dr. Skelton states that Wilkes County referrals do not continue or see the program through due to transportation and distance issues. The partnership would bring a “tele health” program at our Diabetes Center. Dr. Fesperman asked about referrals. Referrals come from physicians, schools and parents and we would follow up with the needed orders. Dr. Fesperman recommended a brochure or other method to advertise and follow up from contact to families back to the physician. Ms. Brenda Sales made the motion to approve the Venture Grant proposal and Dr. Joe Fesperman seconded and the members approved unanimously.

Public Concerns:

There were no public concerns.

Mr. Don Manus asked that the Rabies Committee be added to Unfinished Business for the next meeting. Mr. Manus announced that the next Board of Health meeting will be June 8, 2015 at 5:30 pm. A motion was made by Mr. David Gambill to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Teana Compeau and Dr. Joe Fesperman and unanimously approved by all Wilkes County Board of Health members.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Ann Absher, MPH Health Director

Mr. Don Manus, Chairman, Board of Health