

**WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES**

August 10, 2015

The Wilkes County Board of Health held a regular business meeting Monday, August 10, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Wilkes County Health Department Conference Room. Board of Health members attending were:

Dr. Joe Fesperman
Ms. Eyda Bennett
Ms. Teana Compeau
Dr. Robbins Miller
Mr. Carl Page
Dr. Robert Ricketts
Ms. Brenda Sales
Dr. Robert Taylor

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

Adoption of Agenda:

Dr. Joe Fesperman, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order and then requested the adoption of the agenda. Mrs. Ann Absher did make a request to move under “New Business: the “Bad Debt Write-Off “item up due to it requiring a vote and some members were needing to leave early. Ms. Eyda Bennett made the motion to approve the Agenda; unanimously approved by all Wilkes County Board of Health Members.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Mr. Page to approve the June 10, 2015 minutes; seconded by Teana Compeau and unanimously approved by all Wilkes County Board of Health members.

Moment of Thanks:

Dr. Joe Fesperman took a moment to thank “Eyda Bennett” & “Brenda Sales” for serving so long and so dutifully on the Board of Health as they are rotating off.

Bad Debt Write-Off: Ann Absher presented to the board the 6 month “Bad Debt Write-Off, from January to June 30th, “which amounted to \$4, 477.00. This helps us and also helps our patients to set up reasonable payments before the amounts get larger. Mr. Carl Page asked how this compared to last year at this time which Mrs. Absher stated was approximately \$11,000;

whereas, we are at approximately \$9,000 presently. Dr. Joe Fesperman requested a motion; Dr. Robbins Miller made the motion and Eyda Bennett, 2nd, approved by all members.

Administrative Report:

Armando Limon/Health Care Connection Program-Data sheet provided to all members to review as Armando explained. The primary concern is the FPL 125% used by the WCHD & the FPL 200% used by the hospital and how this affects patients and their care. (Wilkes Physicians Network guidelines) 600 patients qualified for the program, but only approximately 100 are able to be seen at the hospital. Most of our patients fall at the 125% FPL. Some patients are having to go out of town for health care or are unable to receive care at all. The challenge of finding care for many patients is getting more difficult; if we could get Physicians Network would be that specialists(GI, Ortho, General Surgery) to treat at least 20 patients each per year, per diagnosis, that would a more ideal situation. Resources for uninsured are very limited.

Legislative Update – Ann Absher-Still in session, there has not been a budget approval; continuing with last year’s budget until a new budget is agreed upon. Medicaid reform is a part of the issue; the House has their version and the Senate has their version and they are trying to come to a compromise on the version they want to approve; it appears that we are going to see Medicaid reform with some of both versions. In order to reach a compromise, the last most recent version would allow some managed care component, some provider led entity, which is comparable to an “ACO” which would be run by providers, as opposed to an outside managed care organization; there could possibly be at least three statewide entities to provide managed care for Medicaid, and possibly allowing some regional P.L.E.’s. The Senate would like to pull D.M.A. out from under the Dept. of Health & Human Services and create its own division to run Medicaid. The House follows the Governor’s proposal which leans more towards A.C.O.’s and other organizations which are more provider- led. There are other bills being worked on which would affect environmental health; Private Permits which DPH is working with them on some of the verbiage because there was “enforcement mechanism” in the event a malfunction were to occur, there is no compliance review mechanism, and also, they have added to the law that the “private person” would not be liable after a year of issuing the permit.

Community Health Needs Assessment- Ann Absher-We work with the “Health Foundation” and the hospital on this (Assessment was given to each Board Member to participate). We will be having three forums with our stakeholders, which includes the B.O.H. members and we would like you to come and participate in the “Community Health Assessments”; this will assist us in knowing what direction we need to go in the future with our health needs in comparison to where we have been in the past (times and events have been varied for convenience). Please contact Rachel Willard, Health Promotion Leader, for any questions/concerns.

Ann Absher – We are working on our “Office of Rural Health Grant” and our “Extended Hours Clinic”; our goal is to start Monday, August 31, 2015. We still currently have a Nurse Practitioner vacancy and we are utilizing all resources available to fill this position. We were approved for the MESH, United Way Grant, which provides the Mental Health Counseling, by “Ryan Ward”; we do not know the amount as of yet.

Committee Reports

No committee reports

Old Business: Establishing a Rabies Committee-This was suggested by Commissioner David Gambill (not present) in response to the number of rabies incidents seen so far in 2015. Dr. Robbins Miller, Veterinarian, stated that the best solution remains to be the “proactive education” concerning the vaccination & birth control options for animals. Dr. Miller stated that the main concern with rabies knowing when exposure or post exposure has taken place and also timing for treatment. Also, the state no longer pays for the treatment which is very expensive; this is now routed thru the CDC in Atlanta.

New Business:

- Ending Fiscal Year Report FY 2014-2015 – Chris Huffman (Detailed Handout Provided) stated that due to the County not having closed out their year, this was a “preliminary” report. Chris Huffman reviewed the information with the BOH and answered any questions; Ann Absher also spoke to the handout provided.
- Annual Board of Health training speaker & topic – The present BOH have been members over a year and have experienced the “Duties of the Board” presentation, so the opportunity to have a speaker was presented by Mrs. Absher. The BOH agreed they would like that option, so Mrs. Absher stated she would get a speaker for the October, 2015 meeting.
- Establish Nominating Committee – Ann Absher – A list of all board members was provided in your packet and this is the time we normally select a committee to assist with filling those spots where members will be rotating off. Dr. Robert Taylor, Eyda Bennett, & Brenda Sales agreed to be the nominating committee. Dr. Taylor stated he would work on finding an “optometrist” for nomination. Mrs. Absher stated that a completed application is required and the term for new members would begin January 1, 2016.

Public Concerns:

There were no public concerns.

Next Meeting Date: October 12, 2015 at 5:30 pm. This is our annual Board of Health Training

Motion to adjourn made by Joe Fesperman: Brenda Sales 1st, Eyda Bennett, 2nd.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Ann Absher, MPH Health Director

Mr. Don Manus, Chairman, Board of Health