

**WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES**

October 12, 2015

The Wilkes County Board of Health held a regular business meeting Monday, October 12, 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, Co-Chair
Ms. Teana Compeau
Dr. Robbins Miller
Mr. Carl Page
Dr. Robert Ricketts
Ms. Brenda Sales

Ms. Ann Absher & Ms. April Edwards were also in attendance. (Prior to the October meeting, packets containing the materials to be discussed were mailed to each Wilkes County Board of Health member for review). Also visiting was John Yates, Wilkes County Manager, Keith Elmore, Wilkes County Commissioner, & Greg Minton, Wilkes County Commissioner, and Mary Ruth Randall, public visiting.

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Don Manus, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone including visitors, but had to delay the adoption of the agenda because we did not have a quorum. Don Manus requested before starting that everyone introduce themselves and their position in regards to the Board of Health and the meeting. Danny Staley, Acting Division Director for the Division of Public Health is in attendance to do our yearly educational training. A motion was made by Brenda Sales to approve the October 12, 2015 agenda and also the movement of Agenda item 5 after the Administrative Report while awaiting a quorum; seconded by Teana Compeau and unanimously approved by all Wilkes County Board of Health members.

*Due to no quorum presently, Agenda #4 and # 5 Administrative Report and Committee Report were moved up.

Administrative Report

Medicaid Reform: Ann Absher provided an update on “Medicaid Reform”. It appears there will be 6 Medicaid regions and have up to 13 Provider led entities or “Managed Care Organizations”

accepting capitated contracts to provide health care contracts for the 1.5 million Medicaid patients in NC. “House Bill 372” began this process; a lot of compromise has taken place between the House and the Senate to pass this Bill. The timeframe for the capitated contracts to be in place will probably be between 3-5 years, so there will not be any changes immediately for those who bill Medicaid. “Community Care of NC” (CCNC) is the Medicaid Care Management Program and some of our health departments Care Managed Programs are through CCNC.

“Northwest Community Care” (NWCCN) is our care Medicaid Care Management network with CCNC. At the end of this 3-5 year timeframe, when the provider led entities (PLE) and managed care organizations (MCO) become operational and are accepting the capitated contracts, Medicaid providers will have to become contracted, including health departments with one of the MCO’s or PLE’s to be able to see Medicaid patients. Danny Staley spoke to the several different directions that this could take and reiterated that this will not happen quickly.

Cost Settlement: Ann Absher also spoke about Medicaid in relation to “Cost Settlement” and the 10% “holdback” and the effect it is having on the WCHD. The calculation changes by Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) are making it impossible to reconcile the reports submitted which is significantly reducing the amount of monies we will be receiving and/or saying we may have to pay money back; WCHD has appealed the decision for FY 2011 and 2012.

Committee Reports

Ann Absher announced that the “nominating committee” for the three appointments to fill the expiring terms for Ms. Brenda Sales (Public Member), Ms. Eyda Bennett (Public Member), & Dr. Robert Taylor (Optometrist). Dr. Gary Nash, Optometrist, has agreed to serve, Deborah Britton, has agreed and applied as a Public Member, & Mary Ruth Randall, friend of Brenda Sales, visited as a “possible” Public Member. Ann Absher also mentioned that anyone who is interested could apply through the Wilkes County Website which would go to Sarah Call, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners. Dr. Joe Fesperman, Physician, and Carl Page, Engineer, has also agreed to serve a 2nd term upon the county commissioners’ appointment.

Approval of Minutes

With a quorum now present, a motion was made by Carl Page to approve the August 10, 2015 minutes; seconded by Robert Ricketts and unanimously approved by all Wilkes County Board of Health members.

Appointments & Reappointments

Don Manus, Chair, suggested voting on the four applicants/reappointments which included: Carl Page, Dr. Joe Fesperman, Dr. Gary Nash, & Deborah Britton. Dr. Roberts Ricketts made the motion to accept these four individuals and Dr. Robbins Miller, 2nd. Board of Health voted unanimously to accept these applicants/reappointments. Ms. Absher will obtain approval for the

final public member by email when Ms. Randall decides and/or other applicants apply. The recommendations will go to the County Commissioner Board for commissioner appointment by the next meeting in December.

Annual Board of Health Training

Ann Absher introduced Danny Staley, Acting Division Director for NC Division of Public Health and local Wilkes County resident as the speaker for the annual Board of Health Training as recommended by the board. Mr. Staley discussed the “Responsibilities of the Board of Health” including the top five challenges, top five things the Board of Health can/should do and the essential functions of the Board of Health.

Mr. Staley discussed the role and challenges of the State Department of Public Health for North Carolina first. He shared the decreases in funding and staffing over the past four years and the difficulties ensuing with maintaining public health infrastructure. He included the NC public health mission which is: To achieve the highest level of health for the people of North Carolina. Mr. Staley addressed what the statutes say.

The Ten Essential Services of Public Health nationally defined:

- Monitor health status
- Diagnose and investigate health problems and hazards
- Inform, educate, and empower
- Mobilize partnerships
- Develop policies and plans to address health
- Enforce laws and regulations
- Link to and assure health care services
- Assure competent workforce
- Evaluate effectiveness
- Research for innovation

Top Five Challenges discussed included:

- Funding uncertainty, grants, values-based payments
- Changes in Health Care Marketplace
- Health policy in an anti-regulatory environment
- Workforce aging and changing skill sets
- Emerging diseases

Top Five Roles the Board of Health play:

- Representatives of professions and community/eyes and ears. Bring issues to and from local health department.

- Review CHA/SOTCH, be active in planning, and represent the health professionals in your community. It is beneficial to have the practice perspective.
- Be prepared for hard issues. THEY WILL HAPPEN.
- Policy, System, and Environmental changes are central to the work of Public Health today and in the future.
- PROTECT THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH

Mr. Staley answered questions. The board members present and the visiting county commissioners thanked Mr. Staley for his presentation and Ms. Absher presented Mr. Staley with a bag of Brushy Mountain apples in appreciation. (His power point presentation was shared with board members and is an attachment to these minutes).

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Thanksgiving Meal, November 20, 2015 at First United Methodist Church Faith Center. All members are invited. Community Health Assessment stakeholder report of the results of the data will be presented at the Stone Center, November 11, 2015 by our consultant, Shelia Pfaender. We will be asking for feedback on priorities.

Public Concerns:

There were no public concerns.

Next Meeting Date: December 14, 2015 at 5:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Ann Absher, MPH Health Director

Mr. Don Manus, Chairman, Board of Health