

Wilkes County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

October 21st, 2019

The Wilkes County Board of Health held a regular business meeting Monday, August 12th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Wilkes County Health Department Conference Room. Board of Health members in attendance were:

Mr. Carl Page
Ms. Teana Compeau
Dr. Robbins Miller
Ms. Sylvia Robinson
Ms. Susan Bachmeier
Mr. David Gambill, Jr.
Dr. Gary Nash
Dr. Robert Ricketts

Ms. Rachel Willard, Ms. April Edwards, & Mr. Jared Belk 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 and sent via email.

Meeting Called to Order: Mr. Carl Page, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda: Ms. Teana Compeau made the motion to adopt the agenda for the Board of Health meeting for October 21st; 2019, the motion was seconded by Ms. Susan Bachmeier, and unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes for August 12th, 2019 Meeting: Dr. Gary Nash made the motion to approve the Minutes from August 12th, 2019; the motion was seconded by Ms. Sylvia Robinson and unanimously approved.

BOH Education Session: Ms. Beth Lovette, DPH Deputy Director

Beth Lovette lives in Wilkesboro, NC, but works in Raleigh, NC, as DPH Deputy Director, for Mr. Mark Benton, Assistant Secretary for Public Health. Ms. Lovette presented a PowerPoint on Medicaid Transformation as North Carolina is moving more deeply into "Managed Care Medicaid" and future planning, for the annual board of health educational session. Ms. Lovette applauded the Wilkes County Health Department for having their "Strategic Plan" in place. North Carolina's vision for Medicaid transformation is "to improve the health of North Carolinians through an innovative, whole-person centered, and well-coordinated system of care that addresses both the medical and non-medical drivers of health". Approximately 20 years ago, the N.C. General Assembly decided to take a creative approach to "Managed Medicaid" and they started that with "Community Care NC", a non-profit organization that was to do work for "managed care", but not the way any other states had done it, then about 5 years ago, the General Assembly determined that they wanted to follow suit with the way most every other state does it, which is to "privatize" Medicaid using health insurance companies. This was a huge shift for North Carolina, even though they had developed "CCNC"; they weren't health insurance companies as a "provider-led" organization. The General Assembly did a version of "managed care" for Mental Health".

Administrative Reports: Ms. Rachel Willard

- **Department Updates: Finance-** We have had no major unexpected purchases in the past two months. As a health department we have increased security across the building. We have added an additional 5 cameras, and upgraded our system to one that records. We are also considering upgrading our badge security system, if we can find approximately \$10,000. Total revenue is coming in at 23.5%, and we should be at 24%. We know this is down due to provider turnover and credentialing new providers. We expect this to catch up as we move forward. For total expenses Year-to-Date (YTD) we are at 20.4%. Nancy and I feel like this is great considering we have two locums working and did have major unexpected expenses earlier this year. ****Mr. Carl Page asked what systems are in place at the health center?** Ms. Rachel Willard stated that we did not have “panic buttons” yet, David Carson did a “walk-thru” a couple of years ago to evaluate potential issues and provided suggestions and some of those suggestions were implemented, but not all. We have added extra lighting around the facility and extra cameras in a variety of areas for safety reasons.
- **Environmental Health-** Bryan finished his last week at Centralized Intern Training last week. Soon, he will be able to go out and help with inspections. The team did have an incident over at the office last week. After talking to John Yates about the incident we decided to move forward with installing a panic button at the receptionist desk. The panic button was installed today and will be active tomorrow. On average our wait time for Well and Septic is about 2 weeks, however we are getting most completed sooner.
- **Clinic-** We are continuing to move forward with preparations for Medicaid transformation. The prepaid health plans, are planning to start to schedule site visits to onboard facilities onto the billing platform. We have not had a visit yet, but should have some scheduled soon. Since August we have hired 5 new staff members (1 nurse, and 4 providers). We have all of our providers on board, and a fully staffed clinic. We have pulled Dr. Curl from seeing patients. This will allow for him to have more time to learn the system and complete required trainings. Erica, is seeing a full panel of patients of now. Ashley and Holly, who both started in September are now seeing 2 patients in the morning and 2 in the afternoon. Lastly, Mekesha and Brandon have both finished orientation and required trainings. We are having them shadow the providers now, with a goal of having them start seeing patients November 11th. All the providers will start rotating through on MESH the first week of November. We continue to hunt for an EMR. We have ruled out e-Clinical Works, Athena will not return our call, and we have a demo set up with Cure MD. Hopefully we can come back with recommendations in December. Evening clinic started back October 14th. It has been full every night since we opened. Scott, our locum, even though we are fully staffed are going to keep him through December 19th. He has been a huge blessing and will miss him when he is gone. Now that we are fully staffed and almost back to full operations, I am hoping some of the fear and uneasiness of staff will continue to settle down. Also, we are able to reduce the wait of our patients now, so that is great. Currently, our no show rate is still high at 23.2% (at the end of September). The clinic will be hosting 4 flu clinics throughout the community to various organizations. ****Ms. Susan Bachmeier asked if Ms. Willard could tell the board members about what the Health Center has done with pain management.** Ms. Willard stated that we have a lot of patients who have been on “chronic pain” meds for over five years, so we are going to try to start “tapering” them off and try to get them on other sources of meds outside of straight “opioids & benzos”; Dr. Curl is working on what that will actually look like, so our chronic patients are coming in and being assessed by him to see what is the best course and how we can “wing” them down...some of them are on four pills a day, so we are hoping to bring them off those slowly (it is very preliminary, but it is a goal that Dr. Curl is working on).
- **Community Health Services-** Just a reminder this includes WIC, Health Education, MESH, Diabetes, and our OBCM/CC4C Care Managers. Since August we have hired 2 new employees (1 OBCM Social Worker,

and a Health Educator). We utilized cost settlement money to install vents in the MESH garage. This was to help with the overheating of the space and to prevent electrical surges. MESH has been in the schools since September. Jennifer Dollyhigh, our locum on the MESH is doing a great job. We have completed our required full scale exercise in preparedness. As a reminder we have to do this every 5 years. Since we were so short staffed we decided to utilize our employee flu clinic as our exercise. Erin Cashwell our Nutrition Director will be leaving us on November 14th. We have posted this position, and home to post for another nutritionist as well. As of July WIC caseload is down to 92%, with an estimated same rate in August. The state will be doing a mid-year assessment of funding for those agencies not meeting caseload of 97%. We have increased our outreach efforts, and the state is even running a state wide campaign to try to increase caseload. We are now going to be offering Saturday clinic on the 4th Saturday of the month to try to reach more people. The goal is to also start a mobile clinic, so we can reach people at target areas of the county.

- Annual Report FY 2018-2019: Mr. Jared Belk – Presented the Annual Report to the board and highlighted areas of change such as Environmental Health, where we did not have any Methamphetamine Lab Notifications which is very positive. Health Check; our participation rate is 49.6%, which is up from 41% in previous years. How we served the community; our Patient & Family Planning numbers have increased. MESH numbers have increased, we have had more Student, Behavioral Health, Medical, & Sports visits.
- WCHD Strategic Plan Closeout: Mr. Jared Belk – A brief highlight was given; we had a few priority areas such as **“Mental Health & Substance Abuse”**. In SY 18/19 93% of students did not have any suspensions after mental health counseling began. 98% of students showed a decrease in self-mutilation. 96% of students receiving mental health services graduated or moved to next grade level. In SY 18/19 93% of students did not have any suspensions after mental health counseling began. 98% of students showed a decrease in self-mutilation. 96% of students receiving mental health services graduated or moved to next grade level. **“Obesity & Chronic Disease”** was another priority area; during the 2019 Market Season \$5,770 worth of market bucks. We will know how many were redeemed in November. **“Tobacco”** - In 2019 in a partnership with Wake Forest Baptist Health Wilkes Center, Care Connection Pharmacy, and the Office of Cancer Health Equity Wake Forest Baptist Health a free community cessation program was started where participants will receive free NRT while in the program. ***Mr. David Gambill, Jr. stated that he felt that “vaping” was something that needs to be put back on the “radar” because so many people are “vaping” now instead of using traditional tobacco. He is witnessing so many students participating in “vaping” at the schools and a variety of ages. Ms. Rachel Willard stated that she has been working on an email to Commissioner Elmore in regards to “vaping” to get that on a commissioner rule, because we have done all we can do to this point. Ms. Willard also noted that the state is no longer recording/investigating incidents at the present time.*
- Infant Mortality Report: Ms. Rachel Willard – Governor Roy Cooper today noted that North Carolina's infant deaths in 2018 reached their lowest rate in the 31 years they have been tracked, decreasing for a third straight year to 6.8 deaths per 1,000 live births down 4.2 percent from the previous year's rate of 7.1 per 1000 live births. Wilkes County has been very proactive; we actually receive monies from the state to address “infant mortality” because we are one of the highest and we have been purchasing our long acting reversible contraceptives that we give out in the clinic and at the OBGYN Office of Wilkes thru the hospital. Also, our “Safe Sleep” programs have also been a huge success in preventing infant deaths. Ms. Rachel Willard then reviewed a chart provided to the board. Wilkes County is rated 7th for infant mortality rate in the state.

Committee Reports: Mr. Carl Page

- **Nominating Committee** – Ms. Teana Compeau & Ms. Susan Bachmeier have agreed to serve another term. Dr. Robert Ricketts is rotating off due to not renewing license, but has found another dentist to take his place. Dr. Keaton Mash has been recommended by Dr. Robert Ricketts and is interested in serving and has experience in Public Health Dentistry & FQHC experience. A motion is required to accept the nominee of Dr. Keaton Mash.

Dr. Robert Ricketts made the motion to accept the nomination of Dr. Keaton Mash as the new BOH Dentist Representative; the motion was seconded by Ms. Sylvia Robinson and unanimously approved.

New Business: None

Public Concerns: None

Next Meeting Date: The next board of health meeting will be on December 9th, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room.

Adjournment: Dr. Gary Nash made the motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Ms. Susan Bachmeier; all members approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by,

April Edwards, Administrative Assistant
Secretary to Board of Health



Mr. Carl Page, Vice-Chair