

Buncombe County Department of Health
Board Minutes
October 14, 2010

The Buncombe County Board of Health held its monthly meeting at the Interchange Building, October 14, 2010.

Department of Health Board Members Present: Dr. Richard Oliver, Bill McElrath, Carol Peterson, Mike Goodson, L.C. Ray, Susanne Swanger, Dr. Bart Martin, Winnie Zeigler, Dr. John Whitener and Gibbie Harris.

Staff Present: Julie Montanea, Dr. Yancey, Lisa Eby, Jim Holland, Sharon West, Karan Smith, and Terri Rogers

Chair, Dr. Oliver called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

MINUTES

The minutes of the September 9, 2010 Meeting were presented. L.C. Ray made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Susanne Swanger.

CHAIR'S PRIVILEGE

Dr. Oliver mentioned that the November scheduled meeting date of the 11th falls on a County holiday and suggested that the meeting be cancelled with the recommendation of those members present. Everyone was in agreement that the November Board of Health Meeting be canceled. Dr. Oliver also mentioned that the Board of Health wants to send to the staff at the Department of Health a word of encouragement.

ACTIONS

Dr. Oliver asked the Board if they had time to review the Operating Procedures and if there were any questions to the updates. Mr. Goodson asked about the Old Business needing to be included. After a discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Goodson and seconded by Ms. Zeigler. Old Business will be added back to the Operating Procedures under Order of Business. A motion was made to accept the Operating Procedures by Ms. Swanger and seconded by Mr. Ray. All in favor and the Operating Procedures were approved.

PRESENTAION

Dr. Cynthia Yancey, Medical Director gave a presentation on Immunization Exemptions.

Dr. Yancey shared also that the Pertussis rate currently in Buncombe County is at 31. This number could be reduced with the proper immunizations. Prior to vaccinations, parents in the US could expect each year that Polio would paralyze 10,000 children, Rubella would cause birth defects and mental retardation in 20,000 children, Measles would infect 4 million children, killing 3,000, Diphtheria would be one of the most common causes of death in school-aged children, Hemophilus influenza type b would cause meningitis in 15,000 children, leaving many with permanent brain damage and Pertussis would kill thousands of infants.

Buncombe County has a rate of 4.02 % of children not vaccinated compared to .82 % in North Carolina. Many parents are not vaccinating children due to the Religious exemption or Medical exemptions. Some of those not getting these vaccines are brought on by fears that immunizations do more harm than good, they might cause autism, ADHD, autoimmune disorders, learning disabilities or that they weaken a child's immune system.

We are doing a few things in Buncombe County to get our children vaccinated. They are forming an Immunization exemption committee and medline searched and studied to see what other communities have done. We have School nurses working hard at educating parents, Media campaigns with the Asheville Citizen Times, Local radio stations and WNC Parent Magazine. We are giving TDaP coupons to local OB/FP/Pediatric practices and Mission hospital for all childcare providers.

Education without judgment acknowledging that we all, on both sides of this debate, want the very healthiest children and community

REPORTS

Health Director's Report-Gibbie Harris

The County Manager has requested that each County Dept look at budgets and come up with a 5, 10 & 15% cut for next year. The Department of Health will be working on getting these budgets worked up and will share these with the Board at the next meeting. This is a tough time and the State Budget is trickling down to some County agencies. Buncombe County did not increase property taxes this year which in turn saves taxpayers, but brings in fewer funds for the County.

Strategic Planning

The Board of Commissioners Strategic Plan calls for Maintaining and enhancing core services by ensuring basic health, safety and welfare of county citizens, improving the access to and convenience of County Human Services for all residents. To ensure that county facilities support the functions of the county in an effective and efficient way and it will continue to explore community partnerships for non-core services and those services not traditionally provided by government.

The CORE public health services are Communicable disease control services (includes immunizations, testing, treatment for TB and STDs), Vital records registration, Food, lodging, and institutional sanitation, including restaurant inspections and grading and Individual on-site water supply sanitation services, including inspections And permitting of on-site wastewater systems, such as septic tanks.

Mandated services that must be either provided directly or assured are; Adult health services (includes preventative services and screening for cancer, diabetes, and hypertension), Home health services, Dental public health services (including screening and referral services), Grade A milk certification, Maternal health services (including well-child checkups and additional services for children with special health needs), Family planning services and Public health laboratory support.

The Health Strategic focus areas are; Obesity, Tobacco Use, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Maternal/Infant/Child Health and Environmental Health Issues.

NC Legislature

The NC Association of Local Health Director's has topics on the 2011 Legislative Agenda. The issues that they are seeking are:

- \$1.00 increase in tobacco tax
- Require medical facilities to report communicable diseases and conditions that are reportable
- Make changes to G.S. 130A-250 (exemption law) to address concerns over the recent "traditional country store" exemption and problems local health departments are having regarding the enforcement of the "once-a-month, two-consecutive-day" exemption for non-profits. Need to restrict the exemption to the non-profit organization, not for-profit contractors
- Amend G.S. 130-126 to allow local authority to charge food and lodging fees

Also on the list are issues that you should watch for are:

- Watch "Open Records Law" – HB 961 Ethics Bill
- Health Promotion/Health Carolinians funding - more about process and how dispensed then about additional dollars
- Summer camps – oversight/protocols/minimum medical standards
- Immunizations through pharmacies – Pediatric Society wants our support to fight this issue
- Authority to adopt Food Code

QUESTION and ANSWER MONTHLY REPORTS:

Financial Report

The August expenditure report shows that we are at 25% of the way into the budget year. With a bit higher percentage in payroll due to July having 3 payroll dates

The revenues are in line with the budget. Medicaid payments are 1 1/2 month out from being able to file for reimbursements. IT has run a report in the new system that showed a one day trial and the errors were at 37% M&M found those errors and are correcting fixing that error rate and they fell to 7%, so this is good news.

The Department of Health files claims for Medicaid once a month but by the state statute you cannot do that, so a timeline is being looked at.

Performance Analysis Review

The PAR for the Department of Health is in the packets.

Behavioral Health

Rich Munger is out of town so there is not a report from him this month.

All the reports are included in the board packets. Dr. Oliver asked if anyone had questions about the reports. No questions were noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Harris shared with the Board that Sharon West has accepted a position with the Veterans Administration and her last day will be 11/22/10. She will be sorely missed as she leaves the Department of Health to move into the position of Program manager of Women's Services there.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next meeting will be held on December 9, 2010. Location will be at the Interchange Building.

Chair, Richard Oliver adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Gibbie Harris, Secretary

Adopted:

Richard Oliver, Chair