

**Buncombe County Department of Health**  
**Board Minutes**  
**May 10, 2011**

The Buncombe County Board of Health held its monthly meeting at 200 College Street, in the Health Administration Conference Room, May 10, 2011.

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

**Staff Present:** Julie Montanea, Lisa Eby, Jim Holland, Karan Smith, Nelle Gregory, Eddie Shook, Cynthia Yancey, Erin Henderlight, and Terri Rogers

**Guests Present:** Curtis Venable and Carlos Gomez.

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

**DISCUSSION & REVISION OF PROPOSED AGENDA/ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Dr. Oliver inquired if there were any discussion or revisions of the agenda. None mentioned. Ms. Peterson made a motion to accept the agenda as written, seconded by Mr. Ray.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 14, 2011 Meeting were presented. Mr. McElrath made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Dr. Whitener.

**RECOGNITION OF MIKE GOODSON**

Chair, Dr. Oliver and the Board presented Mike Goodson with a plaque of appreciation for his service on the Board of Health for the past 3 years. Being on the Board of Health is a service rarely seen by others as Dr. Oliver shared. He speaks for the entire Board when he shares the appreciation and dedication to the Health of the residents in Buncombe County.

**QUESTION and ANSWER MONTHLY REPORTS:**

**Financial Report**

The expenditure report shows that we are at 83.33% of the way into the budget year. The Clinical Services section shows expenditures at 102.53% which is over due to the pay-outs in Primary Care services to staff positions that ended. The grand total percentages are at 79.12.

The revenues do not yet show the Aid to County money yet nor the debt set off from Primary Care.

**HR Report**

The HR report shows a larger than normal amount of vacant positions, this is due to the number of positions that were vacant for some time and now have been abolished as projected in the budget reductions.

**Performance Analysis Review**

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

No questions for the PAR report.

**Behavioral Health**

No questions for the Behavioral Health Report

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Primary Care Update: Carlos Gomez and Curtis Venable from WNCCHS**

Mr. Venable and Mr. Gomez shared with the board a presentation of the Primary Care Services at Western North Carolina Community Health Services. The overall goal of transitioning these services to WNCCHS was to increase the capacity for residents to have a primary care home. The strained health and community resources played a role in the transition also. The overall results have shown an increased capacity, aligning of health care delivery with federal dollars and the reinvestment of county dollars into core services. When the transition took place over a year ago, 36 out of 79 staff positions remained to support core public health. The budget expenditure investments in core public health in FY 2009 for clinical services were at 34% of the budget. In FY 2012 it will be 16% of the budget.

WNCCHS provides services to the community in three areas; Minnie Jones Health Center, HIV Care Network of WNC and Housing Works. They provide primary care, dental and behavioral health services. After the transition of services from Buncombe County to WNCCHS the contracted patient capacity was for 10 thousand patients the number of people actually serviced was a little over 13 thousand. The two most common medical needs of patients are hypertension and diabetes. The percentages of those serviced are above the national average. The average cost comparison is less per visit and per patient than the national average.

The future plans are to increase patient capacity by 1000 due to additional space being added and to transition the prenatal care services from the Dept. of Health in Buncombe County beginning July 1, 2011.

Dr. Whitener asked Mr. Gomez if WNCCHS currently sees or refers patients for eye examinations. Mr. Gomez said that currently they do not have a contract for those services. They rely on Project Access for assistance in specialty care.

Mr. Ray commented that the County Board of Commissioners decision on moving the primary care to WNCCHS was a great one. It is serving the community well.

Dr. Oliver and Ms. Morgan both enquired how long it takes a new patient to get an appointment to be seen. Mr. Gomez said that a Medicaid or Medicare Pt. usually is seen in the same month they call, and uninsured pt. can show up or call on the first of each month. Mr. Gomez also states that the discharged pt.'s from Mission Hospital that do not have a primary care physician and are on Medicaid or uninsured are referred to WNCCHS.

Ms. Swanger asked about the amount of children serviced. Mr. Gomez said that there are 5% less seen compared to the Dept of Health were seeing. Many of them are uninsured and born outside of the country.

Ms. Peterson commented that it is great to see good work being done between the County and a community partner to make things happen that are needed for the public. It is a Proud Day she said.

**B. FY12 Billing Guide Review: Jim Holland**

Mr. Holland shared some additional facts and changes about the FY12 Billing Guide. The following programs which will no longer be offered by the Department of Health as of July 1, 2011 have been removed from the billing guide; Community Health and Nurse Home Visits (Nurse Family Partnership is listed instead), Prenatal Care and School-Based Health Centers.

In response to recommendations from the State Health Administrative consultant, we modified our language and clarified discussion of "bad debt" and "delinquent accounts." The Guide now specifies that our Department follows the guidelines for the NC Debt Setoff program.

Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) / Wise-Woman section was changed to state that under-insured women, as well as uninsured, are potentially eligible for these programs.

We added text to the Family Planning page to highlight the program's added confidentiality options, and to make clear that under this provision a patient's sliding scale eligibility is based only on the patient's own income.

To encourage non-Buncombe residents to seek TB services from their own county health department, the comment on TB services to out-of-county residents now reads:

*"All local health departments in North Carolina coordinate TB prevention and control efforts in their county. To better ensure continuity of care, out-of-county residents are strongly encouraged to work with their local county health department. We are happy to help clients contact their health department to arrange for needed services."*

In the spring of 2010, the federal government did not change the federal poverty level, which is the basis for our Sliding Fee Scale. However, the federal government did announce a small increase to the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) in February 2011. To better accommodate such mid-year changes in the future, without needing a formal approval process, we added this text to the Guide:

"For services that are eligible for Sliding Fee Scale payment, the Department of Health uses the current HHS Federal Poverty Guidelines as published in the **Federal Register** (see <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/>). These scales may be subject to change during the fiscal year."

We have added wording to "Appendix 2: Service Fees" that we will provide a copy of fees upon request, and we have listed a phone number for the Accounting Unit for such requests.

Ms. Morgan asked Jim Holland if this Billing Guide will be public record, Jim stated that, yes it will be on the County webpage.

Mr. Holland said once the FY12 Billing Guide is approved by the Board of Health it will then be presented to the County Commissioners for approval.

Mr. Ray made a motion to accept the FY12 Billing Guide, seconded by Dr. McClain. Carol Peterson abstained from the vote. All others present in favor and approved.

**DIRECTORS REPORT: Gibbie Harris**

**CHAIR COMMENT:**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

A motion was made by to adjourn, seconded by, Richard Oliver adjourned the meeting at

Respectfully submitted:

Gibbie Harris, Secretary

Adopted:

Richard Oliver, Chair