

The Cleveland County Public Health Board met on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Board members present Ronnie Whetstine, Marty Hamrick, Robert Miller, Tom Spurling, Randy Sweeting, Kale Meade, Deanna Moseley Lawrence, Patti Alexander, Sara Karner

Health Department staff present: Tiffany Hansen, DeShay Oliver, Alisa Leonard, Anne Short, Nathan McNeilly

Martha Thompson, County Attorney was present (remote).

Guest speaker: Jason Falls

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair Spurling called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm and welcomed everyone.

Mr. Miller gave the invocation.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens requested to appear before the Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR JUNE 8, 2021 PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING:

Chair Spurling presented the proposed agenda for the June 8, 2021 Public Health Board meeting for consideration of adoption.

Motion: A motion was made by Patti Alexander with a second by Ronnie Whetstine to adopt the agenda for the June 8, 2021 Public Health Board meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MAY 11, 2021 PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Spurling presented the May 11, 2021 Public Health Board meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

Motion: Robert Miller moved that the minutes of the May 11, 2021 Public Health Board Meeting be approved as presented. Kale Meade seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

CATAWBA CASINO PROJECT UPDATE:

Jason Falls stated that the County Manager has asked him to be the liaison or project manager for the County in dealing with the Casino and any of the associated developments that happen in that region. Jason stated there is about 67 acres that have been cleared off. 16 of those acres have been taken into trust. When it has been taken into trust that means that the Bureau of Indian Affairs has approved them to have a gaming resort on that property. There are developments all over that area. Everything within a mile radius has either been sold or is in the process. The casino is located at Exit 5 off of I-85. The Casino is going to be built in phases. The first phase is called the pre-launch facility. The pre-launch facility is going to be 50,000 sq ft of modular units pushed together. They started bringing them onsite April 22nd and they are planning on being open on July 1st. The introductory phase is the next phase. That is a 60,000 sq ft building and a 5-story attached parking deck. They are planning to start building on this step on September 1, 2021, and are expecting a 13-month buildout. They are planning on being finished late fall of 2022. Then they will start phase 2. Phase 2 will engulf that 60,000 sq ft building and building all around it. They will put their hotel resort around it ranging from 6 stories to 44 stories tall. This will take 5-7 years to complete. Jason showed a PowerPoint that has the artist rendering of the prelaunch facility. Right now, there is no sewer at the location. Pump and haul tanks will be behind the facility. These are like huge port a johns and will be pumping and hauling daily. One of the issues with not having sewer on site is you cannot have prepared foods. They can only have prepackaged foods. They are inviting food trucks to be on the outside. Jason showed an artist rendering of the Pre-launch facility with paved areas. They are anticipating in twelve months to generate \$32 million profit. Jason showed a PowerPoint of new construction within the phases. Delaware North is building this project and they are from New York.

On May 18-19 we had a job fair at the Le Grand Center. There were about 875 applicants. They hired 240 people on the spot. A big day for them will be June 18 when they will turn on the lights. The pre-launch facility will open July 1, 2021 and on September 1, 2021 the Introductory phase will start. That is the 60,000 sq ft facility. Our IGA states that 90 days after operations they will give \$50,000.00 over to the Health Department to develop and implement programming addressing destructive behaviors such as problem gambling and alcoholism. It will be up to the health department to determine exactly how to utilize the funds. Each year after that they will give \$25,000 a year adjusted for inflation. Fall 2022 is when they plan on opening the introductory phase. The County has a contract with the Catawba Indian Tribe signed on December 5, 2019 that outlines the responsibility of the County and the responsibility of the tribe. Because they are a sovereign nation, we cannot tax them, but our IGA requires them to pay PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) payments in alignment with what other business in Cleveland County would pay for taxes. The IGA is a renewable agreement. The initial one is a 20-year agreement.

Almost every department with Cleveland County is involved somehow with this project. The Health Department is a key player in this project especially with permits. The City of Kings Mountain is providing all the utilities on site. They are expecting their Certificate of Occupancy within the next two weeks. Fire inspections are on track. Law enforcement and fire services are already in engaged. The 911 Services with Electronic Maintenance have already been out in the

current buildings and the other points of the property to make sure if you use your cell phone to call 911, it goes to the correct location.

Projections: 5-7 million visitors annually. This will be the largest gaming floor on the East Coast. Hotels, restaurants, and shops will be all around it. They have already started working on a performance venue that will hold 7,000-10,000 seats for concerts. A lot of housing and retirement communities are being planned and built in the area. The Casino has a very diverse workforce.

We are working with Analytical Environmental Services to project call volume for fire, EMS, and law enforcement. They are predicting 110 fire and EMS calls per million visitors and 900 law enforcement calls per million visitors. Kale Meade stated it looks like it is in the ETJ of Kings Mountain and not in the city limits. Jason advised that is correct. The Sheriff's Office will respond to the ETJ and Kings Mountain will be back up. The City of Kings Mountain is looking at annexing that property. If they do, the City of Kings Mountain would be primary off of the 16 acres and on the 16 acres the Sheriff's Office would still be primary. The City of Kings Mountain does not have an Intergovernmental Agreement allowing them to do anything on the property. They have hired 24/27 security officers that will be employed by the casino. Tom Spurling stated that the new developments and volume of visitors is going to substantially increase the need for county services and personnel, especially in Environmental Health with the increased need for inspections. Jason stated that our County Manager and Commissioners are very informed and engaged in planning for future needs. Patti Alexander asked if they will use our local banks for their monies. Jason stated they will have to use some local banks but probably not in Shelby. They will be using armored cars for transport. Chuck Kilroy is the general manager for the casino. He comes in with 30 years of experience. A Board member asked if they have hired gambling counselors. Anne Short stated the state has a 24-hour hotline. Robert Miller asked if alcohol will be offered. Jason stated that it will. Ronnie Whetstine shared that research has shown that areas with big casinos and resorts experience less underground and problem gambling. The Catawba Indian Nation is committed to making this a family resort and being a positive addition to our community.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Ms. Hansen provided a COVID-19 update to the Public Health Board. The first slide is an overview of where we are in the county. As of today, we have 24 active case (.2%), deaths we have 227 (2%), recovered cases 11,357 (97.8%). The next slide is breakdown by ages. Last time we met we were really watching our 18-24-year-old ranges and how they may be impacted as vaccine was still being rolled out. We did not experience any really sharp increases in those age brackets. Next slide is our cases by race with 20% suppressed and 68% white. In terms of the COVID vaccine, we have 34,000 (35%) that have received at least one dose and just under 32,000 (32%) who have received both doses of a two dose series or a single dose of a one dose series. The breakdown by race is as follows: Black or African American is 20%, White is 72%, other is 2%, suppressed is 2%, missing or undisclosed is 4%. Ms. Hansen shared that the Pfizer vaccine has now been approved for the children ages 12 and older so we are seeing a little bit of an increase in vaccine uptake for children ages 12-17. CDC and NCDHHS guidance for vaccinated and unvaccinated people was shared. Ms. Hansen shared information on how to access your vaccine information if you have lost your card, our COVID vaccine help line and appointment line information and

information on testing sites available. She announced that starting this week, the health department will start doing COVID testing in-person through our clinic as opposed to a drive-thru like all other sick patients, with patients being asked to wear a mask. Ronnie Whetstine asked for guidance on patients who have had COVID and whether they should receive the vaccine. Ms. Hansen stated CDC is still recommending to get vaccinated regardless of natural immunity from having the virus. A Board member asked about summer coming up and vacations and increase travel what we expect to see. Ms. Hansen stated we could see a spike in cases related to vacation, but we have learned with COVID how important hand washing and disinfecting practices are. Ms. Oliver shared that CDC has released a good resource in regard to travel that is called the CDC Travel Planner. You can search for any destination within the United States by city, state or a specific destination such as Disney World and it provides guidance specific to that area such as any bans, testing requirements, etc.

HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICES OVERVIEW:

Anne Short shared a presentation on the services provided by Health Education. The purpose of health education is to provide education, prevention, and early intervention, not treatment programs, for health issues that arise in Cleveland County using age appropriate and culturally appropriate, evidence-based programs. We deliver programming to all ages in a variety of settings, in-person or virtually. We have a strong partnership with Cleveland County Schools to implement our reproductive health and safety program. This coming year we will be in the 9th grade using the Making Proud Choices curriculum that we have adapted to Cleveland County. It is a 12 session program. We anticipate teaching approximately 1000 students in those 9th grade classes. Since we have begun this program in 2015, we have served 3,566 students and that included the first year of 184 students. This is taught in single gender classes with the parent option to opt out. Puberty education is delivered to 5th grade students. It is in single gender classes as well. Our Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition serves as the Advisory Board for the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention grant and they created the Strong Teens Youth Council. This is composed of students at the Early College High School because that serves all four high school districts. We need these teens on the council because they tell us what is useful and age appropriate for teens. The Private Matters resource guide is a resource we develop and distribute to all the students who go through our adolescent pregnancy prevention program. Another resource we develop and distribute is the Parent Survival Guide for parents of students entering middle school.

Our Health Promotion activities are funded by Healthy Communities grant. This is a CDC grant that comes to the State. The CDC provides us with options for strategies. Traditionally, we have looked at healthy food choices and physical activities like our work with Eat Smart Move More. In the past year, we have focused on tobacco and opioid messaging. Next year, one of our strategies will be on suicide prevention. We currently have a staff member being trained in the QPR Suicide Prevention Program. We use our Eat Smart Move More Coalition to address healthy food choices and physical activity and they helped us develop the Live Healthy Cleveland County website and the brochure that shows all the parks, playgrounds, and trails available in the county. The Minority Health Council has been working since 2004. Mr. Miller has served as chairman since 2004. They look at health disparities and health equity. They have

focused on diabetes, heart disease, teen pregnancy, mental health, STD's and do an annual conference. We were getting ready to do a conference on Human Trafficking when COVID hit.

Our Roots and Wings program is funded by the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, and it provides two programs that are free to residents. We have a program manager and 6 contracted facilitators. PAYS Parent and Youth Skill Building Program is taught three times annually, 14 sessions each, which generally start with court referred youth. It is designed for middle and high school aged students. STEPS -Success Through Effective Parenting Strategies is a program that addresses parents of elementary and intermediate students who have had truancy issues. The school system and JCPC asked us to develop this program because truancy court was overwhelmed with the court system. Our Safe Sitter program is a one-day program for students in grades 6th – 8th. It teaches them basic safety skills for themselves and for children they may be babysitting. Our first class is June 23. It is a full day class from 9:00 am-3:30 pm. We will be teaching CPR and First Aid as well. There is a \$10.00 fee. SOAR is Student Options and Redirection. This is a diversion program for kids who have violated the substance abuse policies in the school. We use a SASSI which is the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory that the student completes to determine potential for chemical dependency. Our Farmer's Market is under way. Today we had a variety of folk-art crafts, honey, beef products, and eggs. So, come out every Tuesday morning and you will get a weekly spotlight with recipes that we have worked with our WIC staff to develop.

Ms. Short shared information on new and developing programs for Health Education, one of which is focusing on gambling prevention for adults and students. There is a State Gambling Hotline that we are exploring ways to publicize. There is a Stacked Deck Program for grades 7-12 for education and prevention. We have located certified gambling counselors in Gaston and Mecklenburg, but no certified counselors here. Beginning August 1, we will be able to facilitate Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training. It is about an hour and fifteen minute training. It is a basic suicide prevention program we will offer free to anyone who would like us to facilitate it. Catch My Breath is a vaping prevention program for students that can be delivered in person or virtually. Two of our Health Educators just trained thirty-five employees at the Boys and Girls Club this past week to deliver the program for those participates. We are working with Shelby Police Department to develop a family gang prevention program by adapting their GREAT program that is taught in 5th and 6th grade. We are looking at programs that address Social Determinants of Health such as housing, food, transportation, and personal safety because those are issues that highly impact an individual's ability to live a healthy life.

A Board member asked if many parents opt out of the Making Proud Choices program. Ms. Short stated it ranges by school but usually no more than 5%. Another Board member asked about our protocol if a parent wants to know what is being taught as part of this program. Ms. Short shared that parents are offered the opportunity to come to the health department to review the curriculum with the Health Educators that teach the program along with Ms. Short. Our reproductive health curriculum is evidence based and it is abstinence based as well. While abstinence is taught in all twelve of the lessons, it is not an abstinence only curriculum because it provides information on pregnancy prevention and sexually transmitted diseases.

An award was presented to Robert Miller for his service as Chair of the Minority Health Council from 2004-2021 and for his service & dedication to the community.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

No Board of Health meeting in the month of July.

ADJOURN: 7:37pm

There being no further business, Chair Spurling called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Kale Meade moved, with a second by Deanna Mosely-Lawrence that the Cleveland County Public Health Board meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Tiffany Hansen, Secretary
Cleveland County Public Health Board
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