

The Cleveland County Public Health Board met on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Board members present: Marty Hamrick, Robert Miller, Tom Spurling, Kale Meade, Sara Karner, Patti Alexander

Board members present remotely: Randy Sweeting

Health Department staff present: Tiffany Hansen, DeShay Oliver, Alisa Leonard, Anne Short, Nathan McNeilly, Leslie McSwain, and Holly Thornburg

County Attorney's present: Tim Moore (remote)

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair Spurling called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm and welcomed everyone.

Mr. Miller gave the invocation.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens requested to appear before the Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 12, 2021 PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING:

Chair Spurling presented the proposed agenda for the October 12, 2021, Public Health Board meeting for consideration of adoption.

Motion: A motion was made by Patti Alexander with a second by Robert Miller to adopt the agenda for the October 12, 2021 Public Health Board meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Spurling presented the September 14, 2021, Public Health Board meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

Motion: Robert Miller moved that the minutes of the September 14, 2021 Public Health Board Meeting be approved as presented. Kale Meade seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE, PREPAREDNESS, STD AND GENERAL CLINIC PRESENTATION:

DeShay Oliver introduced Holly Thornburg, the Health Department's Nursing Supervisor over Employee Health, Communicable Disease, Preparedness, STD, and General Clinic. Ms. Thornburg went on to share a presentation regarding the programs she supervises. She started by sharing some photos of the Nurses that work on her teams out at community events.

Responsibilities of this team includes, COVID19 statistics and reporting, preparedness program, COVID19 testing, Communicable Disease Program and Community Partnerships.

Ms. Thornburg went on to discuss in detail the specific clinics. She started by introducing our Communicable Disease team: Nicole Newton and Kayla Huss. They conduct investigations on all reportable diseases and report to the CD branch, these include human rabies exposures and follow up on TB cases both suspect and confirmed.

For Preparedness, our Coordinator is Jordan Beason. Ms. Thornburg shared that she works with local partners to prepare and plan for any natural or manmade disasters. She prepares logistical support for any active event and planning requirements for the State as needed. She also conducts fit testing for the Health Department team.

The STD Clinic serves both males and females and offers a variety of testing for individuals depending on the needs. HIV, Syphilis, Cultures- Gonorrhea and Chlamydia or blood testing for Hepatitis B and C, if needed. Exams are performed by our Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, or Expanded Role Nurses with additional training for exams in this clinic. We offer treatment and council if needed as well.

Ms. Thornburg continued with General Clinic. General Clinic is the busiest clinic in the health department, with many services. The most popular is immunizations. Ms. Thornburg indicated that it has been very busy with COVID19 vaccines being conducted in this clinic. This clinic does services such as TB skin tests, Pregnancy tests, Blood titers, as well as many other services. This is a walk-in clinic, offered Monday-Friday from 8-4:30p.

COVID19 Testing is offered all day every day, by appointment. It is a drive thru testing clinic, with both rapid antigen, PCR, and this week we have started utilizing a rapid-PCR test. Ms. Thornburg shared that these result in 30 minutes.

She went on to share local partnerships for these programs include: DSS, local churches and daycares, hospitals, long term care facilities, Shelby Medical Associates, Cleveland County Schools, Pulmonologist, Animal Services and Environmental Health.

Ms. Alexander asked about TB patients and the frequency of cases that the Health Department is seeing. Ms. Thornburg stated it is about the same, but we had a patient this week that we have as a suspect case, waiting for cultures but no active cases.

Mr. Spurling asked about the rapid PCR COVID19 tests being conducted in the health department and the accuracy of the test. Ms. Thornburg shared that it is has been heavily researched by Alisa, DeShay and Tiffany. Ms. Oliver went on to share that the accuracy is 96-97%, and the convenience to the rapid PCR is that they do not need to be mailed off, and patients do not have to wait on results.

Mr. Miller asked about local community partnerships, and the number of additional partnerships we have. DeShay shared that the local partnership shared on Ms. Thornburg's presentation were primary partnerships, but this is fluid as we engage in other efforts throughout the community.

ANNUAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT:

Holly Thornburg share the annual Communicable Disease Report and provided a packet of information that she reviewed.

She shared that the data over the last 6 years through the 2020 year. The highest increase has been in our Hepatitis A cases. Currently, North Carolina is classified as a Hepatitis A outbreak which is due to increase in IV drug use throughout the State. We are finding most of the cases that we are investigating are in alignment with what the State is seeing. We have partnered with the Detention Center, planning to do this on a quarterly basis, to provide the Hepatitis A vaccine for inmates that are interested.

Ms. Thornburg shared that our STD numbers seem to hover around the same numbers each year, fluctuate slightly but nothing significant. Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Syphilis are all treatable conditions, but HIV cannot be cured but only treated, which we saw this go down slightly.

Pneumococcal and Influenza numbers were a little lower last year, which is predominantly due to the pandemic.

She shared additional data on detailed breakdowns for the last 3 years on STDs by age categories. Chlamydia and Gonorrhea 20–29-year-olds had the highest number of cases.

Mr. Meade asked about the partnership with the Detention Center, asking how many vaccines were provided last time the health department was on site. Ms. Thornburg shared that around 40 vaccines were provided last time the team was at the Detention Center.

Mr. Miller raised a question regarding the data, asking if this includes all providers in the County. Ms. Thornburg shared that this data is the entire County, as these are CDC reportable.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Tiffany Hansen provided a COVID-19 update to the Public Health Board. Ms. Hansen stated our current daily case counts for COVID-19 are trending in a better direction. We are averaging 50

cases/day which is an improvement compared to the 100 cases/day we were at not long ago. Our percent positive COVID19 labs are at 12.2%, which is elevated from the State, which is at 7.7%, although still improving.

She shared the age breakdowns for cases throughout the pandemic, which also continue to improve across all age ranges.

Our Vaccination rates, for anyone 12 years of age or older that has received one dose is 47109 or (56%). 12 years of age or older that are Fully Vaccinated is 43063 or (51%). Cleveland County residents 18 years or older that have received one dose is 44663 or (58%) and those that are fully vaccinated is 41036 or (54%). She shared the group with the largest growth in vaccination rates over the last week, is our 50–64-year-old age ranges. To date the Health Department has administered 45% of all the COVID19 vaccines in the County.

Ms. Hansen went on to share that the Board of Commissioners have voted to provide additional funding for a Community Vaccine Incentive Program. This is for Cleveland County residents only, that have received either their 1st or 2nd dose on or after October 4th, and they will receive a \$50.00 gift card. She noted that they can receive their vaccine from any provider in the County and come to the Health Department to receive this gift card. She went on to share that to date, 154 cards have been distributed, 50% to recipients that received their doses outside of the Health Department.

She went on to share an update on the Moderna Booster vaccine and the timeframe. The FDA advisory committee will meet on October 14th & 15th. The CDC ACIP will meet on October 20-21. The Health Department is prepared to begin scheduling appointments October 18th-19th and if all approvals are granted, would be prepared to administer on October 22.

Mr. Spurling asked when the Health Department began administering doses, was it more focused on Moderna. It was shared that we administered Moderna from December 2020- March 2021, so a significant portion of the population received Moderna and depending on the eligibility requirements could be eligible to receive a Moderna Booster. Ms. Hansen went on to share that the benefit of timing now, is that there are several other providers in the County that can administer vaccines. The Health Department will be working on messaging regarding scheduling options for both outside providers as well.

She went on to share an update regarding COVID19 testing in the County. Our testing trends are declining to around 3200 tests/week. Several additional resources have been deployed. These include, Ellume Home Test kits are being distributed, StarMed hosted the first Saturday clinic with 48 tests conducted. Atrium Health is conducting more community testing on Mondays and Wednesdays. The Health Department has offered expanded hours for testing availability as well as the addition of the rapid PCR.

Ms. Alexander asked about hospital capacity. Marty Hamrick shared that the hospital is full, but numbers are improving. He shared that we are headed in a positive direction but still very full compared to some of the Charlotte Atrium facilities.

Mr. Spurling asked Marty Hamrick about the Monoclonal Antibody Treatment being done at Atrium Cleveland. He expressed they are seeing around 16 patients/day. They are trending down, but we still have some of the highest numbers regionally.

2021 CCHD CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS:

Anne Short presented the results of the CCHD Customer Satisfaction Survey. This is conducted annually as part of the accreditation process. It is 13 questions, with an opportunity for comments. This is conducted in our Clinical Areas only. The questions are developed from recommendations from the accreditations committee. We have used these questions for several years, for comparison purposes.

2021 Quality of Services received 97% and considering all the things happening with our Clinical teams, Ms. Short expressed that this is very impressive. She also explained that our team is very good at providing information to our patients and it was indicated that 98% of people would refer their families to the Health Department for services.

We had 183 responses, increased from last year but WIC does not have any patients coming in, as well as Pharmacy is currently limited to Drive-Thru Services. Each Clinical Supervisor will receive their individual clinical responses.

Mr. Spurling asked when the survey was provided to patients. Ms. Short explained that the survey is provided at the end of the visit, to get an accurate reflection of the patient's experience.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Leslie McSwain presented the budget amendments.

ITEM NUMBER ONE

Cleveland County Health Department has been allocated 784,466 from NCDHHS to further enhance COVID testing, contact tracing, case investigations within the community. These funds will be utilized to purchase rapid test kits and docking stations for processing tests. Also, funds will be used to cover existing salaries/fringe, and purchase PPE supplies. We asked that these funds be budgeted in our Carolina Access Department (546).

ITEM NUMBER TWO

Cleveland County Health Department has been allocated \$39,900 from NCDHHS to develop an Equity Advisory Council that will improve its internal and external practices to support equity withing the community. There will be an implementation of a communication and messaging campaign that will address COVID 19 prevention and vaccination for high-risk populations, underserved, and ones that are disproportionately affected. We request these funds be budgeted in our Health Promotions (535) budget.

No motion was made, as these budget amendments were for information only and have already been approved by the Board of Commissioners.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Ms. Alexander asked about the plan for Christmas related to the Health Department staff. DeShay shared that it may be appropriate to plan for something like last year, with COVID19 precautions in place, engaging Supervisors, or the Board to serve the meal. Last year the team appreciated the breakfast, but any input or feedback would be welcomed. Ms. Oliver indicated she would share the date for the December Christmas breakfast following the meeting, but it can be flexible.

Mr. Spurling asked if Employee of the Year is still presented at the Christmas Breakfast. Ms. Oliver shared that this is still presented and has been planned to be given out at the All Staff Meeting in December since everyone will not be able to be together for the Christmas Breakfast due to COVID.

ADJOURN: 6:56 pm

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

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Tiffany Hansen, Secretary
Cleveland County Public Health Board