

The Cleveland County Public Health Board met on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Board members present: Marty Hamrick, Robert Miller, Tom Spurling, Kale Meade, Sara Karner, and Ronnie Whetstine.

Board members present remotely: Randy Sweeting, Patti Alexander, and Street Hamrick.

Health Department staff present: Tiffany Hansen, DeShay Oliver, Alisa Leonard, Anne Short, Nathan McNeilly, Leslie McSwain, and Heather Voyles.

County Attorney's present: Tim Moore and Martha Thompson (remote).

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair Spurling called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed everyone.

Mr. Miller gave the invocation.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens requested to appear before the Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 9, 2021, PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING:

Chair Spurling presented the proposed agenda for the November 9, 2021, Public Health Board meeting for consideration of adoption.

Motion: A motion was made by Sara Karner with a second by Ronnie Whetstine to adopt the agenda for the November 9, 2021 Public Health Board meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 12, 2021 PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Spurling presented the October 12, 2021, Public Health Board meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

Motion: Robert Miller moved that the minutes of the October 12, 2021 Public Health Board Meeting be approved as presented. Sara Karner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM PRESENTATION:

DeShay Oliver introduced Heather Voyles, the Health Department's Nursing Supervisor over School Health. Ms. Voyles went on to share a presentation regarding the program she supervises. She started by sharing that the School Health team is comprised of 22 staff – herself, 1 Processing Assistant, a lead Nurse, 10 Public Health Nurses, 5 expanded role Nurses, 4 Physician Extenders, providing services to 14,000 students, at 29 locations.

She went on to explain that there are two types of programs in School Health. They are the General Program Nurses, which cover the elementary, intermediate, early college, North Shelby and TPA schools and then the School Based Health Centers which serve the middle and high schools.

All programs do assessments and screenings for students, communicable disease prevention, they check immunizations and have done several COVID19 related tasks throughout the last year. They make referrals and follow up with students after they connect with providers. Ms. Voyles went on to describe that they also do case management for chronic conditions and health care plans, they advocate for students with staff and providers, and do prevention especially with immunizations and educational training for staff and students.

General School Nurses are responsible for 1-2 schools, and they focus on identification of special accommodations, and vision and hearing referrals. In the School Based Health Centers, they do assessments, some treatments and referrals, lab testing and medication administration according to standing orders and consent forms.

She also described the partnership with Atrium Community Based Virtual Care. Atrium has come into the school and obtained consent from parents, allowing students to see a virtual provider. This benefits the School Health team as they are able to secure a provider immediately and it has improved outcomes for students

Ms. Voyles went on to state that the team currently has seven Nurses that are Nationally Certified. They are recognized as nationally accredited school nurses and have met the standards of providing that level of nursing care within the school.

Tom Spurling raised a question regarding the national certification and what it entails. Ms. Voyles described that it is similar to other board level exams, it requires one year of school nursing experience prior to being qualified for the exam. She stated there are several review courses to assist with studying as well.

SCHOOL HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT:

Heather Voyles reviewed the School Health Annual Report. She described in the 2020-2021 school year they served 14,000 students in Cleveland County Schools and provided 314 health education presentations to staff or students.

She stated that for student medications, the school nurses review medication orders and train staff. They also audit orders each quarter to be sure they are in accordance with the order. There were 485 doctor ordered medications throughout the school year.

Over the course of the school year, there were 26 students that received special medical procedures. 10 students were monitored for diabetes and 94 students were monitored or treated for seizures in the elementary or intermediate schools. In the middle and high schools, 29 students were monitored for diabetes and 22 for seizures.

Ms. Voyles went on to point out that 489 students had medical nutrition needs. 2048 or 14% of students had a health care plan, a 504 plan or an individualized education plan.

Due to COVID19, and having less students in the building, student injuries decreased over the 2020-2021 school year. She stated that there were only 28 student injuries over the course of the year.

The School Nurse Health Room in the Elementary, Intermediate, Early College, Turning Point Academy and North Shelby saw 13,716 student visits in 2020-2021. While the School Based Health Centers had 1,645 student visits.

She went on to describe health screenings that are conducted by the School Health team as well. During the 2020-2021 school year, 801 health screenings were conducted.

During the 2020-2021 school year, Atrium Virtual Care expanded to an additional 12 schools and Ms. Voyles pointed out that to date we have expanded this service to all schools except the high schools.

This report also includes COVID response that was conducted within the school by the school health team. They provided 20,579 phone calls and education regarding COVID19 to students and staff. 7.8% of staff or students were sent home because of COVID19 screening and later tested positive. Ms. Voyles stated that the School Health team managed 1,142 positive cases over the course of the 2020-2021 school year. 4,426 students were identified as closed contacts, and 85% of those were identified as exposed outside of school. They also administered 181 COVID19 vaccinations at school during the school year and due to the hybrid school model, they were able to assist the health department on Wednesdays with mass community vaccination events.

Mr. Meade asked for clarification regarding the 504 plans. Ms. Voyles described the 504 plans as being utilized for any student that would have a special accommodation because of medical conditions and used the example of a diabetic student.

Mr. Whetstine raised the question about how the school nurse monitors or controls the needs of students within the schools. Ms. Voyles explained that they rely heavily on PowerSchool to verify name and date of birth for students, as well as audit but many of their tools are still conducted via paper methods.

Mr. Spurling asked if students were hesitant to be tested within the school and she described that as things were first introduced, yes, but as testing has been introduced at the middle and high school's parents are receptive to the concept.

Mr. Miller added what a tremendous value to the community the school nurses are.

Ms. Karner asked why there was not a virtual care option in the high schools. Ms. Voyles explained the reason there is not a virtual care option in the school-based health centers is due to the fact that there are Nurse Practitioners in those schools that provide assessments and treatments.

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 just slightly under 19,000 cases.

We are averaging 23 cases/day which is an improvement compared to the 100 cases/day we were at not long ago. We have had 313 deaths. Our percent positive COVID19 labs are at 5.4%, which is elevated from the State, which is at 5.1%%, although still improving.

She shared the community transmission levels from the CDC, and Cleveland County is still in the red color, which indicates high community transmission levels. She also stated that although we are in the red color, this map shows that transmission is improving across the state as some Counties are transition to orange and yellow. Vaccines remain the number one prevention strategy and this improvement in metrics shows that the layered prevention strategies are working.

Our Vaccination rates, for anyone 12 years of age or older that has received one dose is (58%) and (54%) for fully vaccinated. Ms. Hansen stated that each time she presents our numbers continue to improve in our vaccination rates.

She also shared a table that outlines all the vaccines that are currently available and for which ages are eligible based on the FDA and CDC approvals. For the newly approved pediatric Pfizer dose, the Health Department has started to do these from 3-4:30 pm each day and can be scheduled through the 980-484-6019 appointment line. The Moderna Boosters are still being conducted on Fridays from 8-3:30pm drive thru style. Ms. Hansen also shared that there are a number of providers in the County that offer the vaccine, and provided an updated location list. She also shared that the Community Vaccine Incentive has now been expanded to include all 1st and 2nd dose recipients 5 years of age and older.

Ms. Hansen provided an update on the OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard that is for employers that have a 100 or more employees. This is to develop a policy regarding vaccinations or testing for those that are unvaccinated. She shared that the County does fall in this, and is actively working on planning.

Ms. Thompson stated that it is being monitored and is currently being challenged in the 5th circuit. This is to provide vaccination or testing but is not a mandatory vaccination standard.

Mr. Spurling asked if this is exclusively for State or Federal employees. Ms. Thompson shared that this is being called the "private employer mandate" but we are a public employer and in

North Carolina this applies because we have a State OSHA. Hospitals fall under a different mandate that is through CMS and Schools would fall under the same mandate as they have more than 100 employees.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD POLICIES:

Deshay Oliver shared our annual review of public health board policies and the following were presented:

- The name was changed from Board of Health to Public Health Board on the following policies: Vending Machine Policy, Tobacco-Free Campus Policy, Adjudication Policy, Operating Procedures Policy, Policy on Policy and Identity Theft Prevention Program Policy.
- Staff/Student/Faculty Immunization Policy revisions included TdaP was recommended in pregnancy but at the discretion of the OB/GYN and references were updated.
- Conflict of Interest Policy revision includes an update that aligned with the newly developed Cleveland County Conflict of Interest policy, which is now included as an attachment.
- Participation in Community Health Improvement Policy revision included an update to the name and elimination of the Alliance for Health.
- Staff Training and Continuing Education Policy revision included an update to the name and removal of Solid Waste and Animal Services, as it is no longer under the Health Department.
- Workforce Diversity and Development Policy revision included information that was utilized from the Human Resources Department. Ms. Oliver shared one of our goals is to include a workforce that is similar to our community. She shared that this was updated in October 2021, 38% of our workforce falls within retirement age (50 and older). In 2021, we had 12 resignations which is down from the previous year, primarily due to taking positions elsewhere that paid more. Retention rate was 7%, which is down from 2020 which was 12.3%.
- Orientation Policy revision included the name update, and removal of the CD which is no longer utilized as the County has developed an online training for Board members to use.
- HIPAA Patient Privacy and Confidentiality Breach Notification and Sanctions Policy Revision included the removal of Solid Waste and Animal Services.
- HIPAA Privacy Protection Policy revision included the update to the name and removal of Solid Waste and Animal Services. Also included an update to add the Director of Nursing and Health Director in making decisions.

- HIPAA Privacy Rule Policy revision included an update to the name and the elimination of Solid Waste and Animal Services.
- HIPAA Privacy and Security Risk Analysis Policy revision included an update to the name, and removal of Solid Waste. The language in the risk analysis was updated to be clearer.
- Minimum Necessary Policy revision included an update to the name and removal of Solid Waste.
- HIPAA Staff to Client Texting and Social Media Policy revision included an update to the name and elimination of Solid Waste and Animal Services.
- Financial Eligibility and Fee Collection Policy revision included a residency requirement criteria update, removed documentation about income for eye clinic, and for family planning patients included wording changes based on the State AA. Additional update included household income verification to include all persons listed, and in signatures updated the Chair.

Ms. Alexander asked a question about the eye clinic services. Ms. Hansen explained that we no longer have an optometrist in that clinic which is why we no longer have this available. There is a resource list that is available to patients to get connected to eye services in the County.

Motion: Kale Meade moved that the revisions for all policies be approved as presented. Robert Miller seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD APPOINTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Tiffany Hansen presented that there will be two vacancies on the Public Health Board starting January 2022, with Tom Spurling and Randy Sweeting's terms expiring. With those vacancies, she presented two individuals for recommendation to fill those positions.

The individuals she presented were Heather Bridges Moore with Communities in Schools, and Henry Gilmore with Cleveland County Schools. Both individuals work with students, families and the community in unique ways and are excited for the possibility to serve on the Board.

Motion: A motion was made by Sara Karner to recommend Heather Bridges Moore and Henry Gilmore for appointment to the Public Health Board. Robert Miller seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED 2022 PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE:

Deshay Oliver presented the 2022 Public Health Board Meeting Schedule for approval, which continues to be the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6pm.

Motion: Ronnie Whetstine made a motion to approve the 2022 Public Health Board Schedule. Robert Miller seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST:

Deshay Oliver shared that the Christmas Breakfast is set for December 7th from 8-9am. Due to COVID19, she shared that we would continue to allow for social distancing and the team will be able to come get food and return to their areas. The breakfast will be provided by Shelby Café. She reminded that everyone is invited to come and serve or be present.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Leslie McSwain presented the budget amendments.

ITEM NUMBER ONE

Cleveland County Health Department has been allocated an additional \$510 from NCDHHS to increase screening and health coaching to eligible women in the CVD/WiseWoman program. We request that the funds be budgeted in our Adult Health (533) department to be used towards payment of medical services provided to outside partners.

ITEM NUMBER TWO

Cleveland County Health Department has been allocated an additional \$325 from NCDHHS to increase screening and patient navigation services to eligible women in the Breast and Cervical Cancer program. We request that the funds be budgeted in our Adult Health (533) department to be used towards payment of medical services provided to outside partners.

ITEM NUMBER THREE

Cleveland County Health Department has received a \$25.00 memorial donation from Camp's Creek Baptist Church to the Cleveland County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. These funds will be used towards purchase of food for meetings of the Coalition. We asked that these funds be budgeted in our CODAP (548) department.

ITEM NUMBER FOUR

Cleveland County Health Department has received a \$250 honorarium from Nurse Family Partnership program for our NFP staff for presenting at the NFP Re:Connect 2021 Symposium that was held in October. We request that these funds be budgeted in our NFP (545) department to be used for program incentives for patient participation.

ITEM NUMBER FIVE

Cleveland County Health Department has received an additional \$56,038 from NC DHHS as part of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant. These grant funds will be used to support evidence-based substance use prevention educational programming for elementary school students and to provide training to health department and community partner employees in the Community Resiliency Model (CRM) and Project Based Learning. We request to budget these funds in our CODAP (548) department.

Motion: Kale Meade moved that these Budget Amendments be recommended to the Board of Commissioners for approval as presented. Sara Karner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

No miscellaneous business was discussed.

ADJOURN: 7:17 pm

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

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Tiffany Hansen, Secretary
Cleveland County Public Health Board