

The Cleveland County Public Health Board met on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Board members present: Chair Sara Karner, Ronnie Whetstine, Robert Miller, Kale Meade, Christina Alexander, Deanna Mosely Lawrence, Henry Gilmore (remote)

Health Department staff present: Tiffany Hansen, DeShay Oliver, Andrea Power, Leslie McSwain, Alisa Leonard, Anne Short

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair, Sara Karner called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm and welcomed everyone.

Mr. Miller gave the invocation.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens requested to appear before the Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MARCH 14, 2023, PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING:

Chair Karner presented the proposed agenda for the March 14, 2023, Public Health Board meeting for consideration of adoption.

Motion: A motion was made by Robert Miller with a second by Ronnie Whetstine to adopt the agenda for the March 14, 2023, Public Health Board meeting as prepared. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 14, 2023, PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Karner presented the February 14, 2023, Public Health Board meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

Motion: Kale Meade moved that the minutes of the February 14, 2023, Public Health Board Meeting be approved, and Robert Miller made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT NC TOBACCO 21:

Chair Karner introduced Deshay Oliver with the resolution to support NC Tobacco 21. A draft copy of the resolution was sent to board members via email ahead of the meeting. This letter is to help align NC State Law with Federal Law. Federal Law has been passed that you must be 21 years of age to purchase tobacco products. NC retailers do not have to be permitted to sale tobacco. 95% of tobacco users start before the age of 21, and in NC most young people obtain their tobacco products from retailers directly that fail to follow responsible tobacco sales policy. We recently

partnered with local law enforcement to do alcohol and tobacco compliance checks in Cleveland County over the course of October through December of 2022. As a result of those compliance checks, Kings Mountain Police Department inspected 4 tobacco retailers, and 2 of those sold to underage purchasers. In Shelby, 8 out of 21 retailers failed their tobacco compliance checks. In 2019, Congress increased the federal minimum legal sales age of all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, from 18 to 21. While most states have increased their minimum tobacco sales age to 21, North Carolina is one of nine states that minimum sales age remains at 18. North Carolina is only one of 10 states in the country that do not require tobacco retailers to obtain a license or permit to sale tobacco. Benefits to a retailer permitting system and raising the minimum legal sale age to 21 will allow the state to know where tobacco products are being sold, improve merchant education efforts, allow the state to inspect for responsible retail practices, protect law-abiding retailers by holding non-compliant retailers accountable, prevent and reduce youth use of highly addictive nicotine products, help eliminate the use of e-cigarettes and other emerging nicotine products in schools, and reduce any confusion among retailers and consumers by having one legal sales age for state and federal law. We ask that the Public Health Board will be in support of passing the resolution to send to the NC Alliance for Health to show our support for aligning with federal legislation to raise the age to 21 for tobacco sales, as well as establishing a tobacco permitting system for retailers. Sara asked if all the vaping devices in retail stores contain nicotine. Deshay answered that not all products contain nicotine, but most do. Some vaping devices contain THC. If a THC product is derived from hemp, which has less than .3% of THC, it is legal to sale. However, these products are highly concentrated and unregulated. If the age of sale of tobacco products is increased to 21, it could help with keeping underage purchasers out of those retailers that also sale THC products.

Motion: A motion to support the resolution for NC Tobacco 21 was made by Robert Miller and a second was made by Deanna Moseley Lawrence. The motion carried unanimously.

ACCREDITATION UPDATE:

Chair Karner introduced Deshay Oliver with the Accreditation Update. All accreditation evidence was submitted by November 1, 2022, and we had our accreditation site visit on February 23, 2023. We have received the preliminary findings of the site visit, and our report shows that out of 147 activities we met 146 of those. We were awarded accreditation with honors. We will receive our official accreditation report after it is approved by the State's Accreditation Board in May. Deshay expressed gratitude for the CCHD team and the support of our Public Health Board.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE:

Chair Karner introduced DeShay Oliver with the Strategic Plan Update. As part of our accreditation process there is an annual update of our strategic plan to the board. This is our strategic plan from 2021 through 2023. We will develop a new plan after our next community health assessment. There are four goals that are part of our strategic plan. The first goal is to accomplish those things that are part of our Healthy NC 2030 score card. Our second goal is to expand community partnerships to increase access to care or services. We have been working to

expand our community partnerships with some of the following: Shelby Women's Care, members of Child Fatality Prevention team, Detention Center, YMCA, Law Enforcement, Atrium, Cooperative Extension, Minority Health Council, Boys & Girls Club, Communities in Schools, Partnership for Children, and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. We have partnered with Cleveland County Schools for dental screenings at Elementary Schools. We established the HALT program, which is our tobacco cessation program, with behavioral health counseling and access to nicotine replacement therapy in our schools. We have also purchased a mobile dental unit to support dental screening and treatment in partnership with Cleveland County Schools. Goal number three is to develop innovative methods to promote Health Department initiatives. We have been hard at work developing new brochures to promote our programs and services we offer; we have hosted and participated in community resource and drive-thru resource events; we have created and utilized QR codes in our promotional and educational materials to take people to our website to learn more about us; we have been developing videos to promote various health topics; we have begun utilizing Cloud Campaign to develop monthly social media calendars and promote messages to multiple social media platforms; we have been participating in channel 19's "For Your Health" program to promote services and health information; we have contracted with a professional marketing team called Method Savvy to develop and promote health department services. Goal number four is to increase engagement and unity among our Health Department team. This goal is intended to break down silos within our own team and bring employees together from all departments within CCHD. WIC, Maternity, and Child Health worked together to promote dental services for pregnant women and children. We hosted a Healthcare Olympic drive-thru resource distribution event, we hosted a canned food drive to collect food donations for the food pantry at DSS, we collected donated items and developed and distributed over 700 hygiene kits for school health to distribute to students in need in Cleveland County Schools, we hosted quarterly Lunch & Learns for employees on current substance use trends, we established a nursing mothers pumping room for utilization by health department employees, and we have reinstated our annual Thanksgiving meal.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK/HEALTHY KIDS DAY EVENT:

Chair Karner introduced Deshay Oliver with information on National Public Health Week, and Healthy Kids Day Event. The first full week of April is designated as National Public Health Week by the American Public Health Association. There are several different things going on that will help in recognizing the CCHD team and all that they do, along with public facing activities to help raise awareness around public health. On Monday, we will be launching our Community Satisfaction Survey to aid in collecting feedback on our services. On Tuesday, the staff will be provided t-shirts and lunch that will be catered by Gather and Feast. Wednesday is "Wear Your True Color" day. We did an all-staff training that helps in identifying your communication style and personality type. Those types are categorized into four different colors that staff will wear representing their personality type. On Thursday, all staff will receive a plant with a mental wellness message, and on Friday we will be announcing the opening of our Primary Care Clinic via a news release and social media platforms. We will also hold a Healthy Kids Day event in partnership with the YMCA on April 22, from 1:00 until 5:00 at the Health Department. We will offer childhood and school required immunizations at this event as well. This event will be free to the public with inflatables, face painting, balloon art, food vendors, and lots of giveaway items.

FY23-24 PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Chair Karner introduced Tiffany Hansen with the FY23-24 Proposed Budget Presentation. Tiffany presented the proposed budget for FY23-24 that will also be presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval. The proposed budget does not include the COLA as it is still being forecasted based on requests and pending revenues. We have included the additional departmental (550) budget for the Primary Care Clinic. As part of the County Capital, we are hiring 6 new (re-purposed) positions for Primary Care that includes a Physician Extender II, Public Health Nurse, Processing Assistant III, Lab Tech, Pharmacy Tech, and a Bi-Lingual Interpreter. We are also adding an Accreditation Resource Coordinator from our 530 budget. We have requested a replacement vehicle for Environmental Health at \$33,000. The projected revenue for Federal/State Grants is \$2,070,143, Medicaid Monies is \$4,575,398, Medicare/Misc. Revenue is \$1,612,195 and County funds is \$2,562,006 with a total projected revenue of \$10,819,742.

Motion: A motion to recommend the proposed FY23-24 Proposed Budget to the Board of Commissioners was made by Robert Miller and a second was made by Ronnie Whetstine. The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Chair Karner introduced Leslie McSwain with budget amendments for CCHD.

ITEM NUMBER ONE:

The Cleveland County Health Department has received an additional \$175,395 from FY 21-22 unspent NCDHHS Communicable Disease Pandemic Recovery Funds. The funds will be used towards existing salaries as well as medical supplies/flu vaccine/lab supplies, and contracted services related to communicable disease lab fees. Funds will also be used towards the purchase of a replacement fleet vehicle. We request these funds to be budgeted in the TB/STD/CD (532) department.

ITEM NUMBER TWO:

The Cleveland County Health Department has been awarded second year COVID funding totaling \$537,317 related to School Health Services. Funding remaining in FY 22 was carried forward to FY 23. We are requesting the additional funds to be budgeted to match State allocation amount in the School Health (534) budget.

Motion: A motion to recommend the proposed budget amendments to the Board of Commissioners was made by Robert Miller and a second was made by Ronnie Whetstine. The motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Chair Karner asked if there was any miscellaneous business to discuss.

No Miscellaneous Business was discussed.

ADJOURN: 6:51 PM

There being no further business, Chair Karner 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