

The Cleveland County Public Health Board met on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Board members present: Chair Sara Karner, Robert Miller, Marty Hamrick, Christina Alexander, and Heather Bridges Moore

Remote Attendance: Mark Heiner and Deanna Moseley Lawrence

Health Department staff present: Tiffany Hansen, Deshay Oliver, Leslie McSwain, Andrea Power, Heather Voyles, Nathan McNeilly, Holly Thornburg

County Attorney Present: Martha Thompson

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:**

Chair, Sara Karner 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 SEPTEMBER 12, 2023, PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING:**

Chair Karner presented the proposed agenda for the September 12, 2023, Public Health Board meeting for consideration of adoption.

**Motion: A motion was made by Marty Hamrick with a second by Robert Miller to adopt the agenda for the September 12, 2023, Public Health Board meeting as prepared. The motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 8, 2023, PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

Chair Karner presented the August 8, 2023, Public Health Board meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

**Motion: Marty Hamrick moved that the minutes of the August 8, 2023, Public Health Board Meeting be approved, and Robert Miller made the second. The motion carried unanimously.**

**ANNUAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT:**

Chair Karner introduced Holly Thornburg with the annual Communicable Disease Report. Holly started by handing out the communicable disease data report to everyone. Communicable diseases are illnesses that can be spread from one person to another, an animal or person, surfaces, the air,

and food. NC law mandates healthcare providers and labs to report 70 different diseases. The Cleveland County Health Department is responsible for the tracking of Communicable Disease for Cleveland County residents. Staff conduct contact investigation, evaluation of diseases, provide guidance on treatment to health care providers, and monitor patient's course of illness to provide follow-up for reportable diseases. Investigation and reporting of a disease must be done in a timely manner to the NC Division of Public Health (DPH) via the NC Electronics Disease Surveillance System (NC EDSS). NC law mandates healthcare providers and laboratories to report over 70 diseases or conditions to their local health department. Cleveland County had a rate increase in 2022 for HIV and Syphilis. The rate increase is related to MSM, Multiple Sex Partners, Lack of Consistent Condom Use, Dating Apps, and IV Drug Users. Mr. Miller asked if there was a reason for a decrease in Chlamydia and Gonorrhea. Holly explained that we do not have a definitive answer, but we hope it is because of the education and resources that we have available for Cleveland County residents. Our Hepatitis A rate in the County has decreased as well. We have partnered with the Cleveland County Detention center to vaccinate inmates against Hepatitis A and we believe that has helped with that decrease.

#### **ANNUAL SCHOOL HEALTH REPORT:**

Chair Karner introduced Heather Voyles with the annual School Health Report. Heather explained that the school health staff consists of 12 RN's serving the elementary, intermediate, Turning Point Academy, Cleveland Early College High School, North Shelby schools, and Alexander Youth Network Day Treatment. There are 4 RN's operating the 4 middle school health centers, and 4 Nurse Practitioners (1 in each high school health center). We have 1 clerical support person, 1 RN Nursing Supervisor, and a medical director. Approximately 14,500 students are served by school nurses and practitioners in Cleveland County Schools. There were 6,866 individual students served through direct contact with the school nurses and practitioners during the 2022-2023 school year. There was a total of 24,677 visits to the school nurse where students were able to return to class, 3078 visits resulted in students being sent home, 32 visiting resulted in calling 911, for a total of 27,787 total visits. We provided 87 health education presentations to staff or students with topics such as: diabetes, asthma, epilepsy, medication administration, anaphylaxis, allergies, COVID 19, infection prevention and control, flu prevention, handwashing, bloodborne pathogens, pest prevention and control, alcohol and drug abuse, tobacco, dental health, health careers, nutrition, physical activity, personal hygiene, injury prevention, and overall healthy lifestyle. When students need medication administered at school the medication orders are reviewed by the school health nurse or NP for clarity and assessed for safety. School staff responsible for administering medication are trained annually. A plan is developed to ensure that each student gets medication safely and on time. An individual health care plan is created and shared with school staff that includes pertinent information about health condition, medication, what to do for medical emergencies, and potential side effects. We had 95 students in the elementary, intermediate, and special purpose schools that needed special medical procedures in school which consisted of: intermittent catheterization, dressing changes, tube feedings, etc. There were 12 students being monitored for diabetes and 54 students in schools being monitored and treated for seizures. In the middle and high schools there were 35 students monitored for diabetes and 56 students monitored for seizures. 3365 students required a health care plan, a 504 plan, or an IEP related to a health

condition, medication during the day, or some type of care at school. This number is up 6% from the last school year. 180 students received an injury at school that was significant enough to result in absence or the need for immediate care. During the 2022-2023 school year, virtual care services were available through Atrium in a total of 24 CCS sites. 2578 referrals for virtual visits for students and staff were completed by Atrium Health Levine Children's Community-Based virtual care with 47% of the students being able to return to class. We were able to provide dental screenings in partnership with the CCHD dental team to 13 elementary schools. Approximately 4602 students were screened, and 116 of them were seen in the health department dental clinic. 472 students were identified as having high needs for dental care. Overall, 47% of those referred for care were confirmed to have seen a dentist. Nurses and Nurse Practitioners now screen for nicotine dependency for students who answer "yes" to using a tobacco product recently. For the 2022-2023 school year 12 students were counseled related to dependency and offered to be enrolled in our HALT behavior counseling and readiness to quit program. 11 students were not ready to quit, 1 student enrolled in HALT and 3 participated in HALT. Recognizing the need for the continuation of this program as a resource for our youth, we applied for, and were awarded, a grant for the 2023-2024 school year to provide additional training and resources for school nurses and practitioners in the middle and high school health centers to support students with attempts to quit tobacco products.

#### **BUDGET AMENDMENTS:**

Chair Karner introduced Leslie McSwain with budget amendments for CCHD.

#### **ITEM NUMBER ONE:**

The Cleveland County Health Department has been awarded \$125,000 from the Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, for the 10<sup>th</sup> year Drug Free Communities (DFC) activities. These funds will be used towards operating expenses for activities laid out in the grant proposal for FY 2023/2024. We request that these funds be budgeted in our CODAP (548) department.

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

#### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

Chair Karner asked if there was any miscellaneous business to discuss. Sara did ask how our Primary Care clinic has been doing? Tiffany explained that it has been going well. Every day we improve and learn better processes for the clinic. Our new Primary Care provider is scheduled to begin her employment with us tomorrow.

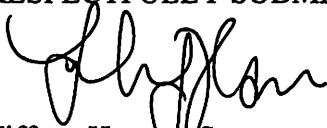
Mr. Miller wanted to thank everyone for remembering him during his recent illness and during the recent passing of his sister.

**ADJOURN: 6:33 PM**

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

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



Tiffany Hansen, Secretary  
Cleveland County Public Health Board