

The Cleveland County Public Health Board met on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Board members present: Chair Sara Karner, Mark Heiner, Ronnie Whetstine, Robert Miller, Kale Meade, Christina Alexander, Heather Bridges Moore, and Nancy Cline

Health Department staff present: Leslie McSwain, Heather Voyles, Anne Short, DeShay Oliver, Nathan McNeilly, Tiffany Hansen, and Andrea Power

County Attorney present: Martha Thompson

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair, Sara Karner called the meeting to order at 5:59 pm and welcomed everyone.

Mr. Miller gave the invocation.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens requested to appear before the Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MARCH 12, 2024, PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING:

Chair Karner presented the proposed agenda for the March 12, 2024, Public Health Board meeting for consideration of adoption.

Motion: A motion was made by Mark Heiner with a second by Ronnie Whetstine to adopt the agenda for the March 12, 2024, Public Health Board meeting as prepared. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 13, 2024, PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Karner presented the February 13, 2024, Public Health Board meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

Motion: Kale Meade moved that the minutes of the February 13, 2024, Public Health Board Meeting be approved, and Mr. Miller made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRESENTATION:

Chair Karner introduced Nathan McNeilly with the Environmental Health presentation. Nathan began by introducing the team via a team photo. Environmental Health is a state mandated program that requires local health departments to provide services. The registered environmental health specialists (REHS) are employed by the county but authorized by state agents. To become

a REHS you must have a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health degree with a minimum of 30 semester hours in either chemistry, physics, biology, geology, or a combination thereof. Specialists must have completed a state centralized intern training and meet the exam requirements of an oral interview, written essay exam, and NEHA. To maintain these credentials REHS staff must complete 15 credit hours of continuing education each year. Areas of authorization for Environmental Health are on-site wastewater, food, lodging and institutions, private wells, public swimming pools, childhood lead poisoning prevention, tattoos, child-care, and school sanitation. The REHS for on-site wastewater will evaluate the property for suitability of onsite wastewater systems. They will design and permit on-site wastewater systems for residential, commercial, or business use. They will oversee final inspections during the installation of the on-site system, complaint investigations, and existing system inspections for building additions. The REHS for private drinking water protection for well programs will evaluate property for well locations, inspect the construction of new and repair work on wells, inspect the abandonment of existing wells, and collect water samples. The REHS workers that visit food, lodging and institutions will do permitting, routine inspections, investigate foodborne outbreaks, and plan review at regulated facilities. Public swimming pools will receive a plan review, permitting of public swimming pools annually, and conduct periodic inspections of public swimming pools. Our REHS workers do permits and inspections of tattoo artists. Childcare facilities and schools in Cleveland County receive routine unannounced inspections of licensed child-care facilities, and schools. Environmental Health all provides childhood lead poisoning prevention by conducting environmental investigations to identify lead poisoning hazards to children 6 years old or less and pregnant women with elevated blood lead levels. The sources of lead poisoning usually come from lead-based paint, paint dust, paint chips, toys, water pipes, spices, and traditional medicines. We recently took part in an investigation for a recall on apple cinnamon fruit puree that had high lead levels and was recalled from all dollar stores. You can view inspections that have been completed by our team by going to the Cleveland County website and clicking on the link lists county wide sanitation scores. We did receive a total of 606 total applications in Environmental Health during 2023 and up to February 27, 2024. We received a total of 237 improvement permits in 2023 and up to February 27, 2024. The on-site wastewater activity for year 23/24 was 1728 site visits, 241 improvement permits, 5 improvement permits denied, 290 construction authorizations, 179 operation permits, 83 existing system permits, 2087 consultative contacts, and 30 sewage complaints. The private well activity for 23/24 was 31 private drinking waters well activity, 8 well construction permits, 10 well abandonment permits, 1 well certificate of completion, 8 grouting inspections, 21 water samples taken, and 41 consultative contacts. In Cleveland County the current number of FLI facilities are 209 restaurants, 54 food stands, 16 mobile units, 1 push cart, 5 educational food service, 3 elderly nutrition sites, 26 school lunchrooms, 2 commissaries, 11 institutional food service, 13 meat markets, 2 bed & breakfast, 2 resident camps, 13 rest homes, 2 hospitals, 49 child care facilities, 32 schools, 65 residential cares, 2 local confinement, 5 adult day care, 12 lodging, 44 pools, and 33 tattoo artists. The total FLI activity for the 23-24 year is 460 inspections, 36 critical violation follow-up visits, 186 general visits, 7 transitional permits issued, 8 swimming pool permits issued, 26 tattoo artists permits issued, 103 temporary food stand permits issued, 22 I & K permits issued, 49 complaints, and 19 plans reviewed.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Chair Karner introduced DeShay Oliver with Upcoming Events for CCHD. We have a couple of events that are coming up over the next couple of months at CCHD. DeShay explained that we are planning a Summer Days Healthy Ways resource fair on May 18. The event will be held between the hours of 10 AM and 2 PM at CCHD and is free and open to the public. We plan to have inflatables, games, giveaways, food, face painting, balloon art, and raffles for the chance to win a kid's bicycle or Apple watch. This fair will help educate the citizens of Cleveland County on local resources available to them. The second event that we are planning is our Spring into health event. This event works in conjunction with K-Day and begins on March 15 and runs through June 30. DeShay explained that this event is to encourage families with rising kindergartners to get their health assessments and immunizations completed before school begins in the fall. Kindergarten immunizations and health assessments are important for tracking growth and developmental milestones, discussing any concerns about your child's health, and preventing illnesses like measles, whooping cough, and other diseases. You can bring your child into CCHD beginning March 15 and they will receive a plushie and the adult will receive a 40 oz. tumbler. We do accept walk-in patients Monday through Friday from 8 AM until 11:30 AM, and 1 PM until 4:30 PM. DeShay encouraged everyone to share this information with community members.

AWNING & MOBILE UNIT UPDATE:

Chair Karner introduced Tiffany Hansen with the Awning & Mobile Unit update for CCHD. Tiffany spoke about the awning that will be constructed on the back of the building for drive through clinics, immunizations, events, etc. The construction is expected to begin in April and will take around 3 months to complete based on the lead time of materials. Tiffany also spoke about our mobile screening unit and where we are at with launching the unit into the community. We are still in process with lab equipment for the unit, working on staffing models and checklists, finalizing location rotations, and IT/Networking discussions. We are hoping to deploy into the community within the next couple of months.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK:

Chair Karner introduced Anne Short with an update on National Public Health Week. This year's theme for National Public Health Week is, "Protecting, Connecting and Thriving: We Are All Public Health". National Public Health Week is scheduled for April 1-7, and we've designated some special activities to help us celebrate this week as we work together to create safe, interconnected, healthy communities for everyone. Monday's theme is civic engagement. Two specific activities will mark this day. First, we will release our Community Satisfaction Survey to the public via SurveyMonkey to measure the public's perception of our work. The survey will be available April 1 – 30, 2024. Second, staff from the Board of Elections will be in our lobby to encourage individuals to register to vote from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Tuesday's theme is healthy neighborhoods. Tiffany Hansen will present a resolution to the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners to declare this week National Public Health Week and to celebrate our public health accomplishments. Tuesday is also designated as T-shirt Day here at CCHD with employees encouraged to wear our 2024 shirts. Health educators will also be making pictures of our unit staff members wearing their shirts today. Wednesday we will celebrate together with a box lunch available for staff members 11:30 – 1:30 in conference rooms 389 and 390.

Thursday's theme is new tools and innovations. Our new CCHD Screening Bus will be available for staff and the public to see in our front parking lot. Also, on Thursday CCHD staff members will receive small tokens of appreciation to celebrate their work during the past year and to welcome spring! Finally on Friday, the theme is reproductive health and safety. Health educators have prepared an informative display board concerning the increases in STD transmission rates in Cleveland County and will debut our new poster highlighting STD testing in our community. CCHD staff members will also enjoy a treat with frozen yogurt available in the conference rooms.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Chair Karner introduced Leslie McSwain with the budget amendments.

ITEM NUMBER ONE:

The Cleveland County Health Department has received an additional \$8,500 from NCDHHS, Division of Mental Health Development Disabilities/Substance Use Services, for our Substance Abuse Prevention Block Grant. We request permission to budget these funds in the CODAP (548) department to support youth substance use prevention activities.

ITEM NUMBER TWO:

The Cleveland County Health Department has received an additional \$3,002 from NCDHHS, Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Use Services to prevent the underage sale of tobacco products. These funds will be used to support education and training for local tobacco retailers on responsible tobacco sales. We request permission to budget these funds in the CODAP (548) department.

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 Kale Meade. The motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS:

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

DeShay Oliver did have an update on the recent positive TB case that she emailed everyone about. There was a positive TB case reported to CCHD on March 4 involving an individual at Gardner-Webb University. CCHD has been working with Gardner-Webb faculty and staff to identify individuals who may have been exposed to the disease through close and prolonged contact with the individual. Everyone identified as a contact will be notified directly by phone, text or email explaining the need to be tested for TB. The majority of employees and students will not be contacted, and do not need any testing or treatment for TB. TB generally develops over weeks to months and is completely curable if detected early and treated properly with medication.

ADJOURN: 7:15 PM

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

Motion: Kale Meade moved, with a second by Mr. 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