

Moore County Board of Health
July 12, 2021

Members Present: Leo Santowasso, PE, PLS, Chair
Janice Baker, DVM, MS, DACVPM
Paul Kuzma, MD
Kamron Monroe, DDS
Tony Price
Benjamin Wacker, OD
Robert R. Wittmann, MPH, Secretary to the Board

Members Absent: Mark Brenner, MD; Betty J. Goodridge, MHA, CMA; Louis Gregory;
William Mang, PharmD; Max Muse, RN, ME, Vice Chair

Call to Order and Introductions:

The meeting of the Board of Health was held in the Board Room of the Moore County Health Department in Carthage, NC. Chair Leo Santowasso called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Health Department staff present were: Teresa Forrest, Administrative Officer; Melissa Fraley, Nursing Director; Matt Garner, Health Educator; Miriam King, Health Educator; and Jennifer Wallace, Administrative Officer. Stephan Lapping, Associate County Attorney, was present.

Leo Santowasso noted that the Board did not have a County Human Resources representative present as the Director was on leave. Introductions were made around the table. Jaymie Baxley, with The Pilot newspaper, was present.

Invocation: Robert Wittmann gave the invocation.

Secretary to the Board: Robert Wittmann read the following statement: *Does any Board Member have a conflict of interest concerning agenda items the Board will address in this meeting?* There were none noted.

Approval of, and/or Adjustments to, Agenda: Leo Santowasso stated that there was an addition to the agenda that had been emailed. Janice Baker had requested to make a report to the Board on rabies in Moore County. Tony Price asked to add a Communications Committee report. Tony Price made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Paul Kuzma. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Presentations: None

Board of Health Education/Staff Reports:

Rabies Vaccination Efforts in Animals in Moore County: Janice Baker stated that, for 2021, Moore County has had four reported, rabies-positive cases. All of the reported cases were in wildlife and not in domestic animals. There is nothing that the County needs to do to get that number down. The County has an emergency clinic and robust animal control. There were five cases in 2020, with a case in a dog. Data regarding the impact of rabies contacts on humans will be available for discussion at the August Board meeting. For domestic animals, over the years there has been a steady decline in rabies cases, likely due to increased vaccination and awareness in people. Local veterinarians are booked solid and there may be a wait of up to 4-6 weeks for veterinary care. It might take a few months to get back to a normal schedule. There is a lack of access to care in some areas. The Pet Responsibility Committee has vaccinated 230 cats and dogs in 2021, with two vaccine clinics given in the Robbins area and two in the West Southern Pines area. Local veterinarians also participate with Moore County Animal Services to provide no-cost microchip clinics, with rabies vaccinations available. Janice Baker stated that it is a national statistic that people are more likely to get care for dogs than for cats. There are a lot of feral cats, and barn cats, in the County. It was noted that although most veterinarians are vaccinated for rabies, it is rare for veterinary technicians to be vaccinated. Robert Wittmann stated that for the employees with Moore County Animal Operations, it is a policy to be vaccinated and that cost is covered in their employment. Robert Wittmann asked Janice Baker to send him the dates for the next rabies clinics in Robbins. He stated that he could give the pet owners the opportunity to be vaccinated for COVID-19 while there.

COVID-19 Update: Matt Garner gave an update on the latest local data and trends. There has been a slight rise in cases over the past weeks. The Department continues to promote vaccinations via posters, billboards, a full-page advertisement in the Sunday edition of The Pilot newspaper and a digital advertisement. Matt Garner reviewed upcoming community vaccination events, including outreach at Robbins, Vass, West End, and the Pinehurst Treatment Center. Melissa Fraley noted that there is a nationwide problem with Hepatitis A. The State has asked counties to reach out to their local treatment centers and vaccinate for both Hepatitis A and COVID-19.

Communications Committee Report: Tony Price stated that the Committee met on June 29th. One item they discussed with Ward Medlin, former County Attorney, was whether or not Board members could opt to join a Board of Health meeting remotely. Tony Price stated that is pending so Stephan Lapping can review this and give an update. The Committee is trying to get an understanding on whether it is legal or not. He said that the matter was leaning towards probably not being able to do that.

Nursing Director's Report: Information was already covered.

Health Director's Report: Robert Wittmann stated that the Department is working with the County to purchase a security camera system, in line with existing camera systems in other County departments. The Department continues to work with County and State staff to responsibly expend all grant funds to meet the needs of the Department. He distributed a

handout from Tamiko Gland with an update on long-term care facilities vaccination status. A video regarding the debunking of COVID-19 vaccine myths by Sammy Choi, MD is available on the Department's website, along with another video by Perry Wilson, MD. With schools starting back soon, and with the resumption of extracurricular activities, there is an opportunity to request the assistance of coaches, team captains, 4H and Scout leaders in promoting COVID-19 vaccination. One WIC Nutritionist/Supervisor position remains vacant. There is one WIC Nutritionist on staff and the Department has access to contract nutritionists, as needed. We are interviewing applicants for two Public Health Nurse positions. We are seeking applicants for two Environmental Health Specialist vacant positions. We currently have no qualified applicants and are utilizing resource staff from neighboring health departments to assist our staff in providing on-site sewage services.

Approval of Consent Agenda: The consent agenda contained the minutes for the June 7, 2021 meeting. Janice Baker made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ben Wacker. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Robert Wittmann presented information for the Department's Bad Debt Write-Off FY 2021, with a total of \$798.62. He asked for a motion that the write-off be recommended to the Board of Commissioners for their approval. Kamron Monroe made the motion, seconded by Tony Price. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

Resolution of Appreciation: Leo Santowasso read a resolution of appreciation for Ward Medlin's year of legal service to the Board of Health and Health Department. Paul Kuzma made a motion to approve and adopt the resolution. This was seconded by Kamron Monroe. All members were in favor and the resolution was adopted. Robert Wittmann stated that he would present the signed resolution to Ward Medlin at his retirement ceremony.

Leo Santowasso asked for a five minute recess before the Board went into closed session. Tony Price made a motion to recess the regular meeting to go into closed session at 7:05 PM. This was seconded by Janice Baker. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

Closed Session

Leo Santowasso stated that the closed session was closed at 8:00 pm. There was discussion, with no decision made and no action taken.

Adjourn: Kamron Monroe made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tony Price. All were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.