

Moore County Board of Health August 1st, 2022

Members Present:

Tony Price, Chair
Paul Kuzma, MD., MPH Vice Chair
Leo Santowasso, PE, PLS;
Alex White, Dr.P.H, M.S., M.P.H., D.D.S.
Frank Quis, Moore County Commissioner
Benjamin Wacker, OD
Pauline Sandness R.N., B.S.N
Mark Brenner, MD
Robert Lupski, R. Ph., M.S.
David Williams B.S., M.A.
Matt Garner, Secretary to the Board

Members Absent: Janice Baker, DVM, MS, DACVPM

Call to Order and Introductions:

The meeting of the Board of Health was held in the Community Room of the Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center in Carthage, NC. Chair Tony Price called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Health Department staff present were Melissa Fraley, Nursing Director; Jennifer Wallace, Administrative Officer, and Miriam King-Gill, Administrative Officer. Stephan Lapping, Associate County Attorney, was present for the meeting. Jaymie Baxley of The Pilot Newspaper was present for the meeting. Miriam King-Gill called roll for all members.

Invocation: Matt Garner gave the invocation.

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

Approval of, and/or Adjustments to, Agenda: There were no adjustments to the agenda. Leo Santowasso made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Ben Wacker. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comments: **Tom LoSapio-** Mr. LoSapio presented an article discussing Africa's lower COVID-19 case rates as compared to the rest of the world. The article shared that increased use of Ivermectin, low use of masks, and no implementation of social distancing attributed to the low

rates. The article also claimed that vaccination against COVID-19 in African countries was much lower than the rest of the world, therefore their case rates were lower. He stated that the Covid Dashboard on the county website does not show resurgent cases and questioned the validity of COVID-19 being classified as a pandemic due to possible skewed data.

Presentations: Former Moore County Board of Health (MCBOH) members: Betty Goodridge, Dr. Kamron Monroe, and Dr. Bill Mang were honored for their years of service with the MCBOH—they were presented plaques that detailed the terms of their service.

Board of Health Committee, Education/Staff Reports:

There were no reports

COVID-19 Update: As of today, Moore County has had 27,038 total cases of COVID-19. Of those cases, 26,257 are considered recovered; 451 are considered active; and 330 have resulted in death. Currently there are 6 individuals hospitalized at Moore Regional with COVID-19. In assessing the spread of COVID-19, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) has placed 61 out of North Carolina's 100 counties in a high-risk categorization. Omicron BA.5 which is the most prevalent strain in North Carolina is highly transmissible, but less severe. Vaccinations for COVID-19 are now available to everyone age 6 months and older. Booster doses are available to everyone age 5 years and older. There is a new vaccination from Novavax that does not contain genetic material. Instead, this is a protein-based vaccine without the use of mRNA. Matt Garner shared that the health department will offer mobile testing Monday and Wednesday starting at the end of August. North Carolina has supplied rapid at-home test kits free of charge; upon arrival, the health department will plan for a mass distribution event.

Environmental Health Update: Matt Garner shared a presentation about Environmental Health. Currently there are two contracts with outside agencies to minimize the backlog of permits. Contract staff will work through June 30th, 2023, for 1- 2 days per week. There are five vacancies in the on-sight/water division of our environmental health department.

Chair Tony Price asked if the staffing study needed to be revisited as the county has experienced much growth; Matt shared that the manpower study was conducted in the middle of COVID-19 and revisions to the manpower study may be a good idea.

David Williams asked who is responsible for conducting the study, to which Jennifer Wallace (MCHD Administrative Officer) shared that Moore County Human Resources asked environmental health to conduct a self-generated study. David Williams asked if an attempt to utilize staff from other counties had been made, to which Matt Garner explained that resource staff are comprised of individuals from neighboring counties.

Alex White questioned if there was an economic analysis used to assess the impact of permit delays on the county's financial growth. Matt Garner shared that both the Realtors Association and Homebuilders Association have cost analysis studies that show what happens when building

is delayed. Tony Price and Alex White asked if such a study could be presented to the County Commissioners to help encourage provisions for environmental health.

Both the Fourth Quarter Activities Report, and Fourth Quarter Financial report were reviewed.

Nursing Director's Report:

Monkeypox: As of today, 60 monkeypox cases have been identified in North Carolina. Still, there are no cases in Moore County. Widely available testing exists through commercial labs and the State Lab. Melissa Fraley (MCHD Nursing Director) shared that those who have symptoms

or who have been exposed should be tested. Monkeypox vaccine is not widely available but is increasing in quantity; there are specific criteria and individual must meet in order to receive the vaccine. Currently, men who sleep with men (MSM) are found to be the population with the highest case rates. All individuals who meet the risk screening will be vaccinated with a two-dose series; however, immunity is not seen until approximately six weeks once the second dose has been given. There are no reported deaths thus far from monkeypox.

Health Director's Report: Matt Garner shared that French West Vaughan will be able to provide a report on their campaign during the September 12th meeting. This report will expound on the efficacy of the campaign's objectives using statistical data. If the MCBOH wishes to engage in a new campaign, there must be an entire reengagement in the formal bid process. As COVID-19 numbers have climbed in the past few months, and with the start of the 2022-2023 school year approaching, the weekly COVID-19 calls between MCHD and Moore County Schools (MCS) will resume. Matt Garner shared current vacancies in the department along with the progress of them being filled. New hires for the health department and the roles that they will assume were also announced.

Approval of Agenda Minutes Tony Price asked for a motion to approve the agenda minutes. Leo Santowasso made a motion which was seconded by Alex White. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

Old Business: Tony Price asked for any input for changes to the appraisal form for which none were expressed. He questioned if there were appropriate members offering input from the community and suggested that an online survey be the method of delivery to community partners.

Alex White asked if the report was issued from Moore County Human Resources or from the Chair of the MCBOH. Tony Price expressed that traditionally the report is issued from Moore County Human Resources and Alex White suggested that it would be appropriate to include a cover letter from the Board Chair.

New Business: On August 18th, Dr. Sammy Choi, Director of Research for Womack Army Medical, will be visiting to give a presentation to health department staff. This presentation will be held during a luncheon and will cover communicable disease topics such as: COVID-19, Monkeypox, and disease surveillance. The MCBOH members are invited to join the health department staff for this event.

Topics in turn: There were no topics in turn.

Closed Session: The Board entered into a closed session at 7:11pm. There was nothing to report.

Adjourn: Tony Price asked for a motion to adjourn. David Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Leo Santowasso All members were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.