

Moore County Board of Health July 11th, 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.
Janice Baker, DVM, MS, DACVPM,
Frank Quis
Benjamin Wacker, OD
Pauline Sandness R.N., B.S.N
Betty J. Goodridge
Matt Garner, Secretary to the Board

Members Absent: Mark Brenner, MD; Robert Lupski, R. Ph., M.S

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 6:03 p.m. Health Department staff present were Melissa Fraley, Nursing Director; 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. Paul Kuzma made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Leo Santowasso. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Presentations: There were no presentation.

Board of Health Committee, Education/Staff Reports:

There were no committee reports.

COVID-19 Update: Moore County's COVID-19 case number and case average have been rising slightly for the past four weeks. The county's case timeline is beginning to level off with a current addition of 33.8 cases per day. As of today, Moore County has had 26,247 total cases of COVID-19. Of those cases, 25,578 are considered recovered; 340 are considered active; and 329 have resulted in death. Currently there are five individuals hospitalized at Moore Regional with COVID-19. In assessing the spread of COVID-19, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has placed 18 out of North Carolina's 100 counties in a high-risk categorization. Additionally, 53 counties, including Moore have been identified in the medium-risk categorization. Current variants circulating through the state include four different Omicron strains. These variants produce a milder infection with less severe disease but have increased rates of transmission. 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. Matt Garner read the updated guidelines and recommendations for booster doses according to age and health condition. Matt relayed that Moore County citizens are able to receive COVID-19 vaccination at the health department by calling the department's "shot line" to schedule.

Alex White mentioned that case values are more than likely underrepresented due to individuals who use at-home tests. He asked how those metrics are factored into our data. Matt Garner shared that there is no requirement for an individual to report positive results from an at-home test to the health department nor do individuals always inform a primary care provider if they have tested positive. The health department only receives the report of laboratory confirmed positive COVID-19 tests. He expressed that current guidance encourages individuals to seek a test that will have laboratory confirmation if he or she tests positive with an at-home test.

Paul Kuzma asked for updated recommendations for quarantine and isolation. Melissa Fraley shared the current guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Paul Kuzma mentioned that there are issues with individuals who test positive but must go to work and cannot afford to take time off. Individuals who return to work despite a positive result, expose and endanger others around them. He mentioned the need for more readily available information to citizens concerning COVID-19 treatment, specifically in the earliest stages.

In response to Alex White's comment, Tony Price shared that patients at the Moore Free & Charitable Clinic do call to report a positive result from at-home test.

Monkeypox: There have been 8,238 cases of Monkeypox reported worldwide. The United States has 767 cases in 37 states—4 of those cases in North Carolina. There are no cases in Moore County. Transmission occurs mainly through close intimate contact such as: kissing, cuddling, exchanging bodily fluids, or coming into contact with materials that have matter contaminated with Monkeypox. An individual infected with Monkeypox will need to isolate at

home until all lesions have resolved, scabs have fallen off and a fresh new layer of skin has grown. Symptoms of concern are: fever, chills, and skin rash. The Federal Government has given North Carolina 444 doses of a two dose vaccination series called Jynneos. Certain criteria must be met for individuals to receive the vaccination which is free and available in limited quantity. Vaccination transfer may be requested by a local health department at any time.

Moore County Health Department's clinical staff held a meeting to determine the process of receiving a patient with the virus and any special considerations and precautions to take during the patient's visit. Conversation was had with Jayne Lee Director of Infection Control for FirstHealth to share information and coordinate efforts.

Paul Kuzma asked if the Jynneos vaccine was the same as the smallpox vaccine, to which the answer was, yes.

Alex White asked if there was a communication strategy in place if Moore County receives its first Monkeypox case, to which Melissa Fraley shared details and strategies developed from the clinical staff meeting.

Nursing Director's Report:

No report.

Health Director's Report:

Matt Garner announced that the Management Team of the health department recently updated and submitted its Response Plan for all accreditation standards. He shared that On Target Preparedness is the health department's preparedness contracting source since 2011, with Jessica Liens as the liaison to Moore County. Miriam King serves as the health department's Preparedness Coordinator. Matt shared that the contract with advertising company French West Vaughan for the COVID-19 vaccination campaign has officially ended. A radio remote event with advertisement from the campaign, is proposed to take place at Sandhills Community College during their baseball team's home game. French West Vaughan will provide an evaluation report of their campaign including efficacy data.

Environmental Health has secured a private contractor to help with the backlog of permit requests. Eli Seawell and Alex Thompson have passed their comprehensive exam which is a preliminary requirement for becoming a Registered Environmental Health Specialist. Both Eli and Alex will work with a state consult for two weeks to continue their registration track. Vacancies continue to be filled in Environmental Health as applications are under review. Sloan Griffin, Soil Scientist with Environmental Health, will be resigning at the end of the month.

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

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Matt Garner shared that all local health departments in North Carolina must have a standalone tobacco-free policy. This policy is an additional requirement to the already existing state and county policies prohibiting tobacco. To satisfy this requirement, the Moore County Health Department drafted a policy using language from the Board of Health Tobacco Policy and Moore County Tobacco Policy.

Tony Price asked for a motion to approve the policy. Alex White made the motion which was seconded by Paul Kuzma. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

BJ Goodridge asked that e-cigarettes, vapes and other smokeless devices be mentioned in the policy.

Tony Price questioned the adherence of a tobacco policy in instances of multi-leased business parks that hold county offices. Attorney Stephan Lapping shared that the policy could be implemented solely within the office space but not within common areas.

The Health Directors Performance Appraisal tool was reviewed by the board members. It must be updated by October 2022.

Paul Kuzma mentioned that receiving input from partnering agencies has been difficult in the past and questioned if county commissioners should have involvement with the performance appraisal.

Commissioner Frank Quis stated that most commissioners would not be aware of the day-to-day dealings of the health director and his affairs, so involvement in that particular appraisal is not necessary.

Topics in turn: Frank Quis asked that French West Vaughan include additional information for early treatment of COVID-19 in the vaccination campaign. Matt Garner shared that the contract has ended, and no additional services may be rendered, but contract renewal is an option.

Tony Price mentioned the importance of monitoring COVID-19 for the Fall, highlighting back-to-school.

Closed Session: The Board entered into a closed session at 7:03. There was nothing to report.

Adjourn: Tony Price asked for a motion to adjourn. Frank Quis made a motion, which was seconded by Alex White. All members were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.