

Moore County Board of Health June 4th, 2022

Members Present:

Tony Price, Chair
Paul Kuzma, MD., MPH Vice Chair
Leo Santowasso, PE, PLS;
Robert Lupski, R. Ph., M.S
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

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 6:00 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. Miriam King-Gill called roll for all members.

Invocation: Matt Garner gave the invocation.

Tony adding health director white so moved leo seconded all agreed motion carried

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: Tony Price outlined the operational procedures for making public comments.

First Speaker: *Marge Swierz*

Mrs. Swierz expressed that the Moore County Health Department should be concerned with border patrol at the: National, State, and County level. She shared that a lack of proper vetting of individuals entering our borders causes harm to the citizens and requested that some type of prevention and educational resources be provided by the MCBOH concerning this matter. Mrs. Swierz stated that an increased amount of illicit drugs have been coming into Moore and nearby counties. She specified that Richmond County has had multiple Fentanyl overdoses and deaths. Mrs. Swierz also relayed her concerns of: firearms being too easily accessible to those who use them to commit crime, human trafficking, and the need to combat gender dysphoria through education and the disallowance of prescription hormone blocking medications to children.

Second Speaker: *Tom LoSapio*

Mr. LoSapio expressed that he is no way against the use of vaccinations or mask wearing. He proceeded to apologize in the event that he had ever caused disruption in any prior MCBOH meeting. He also mentioned unpleasant names that he has been called during MCBOH meetings by individuals holding opposing viewpoints then thanked the board members for never criticizing him and always allowing him the opportunity to give public comment. Mr. LoSapio stated that Doctor Fauci gave forewarning of a health crisis to emerge in October of 2022 and passed out documents concerning his findings.

Presentations: There were no presentations.

Tony Price stated his desire to acknowledge both former MCBOH members and members who have terms expiring in the near future during the July meeting.

Board of Health Committee, Education/Staff Reports:

The Communications Committee met on June 1st. Janice Baker was elected as Chair of the committee—it was noted that an additional member must be added. Frank Quis volunteered to be the new member. Tony Price expressed the need for the committee to establish open lines of communication with local press and media outlets.

COVID-19 Update: Concerning COVID-19 vaccination, ninety-four percent of Moore County residents aged 65+ have received their primary series while one hundred percent of residents aged 75+ have received their primary series. Our county is now averaging thirty-four cases per day, based on a seven-day rolling average. Case counts have been increasing for the past eight weeks gradually. As of today, Moore County is classified in the “moderate risk” category for

new cases and transmission while thirteen of North Carolina's one hundred counties remain in "high risk". Though the BA.2 Omicron variant of COVID19 accounts for the majority of new cases, it does not appear to be more severe than the previous variant—however, it is still highly transmissible. Vast spread or surge is not expected to peak as seen in the original Omicron or Delta variants. Many pharmaceuticals are available for citizens during the early treatment phase of COVID19. Vaccines and booster doses are available for all US Citizens ages five and older. Currently, the health department has two clinic days for vaccination. The masked clinics which allow for multiple appointments are held on Monday from 4:00pm- 4:30pm and again on Thursday from 8:00am-8:30am.

Leo Santowasso asked if there was any way to determine the number of recurrent cases versus new cases within the county. Further investigation will be done to categorize the addition of new cases.

Paul Kuzma asked about the general testing trend for COVID19 in the county. He also suggested that a system be in place for the results of COVID19 tests taken at home to be accessible to the health department for reporting accuracy.

Nursing Director's Report:

No report.

Monkeypox: The first confirmed US case of the recent Monkeypox outbreak was reported on May 4th, 2022. There are no cases in North Carolina currently reported. Transmission has been discovered to happen mainly through intimate contact, primarily occurring in the Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM) population. This virus, however, is not exclusive to the LGBTQ+ population. Monkey pox is caused by an Orthopoxvirus linked to exposure in Africa. A study which followed a person who traveled to Nigeria then had non-intimate contact with two hundred other individuals, found that zero of the two hundred were infected with Monkeypox as a result of their exposure. Matt Garner outlined the symptoms and incubation period of Monkeypox, stating that its process typically occurs for two to four weeks. Any cases are reported to the local health department after which lab testing, contact tracing, and case investigation can begin.

Health Director's Report:

Matt Garner congratulated Environmental Health's Food and Lodging division for their diligence with issuing permits to temporary food service outfitters during the 77th US Women's Open. Permits ensure that the health department has inspected and insured the safety of the food for consumption.

Matt Garner shared a thirty second radio ad and billboard photo from our COVID19 vaccination campaign partnership with French West Vaughan titled "Get Out". The campaign's aim is to

encourage COVID19 vaccination in the community, as summer months present a return to normalcy.

NCDHHS has made infant formula available for WIC recipients amidst the ongoing formula shortage crisis. Families do not need to take action to access these extra benefits.

Environmental Health continues to work through the backlog of permit requests due to staffing shortages. The issuance of well permits, repair permits, and recertification permits are now within a manageable time frame. Two trainees in the department will finish their CIT training in a month's time, this qualifies them for testing to become fully licensed Environmental Health Specialists.

This month, the health department will welcome new employees Bobbie Jean Shepherd as a Communicable Disease/Tb Nurse and Yolanda McAllister as an Administrative Assistant.

Alex White asked if the "Get Out" vaccine campaign was composed of general ads or if the target was for a specific audience. He also asked for the measure of effectiveness. Matt Garner responded that the physical placement of billboard ads as well as radio stations playing the ads have specific target populations and demographics. French West Vaughan will provide a study to indicate effectiveness of the campaign. Alex White issued a follow-up question asking if the study would be measuring traffic toward the MCHD shot line, website click throughs, and baseline data with vaccinations/boosters.

Tom LoSapio shared that the ad's use of the word "protection" may be misinterpreted by individuals as guaranteed total protection from ever contracting COVID19, though that is invalid. Mr. LoSapio proceeded to give an anecdote of his brother who has received the primary series and all booster doses possible but recently contracted the disease. Matt responded that the ad specifies "protection" as protection from severe illness, less virulence, and less of a chance to spread the disease to others.

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

Old Business: The required training for board members covering roles and responsibilities was sent out. A certificate of completion is included, and an attestation of completion is required.

New Business: Melissa Fraley shared that the MCHD Family Planning program only offers pap smears to women of childbearing age. The lack of this service availability to women of childbearing age who have chosen sterilization, and women who are menopausal or of post-

menopausal age, places a disparity gap. Matt Garner spoke with Nursing Director Melissa Fraley, Physician Extender Temeka Wallace and Family Planning nurse Angela Williams who were all willing to offer the services to these groups of women. Tony Price mentioned a program from the State that would potentially reimburse services and would like to research securing funding. He mentioned that typically the women found in this gap who are unable to secure private services have to be turned away or referred to other counties. Matt Garner asked what the referral volume for women seeking these services were and Tony Price answer that the Moore Free & Charitable Clinic must turn away at least six women per month.

The Vice Chair position on the Moore County Board of Health was officially filled by Paul Kuzma after a motion for nomination was asked by Tony Price. BJ Goodridge made the nomination which was seconded by Janice Baker. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Topics in turn: Tony Price mentioned that the Health Director position is still being openly advertised and any applicant for Health Director must be vetted at the State level.

Closed Session: There was no closed session.

Adjourn: Tony Price asked for a motion to adjourn. Leo Santowasso made a motion, which was seconded by Paul Kuzma. All members were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.