

Moore County Board of Health April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Members Present:

Tony Price, Chair  
Kamron Monroe, DDS  
Jayne Lee RN, BSN, MPH, CIC, FAPIC  
Benjamin Wacker, OD  
Leo Santowasso, PE, PLS;  
Frank Quis  
Betty J. Goodridge, MHA, CMA  
Matt Garner, Secretary to the Board

Members Absent: Paul Kuzma, MD; Mark Brenner, MD;  
William Mang, PharmD; 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 6:03 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. Jayme Baxley from The Pilot was also present. Miriam King did roll call for Board Members.

**Invocation:** Matt Garner gave the invocation. There was a moment of silence held for Board Member, Commissioner Louis Gregory who passed away on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**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. Jayne Lee made motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by BJ Goodridge. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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

**First Speaker:** *Kevin Lewis*

Mr. Lewis expressed his differing viewpoints than those who oppose vaccination for COVID-19, and the recommended preventative measures such as masking and social distancing. He explained several hardships that he has faced as an individual in this county who advocates for the guidance and direction given by CDC and NCDHHS as a COVID-19 Response.

**Second Speaker:** *Tom LoSapio*

Mr. LoSapio spoke on an article published in the New York Times speaking of another COVID19 variant on the rise, he questioned the expertise of the individuals claimed as “experts” on COVID19 epidemiology. Mr. LoSapio compared the rates of reimbursement of the CMS for different treatment medicines. He also stated that Brazil and the United States had higher mortality rates correlated with the banning of Ivermectin. He asked that the BOH share all information and all science with citizens of Moore County.

**Presentations:** There were no presentations. Matt Garner asked that Commissioner Quis gather contact information for the family of the former Commissioner Representative of the MCBOH, Lewis Gregory, who passed away in March.

**Board of Health Committee, Education/Staff Reports:**

The Communications Committee met March 21<sup>st</sup> and the meeting content will be reviewed later in the night’s meeting. There were no other committee reports.

**COVID-19 Update:**

Matt Garner shared that 96 of North Carolina’s 100 counties meet the low transmission rate with FirstHealth Moore Regional has no COVID19 patients currently hospitalized within the county. Our current positivity continues to drop as less individuals are reporting with positive test results. COVID vaccines and booster doses are available to everyone 5 years. Second booster doses are now being recommended for individuals with a compromised immune system. The COVID19 Dashboard with DHHS will be update weekly instead of daily—the health department will post along with DHHS. Melissa Fraley shared that we are going with a shot in every refrigerator, every day for one hour there is a covid vaccine clinic instead of a vaccine day on Thursday. Therefore, anyone who is eligible is able to call and schedule an appointment daily. Both Pfizer and Moderna are being given and Pfizer children’s vaccine is also being given.

### **Nursing Director's Report:**

There was no report.

### **Activity Report**

The Third Quarter Activity Report was displayed and reviewed by members of the Board. There were no inquiries or questions concerning department performance. The Fiscal report was displayed and reviewed by members of the Board. There were no questions concerning the fiscal report. The Performance Measures were displayed and reviewed by members of the Board. Matt Garner expressed that the Environmental Health Department is still working on its response to complaints as staffing, continues to be short.

### **Health Director's Report:**

Matt Garner highlighted the month of April as being National Public Health Week. Many pre-covid services and activities have returned to the Health Department's scope of practice, one of them being Dental Screenings, Hygienist Tammie Foxx will begin screenings on April 5<sup>th</sup>, beginning at Vass Lakeview Elementary. Tammie Foxx has done a wealth of benefit to the county. Home vaccinations and oral health programs elsewhere look to this county. Our campaign through French west Vaughn titled "Get Out" will encourage all Moore County Citizens to vaccinate against COVID19 that they may return to the normalcy of spring and summer events that may have been avoided during the height of the pandemic for the past few years. Matt shared that we are seeing an increase in interest of secondary booster doses from individuals 50 and older. The MCHD will have a small mass clinic for these individuals. A finalized fiscal year budget will be reviewed in the next few weeks.

BJ Goodridge inquired of the barriers for staff at MCS for dental screenings. Tony Price requested that Tammie give an update for the screenings during the May meeting. Commissioner Quis asked for more information on the positions in the Environmental Health department still needing to be filled.

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

**Old Business:** There was no old business. Tony Price said that there would be Health Director interviews on April 28<sup>th</sup> for three candidates. The interviews will most likely be virtually. Tony Price also mentioned position that would be opening soon on the MCBOH and the need to fill them swiftly.

**New Business:** Matt Garner shared information a potential Environmental Health Technician position. He expressed the justifications for the position and how the tech would aid both onsite

and food and lodging employees. The tech's preliminary work would expedite the ability of staff to complete upper level tasks. The tech would perform tasks such as: measurements, checking plans, taking water samples, and all other non-regulatory tasks. Matt Garner asked for the support of the MCBOH via resolution to add this position to the Fiscal Year '23 permanently. Commissioner Quis expressed that supporting this resolution would be a very positive step. Leo Santowasso moved that the resolution would be approved and that motion was seconded by BJ Goodridge. All were in favor and the motion carried. Jayne Lee asked if money could be shifted to cover this position and make pay more attractive, however, the answer was no.

Environmental Health Fees for Fiscal Year '22-'23 were reviewed by members of the Board. There were no changes made to this year's fees from the past Fiscal Year. After completion of review, Tony Price asked for a motion to approve the fee schedule. Leo Santowasso made a motion which was seconded by Jayne Lee. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Tony Price opened the floor to topics in turn. BJ Goodridge shared that she was excited about Dental Hygiene program returning to the schools. Kamron Monroe shared that the program is very unique and expressed her thanks and her encouragement to the Commissioners to continue to support the effort. Tony price spoke on behalf of the MCBOH to acknowledge Matt Garner's wonderful performance as MCHD Interim Health Director. He commended Matt's diligence and effort.

**Closed Session:** The Board entered into close session at 6:50pm.

Action was taken during the closed session. It was decided that: Dr. Kuzma, Dr. Monroe, Leo Santowasso and Tony Price will compose an Interview Committee that will aid in interviewing and selecting a permanent Health Director.

**Adjourn:** Tony Price asked for a motion to adjourn. Leo Santowasso made a motion, which was seconded by Frank Quis. All were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.