

Moore County Board of Health February 7th, 2022

Members Present:

Tony Price, Chair
Kamron Monroe, DDS
Jayne Lee RN, BSN, MPH, CIC, FAPIC
Benjamin Wacker, OD
Janice Baker, DVM, MS, DACVPM
William Mang, PharmD
Betty J. Goodridge, MHA, CMA
Matt Garner, Secretary to the Board

Members Absent: Paul Kuzma, MD; Leo Santowasso, PE, PLS; Mark Brenner, MD; Louis Gregory

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 Leo Santowasso called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m. Health Department staff present were Melissa Fraley, Nursing Director; Jennifer Wallace, Administrative Officer; and Miriam King-Gill, Administrative Officer. Stephan Lapping, Deputy County Attorney, was present for the meeting. Introductions were made around the table. Jaymie Baxley, with the Pilot newspaper, was present.

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.

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

First Speaker: *Phil Vandercook*

Mr. Vandercook who is a retired Military Serviceman introduced himself as a member of The Veterans of Foreign wars (VFW) in Southern Pines, the Sandhills Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, Special Forces Association Chapter 62, and the next

commander for the American Legion Post 12 in Carthage. He began by thanking members of the Board and Health Department for their service to the community and encouraged continued efforts. Mr. Vandercook expressed that the members of his Post wanted more data about COVID-19 in Moore County. He also stated that the more information available to the public, the less opportunity there would be for misinformation to thrive. Mr. Vandercook's three inquiries were as follows:

1. Are there any reported COVID vaccine related injuries or death within the county, and if so what are the specifics, and has there been an unexpected uptick of other diseases that are outside of the norm?
2. When it comes to hospitalizations and other deaths due to COVID, what are the data points such as age, sex, any co-morbidities, lifestyles etc., to truly identify the most vulnerable among us and to inform people how they can improve their lives and be less vulnerable to the disease?
3. What therapeutics are available to the people within the county, regardless of vaccination status? Are there any restrictions—and if so, why?

Mr. Vandercook is requesting these answers by the March 7th meeting.

Second Speaker: *Tom LoSapio*

Mr. LoSapio began by stating that he is a resident of West End. He congratulated Tony Price on his promotion to Board Chair and wished everyone his best. He shared an anecdote which involved a recent sickness which required medical attention by his doctor. Mr. LoSapio stated that he was denied access to an in-person visit because he had not taken the COVID vaccine. Upon engaging in a telehealth visit, Mr. LoSapio explained his symptoms including a cough, nausea, dizziness, and a multitude of other ailments. His doctor offered a diagnosis of COVID and nothing more leaving Mr. LoSapio feeling neglected. Mr. LoSapio stated that the Health Department only shares the information provided by the government authorities such as NIH and CDC. He mentioned the VAERS Report as an appropriate document to be shared on a regular basis. His suggestion was that the MCHD refuse to only share what is given to them by those authorities and instead seek to share information from multiple sources to better inform the citizens of Moore County.

Third Speaker: *John Misiaszek*

Mr. Misiaszek, a Moore County resident of the Woodlake community shared that his daughter attends Medical School in West Virginia. Located in the state, are Specialized Public Health Care Centers (SPHC) that serve children, adolescents, and the community. SPHC's are located on school sites and provide preventative immediate care, behavioral health services, health education, and sometimes dental care. Most of these services are provided during the school day and referrals to other health care providers can be provided. Mr. Misiaszek stated that a program

of this type could greatly benefit Moore County and urged the Board to consider exploring this opportunity. Mr. Misiaszek provided contact information for an individual now residing in Moore County who is familiar with SPHC's. This individual would be willing to help facilitate the program in our county to help those with lower socio-economic status.

Fourth Speaker: *Mike Friedel*

Mr. Friedel stated that citizens have asked to be made fully aware of COVID treatments, effects of the vaccine, and other information regarding COVID but have yet to receive this information. His claim is that both masks and PCR testing are ineffective, and that PCR testing (which is still used in the county) was to be phased out in December of 2021. Mr. Friedel shared that after speaking at a commissioner's meeting a woman within their group was harassed multiple times by a local citizen with opposing view. Mr. Friedel spoke against vaccinating young children and shared that the Moore County Health Department needs to share information outside of the federal authorities, namely the CDC. He concluded by asking the Board and Health Department to make all information about COVID and treatment options public and easily accessible to county residents.

Presentations: There were no presentations.

Board of Health Committee, Education/Staff Reports:

The Communications Committee met Wednesday Feb. 2nd. Tony Price was the former chair but following his appointment to Board Chair, Kamron Monroe has been appointed to Communications Chair for the time being. For the Covid19 RFP, BJ Goodridge will represent the Communications Committee for that project.

COVID-19 Update:

Matt Garner provided the Board with an update of the latest recommendations on booster dosing and the rates of vaccination within the county. As of this meeting, our county's average has dropped significantly to 85.6 COVID cases per day, the number averages have come down over 10%. Metrics in general show a declining trend in the severity and speed of Omicron impacting our county. Currently, 35 Moore County residents are hospitalized with COVID and the Health Department continues to offer vaccination clinics to the county. Matt showed data with 62% of individuals having received one dose of the vaccine while 57% have received 2 doses. He stated that the older the population, the higher rate of 2nd and 3rd vaccinations received within the county. The MCHD began 5 day a week testing free of charge to the public as an expansion of the previously offered once a week testing held at the health department. Mr. Garner shared that county's rate of testing is decreasing at all sites.

Nursing Director's Report:

Melissa Fraley shared the government's progress with providing vaccination to the youngest of our population. She expressed that the MCHD is in the planning process of administering vaccine to children ages 6mo- 4yrs. The administration will not go into effect until the vaccination is approved under the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization. This approval is expected to come toward the end of the month of February. Melissa reiterated that the Health Department's vaccine clinic is on Thursday, and 6mo-4yr vaccinations will follow in line with that clinic and the State's Standing Order.

Health Director's Report:

Matt Garner began his report by reviewing the inclement weather response that occurred in January. Moore County experienced winter storms for two consecutive weekends and saw the opening of shelters for almost three weeks beginning January 15th. Matt commended Nursing Director Melissa Fraley and the Health Department's Clinical and Management Support staff for the successful shelter operations. There will be a hot wash event forthcoming to evaluate operations and determine best practices for any future sheltering events.

Mr. Garner shared that the Health Department completed two N95 respirator distributions. The first distribution was held on January 18th, where approximately 10,000 masks were given away in the span of about two hours. The second event was held on February 4th, where approximately 6000 masks were given away. N95's were provided to churches and other community groups through a separate coordination process. If supply begins to run low, we will request additional resources from NCDHHS. Matt mentioned again the updated testing availabilities within our county. The MCHD has moved to five-day-a-week testing that began January 24th. Testing occurs in the MCHD parking lot, Monday through Thursday from 9am to 4pm and on Friday from 8:30am to 12:30pm. All testing is free and drive-thru. Our Monday- Thursday vendor Radeas Labs has delivered on a 24 hour test turn around.

At the February 1st County Commissioners meeting, Catherine Graham shared a statement from Commissioner Louis Gregory, which announced his resignation from the Board of Commissioners, citing health concerns. This resignation will go into effect on February 16th which would give both political parties the opportunity to hold a seat on the Board of Commissioners. Within the next thirty days, invention will be made. Commissioners will make a determination on who will cover representation on various boards that Mr. Gregory currently serves including the MCBOH. Mr. Garner stated that the MCBOH begin drafting a resolution honoring Commissioner Gregory.

Currently we are accepting applications for our Nutritionist II position and Environment Health Specialists. The applications are closed for the Health Director, and Health Educator.

Applications are under review or have entered into the interview process. Environmental Health welcomes Alex Thompson to our onsite division.

Commissioners approved the budget schedule for Fiscal Year 22-23. The Health Department is required to review and update the fee schedule that includes both the Clinical and Environmental Health schedules. Our staff recommends those fees to the Health Director who then recommends those fees to the Board of Health. After which, Commissioners must approve the fees before services are offered. Matt recommended that the Board place the review of the Draft Budget Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 22-23 as an item of priority for March's meeting.

Health Director Consultant's Brief:

Former Health Director for Richmond County, Tommy Jarrell gave a brief of his time thus far as a consultant to Matt Garner. Tommy expressed that it has been a pleasure to work with Matt and the Health Department's management team for the past month, and thanked Board members for affording him the opportunity. Mr. Jarrell stated that he works physically in Moore County one day a week and is always available through email and phone call. He outlined the flow of operations at the MCHD including several points of action being taken to remedy issues that may arise. A major point of focus for Mr. Jarrell and Mr. Garner have been addressing personnel matters, Environmental Health staffing matters, budgeting matters, and introducing daily testing at the MCHD. Mr. Jarrell will be here through the remainder of February and will be able to offer assistance on an as needed basis.

Tony Price commended the Health Department and Matt Garner for making testing accessible to the public five days a week on site, and for the quantity of masks given during both distributions.

Approval of Agenda Minutes Tony Price asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda and minutes from the Board of Health's January 10th meeting. Kamron Monroe made a motion that was seconded by Jayne Lee. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: The consulting with the PR firm French West Vaughn has been approved and received proper furtherance. A meeting will be held at the Health Department with the company to discuss the outlay of services to be offered. Testing, vaccination, health education is what the PR Firm would like to talk about.

Tony Price and members of the Board discussed the effectiveness and need to continue having sub committees. Kamron Monroe agreed that the Communications Committee is productive and should continue holding meetings. The Communications Committee will partner with the PF Firm. Janice baker volunteered to fill a role on the Communications Committee in the event that the Vaccination Committee is discontinued. Ben Wacker shared that the info Matt gives during both the COVID19 Update and the Health Director's report was sufficient therefore there was no

further need for a COVID19 Committee. Janice Baker shared that the Vaccination Committee was most effective when vaccinations were first coming out, but that the MCHD handles vaccine response well and that a Vaccination Committee is no longer needed. After hearing these suggestions, Tony Price suggested convening the committee members for a final decision.

Tony proposed a new segment to meetings, that would allow Board members to have topics in turn at the end of each meeting in case anything needed to be said. Tony also made the Board aware, that Bill Mang will be leaving the MCBOH in March, and Max Muse's former position is being filled until the end of his term. Jayne's term will need to be extended.

Jayne Lee asked for clarification about what Moore County offers in schools in reference to the public comment. Melissa shared that we do have dental hygiene but that its program has been on hold because of COVID. Services are offered by nurses and counselors. Tommy Jarrell explained that the state puts out RFPs to fund school-based health clinics every few years but there are criteria that go with the RFPs that would exclude some counties from receiving them. Most services offered by the school-based clinics are incremental, but others are comprehensive.

Janice Baker mentioned that these types of events occur throughout North Carolina's communities, through the US Military at no cost to the recipients. Hosting an event like this is a two or three year process to plan. Janice checked the status of these operations and found that they are currently stalled until further notice but may be something that we might consider.

Closed Session: There was no closed session.

Adjourn: Tony Price asked for a motion to adjourn. Kamron Monroe made a motion, seconded by Jayne. All were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

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