

Moore County Board of Health March 7th, 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
Matt Garner, Secretary to the Board

Members Absent: Paul Kuzma, MD; Mark Brenner, MD; William Mang, PharmD;
Janice Baker, DVM, MS, DACVPM, Betty J. Goodridge, MHA, CMA

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 6:05 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 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 5th, 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 Kamron Monroe. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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

First Speaker: *Tom LoSapio*

Mr. LoSapio greeted everyone in the room. Mr. LoSapio read statements made from PSA's about the COVID vaccination by Tony Price and Bill Mang both whom are Board members. Mr. LoSapio shared the statistics from the VAERS report which shares adverse reactions and side effects from the COVID19 vaccine. He questioned why other medicines such as Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine aren't recommended on our website as forms of effective treatment. Mr. LoSapio shared that currently recommended vaccinations are not effective in prevent covid19 nor are they safe. Mr. LoSapio asked that the BOH share all information and all science with members of the Board

Second Speaker: *Marge Swierz*

Ms. Swierz focused on the upcoming vaccination of infants. She stated that she is a registered nurse and also has a Master's in education. She stated that the covid19 vaccination has had more adverse effects than any other childhood vaccinations. She spoke of the rate of illness, hospitalization of and rate of co-morbidities of children that are much less than those of adults. Ms. Swierz ended her statement by asking that the BOH consider ethical ramifications of providing vaccines from children

Third Speaker: *Mike Friedel*

Mike Friedel shared an anecdote about several of his family members that have been adversely affected by the covid19 vaccine. He also presented information from his own research that refute the claims of the covid19 vaccine's benefit to America's citizens. He ended is statement by asking for the resignation of members of the BOH as he felt that they have not presented fair and accurate information to Moore County's citizens regarding the covid19 pandemic.

Fourth Speaker: *David Hensley*

Mr. Hensley a Moore County citizen encouraged the members of the BOH to follow the scientific method when researching and sharing data about covid19 as well as when they decided to share information with the public. Mr. Hensley stated that covid19 has been solely politicized and has caused major economic damage for the Nation. He ended his statement by calling for the dissolution of the MCBOH.

Swearing in Procedure : Swearing in of Frank Quis, Commissioner member to the Board.

Presentations: There were no presentations.

Board of Health Committee, Education/Staff Reports:

The Communications Committee continues to meet and will meet again in the month of March. The, Covid19 Committee met with Matt Garner and has decided that the committee will be dissolved. The Vaccine Committee has no report.

COVID-19 Update:

Matt Garner shared that with March we are averaging 14 cases per day on 1/28/22. With a 50% decrease in positivity cases, the average testing rate has dropped to 11.4% showing positive. There are three Moore County citizens currently hospitalized with Covid. Daily case average stands at 13.9 cases per day. As of this meeting we have 24,010 confirmed cases since the beginning of the pandemic of those, 23,551 are considered recovered, active cases remain at 142. The State of North Carolina is averaging lower rates in all counties. The CDC is moving to report metrics based heavier upon hospitalizations and the severity of need and treatment rather than using case numbers as the primary metric. The CDC has released recommendations of testing and treatment based upon the levels of community spread ranging from low to high. Moore County has reached the “green” most favorable status with community spread. Matt Garner shared that we as a county, continue to move in the right direction as community spread declines weekly. He shared options for our community citizens on testing and where they could receive treatment.

Nursing Director’s Report:

There was no report.

Health Director’s Report:

Matt Garner shared that a demand for testing has gone down around the county including the Health Department’s site. Our test site will be closing at the conclusion of this week, and testing will be offered through pharmacies, private physicians, and other testing operations through the county. Test-to-treat would allow people to receive antivirals from pharmacies. In conjunction with Pfizer and Merck, there should be 100’s of these test-treat operations opened at CVS and Walgreen’s worldwide. Matt updated the Board sharing that the public relations firm French West Vaughn will begin finalizing creative ad products through digital print and radio outlet within the next few weeks. Moore County offices have moved from masks required to mask optional unless they are required by Federal Statute i.e. (public transportation and medical facilities). Our MCS Board voted to maintain optional masking and move to optional masking on bus transportation and follow NC schoolkit for its guidelines. Our budget team will be meeting to discuss end of March. A Nutritionist II and Environmental Health Specialist positions are open within the county. We are welcoming Lauren Dixon, Immunization nurse and Shannon Cagle, Environmental Health Specialist to employment. Tommy Jarrell, Health Department Consultant,

will be able to stay with us longer than originally believed, for march and April he will be on site bi weekly.

Approval of Agenda Minutes Leo Santowasso made motion to approve agenda minutes. The motion was seconded Ben Wacker. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: The MCHD Clinical Fees For Service for Fiscal Year '22-'23 were reviewed by members of the Board. Matt Garner and Melissa Fraley shared that the fees shifted slightly this year and that all fees are subject to change due to automatic changes within the Medicare and Medicaid systems. Jayne Lee asked what happens to individuals and service if people cannot pay. Melissa explained that patients are assessed on a sliding fee scale, which determines pricing for their service. After completion of review, Tony Price asked for a motion to approve the fee schedule. Kamron Monroe made a motion which was seconded by Leo Santowasso. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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 suggested to Matt that previous year's fees be displayed alongside the current year's fees for comparison's sake.

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.

Resumption: The regular meeting of the Board of Health resumed at 7:15pm. Leo Santowasso asked if the BOH was required by law to follow the guidance of Federal medical authorities. Commissioner Quis stated that he would review the contracts issued by State and Federal entities. To Leo's question, Jennifer Wallace explained that there is a document called a Consolidating Agreement which outlines stipulations made by the Federal authorities. This document regulates agreement addendums that are signed off on by the Health Department. Per the Consolidating Agreement, we are only allowed to do things that are mandated and outlined in the Consolidating Agreement, as it is a global document. Jayne Lee shared that the other entities make it required for FirstHealth of the Carolinas to follow CDC guidelines—CMS makes it regulatory as do other agencies.

Commissioner Quis mentioned that because the BOH is reporting under the County Commissioners, that they are not recognized as an independent Board. However, the Board of Commissioners trusts the BOH to act responsibly and has no desire to micromanage the BOH.

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 7:27pm.