

# Moore County Board of Health November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Members Present

**Tony Price, Chair**  
**Leo Santowasso, PE, PLS;**  
**Alex White, Dr.P.H, M.S., M.P.H., D.D.S.**  
**Frank Quis, Moore County Commissioner**  
**Benjamin Wacker, OD**  
**Pauline Sandness R.N., B.S.N**  
**David Williams B.S., M.A.**  
**Matt Garner, Secretary to the Board**

## Members Absent

**Mark Brenner, MD; Robert Lupski, R. Ph., M.S.; Paul Kuzma, MD., MPH Vice Chair; 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 6:00 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 from The Pilot newspaper was also present. Miriam King-Gill called roll for all members.

**Invocation:** Interim Director Matt Garner gave the invocation.

**Secretary to the Board:** The following statement was read: *“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. David Williams made motion Commissioner Frank Quis second all in favor motion carried

**Public Comments :** There were no public comments.

### **COVID-19 Report:**

Moore County's case numbers show total cases at 29,562; recovered cases at 29,094; total active cases at 129; hospitalized cases at 4; and total deaths at 342. Zero counties in North Carolina are classified as high-risk for spread of COVID-1. Moore County has officially transitioned into the low-risk category for spread of COVID-19 after remaining moderate risk for weeks. The Omicron variant of COVID-19 with strains Ba.4 and Ba.5 prevail as the most prominent strains in North Carolina. The emergence of strains BF.7 and BQ.1 are now being noticed on the tests.

Bivalent booster vaccinations are available for anyone age 12+ and offer the most up to date protection against all variants of COVID-19. The COVID-19-Shot-Line at the health department continues to actively fills appointments for individuals interested in receiving booster doses. As of today, 59% of county citizens have received their primary series of vaccination, while 9% of county citizens have received the bivalent booster.

Dr. Alex White asked about the influenza and COVID-19 vaccination tracking. Matt Garner shared that while there is no countywide tracking database, there are strategies to advocate for individuals to receive both vaccines.

Tony Price shared that there was an influenza vaccination clinic held at the Moore Free & Charitable Clinic and an uptick in flu cases has not been yet seen.

### **Nursing Director Report:**

A two-part grant application was completed by MCHD nursing staff. This grant issues money from the Women's Health Service Fund and Title X Health Fund. The Women's Health Service portion of the funding will allow for the purchase of birth control solely. Title X funds can be used for payment of contracted services, and advertising for maternal and family planning services. The MCHD continues offering bivalent booster clinics for COVID-19 and will continue to operate

### **Quarterly Reports**

Moore County Health Department's First Quarter Activity Report, Fiscal Year 2023 First Quarter Fiscal Report, and Performance Measures Report were all presented by Matt Garner and were reviewed by board members.

Tony Price requested clarity on percentages of 100% for the "reported communicable disease outbreaks and response" portion of the Performance Measures Report. Melissa Fraley shared that we have experienced COVID-19 outbreaks as well as a recent RSV outbreak with both children and adults. The Moore County Health Department receives and reports outbreaks of any required communicable disease within our county to the NC Disease Surveillance Branch.

Leo Santowasso inquired about onsite wastewater permitting updates. Matt Garner shared that the back log is between 4-5 weeks and that the timeframe continues to lessen. Matt Garner also shared that candidates for the positions in vacant Environmental Health jobs are now in the process of interview for hire.

**Health Directors Report:**

Moore County Information Technology required that all employees complete cyber security training. Of the 28 county departments, 22 including the health department had 100% of employees to complete this training.

Respiratory illness activity is increasing within the county. COVID-19 case positives have been declining, however influenza numbers are climbing quickly and at an early rate. Typically, the case trends that occur in the Southern Hemisphere, notably Australia, occur also in North Carolina. Australia had an influenza season that began early and saw increased influenza positivity rates with lower hospitalizations and low deaths—statistics are showing the same pattern and trends forming for influenza cases locally and statewide. Matt Garner shared best practices for influenza mitigation.

Matt Garner addressed the temperature excursion occurrence with a small portion of the health department's COVID-19 vaccine. Melissa Fraley shared that initially 400+ patients were thought to have been affected, but through thorough investigation by Pfizer, the report came back that only approximately 20 people were affected. All impacted individuals were contacted and informed as well as given the option to schedule an appointment for an additional dose of vaccine.

Leo Santowasso inquired if the temperature excursion was dangerous to any persons who received the vaccine. Melissa Fraley explained that no adverse effects resulted from the excursion; as temperature excursions typically affect the efficacy of the vaccination and does not cause harm to individuals.

**Approval of Agenda Minutes:** Tony Price asked for a motion to approve the MCBOH October meeting minutes. Leo Santowasso made a motion to approve the agenda minutes which was seconded by Dr. Alex White. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**Old Business:** There was no old business.

**New Business:**

An official County Health Assessment (CHA) is conducted every few years. In intermittent years between CHA cycles, an annual State of The County which report conducted. This report allows partnering county agencies to stay informed and address health needs within Moore. The CHA

for this three-year cycle will be due to the State in March of 2023. Partner agency, Moore Health, has served as steering committee for the CHA. The collection and categorizing of Moore County's health-based data is a joint effort by multiple agencies within Moore County; after which, discussions, courses of action, and solutions are explored. Moore Health and partnering agencies will meet November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at More Regional Hospital to begin planning. Members from the MCBOH are welcome to come to the meeting.

**Topics in turn:**

Leo Santowasso, asked fellow board members about the possibility of transitioning to a quarterly rather than monthly meeting schedule. To this inquiry, members agreed to discuss matters further and consider the idea in the 2023 calendar year.

Commissioner Frank Quis shared that the county staff have done a phenomenal job in addressing and providing solutions to the Environmental Health crisis. He also commended county employees and partners who aided in resolving the issue.

Matt Garner thanked both Jennifer Wallace and Melissa Fraley for their hard work with rectifying the vaccine temperature excursion situation.

**Closed Session:** Matt Garner read the rules for closed session. Tony asked for a motion to enter closed session which was made by Leo Santowasso and seconded by Frank Quis. All were in favor and the session commenced.

**Adjourn:** Chair Tony Price asked for a motion to adjourn Leo Santowasso made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Frank Quis. All members were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.