

Moore County Board of Health October 3rd, 2022

Members Present

Tony Price, Chair
Paul Kuzma, MD., MPH Vice 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
Janice Baker, DVM, MS, DACVPM
Pauline Sandness R.N., B.S.N
Robert Lupski, R. Ph., M.S.
David Williams B.S., M.A.
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 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.

Public Comments

Kevin Lewis- Mr. Lewis expressed that he sees a push against science and modern medicine. He challenged the use of Ivermectin and questioned its promotion over the COVID-19 vaccination by several groups of people in Moore County. He explained the use of Ivermectin as treatment for illnesses non-related to COVID-19 and asserted that the COVID-19 virus warrants the

vaccination as a best line of defense. Mr. Lewis requested that the Moore County Board of Health would encourage individuals who are spreading false information about COVID-19 to cease in doing so.

Environmental Health Report

Holly Wright, Environmental Health Program Specialist for the Food and Lodging division presented to the board. She gave an overview of the month's activity to include the completion of Quality Assurance inspections. Environmental Health Specialist Andrew Batten completed his Public Swimming Pool Authorization and scored highest marks on the exam; Environmental Health Specialist Trainee Jesse Priest will be attending Centralized Intern Training in order to receive authorizations in each field of inspection. Holly informed that many major events occur during the Fall season which require Environmental Health's involvement. Most recently, the Moore County Fair's food vendors had to be inspected and approved by the department. Holly shared the remainder of events on the calendar for this season and updated the board members on Environmental Health's permit issuance time frame.

Dr. Paul Kuzma inquired of the county's most recent lead poisoning case. Holly answered that an ongoing case exists due to paint and dust exposure from a home renovation. Environmental Health offered to conduct an evaluation of the property after preliminary concern, but the homeowners declined. One child contracted lead poisoning. Dr. Kuzma then asked what steps are taken in the lead poisoning investigation. Holly shared that remediation and cleaning of the property must take place. Specifically, total removal of exposed lead, encapsulation of exposed lead, or a combination of both methods must be used to ensure the home's safety.

Dr. Paul Kuzma inquired of the most recent foodborne illness local to the county and how reporting is handled. Holly shared that a Salmonella was contracted at a childcare facility in the month of August and outlined the process for investigation and resolution.

Commissioner Frank Quis inquired about the process of food truck inspections and its variance from brick-and-mortar restaurant inspections. Holly detailed that inspections are done based on the particular truck's food preparedness procedures. Food trucks are inspected anywhere from one to four times per year depending on how involved the food preparation is. She explained that a truck with food prepared in a "scratch-made" manner and stored inside of the truck receives more inspections than a truck that sells pre-packaged items and discards unsold food product at the close of business. Several food trucks have applied for permits in Moore County since the onset of COVID-19 and any current applications are in the review process.

Chair, Tony Price inquired of letter ratings for restaurants and when a potential consumer should be concerned. Holly shared that the letter grade of 'A' is always the best-case scenario and concern is fair if a restaurant has a rating of 'B' or below. Restaurants may operate with grades as low as 'C' depending on the type of violations found. Anything below 'C' results in a shutdown of the restaurant, until offenses and violations are remedied. She shared that the reports

from all county restaurants and detailed findings during inspections can be accessed on the Environmental Health's page through the county website.

In response to inquiries concerning housing for migrant farmworkers, Holly Wright shared that the same large housing units are used, and that inspections of well water and septic systems are done by Environmental Health. An inquiry of the responsible party for the migrant population's healthcare was made, which will be researched and discussed at a later date.

County Attorney's Office:

Chair Tony Price invited Associate Attorney Stephan Lapping to explain the law making and rule making authority of the Board of Health due to the curiosity of meeting attendees. Attorney Stephan Lapping shared a presentation that outlined the authority of the Moore County Board of Health. The presentation confirms that the authority of the board comes from North Carolina General Assembly chapter 130A of general statutes. The County Board of Health is the policy, rulemaking, and adjudicatory body for county health departments. When asked how the board can establish new rules, Mr. Lapping stated that the process must be done with public notice and a public hearing. A majority rule will establish the decision going forward. It was also mentioned that boards of health serve as advisory entities to local school boards.

Dr. Paul Kuzma shared his interest in the Moore County Community Health Assessment and conversation was held on potential health concerns that would be found in the 2023 assessment.

Nursing Director's Report: No report

COVID-19 Report:

Moore County's case numbers show total cases at 28,959; recovered cases at 28,303; total active cases at 319; hospitalized cases at 7; and total deaths at 336. The percent of positive test results in Moore County is 39.4% while North Carolina's rate is 13.5%. The goal for North Carolina and every subsequent county remains at 5% or below. Moore County is classified as yellow or medium risk for community levels. Omicron variant of COVID-19 with strains Ba.4 and Ba.5 prevail as the most prominent strains in North Carolina.

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.

The health department will be administering vaccine at several community outreach events in October, to include: Moore County Annual Health and Wellness Fair, Sandhills Community College, Moore County Schools (faculty and staff), the National Guard Armory, and San Juan Diego Mission Catholic Church.

Dr. Paul Kuzma inquired if flu shots would be given at the health department's weekly booster clinics. Matt shared that these clinics are COVID-19 specific, however the promotion of a "layering up" approach will be given to encourage individuals to receive both the flu and COVID-19 vaccines. Melissa Fraley explained that local health departments are allotted vaccine by criteria of clientele. This is determined Federally and at the State level. The Moore County Health Department does not hold mass influenza vaccination clinics because the doses allotted are assigned to a limited clientele.

Chair Tony Price shared that the Moore Free & Charitable Care Clinic is hosting an upcoming influenza vaccination clinic.

Commissioner Quis inquired of the reporting method for at-home tests to which Matt Garner expressed that positive results are only reported to the health department if the test taken is a laboratory confirmed PCR result.

Leo Santowasso inquired about wastewater tracking for COVID-19. Matt Garner shared that the NCDHHS tracks and reports the wastewater data for the presence of COVID-19 which is updated weekly on their website's dashboard.

David Williams inquired of the relationship with influenza and COVID-19. He asked if the health department tracks flu cases as well. Matt Garner shared that the state mandated Respiratory Surveillance Report requires flu data to be reported and while coinfections with COVID-19 and influenza does happen, that particular pairing of data is not tracked by the health department.

Opioids:

Substance abuse in Moore County has been a priority health concern for the last 12 years. Programs and responses have been created to address the issue among states—one of these being a 26-billion-dollar allocation agreement reached between state attorney generals and major pharmaceutical companies. The settlements which will be dispersed over a number of years are to provide aid to local governments in fighting the current drug pandemic. Matt Garner shared how the use of opioids in the medical field often leads to addiction and overdose when abused. Heroin and Fentanyl produce the most overdose deaths. Moore County's overdose number was 23 individuals in 2020, which was the highest number the county has seen. In addition, 115 individuals were reported by the Moore Regional Hospital as emergency department overdose visits. Mr. Garner highlighted a county resource called Drug Free Moore County for which he is Chair and explained their mission. Commissioner Quis shared that the county's response and funding being given by the pharmaceutical companies was discussed during the Board of Commissioners meeting. Several Board of Health members discussed which populations are in

need of addiction and recovery resources along with how they envision the funding being able to benefit Moore County.

Monkeypox:

As of October 3rd, 566 Monkeypox cases have been identified in North Carolina. Moore County had the first case confirmed on September 2nd, 2022. Signs and symptoms of this virus begin within 3 weeks of exposure. The health department has tested less than 5 individuals for Monkeypox and there are 2 cases reported within the county. There have been 22 doses of the Monkeypox vaccination given at the health department to individuals who meet eligibility requirements. It remains that almost all being tested and receiving vaccination are men who sleep with men (MSM).

Health Directors Report:

Matt Garner recognized and appreciated the employees who staff the COVID-19 shot line and call center. He expressed that the contract with Mega Force has been updated to allow these employees to continue their work.

Dr. Susan Buckland has been selected to supervise Tammie Fox, Oral Health Program Manager for the health department. She will contract for the next 5 years and oversee: risk assessment, the fluoride mouth rinse program, and sealants projects. With this supervision in place, Tammie Fox will be able to provide these services to the county's school children.

On October 12th, Carthage Elementary School will partner with the Moore County Health Department and the Carthage Police Department for "Walk To School Day". This one-day event, which promotes physical fitness for the children will use the parking lot of the health department as the starting point for a safe walkway path to the school.

There will be a state conducted monitoring visit for the Moore County Health Department at the end of October. Jennifer Wallace, Administrative Officer II is the point of contact and oversight at the health department for the programs that will be reviewed.

Matt Garner shared current vacancies within the department and the progress of positions in the process of hire.

Approval of Agenda Minutes: Leo Santowasso made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Paul Kuzma. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: There was no new business.

Topics in turn: There were no topics in turn.

Closed Session: David Williams made the motion to enter closed session which was seconded by Frank Quis. All were in favor and the session commenced.

Adjourn: Chair Tony Price asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Frank Quis made a motion, which was seconded by Leo Santowasso All members were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

DRAFT