

Moore County Board of Health August 1st, 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
Pauline Sandness R.N., B.S.N
Mark Brenner, MD
Robert Lupski, R. Ph., M.S.
David Williams B.S., M.A.
Matt Garner, Secretary to the Board

Members Absent: 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. Vice Chair Dr. Paul Kuzma called the meeting to order at 6:04 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-Gill called roll for all members. Members gave a brief introduction of who they were

Invocation: Matt Garner gave the invocation.

Secretary to the Board: Interim Director 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. Leo Santowasso made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Dr. Ben Wacker. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comments: **Tom LoSapio-** Mr. LoSapio spoke out of concern for children in the Moore County School system in the event that they would be required to wear masks once again as a

protective measure against COVID-19. He presented statistics from the Moore County Dashboard to elaborate on his concerns.

Beth Ann Pratte- Mrs. Pratte expressed that she feels there has been a failure with the county's response to COVID-19. She requested that information about ivermectin be placed on the website for the benefit of county citizens. She also expressed the importance of educating Moore County's citizens about the vaccine for COVID-19 and any risks that receiving it possesses.

Presentations: French West Vaughan the consulting firm for COVID-19's vaccination campaign gave their presentation about efficacy. This report focused on results-based evidence that can be measured by: increased click rate, increased awareness, vaccination and booster rates and activity within the call center. A copy of data will be available for MCBOH members which details statistical change in those areas from the campaign's beginning until its closure. Members of French West Vaughan also focused on future campaign considerations and what they would be able to provide to Moore County.

Dr. Alex White asked if a decision to implement a secondary campaign would be made at this meeting, to which the answer was no.

David Williams asked for the remaining duration of this present contract and if the monetary amount displayed on screen was the amount spent on the campaign, to which the answers were: the contract had ended and yes.

Board of Health Committee, Education/Staff Reports:

There were no reports.

COVID-19 Update: As of today, Case average is 27.4 cases for week and has been declining since the beginning of summer. Moore County stands at 28,300 total cases of COVID-19. Of those cases, 27,680 are considered recovered; 284 are considered active; and 336 have resulted in death. Currently there are 9 individuals hospitalized at Moore Regional with COVID-19. Moore County has 40% of population with one dose of booster or additional dose of the COVID-19 vaccination received. There has been much volume to the COVID shot-line following the release of the bivalent vaccination. Moderna's version of the bivalent vaccination is recommended for everyone age 12 and older, while Pfizer's version is recommended for everyone age 18 and older. With both brands, two months after a primary booster dose is given, is the appropriate time to receive the bivalent vaccination. Monovalent boosters are still available as of now. The Moore County Health Department will begin running a full day vaccination clinic on Thursdays to meet the high demand for bivalent vaccination. Free drive-thru testing is still being conducted through the vendor Optum Health. This testing will continue for the coming months to meet demand. COVID-19 and flu vaccinations will be promoted with an approach of "layer up your protection".

Environmental Health Update: Matt Garner shared that as of today the turnaround time for permits is within 6-8 weeks. Recertifications and well permits are given a timeline of 2-4 weeks for completion. There are currently four vacancies in the onsite sewage division. A position is

being reclassified from an Environmental Health Specialist to an Environmental Health Program Specialist to aid the department in organization and expedite completion of onsite work. The department has added two new employees: Jesse Priest and Environmental Health Specialist Trainee, and Amanda Gordon an Environmental Health Specialist. Resource staff continue to aid the environmental health department in managing the workload. The resource staff work both weekdays and weekends. Two contract companies are aiding by doing preliminary work for the staff as they continue to bring permit issuance times down—the contracts run through June of 2023. Moore County builders and developers have met with Environmental Health and are creating plans to improve relations between all parties. Environmental Health staff are working to refine the online permitting dashboard for more efficient use.

Chair, Tony Price gave congratulations and asked for clarification about the timeframe of 6-8 weeks. Matt Garner informed that staff are currently working to approve permits initially requested from July to mid August.

Dr. Mark Brenner asked what the projected goal for permitting times is to which Matt Garner answered a timeframe of 2-3 weeks for the issuance and approval of permits. Matt also added that being fully staffed will help reach this goal and keep its performance consistent.

Commissioner Frank Quis asked how frequently Tommy Jarrell is consulting for the health department as it relates to aiding environmental health. Matt shared that Mr. Jarrell is working on a weekly basis to help as he has also implemented similar practices in Richmond County. Matt elaborated that Russ Kelly, Environmental Health Technician, has been extremely diligent in completing the rudimentary work required for the permitting process.

Dr. Alex White asks what happens when considering projected development of the county in a few years. Matt answered that another manpower study may take place as need for employees to meet a growing building and developing demand seems likely.

Leo Santowasso asked what the Home Builders Association expressed in terms of being able to help the county. Matt shared that they will be willing to prioritize which properties and approvals need to come first. They will agree to submit a certain number of applications per week (between 2-5) to help control flow and backlog of applications.

Nursing Director's Report: No report

Monkeypox: As of today, 399 Monkeypox cases have been identified in North Carolina. Moore County had the first case confirmed on September 2nd, 2022. No new cases have been identified in the county since that date. For the 98% of cases confirmed, most have been male, almost all of them being men who sleep with men (MSM). Matt Garner outlined symptoms and healing of Monkeypox's disease course. Testing is now widely available through commercial labs and the State lab. Individuals are eligible for testing at the MCHD by appointment. Antiviral drugs and vaccines help alleviate monkeypox illness as the disease typically resolves on its own. Vaccines

are available for individuals so long as they meet specific criteria. Nearly 13,000 doses of the vaccine have been given in North Carolina.

David Williams asked which disease Monkey Pox is most closely related to. The answer from Dr. Paul Kuzma was Smallpox.

Dr. Mark Brenner asked about the testing process for potentially infected individuals. Matt Garner shared that aggressive swabbing is done on lesions which are then sent to labs. The typical turnaround time for results is 24 hours.

Leo Santowasso asked if the case data is publicized for citizens to see. Matt shared that the health department uses North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' dashboard and links this info to our county website and social media.

Health Director's Report: Melissa Fraley has been cleared to engage in remote work and will potentially return to in-person working toward the end of the month.

Approval of Agenda Minutes Dr. Paul Kuzma asked for a motion to approve the agenda minutes. Leo Santowasso made a motion which was seconded by David Williams. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

Old Business: Tony Price mentioned that the assessment of the appraisal tool was in ongoing communication with county HR.

New Business: No New Business

Topics in turn: Commissioner Frank Quis wanted to know how the MCBOH wanted to proceed with implementing a secondary campaign, and whether that decision should be assessed by the Communications Committee. Tony Price agreed that the Communications Committee meeting should be held and further discussion of a campaign could be discussed during next month's meeting.

Pauline Sandness asked who determines what guidelines citizens have to follow for both COVID-19 but also other health directives in general. She questioned whether the CDC, Moore County Health Department, NCDHHS, or other local government was the authority when it concerns mandates, restrictions and other actions associated during pandemics. Matt shared that the MCBOH has rule making authority, and Stephan Lapping shared that the rule making requires public notice and public hearing.

David Williams asked what must be reported as far as disease and illness. Matt Garner explained that as long as public interest exists and as long as the state continues to report on certain subjects, that the health department will as well.

Dr. Paul Kuzma shared that certain diseases must be reported by federal law to include COVID19 and Monkeypox. He explained the surveillance process from the county-state-federal chain that requires roughly eighty disease to be reported.

Dr. Kuzma also asked if a broader range of topics could be discussed during Moore County Board of Health meetings to keep everyone abreast on an increased number of topics.

Closed Session: There was no closed session

Adjourn: Dr. Paul Kuzma asked for a motion to adjourn. David Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Leo Santowasso All members were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.