

Stanly County Health Department

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STANLY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

November 1, 2007

The Stanly County Board of Health met on November 1st, 2007 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room of the Stanly County Health Department. All Board Members were present with the exception of Mr. Stephen Chambers, Dr. Jim Marshall, and Mrs. Margaret Rudisill. Staff present was Dennis Joyner, Health Director, Debbie Bennett, Judie DeMuth, David Ezzell, Gary Godwin, Patricia Hancock and Becky McKeon. Kim Kinnecom and Leon Warren attended as media representatives.

Board Chair Hathcock called the meeting to order and entertained a motion for approval of the September 6th, 2007 board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Dr. Riemann, seconded by Dr. Emery and approved by the board.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Joyner updated the board on personnel changes informing them that Justine Carpenter was employed on 9/24/07 in the Environmental Health Specialist position left vacant by Stacy Hatley. The director informed the board that applications are currently being reviewed to fill an additional Environmental Health Specialist position vacant since 8/24/07. Board Members were informed that Amanda Hopkins, RN resigned from her position as a PHN II in the Home Health Program effective 9/28/07. Interviews have been conducted and a decision should be made next week on filling this position. Also, the Home Health Program is in the process of contracting with a new Physical Therapist and an additional Physical Therapist Assistant. These new contracts should be signed to allow patients to begin receiving treatment next week.

A report on Health Department expenditures and revenues as of September 30th was reviewed. Mr. Joyner explained that these figures are on track as it is still early in the new fiscal year.

The Director discussed flu shot activities informing the Board that 4,000 doses were ordered and received by the Health Department. Board Members were informed that the first flu clinic was held on October 5th and was designated for all county employees, free of charge in order to protect as many employees as possible from the flu. The following Friday, October 12th a drive through flu clinic was held at the Agri-Civic Center to encourage the community to get vaccinated as well as contribute to bioterrorism/mass event training for county staff, which resulted in a total of 242 shots given at the drive through with an average time of less than 10 minutes per vehicle. Two Friday clinics have been held, with a Sunday clinic held at four community sites in the county, and currently flu shots are available to the public during regular clinic hours of the Health Department. Thus far, a total of 1,463 shots have been given through the Health Department. Suggestions were then offered and discussed on how to advertise and reach more of the population, particularly young people, stressing the importance of being vaccinated against the flu.

Information was shared with the Board on recent pertussis cases in the county. Mrs. Becky McKeon, the Health Department's Communicable Disease Nurse & Outreach Supervisor explained that the first call received was on September 24th and 173 contacts were involved with that case. Since that date, 1,589 contacts have been prophylaxed with 64 tests performed and 12 cases confirmed. Mrs. McKeon added that all children tested were up to date with their required immunizations and as appropriate, those ages 11 to 64 are being offered booster immunizations. Details of MRSA cases in the county were then discussed and Mrs. McKeon informed the board that this is not a State required reportable communicable disease. However, recommendations and treatment plans have been discussed with school personnel and 5 cases have been identified thus far. The Health Director commended staff for their work in handling the many calls and contacts resulting from public concerns regarding both pertussis and MRSA.

Director Joyner addressed recent concerns in regards to guidelines of the Animal Control Program on advertising "Pets of the Week", which resulted in a few letters to the editor published in the Stanly News and Press. He assured the board that adoptable cats and dogs will continue to be advertised and in an effort to establish a clear understanding on this issue, a meeting with rescue league representatives and staff will be held as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Health members' terms of office was discussed with Director Joyner stating that with the exception of Dr. Mark Emery, all members with expiring terms had agreed to serve another three year term, if the board was agreeable. The Health Director explained that Dr. Emery had requested not to be considered for reappointment to another term as a Physician Member due to time restraints. He added that Dr. Raquel Mullen had expressed interest in serving on the board, and after discussion, Dr. Yowell made a motion to recommend the names of current board members with expiring terms to County Commissioners for reappointment, and to submit the name of Dr. Mullen to replace Dr. Emery as the Physician Member. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mauldin and passed by the board. The director agreed to forward this information to the Commissioners for their consideration.

The Environmental Health Program Supervisor, David Ezzell then explained that effective August 1st of this year, the state mandated a new rule that all food service establishments be inspected using assigned risk based categories. Mr. Ezzell explained how the risk categories were assigned; explaining that the type of food handling and preparation conducted in each establishment were the main factors in assigning the category inspections. He added that the new rule would decrease the number of inspections required yearly for some establishments and was designed to hopefully reduce the risk of food borne outbreaks by focusing more attention on establishments that posed greater risks.

Board Chair Hathcock requested that all evaluations completed on the Health Director's yearly performance appraisal be turned in to her, which would be compiled into one evaluation response before forwarding to the County Manager.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Joyner gave an update on the Alcoa/Badin Lake Fish Study, explaining that detailed protocol has been established by the state, but plans to start the testing have not yet begun and a possible start date has not been announced at this time.

Board Members were made aware that effective 10-15-07; a Smoking Policy prohibiting smoking in all Stanly County Government buildings and in all county vehicles was passed by County Commissioners. The Health Director explained that the only change made to the smoking policy recommended by the Board of Health was the distance of 50 feet to 30 feet of an entrance to county buildings. A copy of the new Stanly County Smoke-Free Policy was distributed to the board.

OTHER BUSINESS

The director informed the board that the Home Health Program recently received official notice of full accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Health Care, Inc. (ACHC). Staff was commended for their hard work in accomplishing this achievement. A list of new charges for patient care was distributed to the board, with Mr. Joyner explaining that a recent visit from the Home Health Program Accountant resulted in a recommendation to increase set fees, as of 1/01/08. After reviewing the proposed charges, a motion to accept them as presented was made by Dr. Emery, seconded by Mrs. Johnston, and passed by the board.

Plans for the December Board of Health meeting was discussed, and Dr. Mauldin suggested that due to busy schedules of everyone during the month of December, the next meeting should be scheduled for the first Thursday in January, 2008 unless a called meeting is deemed necessary by the Health Director. All Board Members agreed to this suggestion.

The board was informed that Health Department employees were planning a Christmas luncheon during the month of December, and a \$20 donation from each member would be appreciated to help cover the costs.

The Health Director announced that Dr. Mindy Turner, Dental Clinic Director, was expecting a baby in early January, 2008. Due to her absence of approximately 3 months, new patients under 8 years of age are not being accepted until her return. Also, the hospital OR schedule has been cleared for the month of January, but Dr. Turner plans to perform surgeries in February and March.

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner McIntyre made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mauldin, and passed by the board.