

# Stanly County Health Department

1000 North First Street, Suite 3

Albemarle, NC 28001

(704) 982-9171

Fax (704) 982-8354

## ***STANLY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH***

**August 2, 2007**

The Stanly County Board of Health met on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room of the Stanly County Health Department. All Board Members were present with the exception of Stephen Chambers, Dr. Mark Emery, Debby Johnston, Dr. Laura Mauldin, Commissioner McIntyre, Margaret Rudisill, and Dr. Ann Yowell. Staff present was Dennis Joyner, Health Director, Debbie Bennett, Judie DeMuth, David Ezzell, Christi Greer, Patricia Hancock, and Judy Hartsell. Kim Kinnecom and Leon Warren media representatives, and John Roberts, Attorney for the County of Stanly was in attendance.

Board Chair Hathcock called the meeting to order and before turning the meeting over to the Health Director for his report, tabled approval of the April 5<sup>th</sup>, April 26<sup>th</sup>, and June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 minutes until the next board meeting since a quorum was not present.

### **HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mrs. Judy Hartsell, RN, Home Health Unit Supervisor who retired as of 7-31-07 was recognized and presented a Certificate of Appreciation. Everyone present applauded Mrs. Hartsell for her years of service in the Home Health Program. Mr. Joyner explained that recruitment for the PHN Supervisor I position left vacant by Mrs. Hartsell was posted in-house in an effort to promote from within the Health Department before posting externally. Mrs. Debbie Bailey, RN, PHN III who has been employed in the Home Health Program since 11-14-2000 was promoted to the Supervisor position as of 8/1/07. The PHN III left vacant by Mrs. Bailey was posted in-house and Teresa Hunsucker, RN, PHN II who has worked in the Home Health Program since 2-28-05 was offered the PHN III position to become effective 8/8/07. Mrs. Hunsucker's PHN II position was then posted in-house and Susan Furr, RN accepted the position which will become effective later in August. Ms. Furr has been working on a part-time basis in the Home Health Program and has numerous years of experience in home health care

Director Joyner completed his personnel update by informing the board that the Spanish Interpreter position requested in the new fiscal year was approved by Commissioners, established by State Personnel and has been advertised. After discussion on the difference between an interpreter and a translator, Mr. Joyner added that a large number of qualified applications have been received from interpreters and interviews should take place within the next week in an effort to fill the new position as soon as possible. A contract recently signed with Fluent Language Solutions for telephone interpreter services was discussed, and board members were made aware that even though the majority of interpreting services were needed for Spanish speaking patients, occasionally other language interpreter services are needed for our patients and this telephone service will be used in these situations.

Mr. John Roberts was then introduced to the board and he shared some background information stating that he was originally from the Raleigh area and came from a private attorney practice before accepting his current position as the Stanly County Attorney. The Health Director added that in past years the county has contracted for attorney services and Mr. Roberts added that Josh Morton would continue contracted services for about two more months.

A preliminary report on Health Department expenditures and revenues through June 30<sup>th</sup> was reviewed. Mr. Joyner explained the reports and stated that final figures for FY2006-07 will be shared at the next meeting.

The board was informed that the county budget for fiscal year 7/1/07 thru 6/30/08 has been approved. Director Joyner stated that the new Interpreter position and two new vehicles in addition to a replacement vehicle for Animal Control was approved along with the GPS units requested for the Environmental Health Program, increased on-call pay for Home Health Nurses, and a 2.5% Cost of Living increase for all county employees were included in the budget. Board Members were reminded that the Animal Control position requested has been omitted from the budget for now, with the understanding that when the state euthanasia requirements are finalized this additional position could be reconsidered.

The meeting was then turned over to Christi Greer, Health Education Specialist who gave a presentation to the board on health promotion activities she performs through the Health Department, with emphasis on the Partners in Health Coalition and County Wellness Committee. A wide variety of information was shared which included substance abuse and obesity education events, along with informing the board of exercise activities/classes and a community garden to possibly be established in the Elizabeth Heights community. A map of walking trails throughout the county was distributed to everyone, and board members were given the opportunity to sign up to receive Partners in Health Coalition meeting minutes for updates. Board members expressed appreciation of the department's health promotion efforts.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A list of patient account receivables and bad debts for the period of 7/1/06 through 6/30/07 was reviewed by the board. The Health Director discussed the information from all clinics and explained that 30% was listed as uncollectible in Medicaid revenues as a general rule. A vote to approve the report could not be taken since a quorum of board members was not present; therefore Mr. Joyner stated that the report would be forwarded to the Finance Director with the understanding that the information was shared with as many board members as possible.

The current Smoking Policy at the Commons Facility and Court House was discussed. The Director made the board aware that even though the Stanly Commons Facility is smoke free, the County Court House still allows smoking in a break room and he reminded board members that recently ratified N.C. House Bill 24 allows local governments to regulate smoking in buildings of local government. Several smoking issues were discussed, including the possibility of the Board of Health making a recommendation to County Commissioners to establish a smoking policy to prevent smoking in any county owned building, including the court house and extending the policy of the Commons Facility to not allow smoking within 50 feet from entrances. The need for smoking cessation classes, etc. was discussed and the Health Director stated that he would look further into this issue which would be revisited at a future Board of Health meeting.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Director Joyner gave an update on the Alcoa/Badin Lake Fish Study, explaining that he was continuing to work on the effort and had been unable to finalize plans on how the study would be conducted and who would cover the cost involved with the testing. After discussion, Board Members were assured they would be kept abreast of the study.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Health Director made the board aware that County Commissioners will vote at their meeting on Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup> whether to sign a contract with Southern Health Partners, Inc. for jail health medical services. If the contract is approved, the Health Department will no longer be responsible for medical care of inmates as of 9/1/07. The new contract should benefit the county due to Southern Health specializing in jail health and being able to provide additional coverage.

Recent recall issues for Castleberry and other generic canned food products affected with botulism were discussed. Board Members were informed that state officials requested that local independent grocery stores, church kitchens/food pantries, shelter ministries, daycares, etc. be checked by Health Department staff to assure that recalled products were off shelves and disposed of properly. Director Joyner explained that large chain stores were notified by officials and recalled products were effectively removed from shelves, but concern was being concentrated on the smaller stores and locations that may not have received the mandatory recall information. David Ezzell, Environmental Health Supervisor stated that a few more small stores would be checked tomorrow which should cover most potential sites in Stanly County.

With no further business to discuss, the board adjourned at 8:15 PM.