

STANLY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

October 1, 2009 Meeting Minutes

The Stanly County Board of Health met on October 1, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Stanly County Health Department. Board Members absent were Drs. Ann Yowell and Raquel Mullen. Staff members present were Dennis Joyner, Health Director, Judie DeMuth, Debbie Bennett, Shonda Blalock, David Ezzell, Becky McKeon and Thomas Taylor. Tina Luther, RN a student from UNC-G was in attendance and Leon Warren attended as media representative.

Chairman Chambers called the meeting to order and after welcoming those present, entertained a motion for approval of the September 3rd board meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Dr. Marshall, seconded by Dr. Mauldin, and approved by the board.

Health Department employee Shonda Blalock, RN introduced Tina Luther, RN who was in attendance as part of her education requirements in obtaining a bachelors degree from UNC-G.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Health Director updated the board on the agency's personnel status informing them that Cara Haywood, RN submitted her resignation today with an effective date of 10/15/09.

Mr. Joyner then summarized staffing changes he was proposing in the Dental Clinic which included establishing a Dental Clinic Office Manager and an additional part-time Dental Hygienist position. He explained that a manager was needed in the clinic to coordinate office operations, assist with billing, appointment scheduling, etc. and the additional hygienist position would allow one of the two part-time hygienists currently employed to become a full time employee. The director added that the hygienist positions were self supporting and he projected that the additional part-time hygienist would generate \$8 - \$10,000 above the cost of her position which should help cover the expenses of non-revenue generating positions. Board Members discussed issues surrounding revenue shortage in the last fiscal year. The shortage resulted in moving a Dental Clinic Office Assistant to the Home Health Program 40% of her time and cutting a Dental Assistant position. Dr. Laura Mauldin, Dentist Board Member expressed cost efficiency concerns and stressed the need to carefully assess program revenues and expenses before hiring additional staff. The Health Director explained his desire for the board to be comfortable with any decisions he made concerning this issue.

Board Members were informed that currently the Stanly County Partnership for Children (Smart Start) funds a Health Educator position with Stanly Regional Medical Center to coordinate a child obesity prevention program - Healthy FUNdamentals. Mr. Joyner added that as of 10-15-09 the Partnership would be reducing the funding for the initiative and discontinuing the contract with the hospital for this position. The project will be re-bid at a reduced funding amount for a half-time position and the Health Director expressed his interest in possibly trying to continue the program in the community. More information will be presented to the board in the near future.

Reports on expenditures and revenues as of August 31st was reviewed, and Mr. Joyner explained that the figures were on target for the second month of a new fiscal year. Performance reports for all Health Department programs for the month of August were reviewed.

Information concerning H1N1 and seasonal flu preparation and statistics were discussed. A surveillance report prepared by the Mecklenburg County Health Department, Epidemiology Program with data

through September 26th was reviewed. The report indicated that Influenza-like illnesses reported statewide through emergency departments had risen sharply and surveillance indicated that 99% of cases were from the H1N1 virus. The Health Director informed board members that to date no H1N1 vaccine had been received by the Health Department, but was expected by mid October. He added that 1000 of the 1,500 ordered doses of seasonal flu vaccine had been received and tomorrow from 8:30 AM to 12 Noon would be the first flu clinic opened to the public. The board was informed that the charge for a seasonal flu shot was set at \$20, which was less than last year due to the lower vaccine price this year. Mr. Joyner stated that the cost for pediatric seasonal flu vaccine and all H1N1 vaccine would be covered by the state and/or federal funds with no charge to anyone.

Board members were made aware that the final State DPH Report on the Badin Lake Fish Study had been received. He explained that the report was long and impressive and should anyone desire to review the complete document he would make it available to them. Commissioner McIntyre commented on the small lettering used on the fish consumption advisory signs that have been erected at public access points of the lake. Director Joyner assured the board that he had expressed the lettering concerns to state officials.

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Health members' terms of office was discussed with Director Joyner stating that 3 of the 11 board members would have expiring terms effective 12/31/09. They were reminded that members can serve 3 terms (3 years each) consecutively, which totals a maximum of 9 years allowed. Those with first terms expiring were Dr. Laura Mauldin and Mrs. Debby Johnston, who agreed to serve a second term if appointed by County Commissioners. Dr. Lana Riemann was reminded that since she would complete her 3rd consecutive term at the end of the year she would not be eligible for reappointment as a General Public Member. Since 2009 will soon be ending, all board members were asked to make decisions as to whether they wished to continue serving on the board. The Health Director encouraged everyone to let him know of any recommendations for a new General Public Member as soon as possible. Commissioner McIntyre added that some interest in serving on the Board of Health has already been received by commissioners and additional names are welcome.

Board Members discussed whether to hold a December Board Meeting, and as in the past several years everyone agreed that due to busy schedules during the holiday's, unless a called meeting is deemed necessary by the Health Director, there will not be a December Board Meeting. Chairman Chambers suggested that board members donate at least \$20 (meeting per diem) to the annual Health Department employees Christmas luncheon in December. Everyone agreed to bring their donations to the next board meeting with the understanding that they were also invited to attend the luncheon which is usually the last Friday before the Christmas holiday.

The Health Director made the board aware of the availability of state funding for H1N1 planning activities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Joyner thanked the Animal Control Program Subcommittee which consisted of Chairman Chambers, Dr. Yowell, Mrs. Rudisill, Dr. Mauldin, and Mr. Faulkner for their time and efforts in visiting the animal shelter on September 4th and meeting to discuss animal control issues on September 21st. An outline of recommendations/comments from Elizabeth Roberts who spoke at the September board meeting and departmental comments were reviewed. The Health Director informed the board that he had met with the County Attorney and discussed a consent form/agreement for owner surrender dogs and cats, partitions are going to be installed to separate feral animals, and several new and improved cages are going to be purchased. He added that staff attended customer service training on September 24th and satisfaction cards are going to be distributed to the public who visit the shelter. Board Members were informed that one of the Animal Control Officers has been certified as a Euthanasia Technician and will be able to euthanize animals as appropriate. Also, another Animal Control Officer has become a Certified Rabies Vaccinator which will be helpful since animals cannot be kept at the shelter longer than 14 days before being vaccinated against rabies. Mr. Joyner made the board aware that a Department of Agriculture State Inspector made a visit to the shelter today and observed two euthanasia procedures and inspected the shelter which resulted in a very good report. Board Members expressed appreciation to the staff who works at the shelter, stating that they were impressed with the appearance of the shelter and with so many circumstances to deal with on a daily basis; overall they did a good job. The Health Director commended the staff, adding that customer service would continue to be a top priority and they would continue to assess procedures used in other county animal shelters that may benefit our operation. A letter to Ms. Roberts from Chairman Chambers will be mailed along with the recommendations and comments matrix outline.

OTHER BUSINESS

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