

# **Stanly County Health Department**

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

**March 5, 2009**

### **Meeting Minutes**

The Stanly County Board of Health met on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room of the Stanly County Health Department. Board Members absent were Mrs. Teri Hathcock, Dr. Jim Marshall, Mr. Gene McIntyre and Dr. Lana Riemann. Staff present was Dennis Joyner, Health Director, Debbie Bennett, Judie DeMuth, Patti Lewis, and David Ezzell. Leon Warren attended as media representative.

Chairman Chambers called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. Since a quorum was not initially present to approve the February 5, 2009 minutes, and no general public was in attendance for comments, the meeting was turned over to the Health Director.

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

The Health Director updated the board on the agency's personnel status informing them that Thomas Taylor began work in the vacant IT support position on March 3. Mr. Joyner stated that all positions that were allowed to be filled are now filled at the Health Department and with a hiring freeze currently in place, should a vacancy occur, it would necessitate County Manager approval before the position could be filled.

A report on Health Department expenditures and revenues as of January 31<sup>st</sup> was reviewed. Mr. Joyner explained that with revenues at 58% and expenses at 54%, figures are on target for this time of the fiscal year. Board Members reviewed a list of Health Department budget reduction priorities for FY08-09 and Mr. Joyner explained that this was round two of budget reductions requested by the County Manager, which totaled 4.2%. He reminded everyone that in January a 4.7% budget reduction was agreed upon for the Health Department and with the 4.2% in reductions presented in February, a total of 8.9% reduction was now reflected. The Health Director assured the board that he would keep them updated on the budget status and performance reports for all Health Department programs through January, 2009 were reviewed.

Board Members were informed that new software has been implemented in the Environmental Health Food & Lodging Program which allows staff to collect and input inspection information on site using portable laptops. The program provides the necessary data to the state and allows numerous data reporting options. The status of the new State Health Information System (HIS) which will be used by all Health Department clinics was discussed, and Mr. Joyner stated that no firm roll out date has been announced to date and staff are currently receiving training in an effort to make a smooth transition to the new system which will possibly take place in late spring.

A flu season update along with surveillance charts with comparable State trend data over recent years was distributed to the board. Mr. Joyner stated that the latest information reflects an increase of reports of influenza illnesses in North Carolina but consistent with trends in previous years. He explained that the surveillance program provides important epidemiologic data to the N.C. Division of Public Health for the monitoring of influenza activity in North Carolina and also supports CDC influenza surveillance throughout the U.S. The efforts of the program provide timely recognition of new influenza strains with pandemic potential throughout the flu season.

With the Health Director's report now completed and a quorum of Board Members present, Chairman Chambers entertained a motion for approval of the February 5, 2009 board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Faulkner, seconded by Mrs. Rudisill and approved by the board.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The budget process and schedule for FY2009-10 was discussed and the board was informed that budgets were due in County Administration and the Finance Office by 4-15-09. However, due to the need for Board of Health approval of the Health Department's budget, the County Manager agreed for the board to review and approve the budget at their May board meeting and if changes are made, Mr. Joyner will make the necessary contacts to assure any budget request modifications. The Board of Health Budget Committee consisting of Mrs. Debby Johnston, Dr. Raquel Mullen and Mr. Larry Faulkner agreed to meet at the Health Department on 4-23-09 at noon for a luncheon meeting to review the budget before it is mailed to the entire board.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A memorandum from Mr. John Roberts, County Attorney was shared with board members' concerning the possibility of allowing Animal Control officers to carry sidearm's for additional personal safety. Board Members acknowledged the concern regarding personal safety but also agreed with the County Attorney's response that since Animal Control is not under the sheriff's authority, the liability risks associated with this request are too high at this time. Board members noted Mr. Roberts' recommendation that the current Animal Control Ordinance needs modification regarding use of firearms by Animal Control Officers and Mr. Joyner stated that this item would be brought back to the board at a later date.

Director Joyner gave an update on the Badin Lake Fish Study stating that at the public meeting held on February 11<sup>th</sup> was very informative with state officials sharing results from the analysis of fish samples collected from three areas of Badin Lake, the northeast, northwest and southwest. Different species of fish were collected to get a representation of the fish that people eat in the area, and species of fish that might have different concentrations of contaminants depending on the type of food they eat. The fish were analyzed for PCB's and PAH's as these substances have the potential to move from sediments and water into living organisms, and between different living organisms, in the aquatic environment. Also, humans may be exposed to PCB's and PAH's in aquatic environments by contact with contaminated water or sediment, or by eating contaminated fish. Results of the study indicated that no PAH's were detected in the fish, but concentrations of PCB's in some catfish and large mouth bass were greater than the N.C. Division of Public Health level of concern which is the maximum concentration of a substance the state of North Carolina has determined as a level of safe exposure. Based on the results of the study, the N.C. Division of Public Health recommends that: 1) Due to elevated levels of mercury in large mouth bass in the entire state, women who are pregnant, nursing, or of child-bearing age, and children younger than 15 years of age should not eat any large mouth bass. 2) Other people should limit their consumption of catfish and large mouth bass from Badin Lake to no more than one meal per week. The Health Director informed the board that physical signage was recommended to be posted at various public access points on Badin Lake stating the fish consumption advisory. A motion to proceed with the signage was made by Dr. Yowell, seconded by Mrs. Rudisill and passed by the board.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Board Members were informed that Dr. Jeffery P. Engel, M.D. has been appointed as North Carolina State Health Director and Director of the Division of Public Health. Dr. Engel has served as the State Epidemiologist and Chief of the Epidemiology Section, as well as serving as Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases while he was on the faculty at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

The Health Director informed the board of upcoming outreach activities which included a State of the County's Health Expo for 2009 to be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> at Stanly Regional Medical Center and a Health & Human Resource Information Fair on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Agri-Civic Center. Detailed information will be shared at the April board meeting.

The Board was informed of well testing legislation that has been introduced to modify the requirements of testing for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) which would significantly increase the costs associated with well permits. Under the newly introduced legislation, the testing of VOC would not be a requirement but at the discretion of local health departments.

The board was updated on legislation introduced during the 2009 Session of the NC General Assembly, House Bill 2- an act to Prohibit Smoking in Public & Work Places and House Bill 6-an act to provide for Humane Euthanasia of Animals in Animal Shelters. Mr. Joyner stated that these bills are still being discussed with no final decision reached to date.

Recent speculations concerning mercury vapor levels at two Stanly County elementary schools, Stanfield and Endy were discussed. The Health Director reviewed test results provided by the State which reflected vapor levels as acceptable according to state guidelines.

The possibility of transitioning the Parish Nurse Program currently operated by Stanly Regional Medical Center to the Health Department was discussed. Mr. Joyner stated that approximately 30 churches participate in this program which utilizes the services of Registered Nurses who volunteer their time to conduct health screenings and other health promotion activities for church congregations.

The Health Director made the Board aware of the Department's possible involvement in a State environmental & biomonitoring initiative that would seek to assess the levels of arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury and VOC's in certain North Carolina populations with well-established risk factors. The State is pursuing a grant and if successful, further details will be shared at a later date.

With no further business to discuss, Mrs. Rudisill made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Faulkner and passed by the board.