

Stanly County Health Department

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STANLY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

May 7, 2009

Meeting Minutes

The Stanly County Board of Health met on May 7th, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room of the Stanly County Health Department. Board Members absent were Mrs. Teri Hathcock, Mr. Gene McIntyre and Dr. Raquel Mullen. Staff present was Dennis Joyner, Health Director, Judie DeMuth, David Ezzell, Gary Godwin and Thomas Taylor. Leon Warren attended as media representative.

Chairman Chambers called the meeting to order and entertained a motion for approval of the April 2nd board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Faulkner, seconded by Dr. Riemann and approved by the board. With no general public in attendance, no comments were noted under the Public Comments agenda item and the meeting was turned over to the Health Director.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Board Members were informed that no personnel changes had taken place since the last meeting, and a report on Health Department expenditures and revenues as of March 31st was reviewed. Mr. Joyner explained that with revenues at 76% and expenses at 72%, figures are on target for this time of the fiscal year with the exception of the Environmental Health and Dental Clinic programs. He stated that funds from the Medicaid cost settlement would cover the deficit in the Dental Program and he added that the Home Health program was doing well.

Performance reports for all Health Department programs through March, 2009 were reviewed and the Health Director stated that statistics are consistent with previous months.

Information on the recent swine influenza A (H1N1) virus outbreak was shared and the Health Director displayed and reviewed statistical data from the State and CDC regarding the outbreak spread. Information was also shared concerning the various steps being taken at the federal, state and local level to monitor and address the outbreak. The Health Director noted that a portion of the CDC's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) had been successfully received by the department through the N.C. Division of Public Health.

NEW BUSINESS

The proposed Health Department budget for FY2009-10 was presented by the Health Director. The board was informed that the proposed budget reflected a 1% decrease in county funds from the FY2008-09 adopted budget as requested by the County Manager. Several budgetary items were highlighted by Mr. Joyner and discussed by Board Members as follows:

- 1) Overall Department** – Salary allocations are projected at current rates per the County Finance Department calculations with the only increased adjustments based upon probationary increases for qualifying employees and position specific adjustments for Environmental Health Specialist trainees. The amount of \$10,600 is requested to replace and upgrade software for 7 computers per IT recommendations, with additional computer replacements being purchased in the FY08-09 fiscal year utilizing available state funds to minimize county expense. Interior painting of the department (approximately \$15,000) has been deferred from the current budget and is not requested in FY09-10 budget, but will be needed sometime in the future when funds become available. Professional liability insurance is projected at a 5% increase as recommended, but could be less when final calculations are

issued. One capital expense for a commercial medical freezer unit at a cost of \$3,500 is being requested for drug related storage and could possibly be offset with a portion of State funding.

- 2) **Animal Control Program** – Requests are primarily due to the new state Animal Welfare Law regulations. Euthanasia by injection (EBI) has been integrated into the shelter during the current fiscal year through a veterinarian contract, and training of staff will be required in the coming year regarding new animal euthanasia standards. The CO euthanasia chamber currently used for feral and dangerous animals will not meet state standards effective August 2009. A new chamber cost approximately \$18,000, and this expense has not been included in the new budget.
- 3) **Environmental Health** – Funds to cover the cost of the on-going development and implementation of the environmental health module of an integrated software system has not been included in the Health Department budget due to this expense being included in the Central Permitting Department’s budget.
- 4) **Dental Clinic** – A significant reduction is reflected primarily due to the decision not to fill the vacant dentist position. A capital expense of \$7,000 is requested for the purchase of patient monitoring equipment that is required to do some sedation procedures.
- 5) **Fund Balance Usage** – A request for \$16,000 in Medicaid Retroactive Settlement funds, \$16,000 from the Dental Program fund balance and \$20,000 from the Home Health Program fund balance, for a total of \$52,000 was proposed to help support overhead expenses in the FY2009-10 budget.

The Health Director presented information to the board concerning costs associated with a full transition to Euthanasia by Injection (EBI) and compliance with the N.C. Department of Agriculture’s animal shelter requirements, which reflected an additional request of \$6,010 to the Animal Control Program budget. He explained that the veterinarian currently under contract to administer EBI was willing to extend the contract to include all shelter animals meeting the euthanasia criteria. Dr. Ann Yowell stated that within two years CO chambers will likely not be allowed for euthanasia procedures, and she recommended that rather than purchasing a new CO chamber, funds should be requested to cover the extended veterinarian contract along with other expenses related to this transition.

After comments, questions, and discussion, Mr. Faulkner made a motion to approve the proposed FY2009-10 budget, including the additional Animal Control Program costs, as presented. Mrs. Margaret Rudisill seconded the motion, which was approved by the board. Chairman Chambers thanked the Board of Health Budget Committee for their work in reviewing the proposed budget at a meeting on 4-23-09.

A draft of an “Agreement for Release of an Animal Deemed Unadoptable by the Stanly County Animal Control Program” was reviewed. Director Joyner explained that this agreement would establish conditions that would allow certain animals deemed unadoptable to be released from the shelter to animal rescue organizations as well as clearly define the associated responsibility of rescue organizations. Dr. Ann Yowell requested that the wording be changed from stating that the animal “is not deemed adoptable” to the general public to “has not been deemed adoptable.” Board members agreed with the change and gave approval for the Health Director to proceed with establishing the release form.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Joyner gave an update on the Badin Lake Fish Consumption Advisory stating that to date no further instructions or information has been received from the State.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Health Director informed the board that the State of the County’s Health Expo for 2009 focusing on youth concerns in the community was held on April 27th at Stanly Regional Medical Center. He encouraged board members to review the information in the State of the County Health Report that was mailed to them as it included priority concerns for 2008 including obesity, injury prevention, birth outcomes and infant mortality, teen pregnancy & STD’s. He also made the board aware that the full version of the report can be reviewed on the county web site.

Board Members were made aware that Mr. Mike Taylor is serving as the interim County Attorney until a permanent attorney can be hired. Interviews have been conducted with a decision expected soon.

The need for an Identity Theft Prevention Policy was discussed and Director Joyner explained that this policy, required by federal law, was needed for any department that maintains account information on public citizens that involves payments or transactions on outstanding balances. He stated that after discussing this issue with the County Manager a recommendation was made to establish a county department-wide policy which would include the Health Department, EMS, Utilities, etc. If the County does not proceed with such a policy by the end of August, the Board would need to approve one for the health department separately.

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