

Stanly County Health Department

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STANLY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

June 4, 2009

Meeting Minutes

The Stanly County Board of Health met on June 4th, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room of the Stanly County Health Department. Board Members present were Mr. Larry Faulkner, Mr. Gene McIntyre, Dr. Raquel Mullen and Dr. Ann Yowell. Staff members present were Dennis Joyner, Health Director, Judie DeMuth, Debbie Bennett, David Ezzell, Patti Lewis, Becky McKeon and Thomas Taylor. Leon Warren attended as media representative.

Vice Chairman Faulkner called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. Since a quorum of board members was not present to approve the May 7, 2009 minutes, and no general public was in attendance for comments, 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 April 30th was reviewed. Mr. Joyner explained that with revenues at 81% and expenses at 77%, 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 revenues were above budget projections.

Performance reports for all Health Department programs through April, 2009 were reviewed and the Health Director stated that statistics are consistent with previous months. He added that the WIC Program continues to increase their caseload and in the Environmental Health Program on-site inspections are down due to the decline of home construction.

Information on the recent swine influenza A (H1N1) virus outbreak was shared and Becky McKeon, RN reviewed the latest statistical data from the State and CDC. Possible issues with vaccine availability, widespread susceptibility and the potential for large numbers of cases this fall were discussed. Mr. Joyner stated that local health department guidelines will be based on requirements set forth by the CDC and N.C. Division of Public Health and will be shared with the board throughout the next several months.

NEW BUSINESS

The status of the Health Department county budget for FY2009-10 was discussed, and the Health Director stated that the County Manager has made minor adjustments that reflect a 1.8% decrease. Commissioner McIntyre stated that beginning next week County Commissioners plan to meet weekly to review all county budgets, with a target date of 6-22-09 set for approval. Director Joyner informed the board that state budgets are yet to be approved with possible cuts being discussed that could affect several services offered through the Health Department, such as Medicaid reimbursement rates, the Oral Health Section, Healthy Carolinians activities, accreditation requirements, Smart Start and case management services. He added that approval of the state budget is not expected until mid July.

Board Members reviewed a resolution opposing the "Public Health Improvement Plan" as contained in Senate Bill 202. Director Joyner explained that the resolution was proposed by the NC Association of Local Health Directors in an effort to show opposition to the legislature reforming the current public health system absent

appropriate planning and input from local government officials and local public health professionals. Since a quorum was not present, the Board of Health could not approve the resolution but there was a consensus of those present to forward the resolution to County Commissioners for their consideration and approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Joyner gave an update on the Badin Lake Fish Consumption Advisory stating that the state has approved the purchasing of signs to be posted at various public access points containing advisory fish consumption information. He explained that signage has been ordered by the state and includes both English and Spanish with Stanly County and Montgomery County to pay approximately \$800 each.

OTHER BUSINESS

A summary of the new North Carolina law, Smoking in Public Places was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Joyner highlighted changes and answered questions pertaining to the enforcement of the new state law to be effective January 1, 2010.

An updated "Agreement for Release of an Animal Deemed Unadoptable by the Stanly County Animal Control Program" was distributed for the board's review. Director Joyner explained that the form had recently been forwarded to Aimee Wall, an attorney with UNC School of Government who recommended changes in some of the wording from the document last reviewed by the board. Dr. Ann Yowell recommended that current rabies vaccine be added to the Stanly County Animal Rescue Organization's responsibilities. The agreement will be updated and utilized when a rescue group wishes to obtain ownership of an animal in the possession of the Animal Shelter. Pictures of recently sealed kennel area floors and ceiling enclosures were presented to the board. Director Joyner explained that sealing the floor should assist with the prevention of diseases and enclosing the ceiling had helped considerably with temperature control. Kennel record pictures and procedures were explained and an invitation was extended to everyone to visit the shelter at their convenience to see firsthand the improvements that had been made.

Board Members were informed that the Stanly County Health Department had recently become a sentinel site for influenza surveillance along with 36 other health departments in North Carolina. Director Joyner explained that when clients present at the department with flu like symptoms, we can now test and report the outcomes to the state which will be included in reported statistical surveillance data.

The board was made aware that Jenny Furr had been hired as the new County Attorney and scheduled to begin work the middle of July.

The Health Director shared information concerning the need to change the operating hours of the Dental Clinic in an effort to enhance efficiency and revenues. He stated that results of a recent consultant review of the dental program concluded that hours currently worked on Friday mornings were not revenue efficient. Since Dr. Turner has surgeries scheduled on Thursday mornings at Stanly Regional, she along with two assistants begins work at approximately 6:30 AM on these days and therefore does not generally work on Fridays. He added that current operating hours of the dental clinic are Monday thru Thursday from 8AM to 5:30PM with an hour for lunch and Friday from 8 to 11:30AM, which is a weekly total of 37.50 hours. A meeting has been scheduled with the County Manager to discuss changing the dental clinic hours to a four day work week, keeping the hours at 37.50 weekly for staff. A start date for the four day work week to begin has yet to be established.

The July Board of Health meeting was discussed and there was a consensus to cancel the meeting unless issues warrant action before the first Thursday in August.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting ended at 8:15 PM.

