

Stanly County Health Department

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STANLY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

August 6, 2009

Meeting Minutes

The Stanly County Board of Health met on August 6th, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room of the Stanly County Health Department. Board Members present were Mr. Stephen Chambers, Mr. Larry Faulkner, Mrs. Teri Hathcock, Dr. James Marshall, Mrs. Debby Johnston, Dr. Lana Riemann and Dr. Ann Yowell. Staff members present were Dennis Joyner, Health Director, Judie DeMuth, Debbie Bennett, David Ezzell, Gary Godwin, Patti Lewis, and Thomas Taylor. Leon Warren attended as media representative.

Chairman Chambers called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. Since a quorum of board members was not present to approve 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 updated on the agency's personnel status with Director Joyner informing them that the Dental Clinic had made some organizational changes that were based on recommendations from a recent consultant review of the dental program. The review concluded that the current work schedule was not revenue efficient and in an effort to make improvements, the work week for the dentists, dental assistants and dental hygienist has changed from a 5 day week to a 4 day work week. The weekly hours worked will still be 37.50 as in the past but hours have changed to 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM and 1PM to 5:30 PM except on Thursdays when the staff will leave at 5 PM and the two office assistants will continue to work on Friday mornings. In addition to changing the hours of the clinic, a reduction in force has taken place with the last dental assistant hired terminated as of 7-31st, leaving three full time assistants. This decision was based upon the clinic now operating with two dentists rather than three since Dr. Drexler's resignation on 12-1-08. Also, the decision has been made to change dental hygienist from two part time to one full time and one of the two office assistants will now work 40% in the Home Health Program and 60% in the Dental Clinic. Her responsibilities are primarily patient billing.

Reports on expenditures and revenues as of June 30th was reviewed. Mr. Joyner explained that the figures were preliminary for the end of the fiscal year with only minor changes expected to be made for the final year-end figures. The director reminded board members that funds from the Medicaid cost settlement and dental clinic fund balance would cover the deficit in the Dental Program. Performance reports for all Health Department programs through June were reviewed.

The status of the state budget was discussed and Director Joyner stated that he expected the final figures to be available sometime next week. He mentioned the Smart Start Program, therapy services reimbursement and Medicaid reimbursement rates as areas of concern, explaining that adjustments may have to be made to the county budget if the amount of state funding was decreased.

Information on a recent complaint concerning the Animal Shelter was shared with the board and Director Joyner explained that a resident had visited the shelter in search of her neighbor's cats that she had noticed missing. While looking through the cages of cats, she saw a Siamese cat that had been surrendered by its owners due to age and health issues, which was deemed unadoptable. Not finding the cats in question, the resident requested to adopt the Siamese cat and became upset when she was told the cat was unadoptable. The visitor has made calls to the County Manager and the Health Director as well as written a letter to the SNAP. Mr. Joyner stated that he had provided copies of the Animal Control Ordinance, program procedures, applicable state laws and

other guidance documents. He advised the resident that if she had further concerns, she could present them to the Board of Health and she has requested to be placed on the Board of Health agenda for the September meeting. Gary Godwin, Animal Control Supervisor gave detailed information concerning his conversation with the resident, shared the shelter card of the cat in question, reason for actions and explained the location of cages in the kennel area of the shelter where visitors are allowed to look at animals. Board Members discussed the possibility of placing cages out of public site that contained animals that were not adoptable, and everyone agreed this could possibly alleviate questionable situations with visitors.

With the Health Director's report now completed and a quorum of Board Members present, Chairman Chambers entertained a motion for approval of the May 7th and June 4th, 2009 board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mrs. Hathcock, seconded by Dr. Marshall and approved by the board.

NEW BUSINESS

A list of patient account receivables and bad debts for the period of 7-1-08 thru 6-30-08 for all Clinical Programs, the Home Health Program and the Dental Clinic was reviewed by the board. The Health Director discussed the information and explained that overall, bad debt was low and 20% was projected as uncollectible in outstanding Medicaid revenues in Dental and General Clinics and 40% was projected as uncollectible in outstanding Medicaid and insurance revenues in the Home Health Program. After discussion, Mrs. Hathcock made a motion to accept the report as presented and forward as needed to County Finance. The motion was seconded by Dr. Marshall and passed by the board.

Board Members discussed the need for an annual review of administrative policies and the Health Director explained that policies reviewed by staff with no recommended changes included the Delegation of Authority, Developing Policies and Procedures, Diversity in the Workplace, Fee Policy, and Participation in Community Health Improvement. Mrs. Teri Hathcock made a motion to approve the policies with no changes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Riemann and passed by the board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Joyner gave an update on the Badin Lake Fish Consumption Advisory stating that the signs have been ordered and received by the state. The signs will be erected by the N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission in Stanly and Montgomery counties at public access points. He stated that the signs contain advisory fish consumption information and warnings concerning swimming in the lake. The N.C. Division of Public Health is also conducting a small survey of people using Badin Lake to assess fishing habits and knowledge of the advisory before and after the signs are erected. The survey results will be used to help evaluate the effectiveness of the postings and the advisory's impact on the public's behavior.

OTHER BUSINESS

Information concerning H1N1 and seasonal flu preparation was discussed and the Health Director stated that this year would be very challenging having to deal with both vaccines which will initially be available at different times and were recommended for some differing priority groups. 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 further information will be shared with the board throughout the next several months. He added that the health department was assessing the number of medical providers interested in receiving the H1N1 vaccine and this information is being shared with the state for finalizing allocations. The H1N1 vaccine will be provided free of charge. A data base has been developed in order to keep an accurate record of the local vaccine providers. The seasonal flu vaccine has been ordered and will possibly be given earlier than usual based on CDC recommendations and to allow time to tentatively begin H1N1 vaccinations by late October.

Board Members were informed that a Sisters of Mercy grant application has been completed and submitted for approval in an effort to receive funding in the amount of \$30,000. If approved, these funds would assist the Health Department in providing adult health services to underinsured and uninsured clients in need of services and would also allow for the purchase of needed equipment. The status of the grant request should be received in November.

An update on departmental activities was shared with the board which included the possibility of clinics changing to an open access scheduling system. Hopefully by the first of the year this change can be put in place which should decrease the patient no show rate and increase patient satisfaction. Director Joyner added that he had heard positive comments from other counties who use the open access system.

Mrs. Debby Johnston, Dr. Riemann, Mrs. Hathcock and Mr. Chambers requested that board meeting minutes, agenda's, etc. be emailed to them rather than the usual mailing process. Mrs. Judie DeMuth, Clerk to the Board agreed to this change, and will check with absent board members to follow up with this request.

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