

The Cleveland County Public Health Board met on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Board members present: Chair Sara Karner, Ronnie Whetstine, Robert Miller, Marty Hamrick, Patti Alexander, Heather Bridges Moore

Board members present remotely: Kale Meade, Henry Gilmore, Deanna Moseley Lawrence

Health Department staff present: Tiffany Hansen, Deshay Oliver, Leslie McSwain, Anne Short, Tammy Cobb, Nathan McNeilly, Alisa Leonard, Andrea Power

County Attorney present: Elliott Engstrom (remote)

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair Sara Karner called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed everyone.

Mr. Miller gave the invocation.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens requested to appear before the Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MAY 10, 2022, PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING:

Chair Karner presented the proposed agenda for the May 10, 2022, Public Health Board meeting for consideration of adoption.

Motion: A motion was made by Patti Alexander with a second by Ronnie Whetstine to adopt the agenda for the May 10, 2022, Public Health Board meeting as prepared. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 12, 2022, PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Karner presented the April 12, 2022, Public Health Board meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

Motion: Mr. Miller moved that the minutes of the April 12, 2022, Public Health Board Meeting be approved, and Ronnie Whetstine made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

VITAL RECORDS PRESENTATION:

Chair Karner introduced Tammy Cobb with the Vital Records presentation for the Health Department. Tammy is the Deputy for Vital Records and supervises the clerical staff at CCHD.

CCHD is responsible for reporting all death and birth events that occur within Cleveland County. Vital Records works with the Register of Deeds department that is in our County Administration building. An individual can obtain a certified copy of a birth or death certificate at the Register of Deeds for a cost. Notification of Deaths are faxed daily to CCHD from funeral homes, we in turn report paper death certificates to Vital Records in Raleigh weekly. CCHD also verifies that new births that are entered into the NC Electronic Birth Registration System by Atrium staff are correct. A birth certificate needs to be completed when a birth occurs in a hospital, home, or side of the road. CCHD Vital Records assists with completing birth certificates that did not take place in a medical facility. When a birth certificate is sent to Raleigh it is processed and they will let the parents know by mail when they can obtain a copy of the birth certificate, this process can take 3 months to a year. If for any reason a change needs to be made to a birth certificate, that will need to be amended by Vital Records in Raleigh. If a pregnancy results in fetal death at 20 weeks gestation or more, it must be reported within 10 days to the local registrar. The NC Department of Health and Human Services has implemented an electronic reporting system for deaths and births. This system is named NC DAVE, which means NC Database Application for Vital Events and started on May 1, 2022, for death events. NC DAVE will not begin for birth events until January 1, 2023. When a death certificate is accepted into NC DAVE it goes directly to Raleigh, who in turn presents it to the Register of Deeds the next day. This service has greatly increased the timeliness involved with death certificates.

2022 COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS:

Chair Karner introduced Anne Short with information on the 2022 County Health Rankings. County rankings have been done every year since 2010. It is a ranking of 3000 counties across the United States and their selected indicators, which are chosen because the data collected is uniform. The 2022 county health rankings are a culmination of the data that has been collected over the previous couple of years. The Cleveland County Commissioners mainly look at the top-ranking which is health outcomes. Health outcomes are based on 2 sets of factors which are length of life, that is measured by premature death before the age of 75 due to preventable disease, and morbidity and quality of life. Health Behaviors are looked at strongly by CCHD because we can impact them the most by providing education and prevention initiatives. The website countyhealthrankings.org can be accessed to view this information, as well as additional factors that are not measured due to the consistency of the data from year to year. Our identified peer counties are also listed on the website, and they are as follows: Edgecombe, Lenoir, Rutherford, Watauga, and Wilson. Anne expressed that the results from this survey are a benchmark of where our county is, but it is not the complete picture. Anne also promoted everyone looking at the community health assessment and the score cards for a more accurate representation of Cleveland County. Ronnie Whetstine stated that Cleveland County now has over 100,000 citizens and our income has increased, he asked if that would help improve our scores. Anne replied that it would help, but it would be 2 to 3 years before we saw a representation of that growth. Tiffany explained that almost all counties had a decreased County health ranking due to Covid-19 and the premature deaths associated with it. The health behaviors, which are individual choices, for our County have not had much change at this point but will likely increase due to the impacts of Covid. CCHD does work on a constant basis to educate our community on health behaviors and the impact they have.

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS:

Anne spoke about the community satisfaction survey results. The community satisfaction survey is a survey that is required for accreditation and is done annually in the spring. Anne provided a comparison of the results over the last three years. Overall, CCHD was pleased with the results from this survey scoring in the excellent and very good category. One of the questions asked on the survey was, “do you have suggestions for improving any of the services at CCHD?” The biggest thing people had to say was that they would like CCHD to be open half day on Saturday and/or until 6 PM in the evening during the week. The most important thing we took from the survey is that clients are taking away the information they need from CCHD when they visit.

REMOTE MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Chair Karner introduced Elliott Engstrom with remote meeting attendance guidelines. Elliott explained that when Covid took place, a state law was enacted with rules regarding remote meetings. He said that remote meetings are allowed, however; if you need to count attendance as a quorum then the attendee would need to attend remote for the entire meeting to be counted. A remote meeting is in effect if any member of the board attends remotely. A link must be provided for the public if they want to attend the meeting, this is required under the guidelines in place for remote meetings. If for any reason, a link was not able to be provided then the meeting should only be done in person. Deshay asked Elliott if he would explain what happens when the state of emergency is lifted. Elliott answered that when the state of emergency is lifted, it is anticipated that a legislation should be passed at the state level on what happens with remote meetings.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Chair Karner introduced Leslie McSwain with budget amendments for CCHD. Item number one proposed by Leslie was that CCHD received a Substance Abuse Prevention Block Grant for Covid-19 Relief from NCDHHS in the amount of \$101,417. These funds will be utilized to support youth substance use prevention activities including, but not limited to, underage alcohol and tobacco sales compliance checks, expansion of the Lock Your Meds medica campaign, and facilitation of the evidence based Too Good for Drugs program. We ask permission to budget these funds in our CODAP (548) department. Item number two is that CCHD has been allocated \$22,368 from NCDHHS, Environmental Health Section. These funds are given to local health department environmental program to assist with implementation of state-mandated sanitation requirements. We request that these funds be budgeted in our Environment Health (541) department to be utilized towards existing salaries.

Motion: A motion to recommend the proposed budget amendments to the Board of Commissioners was made by Mr. Miller and a second was made by Patti Alexander. The motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Chair Karner asked if there was any miscellaneous business to discuss.

No miscellaneous business was brought forth.

ADJOURN: 7:05 PM

There being no further business, Chair Karner called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Mr. Miller moved, with a second by Patti Alexander that the Cleveland County Public Health Board meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Tiffany Hansen, Secretary
Cleveland County Public Health Board