

The Cleveland County Public Health Board met on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Board members present remotely: Deanna Moseley Lawrence, Kale Meade and Street Hamrick.

Health Department staff present: Tiffany Hansen, DeShay Oliver, Alisa Leonard, Anne Short, Nathan McNeilly, and Leslie McSwain

County Attorney's present: Tim Moore and Martha Thompson (remote).

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair Sara Karner called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm and welcomed everyone.

Mr. Miller gave the invocation.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens requested to appear before the Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR March 8, 2022, PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING:

Chair Karner presented the proposed agenda for the March 8, 2022, Public Health Board meeting for consideration of adoption.

Motion: A motion was made by Ronnie Whetstine with a second by Robert Miller to adopt the agenda for the March 8, 2022, Public Health Board meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 8, 2022, PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Karner presented the February 8, 2022, Public Health Board meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

Motion: Patti Alexander moved that the minutes of the February 8, 2022, Public Health Board Meeting be approved, and Robert Miller made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM:

Nathan McNeilly is the supervisor for the Environmental Health Program for the Health Department. He has been employed with the Health Department for 15 years and has supervised since 2013. The environmental health program consists of 10 full-time employees and 2 part-time

employees. Combined, the department has 135 years of experience with Cleveland County. Environment Health is a state mandated program with rules and regulations based on General Statutes. Employees are known as environmental health specialists. While working as employees of the health department, they are state agents. Requirements to become an environmental health specialist include a 4-year degree with a minimum of 30 hours of a science in chemistry, physics, biology or geology. A new graduate must work as an intern for two years as well as attend the Centralized Intern Training, which requires prework and post work. Within the first 3 years of employment, interns must pass the registration exam. In order to maintain this registration, employees must complete 15 hours of continuous education courses each year. There are 7 areas of authorizations:

- On Site Water Waste—Septic Systems—Evaluating soil and suitability for a septic system for residential, commercial and businesses. Final inspections, complaint investigations and existing systems are part of the responsibilities of environmental health. The Private Drinking Water Program deals with well water, inspects construction and repairs existing wells, contamination issues, well abandonment inspections, and water sample collections for new construction and to provide the customer with an analysis of their drinking water.
- Food & Lodging Program—Includes restaurants, food stands, local confinements, nursing homes, etc. Prior to construction, plans are reviewed but that does not include prototypes or franchises. Permits are issued as part of this program, and routine inspections are performed with the emphasis on risk-based inspections to help with eliminating food borne illnesses. They also investigate food borne illnesses outbreaks.
- Public Swimming Pools—Plan reviews on all public swimming pools, issue permits annually and periodic inspections.
- Tattoos—permit all tattoo artists in Cleveland County and ensure that the tools being used are being sanitized properly. We also provide permit and inspections for microblading and permanent make up artists.
- Childcare & School Sanitation—licensed by state agencies but we do perform unannounced routine inspections.
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention—investigate lead hazards for pregnant women and children 6 years of age and under. CRF machine will give instant results if lead is present. EH collects samples and send to state lab for amount of lead present. The investigations are done by referral only.
- Monitor Clandestine Drug Lab Clean Ups—Monitor and track information given by the SBI to ensure that the clean up of the property has been done correctly before anyone can move back into the property.

Total Applications for the year 2021-2022 as of 2/16/22 is 664
Improvement Permits for new construction for the year 2021-2022 as of 2/16/22 is 276
(Does not include municipalities that are on municipal sewer system)
Projected Improvement Permits for the year 2021-2022 is 552
(Does not include municipalities that are on municipal sewer system)
Activity of Work Completed at On-Site locations for 2022 is 1662
Current number of FLI facilities is 547 and total required inspections has been 1224

STATE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH REPORT 2021:

Anne Short presented the State of the County Health report for 2021. Every 4 years a community health assessment is required, which is a more comprehensive survey. In the years that a health assessment isn't done there is a state of the county health report. Two years ago, the technical assistance division moved the HD to Results Based Accountability. The results are entered into a score card for the county and the state enters its data which allows for a visual depiction. Community Health Improvement Plans identify two issues that need to be worked on. The two issues included were Teen Births and Tobacco Use. Healthy Carolina Scorecard for 2021— Provides a visual picture of data collected along with state data collected.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE:

Deshay Oliver presented the strategic plan for the Health Department. The plan developed coincides with the CHA cycles. The current strategic plan is for the cycle of 2021-2023. This plan was developed with the management team, which is all supervisors. A SWOT analysis is done to identify priorities to focus on. The following three main goals were created.

- Expand Community Partnership—Increases access to care and services.
- Develop Innovative Methods to Promote HD initiatives.
- Increase Engagement and Unity among the HD team.

Each program is tasked within the HD to come up with at least one strategy that they can implement to impact and help engage the entire team to work towards a common goal. Some areas of progress have not been completed yet as this plan goes until 2023. A few highlights for the goals are as follows:

- AccessMeds—Pharmacy Community Program
- Partnering with CCS, CIS, Boys & Girls Club, Shelby Women's Care
- Activities to engage entire health department in initiatives such as community baby showers, drive-thru health fairs, and virtual lunch & learns.

Social Media and videography have been great resources for delivering information and our team has been engaged around capitalizing on technology to reach our community with information.

BUDGET:

Tiffany Hansen presented the budget for 2022. The budget did not have many changes. Goal for the year is a 4% increase. Requesting 2 additional full-time employees for Environmental Health, an administrative position that will be shared with DSS, shared position with DSS for a Community Collaboration Coordinator. \$400,000 increase in county funds mainly geared towards environmental health.

Motion: A motion to approve the budget for 2022 was made by Robert Miller and a second was made by Patti Alexander. The motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Tiffany Hansen addressed the possibility of the Governor lifting the emergency declaration for COVID. If the emergency declaration is lifted, an amendment of the bylaws would be required for Board members to continue to participate remotely. A majority vote by the board would be required in order to amend the bylaws. The revisions can be done internally to amend the bylaws to include remote/hybrid attendance. This will be added to the agenda for April's board meeting.

A covid update was presented by Deshay Oliver. 1 positive case on March 7, 2022, 53 positive cases in the last 7 days, last 14 days 166 cases, current % positivity rate is 5.5% and the state is at 5.3%, 7 hospitalized cases, 362 deaths total for the county, individuals ages 5 and up currently vaccinated in Cleveland County is 56% for 1 dose and 53% for two doses.

ADJOURN: 7:27 pm

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

Motion: Robert 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