

The Cleveland County Public Health Board met on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., via a teleconference call.

Board members present: Sara Karner, Ronnie Whetstine, Robert Miller, Kale Meade, Patti Alexander, Tom Spurling, Randy Sweeting and Street Hamrick.

Health Department staff present: Tiffany Hansen, DeShay Oliver, Leslie McSwain, Alisa Leonard, Anne Short, Nathan McNeilly, Linda Kiser and Brittney Smith.

Tim Moore, County Attorney was present.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair Spurling called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens requested to appear before the Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING:

Chair Spurling presented the proposed agenda for the September 8, 2020 Public Health Board meeting for consideration of adoption.

Motion: A motion was made by Robert Miller, with a second by Street Hamrick to adopt the agenda for the September 8, 2020 Public Health Board meeting as presented.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 9, 2020 PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Spurling presented the June 9, 2020 Board of Health meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

Motion: Patti Alexander moved that the minutes of the June 9, 2020 Public Health Board meeting be approved as presented. Robert Miller seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Mrs. Oliver provided a COVID-19 update to the Public Health Board. As of today, September 8, 2020 we have a total of 1717 confirmed cases in Cleveland County. Of those total cases, 121 are currently active with 15 hospitalized and 50 deaths. As of September 8, 2020, 61% of confirmed cases were female and 39% were male. For race and ethnicity, 24.5% were African American, 0.4% were Asian, 62.1% were White and 1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native. Percentages

by age group were as follows; 9% ages 0-9, 11% ages 18-24, 36% ages 25-49, 23% ages 50-64, 9% ages 65-74 and 12% were 75 and older. There are no reported deaths under the age of 25 in Cleveland County. Ages 25-49 contain 4% of deaths, ages 50-64 contain 17% of deaths, ages 65-74 contain 24% of deaths and 54% of deaths fall into the age of 75 and up. Approximately half of our deaths have been in White Oak Manor in Shelby and Kings Mountain. The deaths by race are as follows; 1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0% Asian, 20.9% Black or African American, 69.8% were White and 7% were other. These numbers are in close alignment with our Census data in the County.

The County has seen a decrease since early August in terms of the percent of positive tests in proportion to total number of tests performed from 9% to 7%. There are 1,500-2,000 tests performed weekly. Testing sites are the same in the County as they have been with the exception of Atrium which has changed their testing locations to Urgent Care in Shelby and Kings Mountain in order to accommodate more testing. The types of tests performed are Molecular, Antigen and Antibody with the Molecular test being the most common and reliable at this time.

We are continuing to do contact tracing for all confirmed cases. We have begun contracting with Community Care of NC (CCNC) to do contact tracing. CCNC has hired 2 full-time contact tracers and we are able to assign direct contacts to confirmed cases to them allowing those contact tracers to make contact with each individual to provide quarantine and testing guidance. We have also requested 2 full-time case investigators. These individuals have been hired, but have not been able to start as of yet, due to training and access to NCEDSS. This will be a significant help as we gear up for flu season. Flu shots will be available at the health department beginning Wednesday, September 9th.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT UPDATE:

Anne Short provided an update regarding the Community Health Assessment. Hard copies of the 2019 Community Health Assessment were mailed to each board member for their review. The document has also been posted on our web site and Facebook page and distributed in the community to various coalitions, elected officials and the libraries in Shelby, Lawndale, Kings Mountain, Gardner-Webb and Cleveland Community College.

Additional materials mailed in the same package include the updated Private Matters, a resource guide for teens, as well as the resource guides/information sheets developed on various health topics. The resource guides have been distributed to the child health clinic and all of the school-based health centers as well as to school nurses serving Turning Point Academy and Cleveland Early College High School. The resource guide will be posted by the end of the week on our web site and Facebook page and additional hard copies are available in the health education unit. We will post copies of the resource guides on the web site and Facebook page as well and additional copies may be obtained by calling Anne Short in health education. The resource guides were developed by Anne Short and Zakoya Spikes in an effort to get basic information about health topics to community members.

Currently work is beginning on the two required Community Health Improvement Plans, now due to the state on December 1, 2020. The plans will feature tobacco and teen births as the topics for development and implementation of comprehensive community strategies. We will be working with state consultants to ensure that the plans are developed in sync with the Results-Based Accountability process adopted by the state.

TIPPI ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASURES YEAR END REPORT:

Anne Short provided the year-end report for TIPPI Adolescent Prevention Program Performance Measures. The Health Education unit was able to complete classes at Shelby Middle School and Crest Middle School in the fall semester of 2019 and classes were underway at Burns Middle School when COVID-19 concerns closed the schools. Data from TPPI at the state level shows the following:

- 550 8th grade students registered, 548 attended classes and are considered to have completed the curriculum, 487 or 85.5% met the attendance threshold of attending 75% of class sessions
- 248 students were female, 302 students were male
- 505 students were <15 years of age, 45 were ages 15-17
- 345 students were white, 162 were African-American, 7 were Asian, 3 were Native Hawaiian or Pacific islander, 12 were American Indian or Native Alaskan, 49 were some other race, 8 were unknown
- 42 students identified as Hispanic/Latino

We do not yet have information based on the results of the pre- and post-tests administered to the students from the state evaluation consultant toward the goals for the program but hope to obtain this based on our first semester results. The TPPI staff has been focusing on turning the book-based curricula in use by their programs into a virtual curriculum to be delivered to students working remotely. Two of our Health Education staff members have been engaged in this process since August with a delivery date of a virtual curriculum anticipated by September 30.

2019/2020 ANNUAL SCHOOL HEALTH REPORT:

Linda Kiser presented the annual school health report. Mrs. Kiser shared that this was a unique report given that schools were closed in the middle of March for the duration of the school year due to COVID-19. The over-all total of medications given to students was down for the school year, most likely due to the school closure. The emergency medication percentages remained about the same. The special procedure medications also remained close to the same as the previous school year. Mrs. Kiser noted that there are new medications now given for prolonged seizures. Our identified health conditions increased from 14% to 15% from last school year. We had a few less student injuries and there were less student visits to the health centers, again most likely due to the early school year closures. Virtual Care services were offered in ten schools this past school year. There were 678 students seen in 954 virtual care visits with only 14% of visits resulting in students having to go home.

2019/2020 ANNUAL SOLID WASTE REPORT:

Nathan McNeilly presented the annual Solid Waste report. Mr. McNeilly shared that Republic Services continues to be the highest revenue producer in the County with PPG being the second highest. Many decreases are reflected in trends in solid waste streams, most likely due to the economy as well as a change in processes in the City of Shelby and Clearwater Paper Factory with decreased amounts of sludge being brought into the Landfill. No major changes were noted in recycling. There was about a 10% increase in the number of hauls and bulk waste. This is most likely due to everyone being quarantined during COVID-19.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND UPDATE:

Leslie McSwain presented the following budget amendments included in the Public Health Board packet for consideration of adoption by the Public Health Board:

Item Number One: The Cleveland County Public Health Center received \$29,079 from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. A request was made to budget this amount in the WIC Department (540) to be used toward purchases of departmental supplies, training, advertising, and educational opportunities for staff.

Item Number Two: The Cleveland County Public Health Center received \$41,091 from CDC through NCDHHS. A request was made to budget this amount in the Adult Health Department (533) to assist in the carrying out and increasing response activities through testing, contract tracing with regards to the COVID 19 Disease. These funds to cover existing salaries/expenses for School Health Nurses (83-87%) that are working during summer months and for Nurse Practitioner (50%) increased hours.

Item Number Three: The Cleveland County Public Health Center received \$4,722 from NC DHHS. A request was made to budget this amount in the WIC Department (540) to support WIC's Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program and enrollment in peer breastfeeding services for WIC Clients. We will use these funds towards existing salary/fringe expenses.

Motion: A motion was made by Robert Miller with a second from Street Hamrick to accept the budget amendments as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Tiffany Hansen shared an update regarding the relocation of the Department of Social Services. After many months of research and discussions, it was determined that the Department of Social Services building was in disrepair and as a result their team was in need of an alternative facility. Due to the vacancies in the Health Department, it was decided that our vacant space would be the most suitable location for the DSS team. In July, our Health Department Leadership team, along with the DSS Leadership team started meeting with a contracted architect to bring to life this joint relocation effort, with the overarching goal being to maintain our service delivery for both agencies. This group has been meeting bi-weekly as joint leadership teams to talk through challenges, and work through strategic ways to ease this

transition. Mrs. Hansen shared on behalf of our team, we are all excited for the opportunities it presents by having DSS in the same building as the Health Department. Once it was determined that DSS would be relocating to our building, we began simultaneously assessing the idea of a joint Administrative Assistant. Previously the Health Director's Administrative Assistant was part-time, and the DSS Director has currently been operating the last year without one. Keeping in mind that the position would recruit more qualified top candidates if it were able to be a full-time position, it was decided that sharing this position would allow for that along with providing more cohesion between our teams because of proximity. With that being said, Mrs. Hansen shared that the recruitment process is underway for a shared Administrative Assistant between both the Health Director and DSS Director. With all this being said, Mrs. Hansen announced that Brittney Smith has submitted her letter of resignation with her last day at the Health Department being September 18th. In turn, the Public Health Board will begin receiving correspondence from the new Administrative Assistant once that individual is in place.

Mrs. Oliver asked for feedback from the Board regarding resuming "in-person" meetings in October. After some discussion, it was determined that the October Public Health Board meeting would be held in-person at the Cleveland County Public Health Center with a dial in option available for those who chose not to attend in person.

ADJOURN:

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

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Tiffany Hansen, Secretary
Cleveland County Public Health Board