

**CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**MINUTES**  
**May 7, 2012**

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Monday, May 7, 2012. The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom located at Catawba County Public Health, 3070 11<sup>th</sup> Av Dr SE, Hickory, NC 28602.

**Members present:** Dr. Robert Rights, Chairman  
Ms. Brenda H. Watson, Vice-Chair  
Dr. Sharon Monday  
Dr. William Geideman  
Ms. Susan Witherspoon  
Mr. William Mixon  
Mr. John Dollar

**Members absent:** Mr. Dan Hunsucker  
Dr. David Kulesia

**Staff present:** Mr. Douglas Urland, Health Director  
Ms. Kelly Isenhour, Assistant Health Director  
Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Services Manager  
Ms. Amy McCauley, Community Outreach Manager  
Ms. Chantae Lail, Medical Lab Manager  
Mr. Mike Cash, Environmental Health Supervisor  
Ms. Julie Byrd, WIC Nutrition Supervisor  
Ms. Alice Layne, Home Health Manager  
Ms. Jennifer Fender, Home Health Nurse  
Ms. Kelsey Johnston, Community Health Analyst  
Ms. Martha Knox, Administrative Assistant III

**Visitors:** The Honorable Nathaniel J. Poovey, Superior Court Judge  
Ms. Debra Bechtel, County Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Robert Rights, Chairman, called the meeting of the Catawba County Board of Health to order at 7:00 pm. Dr. Rights welcomed the Honorable Nathaniel J. Poovey, Superior Court Judge and Ms. Debra Bechtel along with public health staff to the meeting of the Board of Health.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Robert Rights stated that Mr. Dan Hunsucker is not present to make his report, therefore, that item will be deleted from the agenda and the item on the agenda to establish the Pentacel Vaccine Fee will be presented by Ms. Jennifer McCracken. Dr. William Geideman moved to approve the agenda with those two changes. Ms. Brenda Watson seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Rights, Chairman asked if there were any changes to the March 5, 2012 minutes. Hearing none, Dr. Rights asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Brenda Watson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. William Geideman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Chairman Rights stated that Mr. John Dollar was appointed to serve on the Catawba County Board of Health at the Board of Commissioners meeting held earlier on this date. The Honorable Nathaniel Poovey, Superior Court Judge administered the oath of office to Mr. Dollar.

Judge Poovey asked Mr. Dollar to step forward and he administered the following oath.

Member, Catawba County Board of Health

I, **John H. Dollar**, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States; so help me God.

I, **John H. Dollar**, do solemnly and sincerely swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; and that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability, so help me, God.

I, **John H. Dollar**, do further swear that I will well and truly execute the duties as a Catawba County Board of Health member according to the best of my skill and ability, according to law; so help me God.

---

**John H. Dollar**

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this the 7th of May, 2012

---

**Honorable Nathaniel J. Poovey,  
Superior Court Judge**

Judge Poovey congratulated Mr. Dollar on his appointment. The Chairman thanked Judge Poovey for his assistance and welcomed Mr. Dollar to the Board on behalf of the Board of Health and Public Health staff.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one presented to speak to the Board.

**NEW EMPLOYEES**

Dr. Rights asked Martha Knox if there were new employees to introduce to the Board. Ms. Knox stated there were two new employees present.

Ms. Amy McCauley, Community Outreach Manager, introduced Ms. Kelsey Johnston, Community Health Analyst, to the Board. Kelsey is a Masters in Public Health candidate at Lenoir Rhyne University and she

began employment on April 16, 2012. Ms. McCauley stated that Kelsey as a Community Health Analyst will be assisting in data gathering and analysis of that data with a focus on the health promotion program and outreach.

Ms. Alice Layne, Home Health Manager, introduced Jennifer Fender, Home Health Nurse. Ms. Layne stated that Jennifer is the newest case manager for Home Health. Jennifer joined Home Health on April 16, 2012.

Chairman Rights welcomed the new staff on behalf of the Board.

**LEGAL UPDATE FROM HEALTH DIRECTOR'S CONFERENCE**

Ms. Debra Bechtel, County Attorney, gave the annual legal update for the Board of Health. She stated the N.C. Public Health Accreditation process requires that the Board of Health have an Attorney available to assist them and that the attorney review any changes that have occurred during the year. Ms. Bechtel attended the Legal Conference for Public Health Director's along with Doug Urland on April 25-27, 2012. She stated that the update this year will not be as lengthy as last year due to fewer laws being considered by the legislature.

**Local Regulations Regarding Smoking and Tobacco** – There was discussion about the status of counties and municipalities across the State. Ms. Bechtel stated that she was surprised by the low number of counties and cities that have implemented a ban on smoking for their government campuses. As of April, 2012 there are 12 counties and 33 municipalities across the State that have implemented the ban on smoking. She stated Catawba County implemented a countywide ban on tobacco for government campuses on January 1, 2011. The Public Health campus went tobacco free on July 5, 2005.

The focus is on compliance to the regulations rather than enforcement. Catawba County discussed and made the decision to encourage compliance and educate the public as the best use of resources that are available. Ms. Bechtel stated that Catawba County can always utilize trespassing laws if a person refuses to leave and/or comply with the regulations.

Durham County is building a large Human Resource facility that will house Public Health, Social Services and Mental Health Services in one complex. That facility and grounds are on target to be tobacco free August, 2012.

**Septic Systems** – There was a session on failing septic systems at the conference. Counties shared information about their experience in handling issues due to failing septic systems. Iredell County worked over a year to resolve a case. It was filed in criminal district court, which was not the most effective method; however, the court authorized attachment of a lien on the property to recoup the expenditure for the clean-up. Should a homeowner default on their mortgage, the lien will be paid secondary to the mortgage.

Catawba County process begins with staff investigating the complaint, homeowner is given 30 days to bring the septic system into compliance – if that is not successful, a letter of abatement is issued from the Health Director and the homeowner has 15 days to respond. The following step would be a letter stating that a lawsuit will be filed. Ms. Bechtel states should a complaint get to that point, she makes a phone call prior to filing the lawsuit and has seen good results from that practice. If that fails, then a lawsuit is filed and Ms. Bechtel stated that Catawba County has not lost a case regarding septic system failure. The homeowner then either fixes the septic system or in some cases they vacate the property to

avoid the expense of fixing the problem. When a bank assumes the mortgage, they will remedy the situation and repair the failed system.

Doug Urland, Health Director, stated that the Environmental Health staff work with the homeowners, however, sometimes legal avenues must be pursued.

**Risk Management/Malpractice Coverage** - The NC Association of Health Directors insures through the Snowden Group for Malpractice/Risk Management coverage. North Carolina currently has four cases for malpractice pending. One case that was discussed involved a dental practice where the Dentist had advised the patient to go to an oral surgeon – the patient did not take the advice and they were later diagnosed with Cancer. The problem was that although the Dentist gave the correct advice they did not make documentation in the patient record of the advice that was given. If something is not documented – legally it never happened.

Doug stated that statewide there are 2.5 million encounters process; therefore having only 4 malpractice cases is remarkable. The attorney from ACE, the underwriter for NC Association of Health Director's policy stated that North Carolina has a very low rate compared to other states.

Doug and Ms. Bechtel have discussed a training program so that staff can be educated about the trial process in a malpractice case.

**Foodborne Disease** – Catawba County had experience this year with the incident of foodborne outbreak at Harbor Inn. Doug stated that the FDA food code adopted is estimated to be September 1, 2012, and it will change some processes for food establishments. Scott Carpenter, Environmental Health Supervisor, will be preparing a presentation in the near future for the Board of Health on the FDA food code and what it will mean for food establishments in North Carolina. Ms. Bechtel stated the health directors discussed that under the national FDA codes people will have the option to have their steaks or hamburgers cooked medium rare – there will be warnings about the dangers, however, they can request that option.

Ms. Bechtel's last item was to report that she has had another illegal tattooing parlor case since her last meeting with the Board of Health.

Chairman Rights thanked Ms. Bechtel for her report.

#### **HOME HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD AND GOVERNING BODY**

Dr. Sharon Monday made a motion to suspend the regular meeting of the Catawba County Board of Health and reconvene as the Home Health Governing Body and Professional Advisory Board. Dr. William Geideman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Sharon Monday made a motion to return to the regular meeting of the Catawba County Board of Health. Dr. William Geideman seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Budget** – The budget process is continuing. There has been a budget hearing with the County Manager since the last meeting of the Board of Health and an additional meeting with the County Manager to discuss outcomes for 2012-13. The next step will be for the County Manager to present his proposed budget to the Board of Commissioners for consideration. Department Head's will have scheduled times

to speak to the Board of Commissioners to discuss their requests in the budget. The scheduled for budget approval by the Board of Commissioners is June, however, there is no way of knowing when the State budget will be finalized and that can have an effect on the local budget. There will be a short session of the legislature to consider the budget and related issues such as Medicaid expenditures .

Doug stated that counties did receive some good news regarding additional BT/Preparedness funds in the amount of \$9,000. Health departments will receive guidelines on how these funds can be utilized.

**Dental Practice Update -**

Doug asked Kelly Isenhour to give an update on the Dental Practice renovation/expansion. Kelly stated that the new dental area has been in operation for two weeks and staff is doing well at learning the new technology such as the digital x-ray equipment and electronic medical records and appointment software. Trainers will be on site May 14<sup>th</sup> to work with staff and continue the training process.

Open House for the Dental Practice will be held on May 31, 2012 from 11:00 am to 2:00pm and Board of Health members are encouraged to attend if possible.

Charter Communications has a mini-commercial that shows the new Dental Practice area. Mr. William Mixon asked if Charter was providing the commercial as a service. Amy McCauley stated that the commercial was part of a community collaborative effort.

Kelly Isenhour thanked the Board of Health for their continued support of Public Health and the expansion and renovation of the Dental Practice.

**2011 Health Schools –**

Doug asked Amy McCauley to inform the Board about a recent award. Amy stated that Catawba County Public Health had received the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive Outstanding County Program award from NC Association of County Commissioners. In 2010 Public Health won the award for the Flu Campaign and in 2011 our agency received the award again for the Healthy Schools Recognition Program.

This program was created by Eat Smart Move More (ESMM) Catawba County, which is a volunteer coalition aimed at reducing and preventing childhood obesity. ESMM is part of Catawba County Health Partners, a non-profit entity managed by Catawba County Public Health. The program encourages schools to meet and maintain seven specific criteria to be recognized as a Health School. Among the criteria are having a school wellness council that meets monthly and consists of school personnel and parents, offering fresh or frozen fruit or vegetables during lunch at least three times a week, 30 minutes of physical activity a day in grades K-8 and having a health foods policy for concessions.

Sixteen of the 40 public schools in Catawba County participated in the program during 2010-11 and 10 were recognized as a healthy school. This year there are 27 schools participating and there are at least 16 that are meeting the criteria for healthy schools. Based on the success of the program's first year, ESMM is now implementing a similar program to encourage healthy policies in local childcare centers. The program was recognized as an innovative model that other counties can model and incorporate to promote health in their communities. The effort brought together people from the community along with public health staff, which included the school health nurses.

Doug stated one of the criteria for the award was can it be duplicated by other county organizations. This program demonstrated if implemented to right way another community can put this into practice.

The collaboration includes people like Phil DiCasolo, former Executive Director of the Catawba Valley YMCA, Chairman of the ESMM committee with Catawba County Health Partners and others including our school systems that participated in the program.

Mr. John Dollar asked if this program was for public schools or did it include private schools. Ms. McCauley stated that the program has begun with public schools but will hopefully expand to include private schools in the future.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

In relation to the additional BT funding, Mr. William Mixon asked if there were any general or specific terrorist threat for Catawba County. Doug stated that not that he was aware of.

Mr. John Dollar asked if there would be any “carry-over” from Charlotte during the Democratic National Convention. Doug stated there are a couple of items: 1) there have been requests for nursing staff and environmental health staff that would be willing to participate and assist Mecklenburg County should they require additional personnel during the convention. The names and contact information is being compiled should their assistance be needed. 2) Communities with food establishments within the 30 mile radius of Charlotte will be asked to have Environmental Health staff conduct food sampling in restaurants this summer. This effort is being coordinated by the FDA. The testing must be done by a bioterrorism lab – therefore samples will need to be sent to a lab that has the expertise to perform the tests that are required as they monitor food distribution in the region. Our EH staff participated in the initial FDA/NC DPH informational meeting and more to come as we draw closer to September.

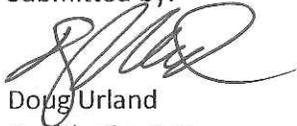
Dr. Rights asked if there was any further business for the Board, hearing none, the Chairman stated that the next meeting of the Catawba County Board of Health will be on Monday, June 4, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

Chairman Rights requested a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Catawba County Board of Health.

Ms. Brenda Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Catawba County Board of Health and Mr. John Dollar seconded the motion.

Submitted by:



Doug Urland  
Health Director

DWU: mjk