Catawba County Board of Health
Minutes
June 3, 2013; 7:00pm

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Monday, June 3, 2013. The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. at Catawba County Public Health, 3070 11th Av Dr SE, Hickory, NC 28602 in the Boardroom.

Members present: Ms. Brenda H. Watson, Chair
Dr. William Geideman, Vice-Chair
Mr. Dan Hunsucker, Commissioner
Ms. Susan Witherspoon
Mr. John Dollar
Dr. Robert Rights
Dr. David Kulesia
Dr. Sharon Monday

Members Absent: Mr. William Mixon

Staff Present: Mr. Doug Urland, Health Director
Ms. Kelly Isenhour, Assistant Health Director
Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Services Manager
Mr. Mike Cash, Environmental Health Supervisor
Ms. Chantae Lail, Medical Lab Manager
Ms. Alice Layne, Home Health Manager
Ms. Amy McCauley, Community Outreach Manager
Ms. Julie Byrd, WIC Program Manager
Ms. Martha Knox, Administrative Assistant III
Ms. Rhonda Stikeleather, Children's Services Nursing Supervisor
Ms. Dana Lynch, Charge Nurse II
Ms. Martha Knox, Administrative Assistant III

CALL TO ORDER
Ms. Brenda Watson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Ms. Brenda Watson stated that members received the agenda for this meeting in their packets and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to accept the agenda as presented.

Mr. Dan Hunsucker made a motion to accept the agenda, Dr. Robert Rights seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Ms. Brenda Watson, Chair, stated that members received a copy of the May 6, 2013, Minutes and Closed Session Minutes on that date in their packets and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, she requested a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Mr. John Dollar made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Dan Hunsucker seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Ms. Brenda Watson, Chair, asked if anyone from the public had requested to speak to the Board. Ms. Martha Knox, Administrative Assistant, stated that no one presented to speak.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS
Mr. Dan Hunsucker, County Commissioner, made his report to the Board of Health. Mr. Hunsucker stated that the Board of Commissioners honored Sheriff's Deputy Michael Hale, who retired effective June 1, 2013, after over 30 years with the Catawba County Sheriff's Office. The Board presented Deputy Hale with his service weapon and badge.

The Board of Commissioners proclaimed June, 2013, Local Foods Month in Catawba County to recognize that local agriculture and locally grown foods are an important part of a sound economy and a safe, health and secure food supply.

The Board of Commissioners received a report regarding the conveyance from the Town of Maiden of the Maiden Branch Library building. The Town of Maiden and Catawba County jointly funded construction of the current Maiden Branch Library/Maiden Town Council Chambers building in 1990, with each party being responsible for half of the total cost of design and construction. Maiden will soon occupy a new Town Hall and has offered to convey the current building which houses the Maiden Town Council Chambers and the Maiden Branch Library to the County so the County can expand much needed library services to the Maiden community.

Commissioner Dan Hunsucker stated that the Board of Commissioners also adopted the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 County Budget in the amount of $226,271,804, in accordance with the Board's goals, which called for maintaining the property tax rate at 53 cents per $100 of property valuation and focusing on providing citizens with high quality service, while making strategic investments in the high priority areas of education, public safety, economic development and quality of life.

REVIEW OF ELIGIBILITY & FEE POLICIES (Minutes Attachments I & II)
Ms. Sindie Sigmon, Business Manager, stated that each year Public Health is required to ask the Board to review the Eligibility and Fee Policies. She stated that this year there in only one change for the Board's consideration. That change is on the Fee Policy and she directed to Board's attention to page one of Attachment II. The change is as follows:

II. PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES
A. Eligibility
Clinical service charges may be discounted 20%, 40%, 60%, 80% or 100% based on income and family size as applied to Public Health's current eligibility scale. Eligibility scale is based on 300% of the federal poverty level for Dental Health, Maternal Health, Women's Preventive Health Services, ~~Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention~~ and Adult Health services. Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention is based on 250% of federal poverty level as directed from the State. For those persons whose income and family size place them at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level no fee will be imposed for services when State and/or Federal dollars are budgeted to support the program. These scales are adjusted annually based upon the *Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Federal Poverty Level.* Clinical eligibility is reassessed on an annual basis, or when a financial status change occurs.

Ms. Sigmon stated the % of eligibility for BCCCP must remain at the 250% above poverty level.

Ms. Brenda Watson requested a motion to approve the change to the Fee Policy as presented. Dr. Sharon Monday made a motion to approve the Eligibility and Fee Policy as presented. Dr. Robert Rights seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

HOME HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD AND GOVERNING BODY

Dr. Robert Rights 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. Sharon Monday seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dan Hunsucker made a motion to return to the regular meeting of the Catawba County Board of Health. Dr. Robert Rights seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget Update –

Mr. Doug Urland, Health Director, gave his report to the Board. He stated that this has been a difficult month which included discussions with 20 staff members affected by the reductions in the Public Health budget for 2013-14. Four staff members have been transferred to other program areas, Mr. Urland stated that the budget reductions have impacted 16 positions. Nine (9) positions have been eliminated and seven (7) employees have had their hours reduced. Public Health is now in a transition phase as employees adjust to these changes and continue to provide services here at Public Health. Public Health was able to provide two internal placements and two employees transferred to other county departments. The County Human Resources department assisted Public Health in providing opportunities in other department areas.

One employee retired and one person has left to secure fulltime employment, and another employee resigned which allowed another employee to remain fulltime.

Managers are making and implementing transition plans in their program areas. Business cannot continue as usual and this will mean that clinic services will be affected. Environmental health will have an increase in wait time for permits and services. Vital Records services will be covered by existing staff.

Public Health Management Team will be meeting tomorrow, June 4th. Staff is working very hard and outcomes have been adjusted and the Board of Health will receive the revised outcome documents at the next regular meeting in August, 2013.

Mr. Urland stated that Public Health is not lowering the bar for services provided; however, it is recognition that outcomes cannot be maintained at the levels in the past with the loss of 16 staff positions. He stated Public Health is taking things one day at a time and continues to work hard to provide services to the community.

Home Health Revenues- Mr. Urland stated that Public Health has an annual cost report with the Home Health Cost Consultants and there will be further analysis an overview of the impact of the

Affordable Care Act (ACA). When the report is received that will be shared with the Board and County Management.

Medicaid Cost Settlement- Mr. Urland stated that there was a little good news. An adjustment has been made and we will see an increase of $75,000. This adjustment will help during the 2012-2013 budget year; however, it can't really affect the 2013-14 budget.

State Budget – the Governor and Senate budgets have been released and the House of Representatives is currently working on their budget. It looks like the House budget will not accept everything and therefore there will be budget conferees will be appointed to find a compromise. Mr. Urland shared a few items in the Senate budget that are of concern for Public Health in North Carolina:

Environmental Health Food and Lodging fees – theses fees are what restaurants pay to the State for inspections at the local level. Statewide public health has requested the State to increase these fees. Local Government cannot assess fees for these services. North Carolina Local Health Director's Association and the County Commissioners Association along with the NC Restaurant Association have submitted a plan. This plan would increase the fees. The NC Restaurant Association wants the state to invest in a more robust data system and the additional funds would assist local public health tp provide Environmental services. Locally, Catawba County Environmental Health uses CDP software, which interfaces with the State system. The Senate's budget proposal removes $750,000 from the Environmental Health budget and therefore, the data system will not be funded at the State level.

There is also a concern that $ 3 million may be removed from Public Health departments through a competitive grants process for non-profits. These funds would be reduced to local health departments and the money would be opened for bids from non-profits; however, Public Health departments will not be able to participate. Public Health is very supportive of non-profits and many Public Health employees serve on non-profit boards. The concern is that this proposal is taking funding from Public Health and giving to non-profit programs, some of which provide no services in our county or others.

Insurance premiums for pregnant women – Mr. Urland stated that North Carolina currently covers women under the Medicaid for pregnant women. It is proposed to shift this funding into the new health exchange under the ACA. This would include women in the 133 – 185% of the poverty level. However, this will not provide the same level of services. OB/GYN, would not receive the same level of reimbursement. Catawba County Public Health is concerned not only for the partnership with Catawba Valley Medical Center (CVMC) to provide Prenatal services, but also for other OB/GYN practices that will be affected.

Communicable Disease Update - Mr. Urland asked Kelly Isenhour, Assistant Health Director, to give a brief update on Immunizations to the Board.

Ms. Isenhour stated that at an earlier Board meeting it was reported that there is a shortage of Isoniazid (INH), a drug used to treat TB. In April, Public Health learned INH was available in the marketplace; however, NC has depleted the funds to purchase this drug. Counties have been asked to inventory the drug so that the INH can be redistributed to counties with greater need. Catawba County currently has two active TB patients who complete INH treatment in two weeks. The State TB Branch is requesting that local Public Health evaluate their patients and delay start of the medication regimen as recommended by Dr. Stout, Medical Director and State TB Controller until July when funding will become available to produce INH. All children receiving INH should continue treatment.

She stated that there was a letter to the editor in the Hickory Daily Record regarding immunizations for children. A person with private insurance made an appointment at CCPH for their children to receive immunizations. However, the person was unhappy because the immunizations his children received weren't free; he was required to pay for the immunizations; and CCPH did not file his insurance. Ms. Isenhour stated that in 2010 North Carolina stopped allocating funds that provided immunizations for all children. The only children that receive immunizations at no charge are children that qualify for the Vaccine for Children (VFC), which includes children 0-18 yrs of age with Medicaid, children who are uninsured, or under-insured, and American Indian. In 2012, another change occurred that designated CCPH as the only provider that can provide free vaccine to under-insured children. 29 providers in Catawba County provide free vaccine to eligible children through the VFC program.

Public Health's goal is to ensure that all children are properly immunized. This is accomplished through education, providing assistance to obtain proper immunizations. School records are checked to identify any children that need immunizations. Providers are encouraged to enter immunizations in the state database. The ACA requires that immunizations be provided by insurance companies. However, no additional state or federal funding has been provided for immunizations.

Doug Urland, Health Director, stated that the General Assembly reduced the budget in 2010, which made the change to the immunization program. Individuals can file with their insurance company. Sindie Sigmon, Business Manager, stated families with private insurance have access to immunizations. With limited staff available to process and collect medical claims, Public Health continues to focus on those that do not have insurance coverage and access to immunizations.

STAR AWARDS PRESENTATION

Ms. Chantae Lail, Medical Lab Manager, stated that the Board of Health members are invited to attend the Star Award Presentation on Thursday, June 6, 2013 at 3:30 pm. in the front classrooms here at Public Health. She stated this has been a 3 year process which included a 3 day inspection by the State. Catawba County Public Health is the 3rd public health department in North Carolina to receive this designation and only the 4th STAR site in Catawba County. The other two health

departments are Person and Wayne Counties. Commissioner Cherie Berry will be here to make the presentation.

Doug Urland stated that it was a joint effort and he commended Chantae for her leadership and the staff for their diligence in accomplishing this designation. Vice-Chair Barbara Beatty will be speaking at the presentation and all Board members are invited.

BOARD MEMBER PRESENTATION

Ms. Brenda Watson, Chair, stated that she is happy to present to Dr. Robert Rights a plaque for his dedicated service to the Board of Health and the citizens of Catawba County. He provided leadership as the Chairman on the Board of Health and has served the citizens promoting dental health here in Catawba County.

Dr. Rights thanked the Board stated he enjoyed his time on the Board of Health. He stated that this was a learning time and how hard the Public Health employees work to provide the services here in Catawba County.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Brenda Watson, Chair, asked if there was any further business. Hearing none she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Catawba County Board of Health.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dan Hunsucker made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Catawba County Board of Health and Dr. Sharon Monday seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Douglas W. Urland
Health Director

DWU: mjk