Catawba County Board of Health
Minutes
September 2, 2014

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Tuesday, September 2, 2014. The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. at Catawba County Public health, 3070 11th Av Dr SE, Hickory, NC 29602 in the Boardroom.

Members present:
Mr. William Mixon, Chair
Mr. John Dollar, Vice-Chair
Mr. Dan Hunsucker, Commissioner
Ms. Brenda Watson
Dr. Matthew Davis
Mr. Brian Potocki
Ms. Naomi East

Members absent:
Dr. William Geideman
Dr. David C. Hamilton, Jr.
Dr. Sharon Monday

Staff present:
Mr. Doug Urland, Health Director
Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Services Manager
Mr. Mike Cash, Environmental Health Supervisor
Ms. Julie Byrd, WIC Supervisor
Ms. Sindie Sigmon, Business Manager II
Ms. Rhonda Stikeleather, Children's Services Nurse Supervisor
Ms. Amy McCauley, Community Outreach Manager
Mr. Scott Carpenter, Environmental Health Supervisor
Ms. Chantae Lail, Medical Lab Manager
Ms. Martha J. Knox, Administrative Assistant III

CALL TO ORDER
Mr. William Mixon, Chair called the meeting of the regular meeting of the Catawba County Public Health Board to order at 7:00p.m.

AGENDA
Mr. William Mixon, Chair, asked if there were any changes to the Agenda, Mr. Urland stated that Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Services Manager would present the Flu Plan for 2014-15, Item F on the Agenda. Hearing no further additions or changes, Mr. Dan Hunsucker made a motion to accept the agenda with the change. Mr. John Dollar seconded the agenda and it passed unanimously.

MINUTES
The minutes for August 4, 2014 with Minutes Attachment was included in the Board packet. Mr. Mixon, Chair, asked if there were any changes to the minutes as presented. Hearing none Mr. Dan Hunsucker made a motion to accept the minutes for August 4, 2014 as presented. Ms. Brenda Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Mr. Mixon asked if anyone presented to speak before the Board. Ms. Martha Knox, Administrative Assistant III, stated that no one had presented to speak.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS
Mr. Dan Hunsucker, County Commissioner stated the Board of Commissioners did not meet this week due to the Labor Day holiday; therefore he did not have a report for the Board.

FLU PLAN 2014-15
Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Services Manager, stated that she would give a brief summary of the 2013-14 flu season followed by the plan for 2014-15. She stated that like any year no two years are alike therefore; staff monitors the level of vaccine needed and the severity of the virus each flu season, and make adjustments to meet the demand.

2013-14 Flu Season
- 925 total vaccinations were given (315 paid high dose, 200 paid seasonal, & 410 State supplied vaccine)
- Two walk-in clinics were held at Public Health and 1 outreach clinic at the Health First clinic in the Valley Hills Mall.
- Public Health also shared vaccine with local physician offices.
- Nearly all pharmacies and private providers purchased and gave flu vaccine.
- Illness spiked early in December, 2013 and peaked late January, 2014
- Majority of positive flu tests were H1N1 (2009A) followed by seasonal B & Seasonal A (H3)
- NC saw 107 deaths
  - 29% ages 65+
  - 61% ages 50+
  - 3 deaths in Catawba County (ages 25-49)

2014-15 Flu Season
It is anticipated that Flu vaccine will have widespread availability for the general public. State vaccine will be available for Vaccine for Children (VFC) eligible children. The flu vaccine this year will be a "Quadrivalent flu vaccine" which contains antigen for the following:
- A (California – 7/2009 (H1N1)
- A (Texas – 50 – 2012 (H3N2)
- B – Massachusetts – 2/2012
- B- Brisbane – 60/2008

Every year the flu risk for the older population is high. Therefore, the population 65years of age and older are a priority to receive the flu vaccine and are encouraged to get the high dose vaccine that has increased immunity. The population with limited or no access to vaccines (Vaccine for Children VFC eligible), and pregnant women are also priorities to receive vaccination against the flu. Ms. McCracken shared the following information about the preparations Catawba County Public Health has made to meet the needs of the community this flu season.

Flu Distribution Plan –
- Ordered 630 vaccines for purchase - 280 high dose (65+ only) and 350 seasonal flu plus 20 doses to be used for under 35 months.
- Ordering 620 doses State supplied vaccines - single/multi-dose vials and flu mist (VFC only)
- Flu Blitz – scheduling four walk-in Flu Clinics in October
- Utilize existing Immunization clinic appointment schedule
- Continue to evaluate and adjust Immunization appointments to accommodate need for flu.
- May partner with Walgreens to offer vaccine to uninsured groups – waiting on their response.

Ms. McCracken stated that amount of vaccine purchased is less than in the past, and this is due to other providers that purchased vaccine and distributed the vaccine to Medicaid and Medicare patients. She added that there will be four clinics offered this year instead of two and all of them will be scheduled in the month of

October. In addition, appointments for children 6 months of age to 35 months and Ages 3 and older can be scheduled after November 1st. The schedule will be flexible and appointments for flu vaccine will be added if needed during the flu season.

Flu Clinics for 2014-15 Flu Season-

- Walk-in Clinics - Ages 3 and older
- Friday, Oct 10, and Monday, Oct 13 - 8am-11:30 and 1pm- 4:30 pm as well as
- Thursday, Oct 30, and Friday, Oct 31 - 8am-11:30 and 1pm- 4:30 pm
- By Appointment - Ages 6 months to 35 months only; ages 3 and older after Nov 1
- Mon and Wed - 1:00 pm-4:30 pm and Tues - 8:00 am-11:30 am

Vaccine Costs

- Seasonal Flu for 3 years of age and older $ 26.00 per dose (if under 8 yrs & never had a flu shot, requires two doses)
- Seasonal Flu for 6 – 35 months $20.00 per dose (if under 8 yrs & never had a flu shot, requires two doses)
- High-Dose Flu (65 years and older) $ 41.00 per dose
- Pneumonia $ 70.00 per dose

Payment Information

- Accepted forms of payment - cash, check, Medicare Part B (only), and Medicaid.
- Medicare Advantage and other insurance plans will not be accepted - individuals may pay and file
- Individuals eligible for State vaccine at no charge:
  - VFC eligible children 6 months through 18 years of age
  - Non-Medicaid uninsured women who are pregnant during the flu season and receiving services at the Local Health Department (LHD) and
  - Females with a family planning waiver receiving services at LHDs, Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Centers.

Mr. Mixon stated that other pharmacists may want to participate in the program also. Doug Urland, Health Director stated that Walgreens contacted CCPH with a national program for outreach for distribution of flu vaccine to uninsured individuals. He stated that Walgreens had also contacted the NC Association of Local Health Directors about the program.

Mr. John Dollar asked about the gap in school immunizations. Rhonda Stikeleather, Children's Services Nursing Supervisor stated that CCPH school nurses are still working to get the Tdap and Kindergarten vaccinations. The 30th calendar day for compliance is September 23, 2014 and those immunization rates are being monitored closely. Outreach efforts have been ongoing since January and she will make a report to the Board on those statistics.

Mr. Dollar stated he is amazed when he hears reports that parents are refusing vaccinations of their children. Ms. Stikeleather stated that there areas in the State that have a number of parents that refuse vaccinations. Dr. Davis asked about the news reports on the immunization controversy. Doug Urland, Health Director stated that some years ago some people were concerned about effects of immunizations regarding Autism. At this time, the State of Washington is in an epidemic of Pertussis (Whooping Cough). Other states are also seeing outbreaks and a trend with some parents wanting to pick and choose which immunizations their children receive.

The schedule for immunizations has been lengthened to prevent children getting several immunizations at one time. Dr. Davis stated people hear reports and whether it's true or not it causes them to have fears about

immunizations. Mr. Urland stated that there's a great deal of health related information available to people today and careful consideration should be given when reviewing that information.

Mr. Urland stated it is a concern due to the history about the impact when children are not vaccinated. Ms. Jennifer McCracken stated that in North Carolina several counties in the state have outbreaks of Pertussis. She added that staff met with the school superintendents here in Catawba County to talk about the year in review and to discuss immunizations and the Tdap program, and the importance of getting students vaccinated and up–to-date on immunizations to prevent an outbreak here in Catawba County if possible.

Mr. Mixon asked if vaccinations were required for public school attendance and Ms. McCracken stated that it is required. He asked if home schooled kids are not getting vaccinated. Ms. McCracken stated that home schooled children are required to be vaccinated. Ms. Stikeleather stated that if parents do not want their children vaccinated, they are required to write a letter stating it is against their "religious beliefs" and then their children are exempted from the immunization requirements.

HOME HEALTH GOVERNING BODY AND ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. William Mixon, Chairman asked for 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. Ms. Brenda Watson so moved and Ms. Naomi East seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dan Hunsucker made a motion to return to the regular meeting of the Catawba County Board of Health. Ms. Naomi East seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

ELIGIBILITY AND FEE POLICY REVIEW

Ms. Sindie Sigmon, Business Manager II, stated that back in May, 2014, she brought the Eligibility and Fee policies to the Board for their review and approval. They are being presented again due to the NC Administrative Monitoring audit that was held this summer and it was brought to our attention Women's Health section had revised a tool in March of 2014, Therefore, some changes to both Eligibility and Fee Policies needed to be made to reflect these changes.

Ms. Sigmon directed the Board's attention to the 2nd page of the Catawba County Public Health Policy for Eligibility Determination. The second paragraph from the bottom of the page was changed to read:

"Any Title X client over the 250% poverty level may request a waiver of fees due to good cause. The client will be allowed to make justification for cause and this request will be reviewed by the Public Health Director. The Director will determine approval or denial of request based on the client's justification."

Ms. Sigmon stated that this relates to any client over 250% of the poverty level, which requires them to pay 100% of the Health Department's fee. Therefore, these changes state that the client may be advised they may be better off to go to a private provider where they can make co-pays instead of paying 100% of the cost for the service they are requesting. However, some clients prefer to continue to come to the Health Department. However, if they come for services at the Health Department and they have had a catastrophic event such as house fire or loss of a job, they can request the Director to waive the 100% fee in their case. The State requested that this clause reflect this option in the Eligibility Determination Policy.

In the Catawba County Public Health Fees and Procedures for Service Policy a minor change in wording was made in three separate places:

Page 1 at the bottom of the page a statement has been added that states: "Title X (Family Planning) funding will only be used for required Title X services." Some counties were providing services that were not required and were using Title X funds, and then they did not have enough Title X funds for the mandated services.

Therefore, this requested statement in the policy makes it clear that these funds are for mandated Title X services only.

Page 2 of 4 in the first paragraph stats:

"Private and Public Insurance
Federal regulations governing the utilization of Title X, Title XIX, and Women's and Children's Health Block Grant Funds require that liable third parties be identified and billed for covered service without applied discounts unless there is a contracted reimbursement rate that must be billed per the third part agreement. Due confidentiality regulations, private insurance will not be billed for any client requesting confidential services. Private insurance will be billed in other circumstances." If clients have a private insurance, the private insurance will be billed at 100% of the charges unless there is a contract with the Health Department to bill at a lesser rate.

In D.3.d. at the bottom of page 2 of 4 a change has been made to allow donations to be accepted for services. She stated that Public Health does receive donations from clients that receive services and also from citizens that do not owe us a balance for services, however, they wish to assist others that receive services. The change being made ensures that we can accept the donation, however, the donations are not a pre-requisite for any kind services or supply and staff will not pressure or coerce them in to making a donation.

The change to the Fee Policy regarding donations states:

"d. Donations will be accepted, however, donations are not a prerequisite for provision of any service or supply and clients cannot be pressured or coerced to make donations. Billing requirements set out above are not waived due to client donations."

Ms. Sigmon stated that changes to these two policies require approval of the Board and she offered to answer any questions they may have.

The Board did not have any questions. Mr. Dan Hunsucker made a motion to accept the changes to the Catawba County Health Policy for Eligibility Determination and the Catawba County Public Health Fee for Service Policy as presented. Mr. John Dollar seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Doug Urland, Health Director, stated that he had one item to share and then he will ask Rhonda Stikeleather and Chantae Lail to give two brief items.

Mr. Urland stated that at the last meeting he mentioned the State Budget required that the Department of Health and Human Services cut $16 million in contracts from the budget. Public Health receives multiple grants from state contracts and there was a concerned about the effect on those funds. Of the $16 million, only $500,000 will come from the Division of Public Health and the State has also identified priority areas such as: Rural Health, State Medical Examiner's Office, Vital Records, State Labs for Public Health will not be affected. Federally funded programs cannot be reduced. Maternal and Child Health, Epidemiology, Family Planning, etc. He stated that it is unsure what will be affected, however, this was relatively good news and he will update the Board as he receives more information.

The General Assembly did not officially adjourn, and he will update the Board should they take any further action.

He asked Ms. Rhonda Stikeleather, Children's Services Nursing Supervisor, to update the Board on the use of EPI pens in the schools Legislation. Ms. Stikeleather stated that Legislation has been passed that will supply

EPI pens in the schools to treat undiagnosed anaphylactic shock. The bill does not cover students that have a diagnosis of allergies that can cause anaphylactic shock. Those students are required to have their EPI pens or auto-injectors at school and there is a plan in place to administer them in case of an emergency for those students. This bill covers only persons who have never been diagnosed and have a reaction requiring the emergency treatment. The School Nurse Program at CCPH have been working on this implementation and last year Newton-Conover city schools last year implemented the use of the generic Epinephrine (EPI) pens by their staff that were trained by Public Health on signs and symptoms of anaphylactic shock and how to use the pens correctly. Last year Newton-Conover participated in the training provided by the NC Medical Care Commission. This group credentials different types of programs including some lay people that go through a set program educating them on the procedures to follow and under supervision of a physician that signs off on the education that was given. The staff person is then credentialed for four years. Dr. Ken Bates, Child Health Medical Director, is the physician that writes the standing orders for the School Health Program and he wrote for the EPI auto-injectors last year for Newton-Conover City Schools. They did not have to use any of the pens at Newton-Conover last year.

The concern is that the pens do not carry a very long shelf life and they are very expensive, therefore, when the free pens are no longer available it will be costly to continue program that is being mandated. At this time there is a pharmacology company that is supplying at no cost EPI pens and EPI juniors for the smaller child free of charge. When the free pens are no longer available the schools will be required to replace them on an annual basis. It is a good law to protect the person that gets stung by an insect or has an unknown reaction to a food allergy, but it will be difficult to maintain.

Catawba County Schools and Hickory City Schools chose not to participate last year and are still in the process of discussing implementation at this time. However, all schools will be required by this bill to implement the program to have a trained person. Ms. Stikeleather stated she has ordered all the pens for all three school systems. Staff has been trained for all three school systems and the policy is in place,

Mr. Dan Hunsucker asked how many pens are being supplied to the schools and Ms. Stikeleather stated that she ordered 2 adult size EPI pens for the high schools and middle school and elementary schools will receive 1 adult pen and 1 junior EPI have been ordered. The costs of the pens are $300 for pens used for adult twin packs. Mr. Mixon stated that the pens are free; someone has to pay for those pens. He stated 25 ampoules of epinephrine could be provided for $53, which would be cost-effective. Ms. Stikeleather stated that school nurses do have a standing order for that administration of epinephrine.

Mr. Mixon asked how long the company will provide the pens. Ms. Stikeleather stated that they have had them available for several years; however, the bill that has been passed will increase the use of them in the schools. Supplying all the schools in North Carolina will increase the cost for the company providing the supply of pens.

Mr. Mixon asked if Ms. Stikeleather had any numbers on how many episodes of anaphylactic shock occurs in the schools. Ms. Stikeleather stated she can get the numbers from the State School Health report that is completed every May for the previous school year and will send it to Martha Knox, Administrative Assistant to send out to the Board via email.

Mr. Hunsucker asked how much of need exists. Ms. Stikeleather stated that more and more children are having reactions to food allergies and are diagnosed. Some children do die every year because they did not have access to Epinephrine when they have a reaction.

Mr. John Dollar asked if other states have this program and Ms. Stikeleather said she did not have any information on that.

Mr. Urland stated that this legislation outlines that Public Health supplies the training, however the bill is clear that the schools be responsible for the funding to provide the pens. He stated that updates will be given to the Board as this program is implemented in all the schools.

Mr. Urland asked Chantae Lail to provide the Board with a report on Preparedness Month. Ms. Chantae Lail, Medical Lab Manager and Preparedness Coordinator, stated that September, 2014 was declared as Preparedness month in North Carolina by Governor McCrory. The proclamation shared interesting statistics on the natural disasters that have affected North Carolina in the past including Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and Hurricane Floyd 15 years ago. She stated that the proclamation encourages all families to make sure they have their disaster plans in place. The type of disasters that North Carolinians could face include: tornadoes, hurricanes, and terrorism that that could threaten a family's life and activities. People should include the safety of elderly, infants, pets and livestock in their disaster plans.

In addition, Catawba County must prepare residents that live in the regional area around the McGuire Nuclear plant. This includes provision of Potassium Iodide (KI) free of charge to approximately 1700 citizens in the affected area. The KI provided to citizens is purchased by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and supplied to the State of North Carolina for distribution. September 27th is tentatively scheduled for this distribution and will be confirmed once receipt of the supply is known. The distribution will be at the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire Station in the Community Room. Ms. Brenda Watson asked how long individuals can keep the KI on hand. Ms. Lail stated it is very stable because KI is a salt. Mr. William Mixon, Chairman stated that KI has a very stable shelf life.

Mr. Urland asked Ms. Lail how long that Public Health has distributed KI. Ms. Lail stated the distribution began in 2003. He added that people that have moved to the area have come to the Health Department to ask for KI. The KI consists of 65 mg tablets and provides 4 tabs per adult. Public Health will give families 4 tablets for each person in their family or for business – four tablets for each of their employees. The four tablets are sufficient for two days – which will give time for evacuation from the affected area if deemed necessary. She added that Public Health keeps a supply of KI on hand that should an emergency occur there will be a supply if needed.

This concluded the Health Director's report.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dan Hunsucker made a motion to adjourn the Catawba County Board of Health and Ms. Naomi East seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Douglas W. Urland
Health Director

DWU: mjk