

**Catawba County Board of Health
Minutes
October 7, 2013**

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Monday, October 7, 2013. The meeting convened at 7:05 p.m. at Catawba County Public health, 3070 11th Av Dr SE, Hickory, NC 29602 in the Boardroom.

Members present: Ms. Brenda H. Watson, Chair
Dr. David C. Hamilton, Jr.
Dr. David Kulesia
Dr. William Geideman
Mr. Dan Hunsucker, Commissioner
Mr. John Dollar
Dr. Sharon Monday
Mr. William Mixon
Ms. Naomi East
Mr. Brian Potocki

Staff present: Mr. Doug Urland, Health Director
Ms. Kelly Isenhour, Assistant Health Director
Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Services Manager
Mr. Scott Carpenter, Environmental Health Supervisor
Ms. Julie Byrd, WIC Supervisor
Ms. Rhonda Stikeleather, Children's Service Nurse Supervisor
Ms. Sindie Sigmon, Business Manager
Mr. Mike Cash, Environmental Health Supervisor
Ms. Martha J. Knox, Administrative Assistant III

Visitors: Mr. Dewey Harris, Assistant County Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Brenda Watson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Watson stated that Item K – Proclamation will be added to the agenda and she asked if there were any further changes to the agenda. No further changes were noted and Mr. William Mixon made a motion to accept the agenda with the addition on Item K. The motion was seconded by Dr. William Geideman, the motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Watson asked if there were any corrections to the September 3, 2013, Board of Health minutes included in the Board packets. Hearing none, Ms. Watson asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. William Geideman so moved and Dr. David C. Hamilton, Jr., seconded the motion and the September 3, 2013, minutes were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

NEW EMPLOYEES

There were no new employees to introduce to the Board of Health at this meeting.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Dan Hunsucker stated that the Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on this date. The Board received a presentation regarding NC Department of Transportation's new Strategic Transportation Investment (STI) legislation and the new Strategic Mobility Formula. This was an overview of how the formula will address allocation of funding passed on prioritization criteria using a 0-100 point scale.

The Board of Commissioners also recognized 11 County employees who are the first graduates of the County's new Leadership Academy. Public Health had two employees in this graduating class, Ms. Chantae Lail, Medical Lab Manager, and Ms. Julie Byrd, WIC Manager. These graduates were identified as having leadership potential and over the last year developed their skills by expanding their understanding of leadership and management responsibilities through professional development opportunities, book studies, networking and team building opportunities.

Mr. Hunsucker stated he had the privilege of reading into the Board of Commissioner's minutes a Proclamation celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Catawba County Public Health. CCPH was commended for serving the people of Catawba County by promoting health, preventing disease and assuring access to vital health services.

Mr. Hunsucker stated that the Board of Commissioners also discussed their goals and accomplishments for 2012-13 and the information is on the County website.

Ms. Watson thanked Mr. Hunsucker for his report.

IMMUNIZATION/FLU UPDATE

Ms. Kelly Isenhour, Assistant Health Director, gave a report on the current flu vaccine distribution plan for 2013-14. She stated that clinics were scheduled for Friday, October 4th and Monday, October 7th. A total of 365 flu vaccines were given for these two days. Some of the vaccine was free state vaccine that is given to those that qualify and the rest was vaccine that was purchased. Of the 500 doses purchased 150 was for seasonal flu and the balance was for those 65 and over population that receive a higher dose. The free vaccine was given to children who are uninsured or under-insured, pregnant women or women that participate in the family planning waiver program. Additional clinics will be scheduled as needed.

Regarding T-dap immunizations, only one manufacturer was making the vaccine available, therefore there appears to be a shortage in the system. The shortage occurred, just as children were getting ready to return to school. Approximately 80 appointments for T-dap have been scheduled and there are still appts available at this time. On Friday, October 4th it was determined that approximately 82 kindergarten students are still out of compliance. There are 18 available appointments between now and October 8th. October 8th is 2 weeks past the 30 day deadline for exclusion from school for non-compliance with immunization and Kindergarten physical. School nurses are monitoring these children to ensure that they get appointments as soon as possible.

Ms. Watson asked if CCPH had been receiving any objections from parents regarding the required vaccinations. Ms. Isenhour stated that there has been some discussion and noted that during the pertussis outbreak there were a couple of families that home schooled that objected to getting the immunizations for their children.

Doug Urland, Health Director, stated that some parents today want to pick and choose the immunizations their children will receive. The parents express concern about certain vaccinations. Ms. Rhonda Stikeleather, Children's Services Nurse Supervisor, stated that there are parents who are educated about the different immunizations. Mr. Urland stated that in Charlotte-Mecklenburg 1,800 families received notification not to bring their children to school until they had received their T-dap vaccination. Forsyth County also had sent notification regarding 400+ children in their school system would be excluded from school until they had been vaccinated. He added that a local physician called him and requested that children not be prevented from going to school due to the shortage of vaccine.

FARMER'S MARKET UPDATE

The Farmer's Market held here at CCPH has been very active each Thursday, with the exception of July 4, 2013, since May 2, 2013. There has been an average of six farmers and 194 customers weekly. With the start of school, participation has lessened. CCPH has had a 61.2% redemption rate of WIC vouchers, which is the highest in the State. CCPH has received a 3rd distribution of vouchers and Ms. Isenhour stated that usually agencies only receive one and maybe two, however, because of our high redemption rate we have received a 3rd allotment.

WIC vouchers can be redeemed at any Farmer's Market; however, the CCPH market has made it very convenient for participants of the WIC program. Participants visiting the Farmer's market spent \$4,748 redeeming their WIC vouchers and an additional \$924 in Bonus bucks from private donations.

Mr. John Dollar stated that Accreditation Site Visitors that interviewed him asked questions about the Farmer's Market and were very impressed with the efforts of CCPH.

Mr. Doug Urland, Health Director stated that staff have done a great job with the Farmer's Market. He added that at the end of the year, Amy McCauley, Community Outreach Manager will give a year in review and what will be planned for next year.

Ms. Isenhour stated that the Farmer's Market in the Sherrill's Ford last year was such a success for that community, the church took ownership of that Farmer's market and has ran that market. She stated that Health Promotion staff members touch base with them, but the day-to-day operations are being handled by the local church.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT

Mr. Mike Cash, Environmental Health Supervisor, gave an update to the Board of Health on the Catawba County Environmental Health Onsite Waste Water Program. Mr. Cash stated that Board members have copies of the 1st quarter comparisons on the permits issued by Environmental Health.

All permits increased from 2012 to 2013 and this occurred in spite of a reduction in staff. The quality review shows that permit issuance is at 95% compliance rate. Data from the 1st quarter of 2012 compared to the same period in 2013 shows that 98.2% of permits were issued within the 7 process days in 2012 compared to 98.9% in 2013. Average turn around increased from 2.2 days in 2012 to 2.5 days for the same period in 2013. Mr. Cash noted that this item is of interest because it may be reflective of both increase in service demands and operating efficiencies due to staffing issues.

He next reported on the impacts on HB74. NC Dept. of Health and Human Services – Division of Public Health – Environmental Health – Onsite Waste Water Program Branch issued a "position statement" with regard to the changes in the law related to authorizing flow reductions for commercial facilities. These flow reducing

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alternatives will have impacts on septic permitting and design. These were previously only done (with a few exceptions) by approval of state engineers, and now they may be done locally, with a proposal submitted by an engineer. To date, the State has not issued a rule amendment or guidance for how to apply proposed flow reduction standards to engineering proposals referenced in the law.

The new law does not prevent local EH programs from referring flow reduction proposals for state review when deemed appropriate and the new law does not apply to residential permitting. Mr. Cash added that maintaining productive working relationships between design engineers, local Environmental Health Specialists, and state engineers has always been and will continue to be crucial to effective implementation of the new law.

Mr. Cash stated that in the Session Law 2013-413 – Issuance of Private Drinking Water Well Permits – amends language of GS 87-97(e). The amended language declares a well permit as "issued" if the health department fails to act, issue or deny the permit, within 30 days of receiving the permit application. Due to reduction in staff and the multiple demands on staff time, this new language creates serious questions on how local health departments are to respond and the potential implications to the "automatic" issuance of a well permit. Discussions are continuing between the Environmental Section and the Attorney General's office, however, there remains uncertainty around the new language.

Due to historic and ongoing response to new well applications, it is expected that this law would have little impact on CPH Environmental Health program; however, it does raise questions about potential risks to the public's health if well permits are approved without proper investigations.

Mr. Cash asked if the Board had any questions. Hearing none, Scott Carpenter reported on the Food and Lodging Section.

Mr. Carpenter stated that on the Food, Lodging and Institution side of Environmental Health, one of the biggest items is the carbon monoxide detectors in lodging facilities. Recently, there were news items about deaths as the result of carbon monoxide poisoning in hotel located in Boone, NC. All lodging facilities must now have carbon monoxide detectors meeting ANSI/UL2034 2075 standards in every enclosed space with fossil burning heaters, appliance or fireplace including a sleeping room that shares a common wall or ceiling to a room that has fossil burning heaters, appliance or fireplace. This has already taken effect and the appliances include: fireplaces, clothes dryer, boilers, hot water heaters, cooking stoves, etc. that uses fossil fuels (oil, gas, propane, etc.).

The inspections of lodging facilities will involve determining that they are compliant with the carbon monoxide detectors. This will include rooms that had not been on the inspection forms previously. The detectors can be battery operated at this time, however, in 2014; they will be required to be hard powered with battery backup.

Lodging facilities will be required to have detectors in lobbies or anywhere there are fireplaces. Bed and Breakfast homes can now serve more than the breakfast meal. They can serve lunch and dinner; however, it must be included in the package price for the customer.

The requirements include no more than 8 guests that stay no longer than one week. General public will not be able to come in to be served like a regular restaurant. No special change to equipment is required by the new regulations.

Private clubs – if they meet a certain criteria will be allowed to serve food without a permit. The position statement has not been released; however, Mr. Carpenter will be attending a meeting later this week and will update the Board of any additional changes.

Mr. Urland thanked Scott and Mike for their reports and will update the Board as the regulations and guidance become clearer. Regarding the Bed and Breakfast, they are not required to obtain the restaurant permits unless they begin serving customers that are not registered guests of that facility.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Doug Urland, Health Director, stated he had three items for his report to the board.

- Federal Government Shutdown impact on Public Health – Mr. Urland directed the Board's attention to the one page document "Implications of Federal Government Shutdown on Catawba County Public Health".

Approximately 20% of Public Health's budget is State/Federal grant funding, the WIC Program is 100% federally funded. NC will continue to enroll new participants through at least Tuesday, October 8th. A waiting list will be implemented if there are not sufficient funds to continue serving eligible participants or new applicants. WIC staff will be attended a webinar regarding the implementation of the programmatic waiting list.

CCPH also receives funding from the State Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (\$140,000). Currently, CCPH is able to draw down a limited amount of that grant.

As new and revised information is received the Board of Commissioners and County Manager's office will be apprised of the situation.

Ms. Julie Byrd, WIC Manager, stated that there are two types of funding for WIC – Administrative funds and Food benefit funds. There have been waiting lists in the past. The State WIC staff is analyzing the funding daily and they will inform local programs of any changes. The following is some of the information learned at the webinar held with WIC staff across the state today:

- 1 type of waiting list would be for all participants - the participant would come in to the office and staff would assess their income and give the client nutritional education, weigh, check hemoglobin. However, food benefits would not be issued at the end of the visit. They would fill out an envelope with their mailing address. Once funding is released they would have their food benefits mailed out to them.
- 2nd type of waiting list would be a categorical wait list. Benefits would be suspended for certain categories of participants. Children 1-5 years of age, non-breast feeding women would be suspended. Infants and pregnant women and breast-feeding women would continue to be served full benefits and the suspended categories mentioned would receive everything but the food issuance and they would fill out the envelope and when funding was released the benefits would be mailed out to the participants.

Breast feeding support, nutrition education and referral would still continue. Ms. Byrd stressed it is still very important for WIC participants to keep their appointments to ensure their certification stays current and not have a delay due to the need to re-apply. The WIC Directors were instructed to check their emails on an hourly basis.

The State also suggests that local WIC agencies delay their outreach plans. She added that the 41 WIC vendors have been contacted and made aware that they should continue to accept the WIC vouchers. They healthcare providers have also been notified that the local WIC program is operating business as usual at this time.

Dr. David Hamilton, Jr., Board Member, asked how long this could go on. Julie Byrd said that was not mentioned in the webinar to staff members. Doug Urland stated that funds for staff in the WIC program have been approved through end of October, after that it is unknown what will happen if agreement is not reached and federal programs restored.

Another area that could affect Public Health is the funding from the State Maternal and Child Health Block grant, which is about \$140,000 for CCPH. At this time CCPH is able to draw down some of those funds, however, if the shutdown continues that might affect draw down of these funds. These funds support the Maternity Services program CCPH has with the partnership with Catawba Valley Medical Center, and the school nurse program, and a small amount supports the family planning program. He will keep the Board apprised of any new developments.

- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Update - Mr. Urland reported to the Board on a meeting to discuss a Federally Qualified Health Center for Catawba County. Public Health, Department of Social Services, Catawba Valley Medical Center, Frye Regional Medical Center, Mental Health Partners, Gaston Family Health Services, and Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministries met to discuss implementation of a grant for \$665,000 to provide a FQHC in the Hickory area.

Gaston Family Health Services has a proven record on working with FQHC's in other counties. The plan involves using the Rudisill Building located in downtown Hickory and the requirements of the grant require that services be offered at the FQHC by January 1, 2014. This will require organization of a Board of Directors and a local advisory board that will be represented on the Board of Directors located in Gastonia. The clinic is designed to provide primary care services to uninsured and Medicaid clients.

- Accreditation – CCPH received good news from the Accreditation Site Team visit. CCPH has been recommended to receive full accreditation and met 147 of 148 activities. The activity not met was regarding the site team feeling our clinic area did not provide for 100% privacy for the clients we serve.

The full Accreditation Board will meet in December, 2013 and take an official vote on Accreditation for CCPH.

A PROCLAMATION – 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. Doug Urland, Health Director stated that CCPH was established on July 14, 1938, and in recognition of the 75th anniversary of Public Health in Catawba County, CCPH will have a reception on October 9, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. here in the CCPH Boardroom. Mr. Urland read the following Proclamation into the minutes:

A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING THE 75th ANNIVERSARY OF CATAWBA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

WHEREAS, the Catawba County Public Health Department was established on July 14, 1938, as a result of action taken by the Catawba County Medical Society to provide the county with a means to enforce public health laws and provide public health services to citizens;

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WHEREAS, in 1938, Public Health established clinics to wipe out communicable diseases, particularly syphilis, tuberculosis, and diphtheria; and today, Public Health still works to prevent and control transmissible diseases through the Communicable Disease program and the Adult Health STD clinic;

WHEREAS, over the course of Public Health's first year more than 20,000 immunizations were given in the county, including a required smallpox vaccination for children entering school; and today, Public Health provides more than 3,400 immunizations annually for infants, children and adults as a cornerstone of its disease prevention and eradication efforts;

WHEREAS, in the 1940s, Public Health began employing health educators to provide health prevention classes and information across the community; and today, Public Health's Health Promotion team not only reaches more than 13,000 people annually through classes and health fairs but also implements policy, systems, and environmental strategies to help make the healthy choice the easier choice in Catawba County;

WHEREAS, in 1949, ordinances requiring permits for the pumping and cleaning of septic tanks were adopted by Public Health; and today, Public Health's Environmental Health division assures healthy practices related to septic systems and wells, foodservice and lodging, swimming pools, tattoo parlors, childcare centers, and air quality;

WHEREAS, in 1966, Public Health established a family planning clinic; and today, more than 2,300 women benefit annually from family planning and breast and cervical cancer screenings through the Women's Preventive Health clinic;

WHEREAS, in 1972, Public Health's Home Health program began providing in-home medical care to help people avoid unnecessary hospital stays; and today, Home Health has grown to include treatment, therapy and fall prevention services for more than 23,800 patient visits annually;

WHEREAS, in 1977, the Women, Infants and Children supplemental food program for infants and pregnant and lactating women began at Public Health; and today, the WIC program serves more than 8,400 women and children annually and hosts the Public Health Farmers Market to provide even greater access to healthy nutrition for local families;

WHEREAS, in 1983, the Board of Health began utilizing volunteers to provide school health services; and today, Public Health's School Health program has grown to include 23 nurses serving more than 24,500 children in 44 schools throughout the county;

WHEREAS, in 1986, Public Health began providing early and adequate prenatal care for low income women; and in 2013, Public Health continues to assure that care through partnership with Catawba Valley Medical Center and case management programs, such as Pregnancy Care Management and Care Coordination for Children;

WHEREAS, in 1995, the Public Health Dental Practice was established; and today, the expanded practice helps prevent tooth decay by providing more than 13,400 services annually to children and young adults ages 1 to 21;

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of 9/11, Public Health became trained to respond to bioterrorism and other disasters through the National Incident Management System; and today, Public Health maintains a preparedness network that is ready to respond, including scoring 100% from the North Carolina Division of Public Health on the local plan to deploy the Strategic National Stockpile in the event of a mass epidemic;

WHEREAS, in 2005, Public Health founded Catawba County Health Partners to foster community coalitions addressing the county's health priorities; and today, Health Partners continues to build partnerships that implement policy, systems, and environmental change strategies to improve obesity, cancer, access to care, and substance abuse;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH does commend Catawba County Public Health for 75 remarkable years of serving the people of Catawba County by promoting health, preventing disease, and assuring access to vital health services.

Ms. Sharon Monday made a motion that the Catawba County Board of Health accept the Proclamation Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Catawba County Public Health. Ms. Naomi East seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Brenda Watson, if there was any further business for consideration in the regular session of the Board of Health. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to go into Closed Session to consider a Personnel matter.

Mr. William Mixon made a motion for the Catawba County Board of Health to go into closed session and Mr. Dan Hunsucker seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

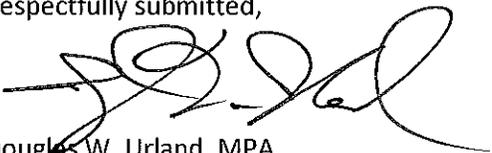
CLOSED SESSION

The Catawba County Board of Health met in closed session to review the job description and performance evaluation of Doug Urland, Health Director.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas W. Urland, MPA
Health Director

DWU: mjk