

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2010

The Wilkes County Board of Health held their regular business meeting Monday, February 8, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in the Wilkes County Health Department conference room. Board of Health members attending were:

Ms. Carol Bauguess
Ms. Eyda Bennett
Dr. Max Colwell
Mr. Zach Henderson
Mr. Don Manus
Mr. Wayne Myers
Ms. Brenda Sales
Mr. Neil Shepherd
Dr. Robert Taylor

Ms. Beth Lovette, Health Director, Ann Absher and Jerry Colvard were also in attendance. (Prior to the February meeting, packets containing the materials to be discussed were mailed to each board member for review.)

Mr. Neil Shepherd, Co-Chair, in the absence of Dr. Dariel Rathmell, Chair, called the meeting to order. With one revision to the Agenda, Mr. Shepherd asked for a motion to adopt the February meeting revised Agenda and approve the December 14, 2009 minutes. Mr. Don Manus made the motion to adopt the Agenda and approve the minutes. Mr. Zach Henderson seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried by all members present.

Administrative Report:

Annual Report Update: Ms. Lovette stated that the February meeting of the Board of Health has a trend of looking back at our annual report. Ms. Ann Absher will present the 2009 Communicable Disease and the Quality Improvement Annual Report and Ms. Jerry Colvard will be reporting on the first six months of this fiscal year in terms of the budget. The Annual Report basically indicates our accomplishments in the Health Department this fiscal year as well as some key points of interest that we think are important. The Annual Report is given to the Board of Health, Board of Commissioners, posted on our Website and possibly distributed at Health Fairs. Ms. Lovette explained that the Management Team is working toward explaining to the community the benefits of public health. These are our future plans for next year. An opportunity was given to the members to review the report and to give any suggestions or corrections.

Ms. Ann Absher presented the WCHD Quality Improvement Annual Report 2009. A copy of the report was included in the packet mailed to each board member before the meeting. Ms. Absher explained the new team this year is our Patient Access Team. It is our version of Open Access. We follow the customer service model of “handling the patient once”. When the patient calls, we schedule an appointment that day. If no appointments are available, we schedule the next available rather than have the patient call back or if sick we triage and work into the schedule if needed. This works well for us. Graphs showing the statistics were available for each member.

Ms. Absher presented the 2009 Communicable Disease Annual Report. Wilkes County Health Department relies on hospitals, healthcare providers, labs and other health-related service providers to report communicable diseases. NC General Statute 130A-135 requires licensed physicians to report cases and suspected cases of certain reportable communicable diseases and conditions in persons who have consulted them professionally to the Department of Health and Human Services. There were no remarkable trends noted on the annual report.

Ms. Jerry Colvard presented the Financial Report for the first six months of the fiscal year for WCHD. She explained this report consist of 24 programs of a total budget of \$6,661,242.00. She noted that 10% of the county cut was involved in the General budget. Ms. Colvard stated that although it has been difficult, we are staying on target on spending our budge. All the other program expenses are in line with the revenues. She stated the programs that had increased staff time in General salary and fringe, such as immunization, was due to the H1N1 clinics.

The board members were very proud to learn that Ms. Lovette received the “Ronald H. Levine Legacy Award for Local Innovation in Public Health” by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services in Raleigh last month. According to the state health officials, Ms. Lovette “is known for her tireless leadership in improving health in the community and state and for advocating with policymakers and legislators for public health issues.” Ms. Lovette received a round of applause and congratulatory remarks from the board members. At the same meeting in Raleigh, Dr. Keith Bentley, DDS, received the “Carl Durham Award” from the Association of North Carolina Boards of Health. The award recognizes his contributions and accomplishments toward improving and protecting the public’s health through his dedicated leadership and service. Ms. Lovette nominated Dr. Bentley for this award and she shared many of his accomplishments and dedication to Wilkes County to the board. Dr. Bentley was unable to attend the February board meeting but the BOH members expressed their appreciation and loyalty to him in his absence.

Ms. Lovette announced that the Division of Public Health presented a plaque to the Wilkes County Health Department with the “Best Practice Award” for addressing local child health issues.

Ms. Lovette discussed the pending release of Mobilizing Action Through Community Health: County Health Rankings by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Wilkes is ranked 67th of the 100 North Carolina Counties. The report ranks counties according to

their summary measures of health outcomes and health factors. A handout was provided. There was discussion regarding handling press inquiries about our ranking. Ms. Lovette will provide a press release for local media to clarify and highlight Wilkes. Wilkes was 42nd in health behaviors; 76th in clinical care; 63rd in social & economic factors and 74th in the built environment.

Ms. Lovette announced that we now have a County Employee Wellness Program. The committee has provided different programs such as Weight Watchers for county employees that meet here at the health department. This has been a big success and we are on our second cohort with this program. We are also providing clinic services for county employees for urgent care services. We have had a good response from county employees utilizing this service, saving the county around \$10,000 so far in avoided charges to the county insurance plan.

Committee Report:

Health Director Performance Review: Mr. Shepherd stated that he had reviewed the surveys from the WCHD Management Team and a letter of recommendation from Dr. Rathmell. He stated that all surveys were very highly rated for Ms. Lovette. He commended Ms. Lovette on her role as health director and asked if anyone had suggestions or comments for Ms. Lovette. None were made. This performance review will be placed in Ms. Lovette's personnel file at the Health Department.

Unfinished Business:

Ms. Lovette announced that she and the renovation committee are still working with Mr. Seales, Architect, on our facility issues. She doesn't have a definite date on the completion of the plans, but it appears that the renovation will be "on hold" indefinitely until the county budget improves.

There were no public concerns.

The next Board of Health meeting will be held April 12, 2010, at 5:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Wellborn

