

Cherokee County Health Department BOH Meeting Minutes
Monday March 13, 2017
6:30 p.m. – Health Department Conference Room

Members Present: Chris Dickey, Dr. Amanda Gambill, Brett Nourrcier, CB McKinnon, Mike Bradberry, Jerry Townson and Dr. Jeff Martin

Absent: Lisa Williams, RN, John Hyer

Public Present: None

Meeting Call to Order: Chairman Chris Dickey called the meeting to order.

Invocation: CB McKinnon gave the invocation.

Swearing in of BOH Members: County attorney Scott Lindsay administered the oath to newly appointed member Dr. Jeffery Martin.

Public Comments: None

Approval of:

- a) **Approval of minutes:** Members reviewed and approved the minutes for the January 9, 2017 meeting. Mike Bradberry made the motion to approve the meeting minutes Brett Nourrcier seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b) **CFPT/CCPT Appointment:** Per NCGS §7B-1407(b)(10) the local board of health is responsible for appointing a local health care provider to serve on the Community Child Protection Team and the Child Fatality Prevention Team. The Board discussed the responsibilities to review child fatalities and incidences of child abuse and report back to the State means to avoid or reduce future events. It was recommended that the Board appoint Deborah Palmer, Child Health nurse for the Cherokee County Health Department as the member to the local CCPT/CFPT team. Amanda Gambill made the motion to approve the appointment; Mike Bradberry seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- c) **2016 SOTCH:** Sara Wilson, Cherokee County Health Educator presented the Board the 2016 State of the County Health report which highlights the three health priorities that the Health Department is focusing on which are:
 - i. Chronic Disease Control and Prevention
 - ii. Cancer Control and Prevention
 - iii. Access to Health Care

Sara reviewed and discussed the leading causes of death in the county; discussed the emerging Hepatitis C issue and discussed the potential impacts of the sale of the hospital on access to health care. The Board discussed in depth the growing Hepatitis C prevalence and its short and long-term impacts fueled primarily by intravenous drug use and the opioid epidemic and the cost of treatment. Brett Nourrcier made the motion to adopt the 2016 SOTCH as presented; CB McKinnon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Health Director Comments:


- a) The departmental reports for Clinic, Lab, FLI and Environmental Health were provided to the Board for review. There was general discussion around the on-site and well numbers and emphasis was placed on the local impact of our WIC program for 2016 as local vendors were paid \$573,780.46 as a result of the services delivered. David reviewed some recent correspondence from NC DHHS concerning the Opioid prescribing changes and the continuation of testing for Hepatitis C and the dramatic increase in reported acute Hepatitis C; these reviews and discussion are used to provide continued education and insight on emerging and developing issues affecting our community.
- b) David Badger reviewed the 2017/2018 budget request and discussed the overall budget request. It focuses on finding ways to reduce our expenditures and seeking ways to increase revenues.
- c) David Badger and the Board had general discussion around operational changes taking place to keep the members up-to-date on the operations of the Health Department which include:
 - i. Dr. Mary Lane OB/GYN who is joining the Health Department as a fulltime medial provider and our Medical Director beginning April 3rd.
 - ii. Discussed the changes to service effective March 1, 2017 at the Andrews Health Center as we are no longer sending a provider to that location. We will staff it on Thursdays with a Nurse, Laboratory and WIC. The Health Department is concentrating our Provider time here in our Murphy clinic to increase service delivery. We are also going to be using the full \$91,104 from the School Based funds to operate Andrews and make are provider available to students, staff and the public via telemedicine. We are also providing access via telemedicine to our provider to students and staff supported by the School Based nurse at Hiawassee Dam School to expand our services in the community without increasing staff.
 - iii. An update was provided on the implementation of our Electronic Health Record (CureMD) which is going live on Wednesday, March 15th. The Board inquired how the staff were handling the changes and an update was provided on the anticipated benefits including better practice management, billing and a shortened cash flow cycle.
 - iv. Discussion was had on the potential funding decrease under the repeal and replace of the ACA which includes the Prevention and Public Health Fund that was established in 1982 by President Reagan. The local impact is in the range of \$30,000 and will primarily impact health education and child immunizations.
 - v. David Badger discussed a change in operating hours in which our lab and clinic services would not be open during the 12pm-1pm lunch hours, as all of our other divisions operate, due to the lack of demand during that period. It was discussed that should demand increase we will reevaluate to ensure the best possible access to services.

Executive Session: None


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Other Comments: None

Next Board Meeting: The next board meeting will be held on May 8, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Cherokee County Health Department Conference Room.



David Badger
Health Director, Clerk to the Board



Chris Dickey
Board Chairman