

MINUTES

DAVIDSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

January 18, 2005
12:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Peggy Shoaf
Mr. Don Truell, Commissioner
Dr. Mark Davis
Dr. David Kowal
Dr. George Chambless
Ms. Tammy Hedrick
Mr. David Black

STAFF

Ms. Jackie Frank
Ms. Kim Frank
Ms. Barbara Jones
Ms. Mary Jacobs
Mr. Darren Cecil

VISITORS

Rev. Lamar Moore
Mr. Will Rogers
Mr. Guy Corman

Dr. Chambless, Chairman welcomed everyone and shared a "thank you" note from Diane Crouse commending the Board on their hard work and thanking them for the retirement gift they had given her.

Mr. Long welcomed the school nurses and Mary Jacobs, School Nurse Supervisor. Ms. Jacobs gave a presentation on school nursing in Davidson County. The school nurses performed short skits demonstrating some of the health problems at local schools and how school nurses attempt to solve them.

Dr. Chambless, Chairman, established the presence of a quorum and called the Tuesday, January 18, 2005 Board of Health meeting to order and asked if there were any corrections to the November 3, 2004 minutes.

Dr. Chambless asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Dr. Chambless asked to entertain the motion to move up on the agenda item (A.) under new business "Will Rogers-Mobile Park Agreement Proposal".

MOTION

Mr. Black made the motion to move Will Rogers-Mobile Park Agreement Proposal as first item on the agenda. Dr. Davis seconded and the motion was approved.

MOTION

Dr. Kowal made the motion to approve the consent agenda and the minutes as written. Ms. Shoaf seconded and the motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Environmental Health

Mr. Cecil, Supervisor for the On Site Wastewater Program gave a brief review of the situation involving the mobile home park owned by Mr. Rogers. Mr. Rogers purchased a mobile home park that was originally permitted for 41 spaces in 1973 under the old Board rules. By the definition included under the rules adopted by the Board in October of 2004 his park would be limited to the existing 19 spaces. Mr. Rogers wished to expand the park an additional 4 spaces.

Mr. Rogers began discussions on the issue of expanding the park with one of environmental health staff in June of last year. The park currently has only enough wastewater systems for 19 spaces out of the 41 spaces originally indicated on the permit from 1973. Mr. Cecil stated that under the current Board rules on mobile home parks, Mr. Rogers cannot be allowed to expand the park because there are no "existing spaces" under the 1973 permit, other than the 19 he already had, that could be granted exemptions. Since the additional park spaces are not defined as "existing" under the Board of Health rules on mobile home parks, they cannot be granted exemptions from the current mobile home park ordinance adopted by the County and enforced through the zoning office even though the original permit indicated approval for 41 spaces. Mr. Cecil stated that he, John Hendren, Mr. Long, Guy Corman, Planning & Zoning Director, Lee Parks, and Robert Hedrick, County Attorney sat down and came to a settlement agreement that would allow Mr. Rogers to apply for four additional mobile home spaces contingent upon septic tank approval that meet the current State septic rules. The agreement also provided that the March 13, 1973 permit would be deemed voided upon execution of this agreement. Mr. Long stated the proposed settlement agreement would have to be approved by the Board of Health before he could sign since only the Board had adjudicatory authority on rules they had adopted. Commissioner Truell asked Mr. Corman if they were in agreement with this settlement. Mr. Corman stated that they were in agreement and would sign the settlement.

MOTION

Commissioner Truell made the motion to approve the Settlement Agreement as presented. Mr. Black seconded and the motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Home Health Agency

Mr. Long stated that as mentioned at the previous BOH meeting, the numbers of Home Health referrals correlates directly with the revenues received by the agency and since that time our referral rate had not seen any improvement. Handouts were given to the Board showing the referral numbers of where Home Health was July 1 to December 31, 2003 and for the same period in 2004. The referrals from 2003 were 82 and then 66 for the same period in 2004. Mr. Long said after looking at the current projections, the best that Home Health could hope for was to break even which does not include the cost of additional staff time coded to the program. Mr. Long stated a decision needed to be reached on whether to continue the agency or dissolve it. Mr. Long stated that if we begin the process of dissolving the agency now it will allow more time to place the employees in the health department or other county agencies but if we wait further into the fiscal year where our cost may begin exceeding revenues, the agency may have to end more abruptly.

Questions, comments and concerns were brought forward by Board Members in regard to advertising and other methods to increase business, how many Home Health employees will be affected if the agency is dissolved, referrals, competition from other agencies and the end of the fiscal year.

Rev. Lamar Moore stated that he had worked with the Home Health agency for years and would like to request from the Board whatever they did, to please make a place for the Home Health employees in the health department.

Mr. Black made a motion for a sub-committee to be formed to review Home Health finances rather than vote to dissolve the agency now. Dr. Kowal seconded and the motion was approved.

Tammy Hedrick, Dr. David Kowal, and David Black volunteered for the Home Health sub-committee; Dr. Reedy was not present but his name was submitted to be on the committee also.

NEW BUSINESS

Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility – Pre-natal clinic

Mr. Long informed the Board that prenatal clinic funds were running low as a result of paying for ultra sounds and other services. He stated that over 99 % of our pre-natal clients are Hispanics. Mr. Long stated the health department is trying to find new revenue sources for this program. Health department staff has met with DMA (Division of Medicaid Assistance) staff on presumptive eligibility billing of Medicaid for these non-resident patients. Currently over 70% of these clients are 0% or 20% pay, based on the existing fee scale. With presumptive eligibility patients would be presumed eligible for Medicaid for a 60 day window during which time the health department could bill Medicaid for services provided. Presumptive eligibility is recognized by DMA as a means by which local provides can recover costs for these patients. After 60 days patients would be either deemed eligible or Medicaid benefits would be terminated. Mr. Long stated that he would like to bring to the next Board meeting a pre-natal clinic policy revision and a full packet of information on what presumptive eligibility would mean in terms of revenue for the department. Mr. Long also stated that of all the counties in the State, Davidson County Health Department is one of only two counties that are not already involved in this program and that beginning presumptive eligibility could bring additional revenue into the county to offset the cost.

Health Director's Evaluation

Dr. Chambless informed the Board that a committee is needed to start the process of evaluating the job performance of Mr. Long, Health Director. Dr. Chambless said the committee would see if needs are being met with the agencies that the Health Department works with and if there are other wants that need to be addressed. A formal committee will be picked at the next Board of Health meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT

- BT coordinator position will be voted on January 25th at the Commissioners meeting. This position is totally funded through the CDC preparedness and response money. This full-time position will be under the health director and will interact with all county agencies in developing plans and procedures for disease surveillance, bio-terrorism planning and related activities.
- The Health Department received 15,360 doses of flu vaccine. Gave out 5900 doses to private providers, 1000 doses to long-term care facilities, 5,860 doses given by health department and 400 doses given to other health departments all between October and January. The health department has 800 adult doses left and 1,340 pediatric doses that we don't know what to do with but CDC will open the vaccine to anyone January 24th and expect that most will be given eventually.
- Having a problem with environmental health staff retention due to our neighbors North East of us offering higher salaries. We have lost three staff members in three months and almost lost a fourth one to a significant pay increase. Mr. Long, John Hendren, and Darren Cecil met with County Manager and Personnel Director to discuss options and propose salary adjustments. We are already 2-3 weeks behind in septic applications in the slowest part of the year and will be further behind as the spring building season approaches. With current

salaries we can only attract interns which take a minimum of six months to train at basic proficiency.

- Contract negotiations on maternity services are starting with Thomasville OBGYN and Lexington OBGYN.
- No positive Rabies since September 04.
- Two Vacant seats on Board of Health for Pharmacy and Public Citizen.

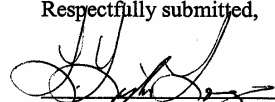
FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

The Board decided to on the first Tuesday of every other month.

Next Board of Health will meet Tuesday, March 1, 2005

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,



L. Layton Long, R.S., M.S.A.
Secretary to the Board

This is a true and accurate copy of the January 18, 2005 Board of Health Minutes.



Dr. George Chambless
Chair