

MINUTES

DAVIDSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

July 11, 2006
12:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Ed Reedy
Mr. Brown Loflin
Dr. Mark Davis
Commissioner Don Truell
Dr. Mark Hamrick
Rev. Lamar Moore

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Jackie Frank
Ms. Kim Frank
Mr. John Hendren
Mr. Darren Cecil

VISITORS PRESENT

Ms. Sandy Motley

Dr. Reedy opened the meeting, established a quorum and introduced Sandy Motley from Davidson Medical Ministries.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Reedy asked if there were any corrections to the May 09, 2006 minutes or amendments to the agenda.

MOTION

Dr. Davis made the motion to approve the agenda. Rev. Moore seconded and the motion was approved.

HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT

- Budget-was approved as submitted with a few minor changes; no major problems; some minor cuts in a few programs. Will be providing an end of the year FY06 budget report to the Board at the September meeting.
- The contract for the new state HIS (Health Information System) has been signed. The state has been working on this for many years. The health department has been submitted as a pilot county for the new system.
- We are planning a Pan Flu Conference and are trying to get outside speakers to come for an all day work shop to discuss pandemic flu and what it could mean to Davidson County and North Carolina. So far we have received confirmation from Leah Devlin, State Health Director for introductory remarks, the Institute of Government is sending a senior attorney to discuss quarantine and isolation issues, and NC Department of Agriculture Department will present on bird flocks and agricultural issues of bird flu. Since Davidson County is limited for large places to hold such functions, it was recommended by the conference planning committee to rent the large room at the Childress Winery. Around 150 people will be invited to the conference and the tentative date is September 22nd. The Pandemic Flu money provided by a federal grant will be used to sponsor the conference. (Mr. Long asked if there were any concerns by the Board about the use of Childress Winery for the location of the conference. No concerns were expressed by the Board members.)
- The Animal Ordinance Committee will be meeting for the first time Monday, July the 24th.
- New technology (power point, internet, TV and equipment) installed in the library for an EPI incident/ command room was noted. New equipment paid for with preparedness grant funding.

- Space Need Study will be proposed for the County and could mean possible changes for the health department if the commissioners approve the study.
- Had two break-ins at the Thomasville Health Department. Damaged windows, sprayed fire extinguishers, broke the sliding glass window where clerks check people in and stole the petty cash box with a \$100.00.
- Recall exercise was conducted by Steve Scarce to check availability of staff after hours and how quickly they could respond.
- Have been asked to attend and participate in the Latino Round Table. Also have participated in meetings initiated by Davidson Vision and Thomasville City schools to discuss a grant to prevent Latino teen pregnancy.
- Received a copy of a “thank you” letter from Dr. Leah Devlin, State Health Director that was sent to Wayne Monk (Lexington Barbeque) for his comments on the positive aspects of going to a “smoke free” restaurant. This letter was used at the state level for a press release on the new Surgeon General’s report on second hand smoke.
- The health department has a customer service satisfaction survey in place now with Barbara Jones heading it up. These surveys show how we are doing based on client response. Overwhelmingly, the surveys have been positive.
- (Mr. Long asked John Hendren to inform the Board on the purchase of Computer Data Processing software for Environmental Health). Mr. Hendren reported that the CDP contract had been signed. State forms are already part of the system and the county will get them a list of additional forms for the system that EH would like to see included. Mr. Hendren stated that we would get HSIS in Raleigh to send CDP our files and hopefully it will be altogether by September. Mr. Hendren stated when specialist bring the lab top or tablet back in from an inspection, it will automatically transfer to the grade sheet and post on the web site for the public to see. The County IT department may modify how the inspection is viewed due to the size.
- Our Smart Start funding was initially cut but fortunately they have found additional funding that will cover the balance of this fiscal year for the day care nurses employed by the health department. The State budget has substantially increased Smart Start funding so hopefully this won’t be an issue in the future.
- The Hepatitis B campaign to get all children vaccinated has been an eight year long process that has now been completed.
- State wide well program is in the State budget and it is just a matter of the Governor signing it into law at this point and time. There is still \$60,000.00 in seed money for local program start up that we can possibly obtain.

OLD BUSINESS

Funding Proposals-Home Health Fund -Davidson Medical Ministries

Dr. Reedy stated that we had been working with Sandy Motley from Davidson Medical Ministries on a Davidson Medical Ministry Clinic and Davidson County Health Department Collaborative Proposal. This proposal would require Board approval to appropriate \$50,000.00 of the Home Health Proceeds fund for a mid level provider. Dr. Reedy asked Ms. Motley to review the proposal.

Ms. Motley thanked the Board for entertaining the possibility of increasing services to the uninsured in Davidson County and improving management of chronic diseases in this population. Ms. Motley stated that Davidson Medical Ministries has provided medical services to the uninsured for 15 years but the need has far out weighed available resources for a very long time. Ms. Motley said that their current physician’s assistant (PA), in addition to providing clinical services, provides education for diabetes, hypertension and asthma. With approval of the collaborative between DCHD and Medical Ministries additional clinics can be offered using the second PA with the emphasis being chronic disease management. Ms. Motley said their goal is to decrease the number of people showing up at the ER and to offer some continuity of care for the patients that

have chronic health problems. Ms. Motley also stated that the health department has already developed a wonderful education plan that will assist in freeing up the PA by teaching disease management classes on a monthly basis.

Dr. Reedy stated that you need the chronically ill people seeing the same person over and over because everyone practices medicine differently. Also, Dr. Reedy said there might be more volunteers to treat acute care patients if they had a second PA to treat the chronically ill patients.

MOTION

Rev. Moore made the motion to grant the request of the proposal between the Health Department and the Davidson Medical Ministries collaborative. Dr. Davis seconded and the motion was approved

Mr. Long stated that (as indicated in the written proposal) this approval will fund a PA for a 25 hours/week. This leaves 15 hours needed to make the position full time. Mr. Long stated the County already has a wellness program in place to help reduce insurance costs and some health departments have looked at employee health clinics as another means to reduce insurance costs. Mr. Long stated that he had approached County administration to see if there was any interest in providing funding for the additional 15 hours needed to make the PA position full time. The additional time would be allotted to providing an employee clinic at the health department. Mr. Long stated there would be many issues to work through to see if this idea would work. The County Insurance Committee and County administration expressed definite interest in pursuing the idea. Mr. Long wanted to know from the Board if they believed he should pursue this idea any further.

Dr. Reedy said this would be the same provider as for the Medical Ministries but the health department would have to make a space for the person, someone for back up, and staff around to help them.

Dr. Davis asked if we shouldn't get a feel from Dr. Garrison how far is he willing to go and if he would be willing to sign off on the provider for their services.

The Board expressed interest in Mr. Long investigating further the possibility of making the provider a full time employee for the purpose of creating an employee health clinic.

Prenatal policies

Mr. Long stated that he, Kim Frank, and Cindy Harris (clinic supervisor) had met with the state consultant informally to discuss existing policies. This informal visit was requested in order to obtain guidance on existing policies prior to the official state audit scheduled in June. As a result of this meeting, Mr. Long and staff met with the Health Services sub-committee to present revised prenatal and eligibility policies for review. Mr. Long informed the Board that all counties were being audited by the State.

Kim Frank submitted and reviewed the revised prenatal and eligibility policies with the Board. Ms. Frank explained which changes would have a budgetary impact on the health department. Mr. Long said once the audit is performed a corrective action plan would need to be sent to Joy Reed, head of the technical assistance branch in Raleigh on any funding conditions noted.

Ms. Frank stated that for prenatal patients we contract with two OB-GYN offices to perform ultra sounds for our pre-natal at Medicaid rates; we in turn charge the patient the Medicaid rate. There is a similar arrangement with private labs. Ms. Frank stated that the State says we cannot charge flat rates for services but must apply the sliding fee scale which is based on income. Ms. Frank expects this change will also have a budgetary impact.

Ms. Frank stated in order to improve debt collection we are establishing payment schedules with clients by asking them to sign a payment agreement as well as developing a routine billing program.

Ms. Frank stated that once we take a prenatal patient into care we cannot refuse to see them for failure to pay. To address the situation of return patients that have an outstanding bill from a previous pregnancy, the proposed policy states that we will make an eligibility appointment, (which is not a commitment to provide care), to determine their eligibility and then ask them to pay that percentage of their old bill prior to entering care.

Mr. Long stated that while these changes will have a budgetary impact on the health department, we do get a substantial amount of money from the State and Federal sources. In order to receive this funding we must comply with the requirements set forth in the state contract addendum and federal guidelines. Rev. Moore said that in essence this funding depends on the changes that have been made to the prenatal policy. Dr. Reedy stated that we are discussing something where we do not have a choice on the matter, due to the fact there are several hundred thousand dollars we would lose from the State. Mr. Truell inquired if the legal status of patients played any role in eligibility for services. Mr. Long stated that federal and state requirements prohibit the denial of access to care for patients seeking services but residency in the County is required for the prenatal program. Mr. Long stated the health department is trying to validate residency prior to accepting a woman as a prenatal patient. Mr. Loflin stated children born (of illegal parents) in this country will be American citizens and providing care now will prevent it from being more expensive later.

Mr. Long stated that he, Dr. Reedy, Dr. Rogaski and Reverend Moore had reviewed the health department's fees in relation to the prenatal policies to look for possible solutions to lessen the budgetary impact of the revised policies. Mr. Long stated that he and Ms. Frank are recommending the fee issue be revisited at future Board meetings after the department has had time to gauge the impact of the revised policies.

MOTION

Rev. Lamar Moore made the motion to adopt the revisions to the prenatal policies to be effective August 01, 2006 except for the billing component which is to be implemented no later than January 01, 2007. Dr. Davis seconded and the motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Family Planning Clinic Policies

Ms. Frank stated that currently patients are required to bring documentation of their income for eligibility determination. If patients did not bring documentation for income they have the option of being seen at a 100% pay. Ms. Frank stated the state consultant identified this process as a potential funding condition since recent Title X guidance states that family planning patients must be accepted with their declaration of income and that documentation of income cannot be mandated. Ms. Frank said under this guidance we must determine where they are on the sliding fee scale based on whatever the patient declares as income. A revised family planning policy will be presented at the September Board meeting.

Proposed Changes to Immunization and Prenatal Fees

Dr. Reedy stated he would like for the health department to get their injection immunization fee updated before the flu season. Mr. Long stated that the health department review the rates for future recommendations.

Environmental Health Fee

John Hendren requested an interpretation of an existing fee policy previously approved by the Board. Mr. Hendren stated that presently Environmental Health does not charge a fee for bacterial water samples if

collected on a physician's request. It is not clear if this exemption was to extend to Division of Environmental Health mandated inspections requiring water samples. Mr. Hendren stated that environmental health recommended that the health department not charge for samples required as part of DENR, Division of Environmental Health mandated inspections.

MOTION

Mr. Loflin made the motion that the current fee exemption for water samples (in the fee schedule) be clarified to extend to samples required for mandated DENR inspections. Rev. Moore seconded and the motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

Next Board of Health will meet Tuesday, September 12th, 2006

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 July 11th 2006, Board of Health Minutes.

Dr. Ed Reedy, Chair