

MINUTES

DAVIDSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

July 15, 2010
6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Keith Raulston
Rev. Lamar Moore
Commissioner Don Truell
Ms. Alice Gray
Dr. Peter Rogaski
Dr. Mark Hamrick
Dr. Mark Davis
Dr. Cathy Riggan
Mr. Corey Buggs

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Kim Frank
Ms. Jackie Frank
Ms. Tonya Tysinger

VISITORS PRESENT

Candice Roberts
Dr. Jorge Figueroa
Michele Long- telephone call in

WELCOME

Dr. Davis called the meeting to order, established a quorum and welcomed everyone.

Wake Forest intern student Candice Roberts and Dr. Jorge Figueroa Professor/Mentor from the Wake Forest School of Medicine Department of Gynecology introduced themselves to the Board of Health. Mr. Long introduced Tonya Tysinger, HIS Administrator for the health department.

Dr. Davis thanked the Board for juggling their time and day for the meeting in order for Mr. Long to be able to attend training in Memphis Tennessee the first part of the week.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Davis stated the May 4th Board of Health minutes reflected that he made a motion to oppose the proposed funding cuts for the state childhood immunization program. Dr. Davis stated that as chair he would not have made the motion. Commissioner Truell stated that he was actually the one that made the motion. Dr. Davis requested that the minutes be amended to correct the error.

MOTION

Commissioner Truell made the motion to approve the meeting agenda, consent agenda and the minutes as amended. Keith Raulston seconded and the motion was approved.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Approved Budget/Staffing-** Environmental Health work loads have decreased significantly as a result of the economic situation. To make the best use of personnel resources one environmental health staff member, with a biology degree, was being transferred to the vacant clinic lab position. This transfer saves the County \$41,000 and places an employee in a position that needs to be filled. The employee has been advised that she can keep her environmental health registration/credentials and would have the opportunity to apply back to environmental health if the opportunity arose. Our two maternal outreach worker positions are being eliminated as a result of Medicaid cuts. Staff in these positions have applied for two of the three new management support positions created in WIC. I have received confirmation from Superintendent Dr. Fred Mock that the two school nurses discussed in prior meetings will be included in the school system budget for this year.

- **Grant Meeting**-Jen Hames and I went to a two-day work shop in Memphis on policy development and building coalitions around childhood obesity funded by a NACCHO grant. The first year of the grant is basically a training event. We will get \$7000 for the second year of the grant to assist with development and maintenance of the coalition. In the southeast there were only five counties picked from Kentucky, West Virginia and North Carolina and Davidson County was one of the two counties from North Carolina. NACCHO's emphasis is trying to build connectivity between states and counties within states to develop obesity policies that interconnect.
- **ECU**-Have not heard any news from the dental school lately but I have no reason to believe that it is not still on track. Last word was that it was a matter of presenting the plan to the ECU Board of Trustees. We held a conference call between myself, Davidson Medical Ministries, ECU and discussed the long term possibilities this would present to the three agencies.
- **Davidson Medical Ministries**-On track in developing their business plan with Gaston Family Medical Services (FQHC). Sandy has a lot of work to do learning the billing process and applying for grant. *Dr. Rogaski inquired to what time frame is Davidson Medical Ministries looking at for becoming a FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center).* Mr. Long replied that it would depend on when the federal application became available. The application was expected in May, then July and now August or September. The thought for the transition would probably begin in January 2011 of next year.
- **Dentist**-Dr. Davis, Kim Frank and I interviewed a dentist just graduating dental school this past May. It will be October before she gets her full license. *Commissioner Truell asked if they had named any of the sights (in the State) for the ECU dental school.* Mr. Long replied that ECU had already named three in the first cycle but that no announcement for any of the next three had been made. Mr. Long stated that ECU will likely make a public announcement from the campus at ECU but will let us know in advance.
- **NHANES (National Health & Nutrition Examination Survey)**-Davidson County has been selected by the CDC as one of fifteen counties nationally to participate in this study. We were selected as a result of certain demographics they were looking for. This is the community health assessment process for the nation where health data will be compiled and reported back to Congress. This fall the CDC will bring four fully medically outfitted tractor trailers to Davidson County. Staff of the CDC will randomly select approximately 1500 families for interviewing. Out of those interviews approximately 388 will receive a full medical assessment to include bone scans, stress tests, blood work and other screening. They have indicated that each person screened statistically represents about 60,000 people. Each person participating in the screening will receive a \$125.00. A presentation will be presented to the Commissioners and Board of Health. In order for the community to become familiarized with what is going on, there will be a lot of news media coverage prior to the interviews
- **Health Screenings**- The health department is in the process of doing the wellness screenings program for the county employees for blood work and follow-up
- **Grants**- Jen Hames has applied for a smoking grant through NACCHO. The grant emphasis is to work toward stricter policies regarding smoking. Jen has begun working on draft policies and will be presenting them at later Board meetings. The ultimate goal would be for the County to adopt a 100% tobacco free policy for County buildings and grounds.
- **Rabies Incident**- Dr. Rob Williams and some other adults took a group of mostly children (total 48 or 49) from Memorial Methodist in Thomasville on a mission trip to Grundy Virginia. The children upon awakening found two or three bats in the area where they had been sleeping. Under CDC and State guidelines this event was considered a potential exposure to rabies and prophylactic treatment was recommended. No one could determine if anyone had actually been bitten by a bat. The health

department, State, Thomasville Pediatrics, and Thomasville Medical Center were all involved in getting the exposed group the appropriate vaccinations for rabies. The total cost of the vaccine ordered was \$86,000.00. The health department and all the above facilities involved did a great job working together. The health department was responsible for accepting the vaccine but whatever amount of vaccine the hospital used, we will then bill them and they in turn will bill the private insurance. This was the largest number of people to go through post exposure for rabies in the state. *Commissioner Truell wanted to know if this required a series of rabies shots to be given.* Mr. Long replied they each child would receive four shots over a period of time. Mr. Long stated that some of the children were going to the beach on vacation so our staff made arrangements with Brunswick County to give those children their follow-up shots.

- **Rabid Cat-** A cat was picked up at the fair grounds and taken to animal shelter where it died the next morning. The cat's head was sent to the state lab and tested positive for rabies. John Hendren put a 911 automated voice phone message out to the public living in the surrounding area where the cat was picked up telling them about the cat and to watch out for any other strange acting feral cats.
- **WIC Funding-** NCDA and USDA approved WIC project renovations down stairs. Project has to be finished by September 30th

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

HIS Presentation/Discussion-Tonya Tysinger

Mr. Long stated the HIS (health information system) was a multi million dollar project 20 years in coming and explained the history of why the state went from the HSIS to the HIS system. The system is used to collect data from all health departments for transmission to the state to meet contract requirements, bill Medicaid and generate reports. The system is still rolling out across the state and we rolled out May 17th. Mr. Long stated there have been a lot of issues around the software statewide and not just within the health department here which is why he was bringing it to the Board. He wanted the Board to understand what we are dealing with and the impact it is having on health department operations. Mr. Long chairs the Technology Committee for the Health Director's Association and is getting stuck in the middle trying to maintain some semblance of relationship with the State while addressing his responsibility to the health department as well as to his colleagues that have expressed issues with this system. Mr. Long stated that the system is impacting service delivery and revenues. Mr. Long has had numerous conversations with the Division of Public Health staff and also with the head of IT within the DHHS. Mr. Long said there were 15 "batch" counties that already use a proprietary software system that interfaces with HIS and that these were included in the State contract with the vendor. Any county, other than these fifteen, that want to purchase their own system would have to pay for the interface with HIS. The interface is estimated at about \$25,000 which is in addition to the cost of a system which could be \$200,000 or more. Mr. Long stated that he had discussions with the software vendor NetSmart regarding a product called Insight which was being used in other health departments successfully. Mr. Long stated he would be talking to NetSmart, as the Technology Chair, to see if health departments could collectively purchase, at a group rate, the Insight software and possibly others. Mr. Long said Tonya Tysinger is the HIS "in house" point person appointed months ago to train our staff on the HIS system and has done an outstanding job.

Tonya Tysinger presented a brief HIS PowerPoint on the problems the health department is having particularly with the amount of time it takes with HIS versus the old HSIS. Mrs. Tysinger stated that problems staff were having are entering encounter forms (30-45 minutes for each encounter), decreased amount of appointments available as a result of increased time demands, slowed billing, system not being user friendly (having to go to 2 or 3 sections and multiple pages to maneuver around in), the help desk is not being very informative and, being

unable to generate a receipt after client has paid for services, just to name a few of the issues. Mrs. Tysinger stated that the system goes down at 7 p.m. and if you are in a lengthy process and didn't press submit before the system went down, everything you entered for the last 30 minutes is lost. Mrs. Tysinger continued by stating that the system does not allow changes to the patient unique identifier "if we didn't originate the record we don't own the record therefore, if any of the information already listed is wrong we are not able to change it but only what we entered on the patient." *Commissioner Truell wanted to know if every county has the HIS system and if all these counties are having problems, then how long will they let it occur.* Mr. Long replied there are 85 health departments and around 60 have HIS so far and that each health director he had spoken with is having the same problems we are. *Commissioner Truell wanted to know who looked at this program before we got it.* Mr. Long said a very good health director helped develop the RFP with the State but what was in the RFP was not what we received. After Tonya's presentation, the Board discussed the possibility of pursuing other options. Mr. Long stated he could go ahead and research the Insight software product without making a commitment if the Board approved.

MOTION

Reverend Lamar Moore made the motion for the Board to empower the health director to research alternative options and send a non-threatening letter to the state to remedy the HIS problems. Keith Raulston seconded and the motion was approved.

Immunization Funding- Mr. Long

Mr. Long briefly reminded the Board about State funding cuts to the immunization program. He stated that the State will identify each county's allotted vaccine by Wednesday for immunizations for the insured children. The State will want to know what percentage of the vaccines we will want and how much is to be sent to the private providers. Mr. Long stated that he was hopeful that this limited vaccine would get us through the current school year for school age children. Mr. Long said the health department will indicate to the State that we will take 10% of whatever is allotted to the County and give the rest to the pediatric and private practices. One of the issues for the health department is that we don't currently bill private insurance companies. He stated that we will have to enroll with the insurance companies in order to bill for private purchase vaccines. Universal vaccines have always been provided for all children in the past but because of the budget cuts they have been eliminated. The General Assembly is of the opinion that clients having private insurance should be billed for the immunizations. If the insurance companies do not cover the vaccine cost due to high deductibles or co-pays, it will become a burden on the parents especially if they have more than one child. We will have information for the Board to consider at the next meeting.

Dental Program Proposed Changes- Layton Long

We have always contracted for a dentist but recently requested the creation of a County employee dentist position which was approved by the County Commissioners. The health department dental program bills Medicaid plus we get a Medicaid cost settlement each year for cost of these services. Because we have always been able to operate "in the black" through direct Medicaid revenues we have been able to bank the cost settlement money over the years which is usually \$22,000-\$35,000 each year. As a result the health department has about \$633,000 in County escrow. Per the State contract these funds are to be put back into the program in which they were earned. Mr. Long stated that he has asked the State about the possibility of using some of the funds from the children's dental clinic to provide adult dental services and the answer was "probably not". The State wanted to know if other dental services could be identified for the use of the cost settlement funds such as dental care for pre-natal clients and others. Mr. Long asked the Board if they wanted him to pursue any adult dental services, with the cost settlement funds (pending State approval), if the dental program is successful in recruiting a full time dentist to manage the clinic. Mr. Long stated that there are no payer sources for adult dental services to speak of but adult dental problems are the number one visits to the ER at both hospitals. Sandi Motley (Davidson Medical Ministries) is working to increase adult dental services but has limited capacity. *Rev. Moore asked if we get the ECU dental school here, are they not going to address the adult problems.* Mr. Long replied yes. *Dr. Davis said what the ECU dental school is looking at now is the fall 2014 to be the first year they would have senior students*

here. Mr. Raulston said he has seen what is coming next year and didn't we need to save the cost settlement money. Dr. Davis said if we quit contracting (for a dentist) and use this new dentist that will help tremendously as far as expenses. A rough budget of what the dental program would cost was handed out to the Board which showed a savings of \$100,000 dollars by not contracting. Mr. Long will bring back a projected budget supplying dental services for adults and where the money would come from.

MOTION

Rev. Lamar Moore made the motion to empower the health director to investigate the feasibility of addressing some of the adult dental problems in our county. Mr. Raulston seconded and the motion was approved.

Wake Forest University Teen Pregnancy Program-Candice Roberts

Ms. Roberts a 2nd year medical student at Wake Forest University came to the Board of Health meeting to represent herself on a proposal to implement a teenage pregnancy education program in Davidson County. Michele Long, another WFU medical student, participated via conference call. Ms. Roberts stated they were working with an Albert Switzer Scholarship which is a fellowship program for graduate students developing projects to address unmet needs in the community throughout North Carolina. Ms. Roberts stated Dr. Figaro also from Wake Forest who was her academic advisor and mentor came with her to answer any questions the Board might have. Ms. Roberts stated her and Ms. Long would like to address the need of educating pregnant teenagers in Davidson County on the risks of being pregnant as a teen. Ms. Roberts stated teen pregnancy cost the health care system about nine billion dollars annually including welfare and public health concerns. She stated that information from the health department and the State Center for Health Statistics website showed about 300 pregnancies a year in Davidson County with the majority coming from the Davidson County System. Her research indicated that West Davidson had a higher than average teen pregnancy rate. Ms. Roberts stated the proposed program would teach pregnant girls healthy nutrition, how to succeed in high school, how to plan work toward continuing their education through college or community college. Ms. Roberts stated that the program will be opened up to other schools in the community that have pregnant teenagers who want to come.

Mr. Long informed the Board of the background that brought Ms. Roberts and Ms. Long to the Board meeting. Mr. Long said that the school system policy does not allow outside entities access to the schools except governmental entities such as the health department. Mr. Long said he was supportive of the program and that the only way the school system would allow the medical students' access to the students was through health department endorsement and active participation. Mr. Long stated for this to be considered a health department program it would need endorsement and approval from the Board. Mr. Long stated if the Board approved the program there would be a contractual relationship with the WFU with Jen Hames overseeing the project. Recruiting of the pregnant teens for the program would likely be done through the school nurses and guidance counselors who would provide information to the girls who could self select for the program with parental consent. *Commissioner Truell complimented Candice for an outstanding job of presenting the teen pregnancy program.*

MOTION

Rev. Moore made the motion for the Board to endorse the program as proposed by the WFU medical students and to allow Mr. Long and the WFU liaison to work together in developing the contract. Dr. Riggan seconded and the motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

Next Board of Health will meet Tuesday, September 7, 2010 at 12:30

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,

**L. Layton Long, REHS, MSA
Secretary to the Board**

This is a true and accurate copy of the July 15th Board of Health Minutes.

Dr. Mark Davis, Chair