

MINUTES

DAVIDSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Thursday, March 08, 2007
6:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Rev. Lamar Moore
Dr. Mark Hamrick
Ms. Amy Greeson
Dr. Mark Davis
Commissioner Don Truell
Mr. Corey Buggs
Ms. Tammy Hedrick
Mr. Keith Raulston

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Darren Cecil
Mr. John Hendren
Ms. Janie Ange
Ms. Joseline Hernandez

VISITORS PRESENT

County Attorney Robert Hedrick

Dr. Davis opened the meeting and established a quorum and welcomed everyone.

MOTION

Mr. Truell made the motion to open the Public Hearing on the Proposed Well Rules. Mr. Raulston seconded and the motion was approved.

Dr. Davis asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing on the Proposed Well Rules since there was no public comment.

MOTION

Dr. Hamrick made the motion to close the Public Hearing on the Proposed Well Rules. Mr. Raulston seconded and the motion was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Davis asked if there were any corrections to the January 9, 2007 minutes or amendments to the agenda.

Mr. Long stated that the Health Director's updated job description was included in the BOH packet and on the consent agenda. He stated that an updated job description approved by the Board was needed for accreditation and will be reflected in the minutes.

MOTION

Rev. Moore made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Buggs seconded and the motion was approved.

HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT

- **Smart Start-** The program has not been able to operate as it has in the past and meet current Smart Start requirements. After discussions with program staff and Kim Frank the decision was made not to apply for funding for FY 08 in order to continue the program. Mr. Long stated that having to make this decision was disappointment on our part since the nurses did a lot of positive work with training of daycares and getting children screened. Mr. Long stated we have one vacant nursing position in Smart Start and the other nurse funded by Smart Start, is leaving to accept a teaching position. This employee has stated that

the program, as it has changed, no longer requires a nurse. Mr. Long stated that he had written a letter to the Smart Start Board complaining about program cuts and the direction that it was going.

- **Pan Flu Plan**-Participation with community partners on the plan was finished last Wednesday and went to Raleigh for review. We are now working with the Regional Response Team for a Pan Flu exercise before May 31st.
- **Accreditation**-Visit from accreditation team will be scheduled between October and December. Staff has been meeting with the accreditation consultant who will assist in getting us through the accreditation process.
- **EPI**-Jen Hames gave a statistical report from EPI on communicable diseases experienced in 2003-2006 in Davidson County. Ms. Hames stated that this is the first year that this report was submitted to the BOH but in the future, the numbers will be reported for comparison to where we are and where we were a year ago. Mr. Long stated that these are not just diseases coming to us from the health department but reportable diseases coming from physician's offices/hospitals as well; these reports are state required for tracking purposes.
- **Davidson Health Alliance**- The Alliance is trying to get a grant submitted to the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, but has run into a snag regarding their 501 C3 status. The Alliance has filed a name change with the IRS but does not have the paperwork acknowledging the name change. The Alliance steering committee has asked the health department to apply for the \$10,000 grant with the intent that Thomasville Medical Center and Lexington Hospital would provide the required matching funds. The funds would be given to the health department to pay for Jen Hames time spent working on Health Alliance activities.
- **Incubator Project**- The health department went through the Health Metrics study for the clinic operations to assess clinic efficiency. Cindy Harris and Kim Frank are meeting with other regional health departments to look at implementing recommendations from the study. We will be modifying lab work on patients coming through Family Planning Clinic. Some lab work we require is not necessary. Mr. Long stated that he had spoken to Cindy Harris today about meeting with Dr. Garrison, our Medical Director, on this issue. We have been asked by the Incubator if Davidson has an interest in Health Metrics doing a similar study of our Prenatal Clinic. Mr. Long stated that between accreditation and everything else going on it may be bad timing and has told Kim Frank that the study was available but would not require her to take the project at this time.
- **Smoking Legislation**- Rep. Hugh Holliman's Smoking bill will be presented in committee next Thursday. Mr. Long stated that he had met with Mr. Holliman on several occasions and as a public health official, he felt he must support the bill in terms of removing smoking in the work places and limited exposure to second hand smoke. Mr. Long requested that if the Board had an issue with him dealing with the smoking bill at this level, to please let him know, otherwise, he would continue to talk to Rep. Holliman about the issue.

MOTION

Rev. Moore made a motion to encourage and support Mr. Long to actively work with Rep. Holliman on the no smoking bill that eliminates smoking in the workplace. Ms. Greeson seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration for Adoption-Proposed Well Rules

Darren Cecil stated the sub-committee (Mr. Keith Raulston, Dr. Mark Hamrick, Dr. Mark Davis) had met three times (January 18th, February 2nd and February 16th) to discuss the proposed rules. Mr. Cecil stated that the committee invited Archie Hedrick, well driller, for his support and participation in writing the rules.

Mr. Cecil stated that he presented the well information to the Davidson County Home Builders Association on January 16th and the Lexington Association of Realtors on March 7th. Mr. Cecil stated that these organizations had questions but were not necessarily against the rules. Mr. Cecil stated the Commissioners had been informed of the rules on an individual basis. Mr. Cecil stated the rules followed existing state rules and had been based on samples of rules from six other counties. Mr. Cecil stated fees for this program are not being proposed but may be proposed for FY 2009. Mr. Cecil stated that the state will be charging the health department \$55.00 for water sampling kit which will be required when the state rules become effective in July 2008.

Mr. Cecil stated to be eligible for the \$20,000 dollar State funds offered to start this program; rules have to be approved by April 30, 2007. If approved by the Board, the rules will go to Raleigh for review. Mr. Cecil reported that water sampling must be part of the local rules to receive the \$20,000 dollars. This money is on a first come, first serve basis. Mr. Cecil stated that originally the rules were proposed to become effective October or November but is now suggesting September to get in the funding cycle sooner. He stated that this shorter time will still allow staff to be trained and have policies and procedures in place. Mr. Cecil stated that eventually training courses will be offered through the State of Practice Committee. Archie Hedrick, well driller, has agreed to let Environmental Health come out and observe the well installation processes. Mr. Cecil also stated that staff will travel to adjoining counties that have well programs for training as well. The current wastewater staff will be doing the work for this program. Mr. Cecil stated that he estimates 100-150 wells drilled per year in the County. Mr. Cecil stated the well program should take one half FTE a year to do the job and that much of this time will be from dealing with well abandonment.

Rev. Moore asked if we had wells for irrigation here for farmers. Mr. Cecil responded by saying that wells for irrigation are not addressed in the well rules. Mr. Cecil replied that he was sure there are irrigation wells but the State rules do not address these either.

Mr. Long stated that nearly all the county is covered by a county water system and wells are not as much an issue here as in other counties. The reason we are adopting rules now is the \$20,000 incentive money offered by the State to get it started early.

Tammy Hedrick asked why water sampling would not be included at this time and if other counties sampled and tested water.

Mr. Long stated that we can sample now and will upon request but had disagreed with the sampling requirement when the State began proposing the well legislation. Mr. Long stated that with sampling mandated, it is likely that it will become a requirement of real estate transactions before banks will close on a house. Mr. Long explained to the Board the issues of staff being involved with this process and the concern of additional time placed. He also stated that samples collected immediately from super chlorinated wells can be misleading.

John Hendren stated there is conflicting information on water quality standards. To clarify Mr. Hendren explained that there are public health water quality standards and EPA national standards and they did not necessarily match.

Dr. Davis asked if we had a motion to accept the Well Rules.

MOTION

Mr. Buggs made the motion to adopt the well rules as presented. Rev. Moore seconded and the motion was approved.

Proposed Diabetes Program

Jen Hames stated the health department applied for and has received a \$4000 grant to help establish an American Diabetes Association Certified Diabetes Education Program. She stated that this has been done informally for the last several years but now that we have the grant, we can apply to the ADA for certification and then bill for our diabetes education. Ms. Hames stated that County residents who have insurance can attend diabetes education classes at either Lexington Memorial Hospital or Thomasville Medical Center. Lexington Memorial charges over \$500.00 and Thomasville Medical charges over \$200.00 for their classes. Ms. Hames stated that some patients that don't have any insurance can receive diabetes education through Medical Ministries Clinic but they are limited to how many people they can serve and are also limited because they don't serve children. The health department discovered that the uninsured, underinsured, unemployed population isn't being served and this is the population that we want to reach. Ms. Hames stated the grant we received will get us to the point of applying for certification and there is another grant we can apply for that will pay for the certification application. *(Mr. Truell asked what the education consisted of.)* Ms. Hames replied that there were 10 educational sessions involved and an individual session with a registered dietician. Ms. Hames stated our program would be two sessions a week for five weeks. Ms. Hames stated that Medicaid and Medicare will reimburse for service to this population. Mr. Long stated to make sure we are covered under malpractice insurance we need a recommendation from the Board to adopt this (diabetes education) as a departmental program

Dr. Davis stated that he needed a motion to approve the Diabetes Program.

MOTION

Ms. Greeson made the motion to approve the Diabetes Program for reimbursement. Mr. Truell seconded and the motion was approved.

FY 2008 Budget Review and Adoption

Mr. Long stated that the Budget Committee (Cory Buggs, Dr. Davis, and Commissioner Truell) met Friday, March the 2nd and discussed the budget in detail line by line. Mr. Long went over the highlighted areas in the net county increases with major increases being the billing clerk, a new nursing position and increased interpreter costs. Mr. Long stated the budget consisted of State and Federal funds, grants, and fee revenues from various sources and County dollars. Mr. Long referred to hand out sheet provided and stated that this handout reflected the bottom line on the net County dollars increase requested. Mr. Long stated that he is proposing to contract with a full time dentist for our dental clinic which is intended to be fully self supporting (through Medicaid revenues).

Rev. Moore wanted to know why we have few dentists in our county that will take Medicaid. Dr. Davis responded by saying the biggest problem is that Medicaid clients tend to have a high not show rate. Dr. Davis stated that dentist used to schedule three for an appointment time and hope that one of the three would show up, but government regulations said you can't treat Medicaid patients differently than regular patients so dentists just stopped seeing any of them. Normally, their fee (Medicaid) is about half the normal fee; the fact that they won't show up means that you are doing it for nothing.

Mr. Long stated that public health dental Medicaid rates are far better than rates for private dentist. Mr. Long stated that he had submitted a letter to get Davidson re-designated as a County of need for dentistry which would allow us to hire a dentist and have his/her loans forgiven but the request was not granted. The proposed dentist will be paid a percentage of billable services; essentially working on production. Mr. Long stated that having a full time dentist will allow us to see a lot more kids. Dr. Davis thought it would be a wonderful job for someone coming straight out of school.

Mr. Long stated this was the big picture of the budget and he would spend as little or as much time as the Board wanted covering it. (*Commissioner Truell stated that the budget committee went over it line by line and the way he saw it was that most increases were something that we couldn't avoid. He also stated that when you look at the entire budget it looks like it went up a million and a half, and it did, but as far as County money, it went up a \$180,000.*) Mr. Long said that ½ million increase was the dentist proposal which is no net County dollars although it has to be reflected in the budget as an expenditure but on the revenue side you are bringing in money. Mr. Long stated that the dentist could bring in excess revenue above expenditures but that he did not want to show that in this budget as it could not be assured.

Dr. Davis asked Janie Ange if she had anything to add. Ms. Ange stated that we had tried to keep the budget lean. Ms. Ange thought they needed the clerical position, especially if they were going to start billing and stated we need to replace the nurse because we lost one to convert to the lab assistant.

Mr. Long stated that he did want to say this budget is a complicated chore and Janie and Joseline do a tremendous job with it. He stated we have so many different cost centers, revenue streams, State money, school money, requirements and contracts that it takes a lot to keep up with it.

(See requested total County Dollars Increase FY 08 and budget worksheet for budget year ending 07-08 included with the minutes in the Board of Health manual.)

MOTION

Ms. Greeson made the motion to adopt the budget as presented. Mr. Buggs seconded and the motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

Next Board of Health will meet Tuesday, May 1st, 2007 at 12:30 P.M.

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 March 8th 2007, Board of Health Minutes.

Dr. Mark Davis, Chair