

MINUTES

DAVIDSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

May 01, 2007

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Mark Davis
Mr. Don Truell, Commissioner
Dr. Mark Hamrick
Mr. Keith Raulston
Dr. Kathy Riggan
Ms. Tammy Hedrick
Rev. Lamar Moore
Ms. Alice Gray

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Jackie Frank
Ms. Kim Frank
Ms. Jen Hames
Ms. Inge Leonard

VISITORS PRESENT

Ms. Cindy Hammitt, Asst. Clerk of Court

Dr. Davis, Chairman, established the presence of a quorum and called the Tuesday, May 1st, 2007 Board of Health meeting to order and asked if there were any corrections to the March 8th, 2007 minutes.

Dr. Davis introduced new Board member Ms. Alice Gray to the Board of Health. Ms. Cindy Hammitt, assistant Clerk of Court administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Gray. Mr. Long gave a brief history of Ms. Gray's background.

Dr. Davis, Chairman welcomed everyone and asked if there were any amendments to the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION

Rev. Lamar Moore made the motion to approve the March 8, 2007 consent agenda. Commissioner Truell seconded and the motion was approved.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **West Davidson High** - The health department is discussing the problem of lead in the water with Davidson Water Inc., regulatory agencies, a toxicologist in Raleigh and others to access the problem. Davidson Water Inc. will be sampling different areas of the county to make sure that lead in the water is not a system wide problem. Davidson Water Inc. had made chemistry changes to their water in the past few months but we still don't know if this was the cause of lead in the school. If changes in the water chemistry have created a system wide problem with lead leaching then, as the health director, an advisory on the water system at large would be issued. The Davidson County Inc. water system serves other counties as well. West Davidson students will be on bottled water until the lead problem is resolved.
- **Strategic Planning** - Friday, April 27th Teme Levbarg and Bill Browder from the Institute of Public Health facilitated discussions on department goals and mission and vision statements. Management team will complete the strategic planning document which will be provided to the Board.
- **Senate Bill 1538** - This bill would give authority to the Commissioners to assume the role of the Board of Health. This would place final decision making authority in the county manager for the health department. Wake and Mecklenburg Counties (due to existing population requirements) are the only two counties in the state that have a human services board that is under the authority of the county manager.

This bill would remove the limitations of population threshold. The Health Director's Association, DSS Director's Association and the Board of Health's Association have always been opposed to this concept as it places decision making into a more political environment.

MOTION

Mr. Truell made the motion that the Board send a letter in opposition to Senate bill 1538. Dr. Hamrick seconded and the motion was approved.

- **Smoking bill**-Rep. Holliman's bill is to be heard at 3:00 p.m. today. It has been modified since first introduced. This bill would eliminate smoking in restaurants, lodging facilities but would exempt stand alone bars that serve people over the age of twenty-one.
- **Accreditation update**-John Hendren, Environmental Health Supervisor is in Lincoln County as an accreditation site visitor. John has been trained as an accreditation site visitor which should be a real benefit to the health department.
- **Performance Based Budget Brochure**-Environmental health participates in the performance based budget process. EH is meeting their goals and have been allowed to retain their budget savings.
- **Medical Ministries**-The physicians' extender position funded by the home health proceeds has not been filled. The position has been advertised since it was approved. We had a good candidate for the position but applicant rejected the offer because of various benefits issues.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Debt Set Off Program

Ms. Inge Leonard, Management Support Supervisor, stated that the billing process started a couple of months ago and it has done okay for the first round. Ms. Leonard stated that she had talked to the City of Lexington and the tax department who uses the Debt Set off Program. The Debt Set off Program allows debts owed to the health department to be taken out of the patient's income tax check or lottery winnings if they haven't paid their bills and if they have a valid social security number. Ms. Leonard stated that clients who are delinquent with their bills at the health department would get a letter of delinquency and if they didn't pay their bill, their name would be turned over to the Debt Set off Program. Ms. Leonard stated that it would not cost the health department anything to be added to the program but there is a \$20.00 fee for the client to pay once they get their name in the system for delinquency. Ms. Leonard also stated that if the health department is one of the first to use the program, then the health department would be one of the first to receive money from the delinquent client's income tax check or lottery as a first come, first served basis.

Mr. Truell asked that if he owed \$50.00 and the health department turned his name into the Debt Set off Program and then he came by and paid the \$50.00 balance, would he still have to pay the \$20.00 to the collection agency. (Ms. Frank stated that is something she would have to check on because she wasn't absolutely certain, but what she understood was that if you paid your debt before they actually pursued your income tax refund, you wouldn't be charged the \$20.00 by the agency and the health department would update the system of the client's payment). (Ms. Leonard stated that there are 306 local government agencies participating in the program now in North Carolina.)

MOTION

Commissioner Truell made the motion to proceed with pursuing the Debt Set off Program. Dr. Riggan seconded and the motion was approved.

Shingles Vaccine

Kim Frank, Nursing Director stated that the health department had a lot of people requesting Zostavax; a vaccine for the prevention of Shingles. Ms. Frank stated the incidence and the severity of shingles as well as the frequency of complications increase with age. Ms. Frank stated the health department needed the approval to offer the vaccine as a new service and a recommended fee for the vaccine.

Mr. Raulston asked, since the vaccine was expensive for the health department, could clients prepay for the vaccine? (Mr. Long responded by stating that clients could pay half of the fee when making the appointment and the other half when getting the vaccine. Mr. Long stated that with the vaccine being so expensive to the health department, clients should make some kind of commitment to purchase the vaccine.)

Mr. Truell asked what would happen to those that decided after paying half of the costs decided they did not want the vaccine. (Mr. Long replied by saying that you probably wouldn't have that many to change their mind after paying for the first half. Mr. Long stated these shots were for people age 60 or older and this age group was more inclined to show for their immunization.)

MOTION

Rev. Moore made the motion to charge \$162 for the vaccine, \$8.00 for the administration charge for a total of \$170.00 and the client to pay ½ this amount when making the appointment for the vaccine and the other ½ when the client came for their immunization. Dr. Hamrick seconded and the motion was approved.

Community Health Assessment Presentation

Jen Hames gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Board on the Community Health Assessment completed on December of 2005. Ms. Hames stated that the report will be used as part of the strategic planning process and accreditation.

FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

Next Board of Health will meet Tuesday, July 10, 2007 at 12:30 at the Davidson County Health Department.

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 May 01, 2007, Board of Health Minutes.

Dr. Mark Davis
Chair