

MINUTES

DAVIDSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

November 14, 2006

12:30 P. M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Tammy Hedrick
Mr. Brown Loflin
Dr. Mark Davis
Commissioner Don Truell
Dr. Mark Hamrick
Rev. Lamar Moore
Dr. Cathy Riggan
Dr. Peter Rogaski
Mr. Keith Raulston

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Jackie Frank
Ms. Janie Ange
Mr. John Hendren
Mr. Darren Cecil

VISITORS PRESENT

Dr. Ed Reedy

Dr. Davis opened the meeting, established a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Davis asked if there were any corrections to the September 12, 2006 minutes and the October 6, 2006 special meeting minutes or amendments to the agenda.

MOTION

Mr. Truell made the motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Rogaski seconded and the motion was approved.

HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT

- A resolution from Buncombe County concerning the consolidation of (county) human services may be presented to the legislature this session. It is not something health directors will likely support. The resolution did not get out of committee as a legislative item from the Commissioners Association. The resolution would eliminate Boards of Health as we know it today and merge it into human service board. If and when it is brought forward for legislation, I will bring it back to the Board for discussion.
- Healthy Carolinians Coalition – The health coalition has been certified. Debbie Rice, Jen Hames and I made a presentation to the commissioners describing this collaborative effort between the health department, hospitals and health service providers in the community coming together to pool resources and to address local health needs.
- Plain Talk Grant-Thomasville Schools and Davidson Vision proposed applying for the Plain Talk Grant with the health department taking the lead. The program uses outreach workers to address teen pregnancy in the Hispanic community. We are very interested in the project but believe that at this point and time it would be too much to take on with other projects already in progress. The concern is that the Plain Talk Project would dilute our efforts toward development of a strong Healthy Carolinians Coalition. We advised them that we would support another agency taking the lead and would be willing to revisit the Plain Talk grant again next year. In reality, if we get Davidson Health Alliance set up the way it needs to be as a 501 C3, the alliance can apply for the grant. *(Mr. Rogaski asked how much the grant was for.) (Mr. Long replied it was a three-year grant and up to, he thought \$180,000.00 or maybe more and the*

grant would allow hiring of two staff persons. Mr. Long said that there would be a lot of leg work going into the community. Mr. Long stated he thought it was a very good program and the only county with the program that he knew of was Chatham.)

- Clinic staffing – The health department has a new clinic nurse and lab assistant. The clinic work load is leveling out but there are still a couple of vacant positions to fill.
- The Board at the last meeting had discussed the long standing policy of clients being at or above 250% of Federal Poverty Level to access services at the health department; primarily family planning services. The opinion from the regional consultant was that the health department could not set this policy as it limited access to family planning services. Mr. Long stated he had challenged this opinion and had received a response back from the state. The response received indicated that we could set this as a requirement as long as you assure care is provided for those clients over 250% FPL. We have no reason to believe that clients over 250% FPL are not accessing services and there should be no reason to change this long standing policy.
- We have entered into an agreement with Wake Forest Baptist Medical School for their residents to come through our clinics on a one month rotation. The family planning clinic staff is very excited about the agreement and we already have one resident coming through the clinic. Dr. David Miller with the school is over seeing the program and has a real interest in residents being exposed to Public Health in North Carolina.
- We had our first flu clinic November the 13th after the vaccine we ordered finally arrived. The demand has dwindled significantly with only 650 flu vaccines given at the Lexington site. We are waiting to see what the demand in Thomasville and Denton will be and may cancel the remainder of our order of flu vaccine in order to keep from having to absorb the cost of unused vaccine.
- The building space needs study started this morning with a walk around the health department by the space study consultant.
- After the Pandemic flu conference a group of community leaders was formed that will be directly involved with our pandemic flu planning efforts. The committee will meet every two weeks with the plan being completed and due by end of March.
- Yancey County has had multiple cases of seasonal flu causing the schools to close. Also, Mitchell County schools were closed with twenty students having flu like systems. Have been in touch with all three of our school superintendents to make sure they are aware of this problem and to watch for any increased absences related to similar illnesses in schools.

RECOGNITION

Dr. Davis recognized Dr. Reedy for his six years of service to the Board of Health. Mr. Long stated that he really enjoyed working with Dr. Reedy and that Dr. Reedy had done a lot of good things for the Board as Chair.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Public Citizen Member-Recommendation

Alice Gray has shown interest in serving the Board in the public citizen seat currently held by Brown Loflin. Mr. Loflin has indicated that he does not want to seek reappointment after his term expires in January. Mr.

Long stated that Ms. Gray worked at the health department as an Environmental Health Specialist between 1977 and 1983, is a Lexington City School Board member, is on the School Health Advisory Committee, and is currently employed at Lexington Memorial Hospital as a their wellness coordinator. Mr. Long stated that he is submitting her name to the BOH for consideration and if the Board approves he will submit her name to the Commissioners for appointment.

MOTION

Dr. Riggan made the motion to recommend Alice Gray for appointment to the Board of Health. Mr. Loflin seconded and the motion was approved.

Proposed Well Rules

- Mr. Long asked Darren Cecil to provide an update on the proposed local well rules.
 - Darren Cecil reported that draft two of the proposed well rules is completed and he will be getting input from five other counties. The BOH will need to decide in January whether we want to adopt the rules. Adoption of the rules will need to be done by April in order to be eligible for state funds. Mr. Cecil said abandoned wells may be the biggest problem.

Mr. Long stated the health department would receive \$20,000 if the Board adopts local well rules prior to the state rules coming into effect. Also, when Darren gets the draft finished, the Environmental Health Sub-committee for the Board will need to meet and recommend a final draft. The final draft will be sent to the County Attorney for legal advice.

Annual Budget Report

A power point presentation on the end of year health department budget was presented by Mr. Long and Janie Ange. The report included explanation of total expenditures and revenue sources for the department and individual program budgets for the 2006 fiscal year.

Resolution in Support of Local Fees for Food and Lodging

Mr. Long stated that the resolution included in the BOH packet came from the Health Director's Association. The Health Director's Association is asking local Board's of Health and County Commissioners to support the resolution which is a legislative agenda item from the Health Director's Association. Mr. Long stated that while environmental health programs are necessary and important they are also a state mandate with program funding almost entirely through local taxes. Mr. Long stated that the resolution basically requests the legislature to provide local authorities the option to charge fees for the food and lodging program. The problem, Mr. Long stated is that many counties cannot afford to hire the environmental health staff necessary for the program since it comes straight out of the county tax base and the resolution is saying "give us the option of charging fees" to support the program. Mr. Long said the State Division of Environmental Health will likely not support the resolution as it may create revenue loss for them; they collect \$50 per year for each restaurant permit and keep 1/3 of the amount and distribute the remaining 2/3s to the counties. Mr. Long said that if the Board endorses the resolution they are requesting the General Assembly to enact legislation empowering local government the ability to collect fees to support the food and lodging permitting and inspection programs.

MOTION

Dr. Hamrick made the motion to support the Resolution in Support of Local Fees for Food and Lodging. Mr. Truell seconded and the motion was approved.

Approval of 2007 Meeting Dates

Dr. Davis stated that the proposed dates for next calendar year Board meetings were included in the packet sent for the meeting.

MOTION

Rev. Moore made the motion to adopt the scheduled meeting dates as printed. Dr. Rogaski seconded and the motion was approved.

Closed Session - Personnel

Dr. Davis announced that the Board needed to go into closed session regarding Mr. Long's annual evaluation.

MOTION

Tammy Hedrick made the motion to go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Loflin seconded and the motion was approved.

Dr. Davis stated pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §§143-318.11(a) (1)-(9) the Board of Health was going into closed session.

Return to Open Session

The chairman announced the Board to be back in open session.

Mr. Long stated that the Environmental Health performance based budgeting had been a positive experience for them and they wanted to pass the information along to the Board. Mr. Long stated that environmental health has saved money and by watching their expenditures and have managed to keep \$90,000.00 of their appropriated money which can be carried over into the next year. Mr. Long stated that he would like to get other health department programs to do this but it would be very difficult because of the complexity and requirements of the funding sources.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

Next Board of Health will meet Tuesday, January 9th, 2007.

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 November 14th 2006, Board of Health Minutes.

Dr. Ed Reedy, Chair