

MINUTES

DAVIDSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

November 03, 2009
12:30 P. M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Kim Smith
Mr. Rod Kcuik
Dr. Mark Davis
Commissioner Don Truell
Dr. Mark Hamrick
Rev. Lamar Moore
Dr. Cathy Riggan
Mr. Corey Buggs
Mr. Keith Raulston
Ms. Alice Gray

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Jackie Frank
Ms. Kim Frank

VISITORS PRESENT

Melissa Calhoun

Dr. Davis opened the meeting, established a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Davis asked if there were any corrections to the September 01, 2009 minutes or November 03 agenda.

MOTION

Rev. Lamar Moore made the motion to approve the minutes and agenda. Dr. Riggan seconded and the motion was approved.

Mr. Long stated that he hoped the Board had taken time and looked at the Customer Service Report that was included in their packet with the responses from clients and improvements implemented from July 2008 to June 2009.

HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT

- **MCC/CSC-Senator Bingham, Rep. Holliman, Dr. Davis, Commissioner Truell and Robert Hyatt met here to discuss what was happening with the MCC/CSC program. Also, Kim Frank, Catherine Warren, the unit supervisor, and I went to the Legislative Building in Raleigh and met with legislators and others from the health director's Association to discuss the Division of Medicaid Assistance (DMA) proposed rate reductions of 37-39% to case management. There have been some positive movements since that discussion as DMA is now reversing the cut back to 19.4% which was the cut proposed by the health directors.**
- **Management Academy Update-The MAPH team for the business plan will meet with the Access to Primary Care for the Indigent group Friday at 9:00 A.M. at the health department to discuss progress. The team will make a recommendation to move Medical Ministries toward a Federally Qualified Health Center that would allow them to bill Medicare, Medicaid and private insurers to some extent. Becoming a FQHC qualifies them to bring in \$650,000 dollars worth of annual federal funding to help support the clinic. These funds would put them in a better position to expand hours, hire physicians, and other full time staff that would enable them to expand access to care. There is a lot of stimulus funds coming down**

right now directed at Federally Qualified Health Centers. Medical Ministries sustained services this year but if things don't change they will be curtailing services significantly.

- **Flu Status**-On going and driving everyone crazy this year. Gave our first shipment of 800 H1N1 nasal sprays and about 400 injectable to the pediatric and OB practices. Also gave H1N1 vaccine to EMS and our staff. There will be appointments only clinic for H1N1 vaccine this Friday afternoon for 1200 doses. We have asked EMS to help with the vaccinations and we will be contacting the Sheriff's Department for traffic control. We received about \$70,000 dollars for planning for H1N1 clinics that can be used for bill boards/signs and other types of advertising for people to get their flu shots. Additionally, we received \$301,000 from the Federal Government to be use for implementation of H1N1 clinics to include contracting for additional staff and paying overtime to our staff. Some of our own staff has signed up with the Health Alliance to help other counties with their weekend flu clinics.
- **Obesity Grant**-Worked very hard with our community partners in applying for a \$3,000,000 Obesity Grant for Davidson County but we were not successful. Two other health departments that already had programs in place received the grants. With the collaborations we have in place we should be able to look for other opportunities.
- **Medicaid Cuts**-Rate cuts were put into place that would impact the health department but were reinstated back to the current rates.
- **Rabies**- Maximum charge allowed by statute for the rabies vaccine for was \$5.00 but was changed to a maximum of \$10.00. Hopefully, this will be an incentive for veterinarians to hold clinics on a regular basis.
- **Thomasville Building**-Still in a search mode for a new location. Dwayne Childress is checking on property in Thomasville. We will stay in the current location until everything is finalized with PBH.
- **Animal Shelter**-Met with Robert Hyatt on the issue of the animal shelter. The Sheriff Department would like to see those operations out of that department. I understand why the sheriff's department doesn't want the shelter, it is a difficult job, complex, time consuming and for all these reasons, I have adamantly opposed taking the shelter under the health department. I believe it would be a significant drain on health department resources. It will be up to the Commissioners to make any decisions on this issue.
- **School Nurse Status**-One school nurse has been reinstated. The vaccine initiative money (stimulus funds) we received from the state was used to keep one school nurse in place for this fiscal year. There is still the remaining problem of the non-supplanting clause in our state contract with the school nurses. I received a letter from the Division of Public Health reminding health departments about the supplanting clause for departments that has state funded school nurses. Health departments are supposed to sustain school nurses at the same level they were before you received the state funds. In our case we are still down one school nurse due to budget cuts with the County school system. The fact that we used the Federal stimulus money funds to keep this nurse in place doesn't count toward meeting the contract obligation. The Board took a position on this issue at a previous meeting stating that if this became an issue it would be unacceptable to take additional nurses because of unavoidable budget cuts and will fight it. I am still sitting tight until I hear something from Dr. Jeff Engle, State Health Director.
- **Asthma Coalition**-The Coalition is looking at working with environmental health to do in home assessments for asthmatic children that come through the ED. This will involve the Board in terms of policies surrounding this if it comes about.

- **Environmental Health**-Lillian Barfield received The Rookie Sanitarian of The Year award at the NCPHA conference in Asheville. She is receiving a grant for training in Washington DC to do the indoor environmental health assessments.
- **School Vaccine Campaign**-Vaccinated close to 5,000 children in all three school systems for 2 ½ weeks with seasonal flu vaccine. About ½ of the children had never had the seasonal flu vaccine and will need a second one.
- **VFC**-(Vaccine for Children) will be an issue beginning December 1st because of the budget cuts. The Division of Public Health Immunization branch will no longer provide all the vaccines for children free. Ultimately, it might mean that the health department may end up buying vaccine to meet the needs in the community. We will get in touch with the local pediatric practices to see what their plans are around this change.

OLD BUSINESS

Health Director's Evaluation

Closed Session-Personnel

Dr. Davis announced that the Board needed to go into closed session according to North Carolina General Statute 143-318, 11(a) (1)-(9) regarding Mr. Long's annual evaluation.

Return to Open Session

The chairman announced the Board to be back in open session. The Board chair stated that they were pleased with Mr. Long's evaluation.

NEW BUSINESS

Intranasal Administration Fee-Kim Frank

Ms. Frank stated she received the H1N1 flu mist notification letter that we can bill Medicaid, Health Choice or Medicare for the administration cost of administering the vaccine. Ms. Frank stated that the vaccine is provided free from the Federal government but the health department does not have a rate/fee established for the H1N1 nasal mist. Ms. Frank stated the Medicaid reimbursement is \$11.67 and that the recommendation is to set the administration fee at \$12.00. *Mr. Long stated that the whole billing process around H1N1 has been confusing for us; we get information that you can bill but then you can't bill because we received money to implement H1N1. Mr. Truell wanted to know when it was given at school are the children required to get permission. Ms. Frank said the children were given a consent form for the parents to fill out and sign. Mr. Truell wanted to know if there were a lot of children that didn't get the vaccine. Ms. Frank replied yes, but only the seasonal vaccine was given to the school children; right now we do not have a plan to go into the schools and give the H1N1 but if and when the vaccine starts flowing out more readily, we may put it in place for the children that have not gotten their H1N1. Mr. Long stated if the H1N1 was a nasal mist, it must be 28 days between the seasonal mist and the H1N1. Ms. Smith asked Kim if she had gotten a good response from her letters asking for nurses' help with the clinics. Ms. Frank stated that she had gotten over 200 responses from nurses wanting to help and she had not mentioned any pay for their help with the flu clinics but stated we could reimburse workers with the stimulus flu money we received.*

MOTION

Keith Raulston made the motion to charge \$12.00 for administration cost for the H1N1 vaccine. Kim Smith seconded and the motion was approved.

Smoking Law Implementation and the Board of Health-Mike Newby

Mr. Long stated the health department will be tasked with the enforcement of the no smoking law for establishments that receive food or lodging permits. The law requires these places to be smoke free on January 2, 2010. Mr. Long stated that the number one goal is to educate in order to gain compliance from the businesses and customers. There is also a section in the law that allows for administrative penalties which is the first time health directors have been given the authority to assess fines. If fines are assessed, the first means of appeal is to the Board of Health.

Mike Newby Assistant County Attorney explained that he would give an overview of the smoking law implementation. Mr. Newby stated that in certain areas that smoking was already prohibited which started in 2007 and in place now for state government buildings, elementary or secondary schools, state correctional facilities, long term care facilities, and state cars. These limitations will now expand in 2010 to include all enclosed areas of most restaurants and bars with three walls and a roof. The health director can issue a written warning for the first violation of the new smoking law, followed by a second warning for a violation and for a third violation they can be issued a fine up to \$200.00 per day. Customers can be fine \$50 for an infraction which can only be issued by a sworn law enforcement officer. If a business does not comply after the fines then the health department can go to court and ask for an injunction from a judge. Appeals go to the Board of Health which must to hold the hearing within fifteen calendar days of appeal notification. The business must be notified in writing within 10 days of the scheduled hearing of the date of the time and location of the hearing. The hearing must be posted as a special meeting in the usual places and notifications to the people who have previously requested notice of meeting (including media outlets).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

Next Board of Health will meet Tuesday, January 5th, 2010.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,

L. Layton Long, R.E.H.S., M.S.A.
Secretary to the Board

This is a true and accurate copy of the November 3rd 2009, Board of Health Minutes.

Dr. Mark Davis, Chair