

MINUTES

DAVIDSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

July 07, 2009
12:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Rod Kcuik
Dr. Mark Davis
Commissioner Don Truell
Mr. Corey Buggs
Ms. Kim Smith
Keith Raulston

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Jackie Frank
Ms. Kim Frank
Ms. Jen Hames

VISITORS PRESENT

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Davis opened the meeting, established a quorum, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming the 4th of July week.

MEETING AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Dr. Davis asked if there were any corrections or additions that needed to be made to the current agenda or minutes from the last meeting.

It was noted that on the July 7th agenda under V1. New Business, the Communicable Disease Report would be added under b. and in the May 5th minutes under Home Health Proceeds, Dr. Riggan seconded the motion instead of Dr. Davis. Also, in the Annual Child Fatality Team Report in the paragraph where Davidson County Community College was used, it should have read Randolph County Community College.

MOTION

Corey Buggs made the motion to approve the addition to the agenda, the amended May 5th, 2009 minutes and the special called meeting June 5, 2009 minutes as a report. Commissioner Truell seconded and the motion was approved.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 94,512 H1N1 cases identified worldwide with 429 deaths -the US had 33,000 identified cases; 107 deaths-187 cases in NC with 2 deaths; has been in 52 counties-the median age is 18. Last update is that unless someone with flu like illness comes through one of the sentinel testing sites, is hospitalized or for some other reason, the health department approves testing, testing will not be done. The best case scenario for vaccine availability will be October. The H1N1 vaccine will be a two part vaccine so someone can receive 3 shots this flu season. The CDC has not said what the priority age group will be for the H1N1 vaccine but it appears that it would possibly be directed at the school age population.
- Two cases of H1N1 identified in Davidson County; a 23 year old and a 3 year old.
- Registered Sanitarian Bill that Senator Stan Bingham introduced for the State Board of Sanitarian Examiners has been moving through the Senate, Judiciary II Committee and is now supposed to go to the Finance Committee and then to the House floor. This has been a long involved process.

- There has been lot of discussion on space issues about the WIC and clinic area. A make shift office was set up in the WIC lab for one staff member due to the lack of space. A plan has been designed through an architect in the Office of Rural Health that would make a big space difference. We are trying to get authorization from the State WIC office to use additional WIC funds towards this project which could be combined with Medicaid sources. By using these funding sources the project would not require the use of county dollars. Lots of planning will have to go into where we are going to put nurses/staff during the renovations plus construction will be cause tremendous disruption if this project comes to pass.
- The health department will receive about \$66,000 for fall flu vaccinations in schools from Federal Stimulus money. Still undetermined how best to use these funds due to lingering issues with the State budget. These funds will be directed at getting flu shots to school age children.
- Technology Committee focus group is meeting in Raleigh June 14th for development of a HIT strategic plan for Public Health in North Carolina in preparation of Federal stimulus money that will quickly be flowing down. The Governor's HIT Task Force report is out on how HIT will be developed in North Carolina. If providers don't have "meaningful use" of Electronic Medical Records by 2011, they will miss the opportunity to receive increased reimbursement through Medicaid and Medicare. If providers have not done this by 2016 they will see penalties on reimbursements.
- Environmental Health Fees were approved by the Commissioners with a three/four vote. It was not the best time to visit fee increases due to the economy but the fee schedule included fees for well water test kits which the health department would have to pay for and the fee needed to be set.
- The home health interest project was established on a three-year trial probation period by the Commissioners. August will be the three-year mark and it will be up to the Commissioners to re-authorize the original approval or otherwise decide what to do with the funds. The revenue has substantially changed, therefore, if the Board would like to make a statement as part of the report to the Commissioners in urging them to continue the project it can be included.

MOTION

Commissioner Truell made the motion to include a letter or resolution from the Board along with Mr. Long's home health report letting them know we are 100% behind them to continue the health department using the interest off the home health money. Rod Kcuik seconded and the motion was approved.

- Recently a bill was passed that could have some impact on the health department that involves comprehensive sex education in the schools. Currently Thomasville City Schools is the only system providing this type of education. The legislation basically directs a comprehensive program be provided but allows parents to opt out their children. There may come a time when the schools could ask for our assistance in providing this education.
- Lexington Pediatrics has agreed to become a sentinel site for flu activity. Prior to this there was not a sentinel site in the County.
- There is a new Federal Law called the Virginia Graham Baker Act that impacts public swimming pools. North Carolina regulates public swimming pools through local environmental health programs and there have been issues surrounding swimming pool drains over the years. The State says they can't enforce the Federal law under our current provisions and have not been enforcing them. This issue has been taken up with the Federal Attorney's General office for ruling. Depending on the outcome of the ruling, the state could be forced to implement the rules. If North Carolina is required to enforce these rules, half

the pools in Davidson County will have to close for repair because they cannot meet the Federal requirements.

- Access to care issues and patients having difficulty paying for private physician services has resulted recently in the referral of two patients to the health department for comprehensive lab work because we could provide it at a lower negotiated rate with Lab Corp. This is being brought to the Board for thought and direction. We would like to provide the care but feel this presents a dilemma because the potential volume of patients could present a costs and staffing problems. *Ms. Frank said certain "in house" tests (hemaoacrit, cholesterol) can be done here but comprehensive testing is actually doing vena puncture and then sent to Lab Corp. This could become a volume problem with us not being their care provider but we want to make sure we aren't standing in the way of people not having access to care. We have not done that type of lab work at this point and it would not be a revenue generating. We might be able to establish a local code and rate fee for referrals but we don't need to do these tests if the patient is insured. If we do decide to offer this service we could confirm with client and physician that they are totally uninsured. Dr. Davis stated you shouldn't be losing any money on fees. Dr. Davis stated that staff should keep a record of how many are calling in reference to lab work and that starting something like this makes it hard to back off and stop it because of the expectation.* The Board direction was that recommended fees be brought up in September and to stay with the policy of not doing comprehensive lab for now.

OLD BUSINESS

Management Academy Update – Mr. Long reported that the Health Department and the community partners have been accepted in the Academy. Mr. Long stated that he, Dr. Davis, and Commissioner Truell, attended a meeting June 12th with CEO's and Board Chairs of Lexington and Thomasville hospitals, Robert Hyatt, Keith Johnson, DSS Board Chair, Sandy Motley, and Davidson Medical Ministries Board Chair. He stated that the discussion centered on the issue of the uninsured in the community and how we approach and create a larger safety net for these people. Mr. Long stated that the selected team will go to Chapel Hill the week of August 3rd – 6th as part of the initial process. He added that the intent of this effort was to develop a plan that everyone can agree to which does not place a burden on any one agency and gets expanded access to care. *Dr. Davis asked if the Academy accepted the extra person to attend.* Mr. Long stated that the Division of Public Health will pay for five people to attend from Davidson County at \$4600.00 per person and that the County would have to pay for the sixth person but at a discounted rate. Mr. Long stated that this plan will eventually come to the Board for consideration and their endorsement.

Budget Update – Mr. Long stated that Raleigh is still in limbo in what to expect from the budget process but there have been two significant issues that have developed for the health department:

- 1) **School Nurse Positions** - Two of our school nurse positions through the Davidson County school system have been unfunded. We have met with the school nurses that will be impacted. The department has kept two clinic positions vacant in anticipation that this situation could occur. There are not enough school nurses now and we are going to have even fewer as a result. With the department receiving the \$66,000 in stimulus funds, we are considering offering the following options to the two nurses: 1. Use the stimulus funds to continue one school nurse position for another year with no guarantee of anything beyond that point or 2. They each could take the vacant clinic positions and use the stimulus funds elsewhere. From a budgetary standpoint we will have to work these things out and give the nurses as much flexibility/option as we can. *Commissioner Truell asked how many school nurses there were.* There are eight nurses through the state school initiative grant, two nurses funded through the county school system (the two being lost) and two through the County budget. *Commissioner Truell asked if the City of Lexington and City of Thomasville has two nurses also.* Thomasville has one nurse of their

own employed through a grant in addition to the two placed from the health department through the state grant. Lexington has two nurses placed by the health department through the state grant as well.

2) **CSC/MCC** - Another potential budgetary impact on the department involves the Child Service Coordination (CSC) and Maternal Care Coordination staff. Two potential issues with the proposed state budget that could impact these program are:

- A proposed 5 ½ percent across the board reduction in Medicaid reimbursement. Both programs are self sustaining on Medicaid revenues and cannot sustain 5 ½ percent revenue reduction and remain self sustaining
- Proposed case management consolidation. The proposed state budget reduces funding for case management services. A task force has been appointed to look at this issue and make recommendations on how to achieve these cuts. How these programs are impacted will depend on the task force recommendations. *Commissioner Truell wanted to know if this was related to the resolution from 2 months ago.* Mr. Long stated that the resolution was related to the special budget provision that established single stream funding for health departments which was a separate issue in the state budget.

Smoking Issue – The smoking ban for all restaurants and bars except for private clubs and a few other minor exceptions will become effective January 2, 2010. Health Departments are tasked with the enforcement of this legislation. Enforcement will begin with a letter to restaurants but continued non compliance could result in fines. This law establishes violations as an infraction not a misdemeanor.

After conclusion of the old business, *Commissioner Truell asked what about our mental health building in Thomasville?* Mr. Long stated that the last he knew of the situation was a discussion with Chuck Frye, County Attorney, who said that he had worked to the point of finalizing an agreement with Piedmont Behavioral Health who is purchasing the building. PBH is working in a nine month lease clause in which the health department can continue to use the building until we find a new location.

NEW BUSINESS

Lab Fee Revisions

Kim Frank stated that another service had been added to the fee revisions the Board of Health should have received in their packets. She stated that a new contraceptive method called Implanon is included on the fee list which the department purchased with special state funds. Mrs. Frank stated that this device is implanted for 3 years.

MOTION

Commissioner Truell made the motion to accept the revisions to the fees and the additional contraceptive method. Kim Smith seconded and the motion was approved.

Communicable Disease Report

Jen Hames stated the report included in Board's packet was a communicable disease, atypical incidents, control measures, and public health enforcement actions update as required for accreditation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

Next Board of Health will meet Tuesday, September 1st, 2008 at 12:30

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 July 7th 2008, Board of Health Minutes.

Dr. Mark Davis, Chair