

Wayne County Board of Health

Minutes

☒ Regular September 8, 2021 @ 12:15PM

Wayne County Health Department

3rd Floor Conference Room/Meeting/Conference Call-In

301 N. Herman Street, Box CC Goldsboro, NC 27530

- **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. James Faulk, Jr. at 12:15PM

Members Present	Mr. Joe Daughtery, Commissioner; Mr. James Faulk, Jr., Chairperson, Public Member; Dr. Thurston Greenwood, Dentist Member; Mr. Charles Gibson, Public Member; Mr. Dr. Rick Sessions, Pharmacist Member; George R. Silver, Jr., Veterinarian Member; Dr. Brenda Weis, Health Director; and Dr. Anthony Woolet, Optometrist.
Members Absent	Ms. Pam Anderson, Vice-Chair, Registered Nurse Member; Dr. Stephen Lies, Physician Member; and Parker Sherard, Engineer; and VACANT Dentist Member.
Staff Members Present	Denise Cowan, Bonnie Crouse, Renee Edge, Celita Graham, Leah Grimmer, Stephanie Howard, Erin Kitchin, Michelle Mathews, Steve Mohr, Jessica Shaw, Dr. James Stackhouse, JoAnn Whitfield, and Brenna Wolfe.

A quorum was established with seven members present, three members absent, and one vacancy.

Ms. Bonnie Crouse reviewed the Safety Emergency Information board with all attendees for the roles needed in case of an emergency. The board is placed in the conference room where everyone can view what their role will be.

- **Invocation:** Mr. Charles T. Gibson

- **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Dr. Weis stated she would like to remove the "Closed Session" from the Agenda. I will have a "Closed Session" in our October Board meeting. Mr. Gibson made a motion to remove the "Closed Session" from the Agenda. Mr. Daughtery asked Mr. Gibson to withdraw the motion. He stated he had something to discuss in the "Closed Session". Mr. Gibson made a motion to approve the agenda as emailed. Dr. Greenwood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Approval of August 11, 2021 Minutes**

Mr. Gibson made a motion to approve the August 11, 2021 Minutes as emailed to the Board. Dr. Greenwood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **New Employee Introduction:**

Jessica Shaw, Medical Laboratory Technician, Lab

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORTS

COVID-19 Update

Dr. James Stackhouse shared the following COVID-19 updates in Wayne County:

- 47% of the County are partially vaccinated and 41 % are fully vaccinated. This compares to 55% partially vaccinated and 52% fully vaccinated Statewide.
- Our testing rate is currently 9.1% positive rate. This compares favorably to the State.
- There are currently 42 positive cases in Wayne UNC Health Care.
- We are going to go back to the Bussmann Building to vaccinate. Our expected date to begin at the Bussmann Building will be September 20th. We hope to stay there until Dec 1st although if we have to vacate sooner, we will have to find another space to rent.
- We are COVID testing County employees on Monday-Friday, 8:00am-9:00am at the Health Department and will continue to do so at the Bussmann Building. We hope to open up testing for the community after Oct 1st although we will decide as we get closer to that date. Staffing will consist of Health Department staff, EMS, United Way staff, and County and community volunteers.

Dr Weis stated we are still at a vacancy rate of 25-30%. There is a national, state, and local shortage of nurses. Currently, we are not giving bonuses to nurses to stay on board or be hired. We did not get authorized to do that yet, but we will see. Therefore, having EMS helping us at the Bussmann Building is invaluable. We reached out to the State to ask about search staff or the National Guard. A lot of the National Guard have been deployed to the hurricane sites.

The difference with COVID last year versus this year is that last year the State gave us a break on our normal service delivery. We have a series of Agreement Addenda that include strict requirements in order to get reimbursed. Last year, we were able to flex some of these requirements because we were leading so many of COVID response activities. This year, even with Medicaid Managed Care, we did not get any breaks. We will have to deliver all services we would as a normal fully-operational facility. Out of the 30 or so COVID vaccine and testing entities in the County, we are one of the only ones who are vaccinating and testing. We are now handling COVID in addition to our normal Health Department workload with a 30% vacancy rate. We will do the best we can. We may have to scale back our operations at the Bussmann Building more than we would like.

Our Communicable Disease Program is empty. We had

	some situations that needed to be addressed, and we lost staff and had to scale back some operations. We are starting them back up again as best we can. It was unexpected and out of our control. Dr. Stackhouse commented we could not do COVID without Adam Wolfe, our Incident Commander. We really appreciate him.
Health Director's Report:	Dr. Weis shared the following information with the Board: <u>Mobile Van:</u> We received our mobile van. We are looking forward to taking it out on the road. <u>Deputy Director:</u> We have a new Deputy Director, Steve Mohr. Mr. Mohr was our Medical Record's Manager. We have reorganized Mr. Mohr's to give him a portfolio that makes sense because he is also the leader of our Managed Care program for the Department. Mr. Mohr will oversee the Administrative Services Office, which includes the Budget Office, his previous Clinical Support Services, CMARC and CMHRP, Health Education. These programs should be more integrated. He started in his new capacity on September 1st. <u>New Health Department/DSS Building:</u> Dr. Weis asked Mr. Daughtery if he had an update on the building. Mr. Daughtery stated we have hired the architect. We have put out the RFQ for the Construction Manager at Risk. That should come back September 28th at 9:00am. We have a facilities meeting at that point to score those. We will narrow the list down on October 12th at 9:00am. Based upon that, we hope two weeks later to have interviews and make selections. Dr. Weis stated she got the slides from Noelle Woods from Moseley. I shared them with the senior staff. They will be looking at the workflow they have within each program area to get the best layout they would need prior to meeting with whoever is hired. Mr. Daughtery stated they are waiting for the Construction Manager at Risk to come on board before they meet with the architect for them to give recommendations on which location. Dr. Weis asked Mr. Daughtery if he know which location it would be. Mr. Daughtery stated it would be the location off Clingman Street because of the space. We have had someone who has inquired on this building. This building may not be taken down and that we would not have any parking. We could save the demolition cost and transfer this building to another entity that.
Finance Report	<u>Revenue Report:</u> Dr. Weis stated we do not have a Finance Report. The County is still closing out their books. We will have one at the next meeting.

- **Public Comments:** None

- **Old Business:** None

- **New Business:** None

- **Board Member Comments:**

- Mr. Daughtery asked if there is any plan in regards to reactivating the Dental Mobile Unit.

Dr. Weis stated we have not been able to get a Dentist for the mobile unit. We do definitely want to reactivate the mobile unit. The issue is we are having a problem with getting a dentist that is willing to come. We were getting some with interest then the COVID Delta variant hit.

Dr. Greenwood stated he will be going to the Wayne County Dental meeting the end of this month and talk to them about getting a new Board member and also ask if they may know a dentist that would be willing to work in the mobile unit.

Dr. Weis shared the Dental Hygienist from the State reached out to her. However, she cannot man the mobile unit by herself. You have to have a dentist to do that. We have not abandoned the thought of placing an ad in the *Journal of American Dental Association*. I think with schools struggling with being in and out of classrooms, placing an ad is something I will commit to do before the next meeting.

Dr. Greenwood asked how the hygienist is being paid. Dr. Weis stated by the State. Dr. Greenwood commented if you could get a waiver for her to practice by herself and not under the direct supervision of a dentist, she could man the mobile unit. Dr. Weis stated in MA, she was able to use a hygienist to deliver screening services and bill for those services as long as there was a licensed dentist of record. Here when I approached the State on this, they stated they did not allow this. Dr. Weis stated she would reach back out to see if this is possible.

- **Executive Session:** Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6): Mr. Faulk made a motion to adjourn "Open Session" at 12:47 PM and go into "Closed Session".

- **Adjournment**

Mr. Daughtery made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 PM.

- **Next Meeting Date**

October 13, 2021, 12:15PM, Wayne County Health Department, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 301 N. Herman St., Goldsboro, NC 27530.

Respectfully Submitted:  **Secretary To Board** 10/13/2021
Signature Date