

Wayne County Board of Health

Minutes

☒ **Regular December 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	Ms. Pam Anderson, Vice-Chair, Registered Nurse Member; Mr. Joe Daughtery, Commissioner; Mr. James Faulk, Jr., Chairperson, Public Member; Mr. Charles Gibson, Public Member; Dr. Stephen Lies, Physician Member; Dr. Emilee Pilkington, Dentist Member; Mr. Dr. Rick Sessions, Pharmacist Member; Parker Sherard, Engineer; George R. Silver, Jr., Veterinarian Member; and Dr. Brenda Weis, Health Director.
Members Absent	Dr. Thurston Greenwood, Dentist Member and Dr. Anthony Woolet, Optometrist
Staff Members Present	Nicole Ardes, Fran Belton, Denise Cowan, Bonnie Crouse, Renee Edge, Chelsea Gaskins, Cynthia Gillette, Celita Graham, Stephanie Howard, Juacita Jones, Michelle Mathews, Betty Merritt, Dr. James Stackhouse, JoAnn Whitfield and Kevin Whitley.

A quorum was established with nine members present, two member absent.

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 Gibson

- **Introduction of Guests:** None

- **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Gibson made a motion to approve the agenda as emailed. Dr. Sessions seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Approval of November 10, 2021 Minutes**

Mr. Gibson made a motion to approve the November 10, 2021 Minutes as emailed to the Board. Dr. Sessions seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **New Employee Introduction:**

- Chelsea Gaskins – Immunization Public Health Nurse, Immunizations
- Nicole Ardes, Public Health Nurse, Immunizations
- Betty Merritt, Public Health Nurse, TB/CD Department

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Health Director's Report:

Dr. Weis shared the following information with the Board:

Dr. Weis stated the Health Department is occupying the old Food Lion building at 1320 W. Grantham Street on Hwy 70 for our COVID-19 vaccination and testing site. We are administering first doses, second, and booster doses to everyone one 11 years of age and up who is eligible for a specific type of vaccine. Other than a few pharmacies, like CVS, Walgreens, and Harris Teeter, we are the only providers in Wayne County who are administering vaccines to the public. We are the only ones hosting a community-based site in the County. We were hoping to stand down our efforts a bit, given this late date in the pandemic, although we did not get to do that because there are not enough other vaccine providers assisting with the effort. With that said, the vaccine demand has waned a bit.

County management is planning in advance of the possible OSHA (Occupational Safety Health Administration) ruling that was proposed a couple of weeks ago and is still in litigation. The ruling is that businesses with 100 or more employees will have to mandate their workers be vaccinated or tested twice weekly to prove they are negative. That litigation will apply to Wayne County. Not just the Health Department, but Wayne County as a whole.

The Health Department is working with the County Manager, HR, and Legal to begin to craft a policy that could apply if the OSHA ruling passes. The date for the start of the OSHA regulation was slated to be January 4th. This ruling will have a big bearing on the County and County businesses because we would have to have a location large enough to handle that volume of testing. We have quite a large percentage of residents who are not vaccinated in the County, and there are likely to be a lot of employees in the City of Goldsboro who are not vaccinated.

The County Manager asked us if we would consider ramping up our COVID site to handle more testing because the demand for testing is high and the demand for vaccines is low. Asymptomatic employees could walk into the site and get tested and we would maintain our community-based drive through testing facility for residents as well. Overall, we could probably handle 300-400 COVID tests a day if the testing kits are available. If you are a County employee who is unvaccinated, you would have to verify that you are negative in order to go to work. Managers would have a role in managing the process of getting their employees tested, such as by staggering their staff, and then getting that documentation to County HR or whomever is going to receive the documentation. This is a County-level effort, not a Health Department effort. We are the lead for the vaccine/testing site so it does have a big impact on our ability to do our operations there.

We are working on the draft policy for January 6th, so we can be ready if the federal legislation passes. We have a lot of businesses/facilities in Wayne County that have more than 100 employees. This will be a lot of testing and a lot of validation that needs to get done.

Even though we did not want to focus our efforts so much COVID at this point in the pandemic, we will do what the County needs us to do. I wanted to share this with you because it does put a continued burden on us and our ability to deliver our normal clinical and other services because we are still focused on serving the County in the primary role of testing and vaccinating. We will find out as we move forward what the status of that regulation is and maybe it will not affect us that much.

We do have reduction in our State surge staff. Dave Cuddeback has offered his EMS staff to step up and fill in the gaps there.

Dr. Weis commented that science around Omicron is evolving and we simply do not know yet whether the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines will be as effective as they are for the delta variant. The thinking is that maybe people will need another COVID vaccine booster.

Dr. Stackhouse stated both Pfizer and Moderna have put out information in the press that the booster significantly improves the neutralization that the body needs. I am still waiting to see the Omicron deaths. It seems to be very infectious. We still have the Delta variant in NC. Nobody seems to know how many actual cases of Omicron because not every positive person is tested for Omicron and overall reporting of positive cases is lagging. The only data I have is that the hospital has 12 deaths. None of these cases was vaccinated. Three were vaccinated and were very elderly. One was under the age of forty.

Dr. Lies asked do you do your own testing at home with the tests the government is going to provide. Dr. Stackhouse commented we do not know as of now where our kits are going to come from after December 21st.

Dr. Weis stated a lot of our existing COVID rapid test kits will expire on December 21st. We have used a lot of the existing kits already. The thinking is that if this legislation passes, we will need to be provided the test kits. We are hoping to put an order in at the end of December so we can get them before January 6th. If we do not have them, we cannot open the vaccination/testing site for this level of testing. The Federal government is aware of the need because they are the one creating the policies. We are hoping that all works out. We do not have many left at this point and they expire soon.

Mr. Daughtery commented he did not see how you could possibly

	provide tests for all of those individuals twice a week. Dr. Weis stated that the mandatory testing would be for the unvaccinated only. Mr. Daughtery stated you are also providing tests for children to go to school. How can you provide all those tests? Dr. Weis stated GOSHEN is also providing testing and that will help. Dr. Lies asked who would be the one to police this. Dr. Weis stated it would likely be an HR policy. My impression is that it is coming from HR and that managers will be responsible for managing their employees. Mr. Faulk asked why they would not allow a positive antibody test to return to school after an exposure. Dr. Weis commented with a positive antibody test, the State requires a certain level of contact tracing around the index case to determine who is exposed, and no one really has the resources to handle this right now. To accept the antibody test, the parent or school would have to show that the contact tracing has been done. .
Finance Report	Revenue Report: None

- **Public Comments:** None

- **Old Business:**

- Report from the Board of Health Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson Nominations Committee.

Mr. Faulk stated the Nominations Committee has met. The committee is making a motion to nominate Dr. Silver for the Chairperson and Dr. Lies for the Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Faulk opened the floor for any additional nominations. There were no additional nominations. The separate motions passed unanimously.

- **New Business:** Action Items:

- Bad Debt Set-Off for 2020: Michelle Matthews

Ms. Matthews shared the 2020 Debt Set-Off Sent to NC Set Off Program. Ms. Epps stated the amount of debt turned over to the Debt Collection is \$29,854.22. Last year we the amount was \$49,788.82. Due to COVID, we have not had as many office visits. The total to be written off due to not having social security numbers or client may be no-contact client, etc. is \$7,104.77. Last year the written off amount was \$16,455.03.

Mr. Gibson made a motion to approve the 2020 Debt Set Off as presented. Dr. Sessions seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Discussion of June 2022 Board of Health Meeting: Celita Graham

Ms. Graham stated this is the meeting we select our "June" Board of Health meeting date. On this meeting date, we hold our ceremony for our "Charles T. Gibson Public Health Essay Contest winners. Ms. Graham shared information and a flyer with the new Board members.

Ms. Graham stated we need your help with solidifying a date for the meeting. There are so many things that come into play in June for the students and their schedules. After discussion, it was decided to hold the meeting on June 15, 2021 at 6:00PM as a nighttime meeting. This will allow more public participation. Dr. Silver suggested having the meeting at the old Goldsboro Country Club. Mr. Daughtery stated the County gets three free events at the old Goldsboro Country Club a year. Mr. Daughtery asked about including a dinner. I believe we could find funds for this. Dr. Weis commented she would check with Craig Honeycutt in regards to funds for the dinner.

Mr. Gibson made a motion to approve the nighttime meeting for June 15, 2021 at 6:00PM as presented. Dr. Sessions seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Board Member Comments:**

- Mr. Daughtery stated we are still moving ahead on the building. We are in the stage of finding out from the different departments the needs prior to the Commissioners toning that down. We meet next week to discuss needs, future expansions, etc. We will then send it to the architects for design. We chose this architect because the other architects stated it would be 18 months to complete the design. This architect stated they could have it out to us within 8 months. Hopefully within the next two months, we will have it sent to them to have the design drawn up.
- Mr. Daughtery stated the Commissioners failed to make an appointment to fill Mr. Faulk's "Public Member" position on the Board that expires the end of this month. Therefore, Mr. Faulk will serve on the Board until we do make that appointment.

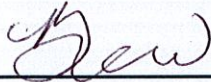
- **Adjournment**

Mr. Faulk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.

- **Next Meeting Date**

January 12, 2022, 12:15PM, Wayne County Health Department, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 301 N. Herman St., Goldsboro, NC 27530.

Respectfully Submitted: _____



Signature

Secretary To Board

1/12/22

Date