

Wayne County Board of Health

Minutes

☒ **Regular November 10, 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. Thurston Greenwood, Dentist Member; Dr. Stephen Lies, Physician Member; Dr. Emilee Pilkington, Dentist 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	Parker Sherard, Engineer
Staff Members Present	Fran Belton, Charlotte Broadhurst, Candice Casey, Denise Cowan, Bonnie Crouse, Maryanne Doran, Renee Edge, Cynthia Gillette, Celita Graham, Logan Gwaltney, Miriam Hatch-Torres, Belinda Hidalgo Estrella, Stephanie Howard, Juacita Jones, Steve Mohr, Nicole Payne, Dr. James Stackhouse, Sherry Strickland, JoAnn Whitfield and Kevin Whitley.

A quorum was established with ten members present, one 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:** Dr. Thurston Greenwood
- **Introduction of Guests:** Ariel DeGray and Baron Wise, Leadership Wayne
- **Swearing-In Of New Board of Health Dentist Position Member:** Dr. Emilee Pilkington
- **Approval of Meeting Agenda**
Mr. Gibson made a motion to approve the agenda as emailed. Dr. Lies seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Approval of October 13, 2021 Minutes**
Mr. Gibson made a motion to approve the October 13, 2021 Minutes as emailed to the Board. Dr. Lies seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **New Employee Introduction:**
 - Maryanne Doran – Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, WIC
 - Charlette Broadhurst – Processing Assistant, Clinic Support Services
 - Nichole Payne – Processing Assistant, Business Office
- **Recognition of Employee's 1st Year Anniversary:**
 - Logan Gwaltney - Medical Records Assistant, Clinic Support Services
 - Sherry Strickland - Public Health Nurse, Women's Health Services
 - Renee Edge - Public Health Nursing Supervisor, Women's Health Services
 - Belinda Hidalgo Estrella - Public Health Nurse, Women's Health Services
- **Recognition of Employee's 5th Year Anniversary:**
 - Candace Casey - Medical Records Assistant, Clinic Support Services
- **Recognition of Employee's 25th Year Anniversary:**
 - Miriam Hatch-Torres - Lead Foreign Language Interpreter, Clinic Support Services

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORTS	
Restaurant Inspection Report	Kevin Whitley shared Restaurant Reports from July 1, 2021- September 30, 2021. Mr. Whitley shared the findings of the inspection report for Goldsboro Golf Course Grill. They had some violations, apparently because they do not have enough staff to run it like they should. They were given a score of 81 due to that reason. However, the City of Goldsboro has decided to close it out. The facility was told that they could re-open when they got the staff they needed to run it properly.
Health Director's Report:	Dr. Weis shared the following information with the Board: COVID Update: The Health Department is open for COVID testing and vaccinations at the Food Lion site on 1320 W. Grantham Street, Goldsboro. We are getting positive feedback from clients on our services for both testing and vaccinations. We are giving first, second, and booster doses for Moderna and Pfizer for eligible individuals: over 11 years of age for pediatric and adult Pfizer shots, and over 18 years of age for Moderna shots. Our County COVID positivity rates are a little unstable now, due primarily to inconsistent reporting by testing facilities. It is required by federal and NC statute to report all confirmed cases of infectious disease, especially positive cases to the State's NCEDSS. Unfortunately, with regards to COVID, some testing facilities are not reporting their positive results to the State in a timely manner. Ultimately, this impacts our ability to measure accurately our COVID case positivity rate. The State COVID dashboard is considered "the truth" with regards to COVID testing and vaccination numbers across the state. However, it is safe to say that these numbers are not always as accurate as they could be because testing and vaccination sites are not reporting on time and comprehensively. The NCEDSS surveillance system is the best we have across the state. Issues with COVID surveillance and reporting are state-wide, not just Wayne

County.

The COVID team at the Health Department recently went through a very extensive COVID audit by the State. Leah Grimmer, Adam Wolfe, and I conducted the audit, with Dr. Stackhouse and Brenna Wolfe on call if specific questions arose. We received exceptionally high marks in every aspect of the COVID audit which covered everything from ordering, supply inventory, shipment, storage and handling, transport, delivery, follow-up, and CVMS reporting of vaccinations and waste. They stated we were probably a model County, given our tight operations, teamwork, and cross-County collaboration. Our ability to work with EMS, OES, Facility Services, County Managers Office, and other County offices has been an incredibly rewarding and successful effort to get this work done.

Dr. Stackhouse stated the primary Health Department people doing the work at the new W. Grantham testing and vaccination site are Leah Grimmer and Adam Wolfe. At that facility provided to us by the County Commissioners, we have been testing and vaccinating all eligible individuals with the help of EMS, community health workers from United Way Wayne County, and State surge staff employees. Since we have opened up the drive-through testing there, we have done conducted more than 870 COVID rapid tests. Most of these individuals are symptomatic, although some need a negative test result to go to work or school.

The real question that lingers about COVID immunity is whether vaccinated people can get COVID and transmit it to others, and if so, at what level. We do not have all the information we need to answer these questions, especially given the newly emerging COVID variants.

The Health Department has started administering pediatric vaccines for individuals 5-11 years this week. We administered 210 pediatric shots on Monday and 220 shots on Tuesday this first week of offering pediatric COVID vaccines. We have over 150 children signed up to receive a shot on this Friday. We still have about 100 pediatric slots available.

Hospital-wise, they have 6-7 positive cases. There were 13 deaths in October.

Dr. Weis commented that local health directors are having conversations with the State about when do we, as local health, begin to stand down our operations. Last year was different from this year because last year we got a break on our clinical service delivery to shift our efforts to COVID. This year we do not have that ability and it has been a burden to carry both primary COVID response activities for the County and our normal services, and still meet our metrics with the State. The State Epidemiologist stated last week that is likely to be several more months before we get to syndromic

	surveillance for COVID, passive surveillance that we do for all infectious diseases. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and we are trending in the right direction. However, we are not out of the woods yet. We are still billing for our COVID testing and vaccination services that has generated revenue for our fund balance. Medicaid revenue is available to use for the health department, as long as our services support Medicaid clients. Any excess revenue will go in our savings account for this year. We are serving our community in a way that needs to get done and we have also figured a way to generate some revenue. We will likely receive another COVID allotment from the State. <u>Grants:</u> Dr. Weis stated she is working on the following grants and funding opportunities: • <u>ARPA:</u> This is COVID money to support workforce development. The funds are regional. WE are in Region X so the funds will come through Pitt County. The funding will be for training, workforce development, IT support for data collection, etc. Our region received close to \$1.8 million this year. • Another grant is in Health Promotion. It is an effort to integrate more of our promotion activities into our clinical services. For example, if we see a patient that needs an evidence-based prevention program for something like diabetes, then we would screen the patient on the clinical side and then refer them to our evidence-based prevention program on the prevention side. This will help us to transition to Managed Care that includes Primary Care. <u>Safety Award:</u> We did get another Safety Award again this year through Leah Grimmer and her Emergency Preparedness team. We were honored with a lunch at Lane Tree Golf Club. Ms. Grimmer is working at the COVID site today, although I wanted to make sure I gave her recognition for her good work.
Finance Report	<u>Revenue Report:</u> Steve Mohr reviewed the Revenue Report spreadsheets by program through October 2021. This report shows how much revenue the Health Department has collected by various funding sources and by programs. Mr. Mohr stated this report shows the past seven Octobers. Mr. Mohr stated over this period, Medicaid decreased. This is due to the way are paid through Managed Care. This is also why insurance revenue increased. It combines private healthcare and public healthcare with the best most cost-effective results. Dr. Weis stated our payor mix in Wayne County has also changed due to COVID. We are seeing a lot more out-of-pocket payer, which is not advantageous to clients who need and want healthcare because

	they will tend to get only what they can afford. One of our goals this year is to work with DSS to increase insurance enrollment for our clients. This has been a goal of the Health Department for many years. Mr. Mohr stated the numbers on the report show a healthy health department. We are doing well. Mr. Daughtery commented this is big 180 from this time last year.
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- **Public Comments:** None

- **Old Business:** None

- **New Business:** Action Items:

- WCHD Policies & Procedures

- Appeals Procedure BOH: Mr. Gibson made a motion to approve the policy as presented. Dr. Lies seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Operating Procedures: Mr. Gibson made a motion to approve the policy as presented. Dr. Lies seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Tobacco & Tobacco Products Use Policy: Mr. Gibson made a motion to approve the policy as presented. Dr. Lies seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Appointment of Nomination Committee for Chair and Vice-Chair for 2022

Mr. Faulk stated this committee consists of three Board members. Dr. Sessions will serve as chairperson of the Nominating Committee as well as Dr. Greenwood and Mr. Gibson.

Mr. Faulk stated the Nomination Committee will meet to discuss nominations and present to the Board their decision in the December meeting.

- **Board Member Comments:**

- Mr. Daughtery stated over the last couple of months, I have been inundated by calls from the school board. They requested the Health Director issue a policy different from the State's policy via the Healthy Schools COVID toolkit. I don't think you, Dr. Weis, were comfortable with it. I certainly was not comfortable with it.

What has happened now is by the removal of the mask requirement at the schools, if a child in that class tests positive, then every child in that class goes home for 14 days, unless they have a mask on or have been vaccinated. A lot of children are being affected by this. I have asked the school board to develop a policy that they are happy with, that is different from the toolkit, and present it to us for our review and make changes accordingly. They are saying we need to use some type of testing to limit this two weeks out of school requirement.

The State was very careful and political on how they arrived at putting the burden on the school boards to follow the State's COVID toolkit. It doesn't leave a great deal of flexibility. I just ask them to develop something within the schools that they are happy with and then present it to us to review.

Dr. Weis commented there are two things about the toolkit that stand out. First, the masking part of the toolkit is recommended but not required. That decision falls on the school board to decide about masking. The downside of not masking is that you send more children home who are not masked or vaccinated, if they are exposed to a positive child. You lose more children in the classroom that way. This is why some school boards kept masking, to keep more children in school. Secondly, there is a notion that schools can isolate and quarantine students. There are some discussion about the authority schools have to require isolation and quarantine when that function may not be in their purview. I think that is where there may be some wiggle room with the toolkit.

Dr. Weis stated that the NCDHHS, who developed the toolkit, is the parent agency for local health departments. We receive a lot of our funding from the State. Thus, a large majority of our rules and regulations come from NCDHHS and CDC. If the Board of Health wants to create a policy that is different from the toolkit, just be sure there is no inherent liability in that action that would be the Board's responsibility. Mr. Daugherty stated let's wait and see what they come up with.

Mr. Faulk stated once we receive the policy, we need to have the County Attorney review it.

- Mr. Faulk welcomed Dr. Pilkington to the Board. Dr. Weis shared information with Dr. Pilkington on the Dental Mobil Unit.
- Dr. Lies asked Mr. Daugherty was the date timeline was for the new building. Mr. Daugherty stated at the end of winter of 2023. This will allow both departments to complete their "wish" list. To really have their strongest input on the design. Once that is completed, then it comes back to the layout. Once the layout is designed, it will go to bids. Unfortunately, the jail is going to be built before this facility.

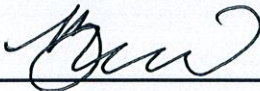
- **Adjournment**

Mr. Faulk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 PM.

- **Next Meeting Date**

December 8, 2021, 12:15PM, Wayne County Health Department, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 301 N. Herman St., Goldsboro, NC 27530.

Respectfully Submitted: _____



Signature

Secretary To Board

12-8-21

Date