

The Cleveland County Board of Health met on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 6:30 p.m., at the Cleveland Country Club.

Board members present: Michael Alexander, Ronnie Hawkins, Charles Hayek, Jack Hunt, Libbie Shipley, Kendalyn Lutz-Craver, Bill Marsh, Robert Miller, Steve Rackley, Theresa Taylor and Joel Spragins

Health Department staff present: Denese Stallings, Dorothea Wyant, Rodella Gold, Sam Lockridge, Jimmy Hines, Marty Allen, Nancy Gamble and Charlene Parker.

Bob Yelton, County Attorney, was present. Ben Ousley, guest, and Danielle Anzelone, reporter with Cleveland Headline News, were also present.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair Spragins called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Bill Marsh gave the invocation.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens requested to appear before the Board.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS-

Denese Stallings recognized C.V. "Dino" Nicopoulos, outgoing veterinarian Board of Health member, for his years of service to the Board with a plaque. Dr. Nicopoulos was not present. The plaque will be delivered to him.

Ms. Stallings recognized and thanked Joel Spragins, outgoing physician member, for his years of service to the Board. A plaque was presented to Dr. Spragins. Dr. Spragins made comments. Jack Hunt acknowledged Dr. Spragins' contribution to implementing the new smoking laws effective January 2, 2010.

Motion: Ronnie Hawkins moved that the Board of Health present a resolution honoring Joel Spragins and the accomplishments of the Board during his tenure, to be displayed in the County Administrative Office building and the Health Department building. Motion was seconded by Robert Miller and passed unanimously.

OATH OF OFFICE

Charlene Parker administered the Oath of Office to reappoint William Marsh, pharmacist member, Robert Miller, public citizen member, and Steve Rackley, professional engineer member, to serve a three year term ending December 31, 2012. The Oath of Office was administered to Theresa Taylor, serving as veterinarian member, Charles Hayek, serving as physician member, to a three year term ending December 31, 2012.

ELECTION OF BOARD OF HEALTH CHAIR - 2010

Denese Stallings opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Cleveland County Board of Health for the 2010 year.

Motion: Bill Marsh nominated Robert Blackburn to serve as Chair of the Board of Health for the 2010 year. Motion was made by Ronnie Hawkins to close the floor for nominations. Robert Miller seconded motions. Motions carried unanimously.

Robert Blackburn was absent from the meeting, due to illness.

ELECTION OF BOARD OF HEALTH VICE-CHAIR – 2010

Denese Stallings opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Cleveland County Board of Health for the 2010 year.

Motion: Bill Marsh nominated Libbie Shipley to serve as Vice-Chair of the Board of Health for the 2010 year. Robert Miller moved that nominations be closed with said name. Motions were seconded by Jack Hunt and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2009 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES:

Vice-Chair Shipley presented the November 10, 2009 Board of Health meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

There being no corrections, additions, nor deletions to the minutes of the November 10, 2009 Board of Health meeting minutes, motion was made by Robert Miller, with a seconded by Kendalyn Lutz-Craver, that they be approved as written. Motion carried unanimously.

STATE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH REPORT 2009:

Denese Stallings stated that Anne Short was unable to make the presentation due to a death in her family. Jimmy Hines was introduced to present the 2009 State of the County Health Report. Copies of the report were included in the Board packet. The report has been submitted to the State and has met standards.

Mr. Hines stated that the State of County Health Report is required to be compiled and presented each year that the Health Department does not do a Community Health Assessment and is part of the Healthy Carolinians Coalition. Highlights of the report were presented and included: Cleveland County had 99,015 residents as of the last census; 48.3% are males; 51.7% are females; 19.1% are under 19 years of age; 66.3% are between age 20 to 65; 14.6% are over 65 years of age; 76.5% are Caucasian; 21% are African American; less than 2% have identified themselves as Hispanic/ Latino.

High school dropout data for the past four years was presented. The percentage of students that qualify for free or reduced school lunch is 50.7%. Unemployment in Cleveland County has been in double digits since 2008.

Barriers were identified and included: aging population; teenage pregnancy; high unemployment; growing number of high school dropouts; large number of children that qualify for free or reduced school lunch. A big factor for improving public health is removing people from poverty. Further information was shared.

Mr. Hines stated that the information submitted in the State of the County Health Report will be used to determine the needs in the next Cleveland County Community Health Assessment.

Mr. Hines identified initiatives conducted and accomplished by the Health Department. The Nurse-Family Partnership was identified as being a potentially successful program.

Discussion was held regarding Cleveland County's obesity rate of 29.5%, which is higher than neighboring counties and efforts that are being made to improve the rate. An approach to reducing this rate is through policy change and education.

Copies of the report will be distributed to local officials.

Motion: Robert Miller moved that the Cleveland County Board of Health accept the State of the County Health Report 2009 as presented. Motion was seconded by Michael Alexander and carried unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Rodella Gold presented the following budget amendments for consideration of approval:

ITEM NUMBER ONE: The Cleveland County Health Department has been awarded a \$35,000 grant from the North Carolina Office of Rural Health and Community Care for Emergency Room Diversion efforts. The purpose of this grant is to decrease improper utilization of the emergency room by ensuring Medicaid patients have a “medical home”. Evidence suggests that increasing “medical home” access will lead to improved health outcomes and reduce hospitalization rates. A request was made to budget these funds in the Carolina Access Department (546) to contract with primary care providers. Their objective will be to increase access for health care, develop approaches to achieve improved care, refer enrollees for case management, establish tools to alert physicians of services needed and work with hospitals in improving their non-emergency provider program.

ITEM NUMBER TWO: The University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill has approved carry-over funding in the amount of \$1,512 for the Cleveland County Health Department Connecting the Dots Program. A request was made to budget these funds in the Smart Start Budget (516) for operating expenses associated with this program.

ITEM NUMBER THREE: The Shelby Rotary has donated \$250 to the Cleveland County Health Department for assistance of indigent clients. A request was made to budget the funds in the General Department (530) for this purpose.

ITEM NUMBER FOUR: Effective February 1, 2010, Carolina Access will be responsible for managing the North Carolina Health Check Program and will receive .20 per member per month for this initiative. A request was made to budget \$11,965 in the Carolina Access Department (546) to establish a Processing Assistant III position to do Health Check tracking and \$4,800 for a laptop computer, printer and other operating expenses needed for the new position.

In addition, a request was made to budget \$9,600 in Carolina Access to increase the contract of a licensed pharmacist. This will allow us to address pharmaceutical issues for patients with chronic conditions, with the increased emphasis placed on pharmacy related outcomes.

Motion: Motion was made by Ronnie Hawkins, with a second by Robert Miller, to approve the budget amendments as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Universal Vaccine Program Cuts

Denese Stallings provided an update regarding the Universal Vaccine Program. She talked with N.C. House Representative Bob England today. She also talked with the President of the N.C. Medical Society and the N.C. Pediatric Society who are meeting with the Legislative Delegation regarding the program. Further information was provided and discussion was held regarding the effects of the funding cut to the program.

Preapproval for Ultrasounds

Denese Stallings provided information regarding a new requirement that ultrasounds, MRIs, and CT Scans be preapproved before Medicaid will provide reimbursement. This is very time consuming and costly for the Health Department staff when conducting ultrasounds for maternity patients. Dr. Hayek provided further information.

State Health Director, Dr. Jeff Engel, Attending February Board of Health Meeting

Denese Stallings informed the Board that Dr. Jeff Engel, State Health Director, will be visiting the Health Department February 9, 2010 to see several programs and will attend the Board of Health meeting that evening. The Cleveland County Medical Society has asked Dr. Engel to speak at their meeting that same evening. Ms. Stallings asked if the Board would consider meeting earlier on February 9th so that Dr. Engel would have time to meet with the Medical Society later that evening.

Motion: Ronnie Hawkins moved, with a second by Bill Marsh, that the Cleveland County Board of Health eat at 5:30 and begin the meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2010. Motion passed unanimously.

Recognition of Joel Spragins, M.D.

Libbie Shipley recognized and thanked Dr. Joel Spragins for his service on the Board of Health and a round of applause followed.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Vice-Chair Shipley adjourned the Cleveland County Board of Health meeting.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Denese R. Stallings, Secretary
Cleveland County Board of Health