

The Cleveland County Board of Health met on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., at the Cleveland Country Club.

Board members present: Joel Spragins, Jack Hunt, Robert Miller, Robert Blackburn, Bill Marsh, Ronnie Hawkins, Steve Rackley, Dino Nicopoulos, Kendalyn Lutz-Craver and Elizabeth Shipley.

Health Department staff present: Denese Stallings, Dorothea Wyant, Rodella Gold, Sam Lockridge, Jimmy Hines, Marty Allen, Anne Short, Debbie Clapper, Debbie Dyer, Sheila Wellmon and Charlene Parker.

Bob Yelton, County Attorney, was also present.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair Spragins called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Robert Blackburn gave the invocation.

Motion: Joel Spragins entertained a motion to add an agenda item to allow the Board to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters as permitted by N.C. General Statute Section 143.318.11(a)(6), at the end of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ronnie Hawkins and passed unanimously.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens requested to appear before the Board.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER-ELIZABETH LINGERFELT

Chair Spragins recognized Elizabeth Lingerfelt, outgoing registered nurse member, for her years of service to the Board of Health. Ms. Lingerfelt was not present; therefore her plaque will be delivered to her.

OATH OF OFFICE

Charlene Parker administered the Oath of Office to reappoint Robert Blackburn, public citizen representative, to serve a three year term ending December 31, 2011. The Oath of Office was administered to Elizabeth Shipley, serving as registered nurse representative, to serve a three year term ending December 31, 2011.

ELECTION OF BOARD OF HEALTH CHAIR - 2009

Denese Stallings opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Cleveland County Board of Health for the 2009 year.

Motion: Robert Blackburn nominated Joel Spragins to serve as Chair of the Board of Health for the 2009 year. Ronnie Hawkins moved that the nominations be closed, with a second by Bill Marsh. There being no other nominations, motion was seconded by Robert Miller and carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF BOARD OF HEALTH VICE-CHAIR – 2009

Chair Spragins opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Cleveland County Board of Health for the 2009 year.

Motion: Robert Miller nominated Robert Blackburn to serve as Vice-Chair of the Board of Health for the 2009 year. There being no other nominations, motion was seconded by Jack Hunt and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2008 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES:

There being no corrections, additions, nor deletions to the minutes of the November 10, 2008 Board of Health meeting, motion was made by Bill Marsh and seconded by Robert Miller, that they be approved as written. Motion carried unanimously.

**STATE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH REPORT 2008; ADDENDUM TO 2007
COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT:**

Anne Short presented the 2008 State of the County Health Report. Copies were included in the Board packet. The report has been submitted to the State and has met standards.

Ms. Short presented a 2008 addendum to the Cleveland County 2007 Community Assessment, which was included in the Board packet. The addendum was prepared to produce requirements by the State to meet four categories and has been submitted to the State for their approval. Copies of the report will be distributed to local officials.

Ms. Short noted statistics on causes of deaths in minorities in Cleveland County. The objective for the Alliance for Health is to produce a community health action plan for cardiovascular health, asthma, adolescent pregnancy prevention, substance abuse prevention, overweight and obesity and diabetes. She stated that the statistics show a great amount of work to do in these areas, especially diabetes.

Motion: Robert Miller moved that the Cleveland County Board of Health accept the documents as presented. Motion was seconded by Bill Marsh and carried unanimously.

KATE B REYNOLDS GRANT

Denese Stallings stated that a vision of Dr. Spragins, Dr. Blackburn and herself has resulted in the development of a nutrition based program for students in the local public high and middle schools. Digital menu boards will be placed in each of the four middle and high schools in Cleveland County and a nutrition curriculum for teachers has been developed to educate teens about calories in the foods they eat in the lunchroom. This is the first of its kind to be done in any school in the United States. Further information was provided.

Ms. Stallings stated that Jimmy Hines has conducted a lot of research and development to make the program happen. Mr. Hines presented further details about the program, which will be implemented in the schools in the next several months. The school system has wholeheartedly endorsed the concept. The target for the first phase of the project is the middle and high schools. Details about the technology piece and the curriculum development were provided. Karma Edwards, Health Education Supervisor, and Joyce King, Health Educator, put together the curriculum that is being used to train high school teachers in health and physical education programs in the schools. The curriculum helps reinforce the concept of the information displayed on the digital menu boards. The menu boards will focus on activity and contain a daily message about how to get active. A sensitive humorous approach will be used in contents of the messages. Healthy choices and health trivia will be on messages. Further information was provided.

A grant application was made to Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust. Anne Short played a big role in writing the grant. Kate B. Reynolds liked the program and has awarded \$77,000 to fund the program. This will allow implementation in all of the middle and high schools in our County. The program is a community partnership, with Cleveland Regional Medical Center contributing \$5,000. Implementation of the program will at the beginning of the new school year.

Denese Stallings stated that the University of North Carolina Institute of Public Health will evaluate the program on whether exposure to the menu boards and teaching helps students make healthier choices.

A media event, involving Shelby and the surrounding Charlotte area, will be held to demonstrate the program. The Board of Health and Board of Education will be invited to the event, along with Kate B. Reynolds, the digital menu board company, and others.

Discussion was held regarding healthy food choices for students. Denese Stallings stated that to improve health and environment she feels we need to begin with education of young people. Robert Blackburn stated that this was one of the most well defined and documented programs for behavior change for children that he has seen and commended staff in tying the education into the State health curriculum in terms of what is needed in health education, along with what is needed in public health. He said it was a well designed program that would stand up anywhere.

Kendalyn Lutz-Craver requested that the Health Department make a commitment to recycle the digital boards to keep them out of the landfill. Sam Lockridge stated that Cleveland County will require recycling of televisions and computers in 2010.

2008 SCHOOL HEALTH DIABETES SURVEY

Dorothea Wyant provided information about the 2008 School Health Diabetes Survey that was included in the Board packet. The goal of the Health Department in conducting the survey was to provide education and awareness. The school distributed 16,987 diabetes survey letters to students. Of that number, 655 surveys were returned. Upon reviewing the returned surveys, 37 children were referred for further evaluation. Out of the 37 children that were further evaluated, one (1) child was diagnosed with diabetes. Further information was shared. Ms. Wyant commended the Board of Health for suggesting that the Health Department provide this service.

Legislation is in place that requires teachers be given information about diabetes at the beginning of each school year. This information is distributed by the school nurses.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

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

ITEM NUMBER ONE: The Cleveland County Health Department has been allocated \$8,023 for increased caseload in the WIC Program. A request was made to budget the funds in the WIC Department (540) for six replacement desktop computers and departmental supplies. Approval will have to be received from the State to purchase these items.

ITEM NUMBER TWO: The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust has awarded the Cleveland County Health Department a \$77,000 grant for the purchase of digital menu boards and operating expenses for the education and evaluation of the program. The digital menu boards will encourage students to make healthy food choices by having nutritional information available on foods served in school lunchrooms. A request was made to budget the funds in the School Health Department (534) for this endeavor.

ITEM NUMBER THREE: The Cleveland County Health Department has been awarded a small capital grant in the amount of \$59,890 from the N.C. Office of Rural Health and Community Care. This grant is for the purchase of three dental chairs, a film processor, fiberoptic handpieces and the relocation of an x-ray machine. A request was made to budget the funds in the Dental Department (544). Upon discussion, motion was made to change wording to state, "This grant is for the purchase of dental equipment.", instead of specific items.

ITEM NUMBER FOUR: The Carolina Access Program has been awarded a \$70,000 Emergency Department Diversion Grant from the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Rural Health and Community Care. This grant is an endeavor to decrease improper emergency room usage. The Department will contract with the CLECO Primary Care Network in Shelby and Kings Mountain to partner in this initiative. A request was made to budget the funds in the Carolina Access Department (546).

ITEM NUMBER FIVE: The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services has approved a rate increase for the case management fees paid for aged, blind and disabled enrollees. The Carolina Access Program should receive an additional \$5 per member, per month for this service. We will be required to send \$2 per member, per month to the Community Care of N.C. Network to support central support activities. A request was made to budget \$48,600 in the Carolina Access Department (546) for central support fees. Also, a request was made to establish and budget a Public Health Nurse I position (effective 2/15/09) to provide intensive face-to-face case management that will be required for this initiative. The cost for the position will be \$16,034 for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

ITEM NUMBER SIX: The Carolina Access Program has received an additional \$14,840 in Pediatric Obesity Funds from the N.C. Foundation for Advanced Health Programs, Inc. A request was made to budget this amount in the Carolina Access Department (546) for contracted services of a nutritionist to provide nutritional counseling for pediatric patients in the Carolina Access Network or other childhood obesity strategies.

Discussion was held regarding Budget Item Number Three for dental equipment. Kendalyn Lutz-Craver stated that it may be smarter to look at purchasing a digital sensor, which would be cheaper in the long run. She also suggested obtaining quotes for a different type of dental chair. She expressed her concern of whether she could be an effective member of the Board of Health due to the Health Department hiring the present dentist on staff. Mrs. Lutz-Craver agreed to meet with the Health Department dental clinic manager and talk to Patterson Dental Sales Representatives about equipment.

Motion: Motion was made by Robert Miller, with a second by Bill Marsh, to approve the budget amendments as presented, and with the revision to Item Number Three to state "The grant is for the purchase of dental equipment.", instead of specific items. Motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH)/N.C. Association of Local Boards of Health

Robert Blackburn noted the article in the NALBOH Newsletter was compiled and submitted by Jimmy Hines about the Cleveland County Public Health Day. He thanked Ronnie Hawkins and the other Cleveland County Commissioners for their support in declaring Public Health Day. The newsletter is distributed nationwide.

Dr. Blackburn reported on the work of the N.C. Obesity Task Force. Their full report goes to the N.C. Legislature on January 15, 2009 and will be posted on the Eat Smart Move More website.

Dr. Blackburn will be meeting with the N.C. Association of County Commissioners at their two day workshop where they will be approving their legislative agenda. Dr. Blackburn served on their Legislative Committee, along with a representative from the N.C. Health Director's Association.

Four additional counties were approved in the Accreditation process. The State is ready to begin the second cycle of Accreditation. Information was given about training.

The Annual N.C. Boards of Health meeting will be held in conjunction with the N.C. Association of Local Health Directors' Annual Conference in Raleigh next week.

Free Rabies Clinics

Chair Spragins thank Ronnie Hawkins for his support of the Free Rabies Vaccination Clinics, which was noted in a recent publication of The County Lines.

Digital Mammograms

Chair Spragins provided a progress report on digital mammograms. Digital mammograms are available in two practices in Cleveland County. The Radiology Outpatient Clinic is offering them presently and the Shelby Women's Clinic will be providing them within the next few weeks. Further information was provided.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Robert Blackburn moved that the Board of Health go into Closed Session to discuss personnel matters as permitted by N.C. General Statute Section 143.318.11 (a) (6). Motion was seconded by Ronnie Hawkins and passed unanimously at 7:37 p.m.

Motion was made by Robert Miller that the Board allow Charlene Parker, Deborah Dyer, Rodella Gold, Dorothea Wyant and Bob Yelton to remain in the Closed Session. Motion was seconded by Bill Marsh and passed unanimously.

RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION

The Board of Health reconvened in regular session at 7:57 p.m.

Motion was made by Robert Blackburn, with a second by Libby Shipley, that the Board of Health approve abolishment of the following positions: a Public Health Nurse I – 50% effective February 1, 2009; an Environmental Health Specialist effective March 13, 2009; a Clinical Social Worker effective March 13, 2009; and a Public Health Nurse Supervisor II effective March 13, 2009.

ADJOURN

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Denese R. Stallings, Secretary
Cleveland County Board of Health