

**CLEVELAND COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
AUGUST 11, 2009**

**SHELBY,  
NORTH CAROLINA**

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The Cleveland County Board of Health met on Tuesday, August 11, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at the Cleveland County Health Department.

Board members present: Joel Spragins, Michael Alexander, Robert Miller, Robert Blackburn, Libby Shipley, Kendalyn Lutz-Craver, Steve Rackley, Jack Hunt, Bill Marsh, and Ronnie Hawkins

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

Bob Yelton, County Attorney, was present. Rebecca Clark, reporter with the Shelby Star, attended. Guests in attendance were Cleveland County Commissioners, Jo Boggs, Eddie Holbrook, Mary Accor, Johnnie Hutchins and Ronnie Hawkins. Other guests in attendance were Rose Blackburn, Barbara Blackburn and Pete Hale.

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:**

Chair Spragins called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone attending. County Commissioners were recognized. Rose Blackburn, Barbara Blackburn and Pete Hale, family of Robert Blackburn, were recognized. Robert Blackburn gave the invocation.

**Motion: Motion was made by Robert Miller, with a second by Bill Marsh, that the Board of Health meeting recess following the recognition of Robert Blackburn and reconvene after the meal. Motion carried.**

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DR. ROBERT BLACKBURN RECIPIENT OF THE 2009  
NALBOH EVERETT I. HAGEMAN AWARD**

Joel Spragins recognized Dr. Robert Blackburn, recipient of the National Association of Local Boards of Health Everett I. Hageman Award. Dr. Blackburn was applauded for receiving this award. Further comments were made by Dr. Spragins, who also thanked Dr. Blackburn for his service to public health on the local, state and national levels.

Jo Boggs, Chair of the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners, commended, congratulated, honored and thanked Dr. Blackburn. Commissioners Mary Accor, Ronnie Hawkins, Johnnie Hutchins and Eddie Holbrook also made comments.

Denese Stallings congratulated, honored, recognized and thanked Dr. Blackburn for his service to public health at the local, state and national levels.

The floor was opened for comments. Jack Hunt responded with comments.

Dr. Blackburn thanked Denese Stallings, each member of the Board of Health and the Board of County Commissioners. He stated that together Cleveland County has accomplished monumental things that are being recognized statewide and nationally. Further comments were made.

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**RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION**

**Chair Spragins reconvened the Board of Health Meeting.**

**Motion: Robert Miller moved that the Board of Health agenda be adopted with latitude. Motion was seconded by Bill Marsh and passed unanimously.**

**CITIZEN RECOGNITION**

No citizens registered to appear before the Board.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 22, 2009 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES:**

**There being no corrections, additions, nor deletions to the minutes of the June 22, 2009 Board of Health meeting, motion was made by Libby Shipley, with a second by Michael Alexander, that the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried unanimously.**

**N.C. ANIMAL WELFARE RULES**

Sam Lockridge presented information to the Board of Health regarding the N.C. Administrative Codes - Animal Welfare Section that was included in the Board packet. The rules which were passed March 21, 2009 include:

Record Keeping and Licensing – The Cleveland County Animal Shelter met standards and became a licensed facility. To obtain the licensing, additional space had to be added onto the Animal Shelter facility.

Feeding of Animals/Number of Animals Under Shelter Attendant Care – Dr. Joe Wright has written a policy for Veterinarian Care of animals at the shelter.

Euthanasia Standards - The State of North Carolina mandates three standards for euthanasia; carbon monoxide, injection and gunshot. Further information was given about these standards and steps that the Animal Control Program is taking to become compliant with these standards. Eight Cleveland County Animal Control employees received euthanasia training and certification to perform all three types of euthanasia. A policy and procedure manual regarding euthanasia procedures has been written.

Facility Expansion – State will require additional space to house cats. State standards require an isolated area to perform lethal injection euthanasia.

General Statutes 138-192, passed on July 17, 2009 – (Senate Bill 467), addresses animals wearing vaccination and rabies tags. It requires that animal control check animals for microchips. Implementation of a 72 hour impoundment rule to give owners time to locate their animal is also included in this General Statute. Presently, Cleveland County Ordinance requires animals to be held five working days. The Board of Health will be asked to consider making a change in the next couple of months to the Cleveland County Ordinance to be in compliance with the State regulation.

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The General Statutes also contain a new mandate effective January 1, 2010, that Animal Shelters shall be required before an animal can be sold to an institution (which Cleveland County does not do) or put to death be made available for adoption. In cases where the animal is found by the operator of the Animal Shelter to be unadoptable due to injury, defects of health or temperament, it will not be eligible for adoption. The Cleveland County Animal Shelter will be required to put animals brought to the shelter up for adoption, regardless of their rabies immunization records. Further information was shared.

A map identifying animals that tested positive for rabies and the location they were picked up in Cleveland County from 1998 until the present was shown to the Board. Rabies in skunks is the greatest number of animal species in Cleveland County. The map shows that rabies covers the entire county.

Denese Stallings stated that Cleveland County Animal Shelter will be required to adopt unvaccinated animals from the Shelter beginning January 1, 2010. She is working with the Institute of Government and Bob Yelton, County Attorney, regarding development of a proposed adoption contract for the Boards consideration to approve. Further information was shared regarding the contract. A disclaimer will also be developed that will be given to the public before adoption of an unvaccinated or vaccinated animal from the shelter explaining the risks of adopting an animal that could be harboring rabies. Further information was provided.

Euthanasia solution is estimated to cost an additional \$50,000 this year. Ms. Stallings has discussed this with the County Manager.

Ronnie Hawkins thanked Sam Lockridge and the Animal Control staff for doing everything they can to help with the unwanted animal population and would like to see the Animal Control Program and the Health Department to educate the public about responsible pet ownership. He said that the County Manager will be working with the Health Department in renovating the facility to meet euthanasia requirements. He stated that he agreed with the lethal injection method of euthanasia. Further discussion was held.

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Robert Blackburn provided a brief report on the State budget that was passed recently and how the budget will affect public health services. The Public Health Improvement Plan was also passed in the General Assembly. A copy of the Public Health Improvement Plan legislation was distributed. The Cleveland County Board of Health and Cleveland County Board of Commissioners formally opposed the adoption of the plan. Limitations of the plan were discussed; which include single stream funding and possible regionalization of health departments.

Denese Stallings stated that a Task Force will be formed that will create a funding distribution formula based on population, need, infant mortality rates, chronic disease mortality rates. The Task Force will be headed by N.C. State Secretary, Lanier Cansler. The Public Health Improvement Plan will be effective July 1, 2010.

Ms Stallings provided information about a possible funding formulary and she feels Cleveland County will receive a significant amount of funding. However, no new money has been appropriated to take care of problems. Ms. Stallings opinion is that the formulary would provide counties with greater need or more population with funding that may have gone to a smaller county. When this happens, the need for regionalization may happen, because smaller counties may not be able to meet outcomes to receive funding. The Health Directors Association is writing a position paper regarding this issue.

A plan is being developed to consolidate case management services statewide. At this time, it is unknown what agency the case management services will fall under. Case management services budget was decreased by \$41 million statewide. The Cleveland County Health Department employs five social workers in maternal and child health services case management positions that help keep the county's infant mortality rate down. A task force has been formed by the State to look at the consolidation. There is a possibility that the services will be consolidated with Carolina Assess case management services. The cut in funding will affect our county. HIV/AIDS case management funds have also been cut. Medicaid reimbursement has been decreased by 3% for Health Department services, which equates to approximately \$53,000. Further information was shared and discussion held. The budget changes will affect the Health Department budget this year.

Bob Blackburn entertained the motion that Denese Stallings be recommended by the Board of Health to serve on the Public Health Improvement Plan so that Cleveland County could have a voice. He stated that someone as knowledgeable and experienced as Ms. Stallings would benefit the entire State of North Carolina. Further discussion was held about the Board making the recommendation.

**Motion: Bob Blackburn moved that the Cleveland County Board of Health recommend to the North Carolina Secretary of Department of Health and Human Services that Denese Stallings be appointed to serve on the Public Health Improvement Plan Task Force and that the local delegation receive a letter stating such be sent immediately by electronic mail. Motion was seconded by Robert Miller and passed unanimously.**

#### **ANNUAL SCHOOL HEALTH REPORT**

Dorothea Wyant presented information about the 2008-2009 Cleveland County Health Department School Health Services Report, which was included in the Board packet. The report contained School Health Program data, list of employees and the top ten identified health conditions.

At this point in the meeting, Ms. Stallings was excused from the meeting for a personal matter.

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**ANNUAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT**

Dorothea Wyant presented information about the 2008 Cleveland County Health Department Communicable Disease Report. The report contains data compiled over the last five years. Robert Miller commented that the data broken down into race/ethnic groups would be beneficial to the Minority Health Council to help them identify health issues that need to be addressed. Ms. Wyant provided further data information.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**H1N1 Flu Vaccine**

Dorothea Wyant stated that the Health Department has not received notification about how much H1N1 vaccine will be received. The Department is required to notify each health care provider in the County to find out if they plan to give the vaccine and how many doses they need. This information is due back to the State by August 20, 2009. Further information was shared.

Distribution dates for the seasonal flu vaccine are September 26<sup>th</sup>, October 17<sup>th</sup>, and December 12<sup>th</sup>. The first H1N1 flu vaccine distribution date will be on November 7<sup>th</sup>. All of these clinics will be drive-through clinics. Seasonal flu vaccine will also be provided at the Senior Centers.

Advertising will begin as soon as the vaccine is received.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

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

Item Number One: The Cleveland County Health Department received notification of a \$15,000 Pediatric Obesity Grant from the N.C. Office of Rural Health. A request was made to budget this amount in the Carolina Access Department (546) to be used for professional services of a registered dietician.

Item Number Two: The Cleveland County Animal Shelter has received \$223 in donations to be used for operating expenses. A request was made to budget these donations in the Rabies Control Department (542).

**Motion: Robert Miller moved, with a second by Libby Shipley, that the Board of Health approve the budget amendments as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

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**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