

**CLEVELAND COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH
MAY 8, 2007**

**SHELBY,
NORTH CAROLINA**

The Cleveland County Board of Health met on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Country Club.

Board members present: Joel Spragins, Dino Nicopoulos, Robert Miller, Jack Hunt, Steve Rackley, Robert Blackburn and Philip Jiamachello

Health Department staff present: Denese Stallings, Jimmy Hines, Rodella Gold, Sam Lockridge, Marty Allen, Dana McNeilly, Patrick Sery, Pam Ellwood, Kelli Bradley and Charlene Parker

Bob Yelton, County Attorney, was present. Kathryn Larson, reporter with Cleveland Headline News, was also present.

Special Guests were Bianca Bell, Kings Mountain High School Senior and Cindy Dover, Kings Mountain High School Teacher.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

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

APPROVAL OF APRIL 11, 2007, BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES:

There being no corrections, additions, nor deletions to the minutes of the April 11, 2007, Board of Health meeting, motion was made by Robert Miller and seconded by Bob Blackburn, that they be approved as written. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITION OF AGENDA ITEM

A request was made to place Patrick Sery, Information Technology Technician for the Health Department, on the agenda to discuss the Cleveland County Health Department Website.

Motion: Motion was made by Robert Miller, with a second by Bob Blackburn, that Health Department Website presented by Patrick Sery, be added to the Cleveland County Board of Health meeting agenda after the Budget Amendments. Motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF PAM ELLWOOD

Denese Stallings recognized Pam Ellwood, Nurse Practitioner in the Health Department Child Health Clinic, upon her receipt of the North Carolina Asthma Champion Award. Ms. Ellwood is nationally certified in pediatrics and family practice medicine. She also provides coverage in the Health Department Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic and Diabetes Clinic.

The Cleveland County Health Department received a grant from the Division of Public Health in December, 2001 to develop an Asthma Coalition for preventing and controlling childhood asthma. The Cleveland County Asthma Coalition was organized in June, 2002.

Ms. Ellwood has been very active in the organization and leadership of the Cleveland County Asthma Coalition, which she co-chairs because of her leadership, interest and treatment of Asthma. The Cleveland County Asthma Coalition has been voted Number One in the State of North Carolina and is recognized as being the most successful and productive by the N.C Asthma Alliance, and has also been asked to share their experience in building a local coalition with other counties. Ms. Ellwood was selected to receive a Scholarship to attend the Eighth Annual American College of Chest Physicians and COPD Coalitions Symposium in Salt Lake City, Utah, in recognition for her work with the Cleveland County Asthma Coalition. Also at her request, a second scholarship was awarded that allowed the pediatric charge nurse to attend.

Ms. Ellwood has received recognition of her work with the Cleveland County Asthma Coalition Air Quality Flag Program schools, parks, businesses; the YMCA, Industrial Plants and Health Department now fly Air Quality Flags. She was awarded a scholarship from the American Lung Association to attend the Breathe Well, Live Well Train the Trainer Workshop in Washington, D.C., to enable her to train Breathe Well, Live Well facilitators for our service territory. As a result of the training, she has been able to organize the Adult Asthma Education Classes, which will begin this summer.

Ms. Ellwood was a leader in the organization of the Cleveland County Asthma Day Camp in collaboration with the staff of the Dover Foundation YMCA, which has become an annual event.

Ms. Stallings thanked Ms. Ellwood for all of the work that she does for the Health Department. Chair Spragins stated that Ms. Ellwood is one more example of the outstanding personnel that the Health Department is fortunate to employ and expressed his appreciation.

Ms. Ellwood distributed brochures that contained a list of services offered by the Cleveland County Asthma Coalition. She stated that “no-one stands alone” and acknowledged the support of the County Health Department, all of the Asthma Coalition partners, the Cleveland Regional Medical Center, YMCA, Wal-Mart, Medical Arts Pharmacy, and the American Lung Association. She stated that if it was not for these organizations that the Cleveland County Asthma Coalition would not be where it is today and thanked the Health Department and Board of Health. She also stated that donations to sponsor a child for the Cleveland County Asthma Day Camp would be appreciated.

Dana McNeilly, School Health Program Nurse Supervisor, was asked to introduce special guests and shared information about the work that was done to support the Cleveland County Asthma

Coalition. Bianca Bell, a Senior student at Kings Mountain High School, was introduced. Ms. Bell's teacher and Senior Project Mentor, Cynthia Dover, was also introduced. Ms. McNeilly stated that Ms. Bell was presenting a donation to the Cleveland County Asthma Coalition as part of her Senior Project. Further information was shared about the Senior Project process, which is a requirement for graduation.

Ms. Bell stated that she chose the Cleveland County Asthma Coalition as a project because her younger sister has asthma. She shared additional information about her project and presented a check in the amount of \$150 to the Cleveland County Asthma Coalition Co-Chair Pam Ellwood.

Ms. Ellwood stated that it was an honor to accept the donation from Ms. Bell and thanked her for her donation. The donation will be used to pay for three children to attend a week long Cleveland County Asthma Day Camp this summer. She stated that, "The more education you have, the more empowered you are to manage asthma."

UPDATE ON HEALTH DEPARTMENT RENOVATIONS

Rodella Gold presented an update on the renovations of the Health Department. Information was provided from a Renovation Timeline Handout that was included in the Board of Health meeting packet. Renovations are being done in phases due to funding and the necessity to continue to provide services through the process. The first phase, which was expansion and renovation of the second floor conference room and kitchen and renovation of hallways and five administrative offices, is complete. Another phase that is in process is the refinishing of all inside doors. The key plan has been sent to the locksmith, architect, and contractor and will be completed in the near future. Formal bids for renovations of the all of the restrooms and the laboratory will be re-opened and expected to be received by May 17, 2007. The bid to replace stair railing was awarded to MACO and work will begin next week. This will be done in phases to assure safety. Plans for the first and third floor renovation phase, which consists of replacing some cabinetry, floors, wiring for telephone/computer, signage, waiting room furniture and refinishing of ceiling/walls are complete. Bids are expected to be received by June 15, 2007 and work is projected to begin July 1, 2007. Plans for sliding entrance doors for patient access are being drawn up and should be complete by May 17, 2007. Other projects without a timeline set are: 1) Replace carpeting in the second floor nursing office and remaining administrative offices. Install modular furniture to replace existing furniture that is 30 years old. Purchase additional file cabinets; 2) Replace tables in the conference room and other office furniture as funding allows; 3) Replace flooring in stairwell and elevator; 4) Purchase storage shelving for the medical supply room on the first floor; 5) Purchase and install conference room divider; 6) Paint the exterior of the building; and 7) Install an exterior elevator at the rear of the building to be used for freight and transporting patients from the Health Department to the Hospital.

STATISTICS ON MEDICAL UNINSURED

At the April, 2007 Board of Health meeting, Ronnie Hawkins requested that information be presented to the Board of Health about cost of services provided to immigrants. Statistics on medical uninsured patients and information from the Institute of Government regarding services that the public health departments should provide to United States citizens and immigrants was included in the Board of Health packet. The cost of interpreter services for immigrants was distributed and discussed by Ms. Stallings. Under Federal Law, the local health department cannot refuse to serve people because they are not United States citizens or do not have legal immigration status. Federal Law also requires that local health departments make interpreter services available at no cost to the client. Ms. Stallings stated that the local health department needs to see immigrants, whether legal or illegal, from a public health and safety standpoint.

Jack Hunt stated that he attended the Upper Cleveland Chamber of Commerce Annual Breakfast earlier in the day. He stated that Jimmy Hines represented Cleveland County, and particularly the Health Department, as expected. A question was asked at the meeting about what impact Hispanics have on the budget of Cleveland County. David Dear responded to the question saying the impact on the County budget was minimal. No other comments were made.

The Board of Health directed Ms. Stallings to share the presented information with the County Manager.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Rodella Gold presented the following budget amendments for the Board of Health's consideration for approval:

Item Number One: The Lions Club of Shelby donated \$150 to be used for eye exams for indigent patients. A request was made to budget these funds in the General (530) budget for this purpose.

Item Number Two: The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Women's and Children's Health Services Section, has allocated \$1,500 to the Cleveland County Health Department for the purchase of a personal computer and travel expenses. The computer must be used in the Child Health Clinic area and the travel expense is designated specifically for an annual Child Health Clinic Update. A request was made to budget this allocation in the Child Health (537) budget as designated.

Item Number Three: The Cleveland County Health Department received \$2,322 from Pathways, specifically for substance abuse training of our Health Education staff. This training will not be held until July, 2007. A request was made that the funds be approved as an amendment to the 2007/2008 FY Budget in the CODAP (548) budget.

Motion: Motion was made by Robert Miller, with a second by Bob Blackburn, that the budget amendments be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Robert Miller stated that he is very much impressed with the professionalism of people around the table and that Ms. Gold has impressed him as being very professional and thanked her.

CLEVELAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

Denese Stallings introduced Patrick Sery, Information Technology Technician, who began providing contract services for the Health Department in February, 2007. Ms. Stallings directed Mr. Sery to design a Health Department website. A requirement for Accreditation is to show ways that information is made available to the public.

Mr. Sery presented the Cleveland County Health Department website. The home page contains a directory to all of the programs/services that the Health Department provides. Other features of the website were shown. The website address will be connected to Clevelandcounty.com and determination of the website host company will be made in the near future. The site will be made available to the public in the near future. A press release will be sent to the local media announcing the availability of the new website.

Computer training for the present Health Department staff and new hires will be conducted by Mr. Sery on a routine basis. This is also a requirement for Accreditation. He also provides technical assistance for software problems on a daily basis for staff and is a valuable resource.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Legislative Update

Bob Blackburn provided a legislative update on several Legislative Bills that affect public health. Representatives Moore and Clary voted in opposition to the Tobacco Bill, which was defeated.

SB 1538, which eliminates local Boards of Health and Department of Social Services Boards, has been introduced. Dr. Blackburn stated that he may be calling to ask that opposition to the Bill be communicated to our Legislative Delegation.

Healthy School Board Collaborating With NC Association of Local Boards of Health

The North Carolina Association of Boards of Health has met with the Health Directors Association and will have their first meeting with the Healthy School Board, which has a cabinet level position in the Health and Human Services Division and Department of Public Instruction. Further information was shared.

Board of Health Membership Training/ East Carolina Area Health Education Center

The biggest challenge of the North Carolina Association of Boards of Health is the training of local Board of Health members. East Carolina Area Health Education Center has been awarded the contract to provide this training. The initial exploratory meeting will be held soon.

Meeting With Ned Baker, Founder of the National Association of Local Boards of Health

Dr. Blackburn stated that he recently met with Ned Baker, a founder of the National Association of Local Boards of Health, in Denver, North Carolina for about two and a half hours. Dr. Blackburn gave him a portfolio of many different handouts and information of services provided by the Health Department. Mr. Baker said it was amazing to see all of the different things that go on with the local Board of health.

Dr. Blackburn stated that Board of Health members need to be advocates for local Boards of Health. These are exciting times, but challenging and changing everyday.

Animal Control

A question was asked about the status of the leash law and whether or not it is being considered by Bob Blackburn. Ms. Stallings stated that the county-wide leash law proposal that was presented to the Board of County Commissioners is in their hands. Further discussion was held.

Smoking In Public Places

Discussion was held regarding smoking in public places. Fifty percent (50%) of the restaurants in Cleveland County are smoke-free.

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