

The Cleveland County Board of Health met on Tuesday, October 9, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Country Club.

Board members present: Joel Spragins, Dino Nicopoulos, David McDaniel, Robert Miller, Jack Hunt, Bill Marsh, Steve Rackley, Robert Blackburn, Betty Lingerfelt, Bill Marsh, and Philip Jiamachello

Health Department staff present: Denese Stallings, Dorothea Wyant, Karma Edwards, Rodella Gold, Sam Lockridge, Marty Allen, Jimmy Hines, Sheila Wellmon and Charlene Parker

Andrea Fite, County Attorney representative, was present.

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:**

Chair Spragins called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Marty Allen gave the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2007 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES:**

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

**UPDATE ON IMPACT OF THE CLEVELAND COUNTY CHILDHOOD OBESITY TASK FORCE**

Karma Edwards, Cleveland County Health Department Health Promotions Supervisor and Fit Together Project Coordinator, provided information about the Childhood Obesity Task Force and the Fit Together Program. The Childhood Obesity Task Force received a \$450,000 grant from the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund, which was used to fund the Fit Together Program, which is targeting childhood obesity. Intervention areas were identified and additional information was provided by Ms. Edwards. Ms. Edwards stated that resources have been maximized to touch a large number of people. Denese Stallings stated that Ms. Edwards has done an excellent job with the Fit Together Program, which has resulted in state-wide recognition.

Denese Stallings stated that the Sixth Annual Paul Sarazen Forum focused on childhood obesity, was well attended and successful. Further information was shared about the forum.

**FIT TOGETHER PROGRAM RECEIVES NCPHA WELLNESS & PREVENTION SERVICES SECTION GOLDEN PROJECT AWARD**

Denese Stallings stated that Karma Edwards and Robert Blackburn attended the North Carolina Public Health Association Annual Meeting where they accepted the 2007 North Carolina Public Health Association Wellness and Prevention Section Golden Project Award in Raleigh on September 27, 2007 on behalf of the Cleveland County Health Department.

This award recognized the Cleveland County Health Department Fit Together project as a model health project in which a health educator and nutritionist made a significant contribution to health care in the county.

Robert Blackburn stated that people attending the awards ceremony were very impressed with the comprehensive approach that the Fit Together project has taken. The Board members expressed their appreciation to Karma Edwards and Robert Blackburn.

### **NEXT STEPS TO ADDRESS CHILDHOOD OBESITY**

Denese Stallings stated that the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund grant funding will end this year. Several programs that were implemented using these funds will continue. She stated that she has been looking at ways to continue to reduce childhood obesity without these funds. She requested that the Board consider encouraging the Cleveland County Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Cleveland County Schools to look at ways to educate children about the caloric intake of the foods they eat for lunch. This would encourage them to make knowledgeable decisions now and even later in life.

Ms. Stallings also asked the Board of Health to consider sending a letter to all restaurants in Cleveland County requesting they consider placing caloric information on their menus, which would be voluntary. The Health Department would be willing to offer the help of a nutritionist.

Jimmy Hines provided information that he found when researching nutrition labeling of foods for the schools and restaurants, to allow people to make an informed choice when eating away from home. After reviewing the research, Mr. Hines stated that he and Ms. Stallings felt that the most success would come from a community where results could be seen initially and the schools seemed to be a good location because of their support of other related programs.

Mr. Hines stated that upon further investigation he felt that digital menu boards appeal to the school age generation. There is a company out of New York that has developed a digital menu board that can be programmed to contain caloric information for restaurants. He stated that this concept would be a good way for schools to educate students, if they are interested.

Mr. Hines stated that to make this type of program successful he recommended that better nutrition education for teachers and students be provided at the same time that digital menu boards containing caloric information are installed in the schools. This program would target middle and high schools. This program would allow students and teachers to make informed choices of food.

The Health Department Health Education staff would provide nutrition education in the health education classes they teach in the schools and also work with teachers and others to get information to the students. Further information was shared and discussion was held. Ms. Stallings suggested several areas where funding may be available to purchase the digital boards.

**Motion: Robert Miller made the motion that the Cleveland County Board of Health send a letter to the Cleveland County Board of Education and the Superintendent of Cleveland County Schools to recommend they explore the concept of placing digital boards in lunchrooms that contain caloric intake of lunchroom foods. Motion was seconded by Bill Marsh and passed unanimously.**

Philip Jiamachello suggested publishing a list of restaurants that participate in this type of program. Robert Blackburn provided statistics on childhood obesity and stated that policy is the next step in addressing the problem. Further discussion was held.

**Ms. Stallings was directed to develop a plan for restaurants to provide caloric intake on menus and present this to the Board of Health at a future meeting.**

**PAM ELLWOOD - RECIPIENT OF THE 2007 NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF RECOGNITION AWARD**

Dorothea Wyant stated that Pam Ellwood, Nurse Practitioner for the Cleveland County Health Department Child Health Clinic, was recipient of the 2007 North Carolina Public Health Staff Recognition Award for her work with childhood asthma and the Cleveland County Asthma Coalition. This award is provided by GlaxoSmithKline Foundation and is given in recognition of outstanding service in preventing health activities in local communities.. Further information was shared.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

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

**Item Number One:** The North Carolina General Assembly has approved additional funds for General Aid-To-Counties projects. The portion allocated to the Cleveland County Health Department is \$15,000. These funds are designated "to improve the delivery of the ten essential public health services, including prevention activities that focus on the prevention of suicide among adolescents and young adults in all counties.". A request was made to budget these funds in the General Department (530) for professional services to increase contract hours of nurse consultants. The nurse consultants will focus on compliance of HIPAA regulations, accreditation and workforce competence.

**Item Number Two:** The Cleveland County Schools have contracted with the Cleveland County Health Department to provide OSHA/Bloodborne Pathogens training to school staff. The reimbursement for this service will be \$2,000. A request was made to budget this amount in the School Health Department (534) for operating expenses.

**Item Number Three:** The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has approved an additional \$12,751 for the Quality Enhancement Program (Child Care Consultant). These funds must be expended by February 28, 2008. A request was made to budget this amount in the Smart Start budget (516) since this is where the Child Care Consultant position is budgeted. We will use the funds for operating expenses such as office supplies, travel, education expenses, telecommunications, advertising, professional services and incentives.

**Item Number Four:** The North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund has given us approval to carry over funds for the Obesity Fit Together Grant (\$23,752). A request was made to budget these funds in the Nutrition Department (536) for operating expenses of objectives specified by the grants.

**Motion: Motion was made by Bill Marsh, with a second by Philip Jiamachello, that the budget amendments be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

#### **Invitation To The Cleveland County Annual Minority Health Conference**

Robert Miller invited the Board of Health and Health Department staff to drop by the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Cleveland County Minority Health Conference on Saturday, October 20, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Cleveland Community College. Conference brochures were distributed and further information was provided.

#### **Public Health Task Force 2008 – Dr. Robert Blackburn Appointed**

Robert Blackburn stated that he has just been appointed to serve on the North Carolina Public Health Task Force 2008. Further information was shared about this Task Force.

#### **Legislation**

Robert Blackburn provided an update on Legislation. Information was provided about SCHIP, which is Federal Program for child health insurance. The Association of North Carolina Boards of Health is supporting this Legislation.

#### **Cleveland County School Health Advisory Committee**

Robert Blackburn, Jimmy Hines and Karma Edwards have been appointed to the Cleveland County School Health Advisory Committee. This will allow more dialogue with the Schools.

#### **ANCBH Update**

Robert Blackburn stated that the Association of North Carolina Boards of Health is working on the National 2008 Legislative agenda and is in the middle of their strategic plan.

**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