

MINUTES
PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
FEMA ROOM
September 28, 2020

A regular meeting of the Person County Board of Health was held in the FEMA room of the Person County Government complex. The following members constituting a quorum were present: Dr. Jeffrey Noblett, Dr. Christopher Atkins, Patsy Clayton, Phillip Edelblute, Dr. Barbara Harris, Dr. Ben Tillett, Dr. Kimberly Yarborough, Dr. Stephen Saunders, and Ted Michie were present. Ray Jeffers was absent. Also present were Tabatha Philpott, Nursing Supervisor, Harold Kelly, Environment Health Supervisor, Jennifer Melton, Administrative Assistant, and Janet Clayton, Health Director.

A. Call to Order

Dr. Jeffrey Noblett, Chairman of the Board of Health called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Public Comment Period

No members of the public were present for comments or questions.

C. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Dr. Stephen Saunders, seconded by Dr. Kimberly Yarborough, and the motion carried.

D. Financial Report: August 2020

A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Dr. Stephen Saunders, seconded by Phillip Edelblute, and the motion carried.

E. COVID Update

Janet Clayton presented the Person County COVID-19 update to the Board. This presentation outlined updated statistics, COVID-19 vaccine information, and Person County Health Department's continued response. Discussion was held regarding the following topics: increase in positive cases after Labor Day, planned phases of COVID-19 vaccine distribution, recent COVID-19 community testing event, antibody testing information, and COVID-19 deaths in Person County.

F. Workforce Development and Diversity Multi-year Training and Exercise Plan (WDD/My-TEP)

Janet Clayton presented the Workforce Development and Diversity Multi-year Training and Exercise Plan (WDD/My-TEP). Dr. Ben Tillett asked Janet if she feels that the turnover rate is lower. Janet Clayton responded that last year two employees retired, and one social worker resigned due to obtaining a job in another county closer to where she lives with increased salary. Janet also explained that the nurse departures were largely due to what was going on within the department last summer, with the exception of one nurse, who was hired and then resigned within a couple of days due to family issues. This year, staffing remains stable; however, we did have another social worker resign and go to another county offering \$6,000-\$8,000 more per year. Dr. Ben Tillett asked if salaries are in line with other surrounding counties. Janet Clayton stated that the recent compression study helped most existing staff get an increase in salary, but salaries in Person County are lower than Durham County. Janet will compare the salaries and bring the information back to the board. A motion to approve the Workforce Development and Diversity Multi-year Training and Exercise Plan was made by Dr. Barbara Harris, seconded by Patsy Clayton, and the motion carried.

G. Strategic Plan 2021

Janet Clayton reviewed the 2021 Strategic Plan and outcomes of the previous Strategic Plan. Dr. Ben Tillett asked why we see efficiency as a weakness in the SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). Janet Clayton responded that staff are working continuously to learn ways to be more efficient (ex. nurses using mobile laptop units during a client visit to document the visit in the exam room instead of moving the client from room to room. Also, using a mass vaccination app to get patient registration done prior to a vaccination clinic to save the client time). A motion to approve the Strategic Plan 2021 was made by Dr. Kimberly Yarborough, seconded by Dr. Barbara Harris, and the motion carried.

H. Residential Well Concerns

Harold Kelly reported concerns from residents living in a subdivision off Dee Long Rd regarding their residential wells. One resident has a well that is 640 ft. deep and getting less than one gallon of water per minute. Within the past year, another home was built on the adjacent lot; the well at this residence is 1,200 ft. deep and only producing ¼ cup of water per minute. To have ample water supply, the owners fill a water tank from city water supply and dump it into their well. The two residences as well as several others in the area have very low producing wells. The homeowners recently attended a County Commissioners' meeting asking for assistance from the County. The Commissioners suggested

the homeowners contact the City and ask for permission to extend the water line. The City has given Janet an estimate for the project.

I. General Communicable Disease Update

Janet provided a communicable disease update for the period 1/1/2018-8/31/2020. For the period of 1/1/2020-8/31/2020, Person County had 125 Chlamydia cases, 36 Gonorrhea cases, and 7 Syphilis cases. Dr. Kimberly Yarborough asked if the Syphilis cases were related to one another. Tabatha Philpott reported that the cases are not linked. Janet mentioned that STD services for clients have now resumed.

J. Staff Liaison Updates

- **Personal Health**

- OBCM Care Manager started 9/28/20.
- FP Coordinator position posted and closed: 3 applicants
- CC4C Care Manager continues to train.
- 9/24/20: re-opened our MH clinic
- Anticipating a 2nd Duke provider day for FP, STD, and MH clinics.
- Two clinic nurses started “Principles and Practice of Public Health” on 9/28/20, which is a pre-requisite for the STD ERRN course through UNC Gillings School of Public Health. When the STD ERRN training is completed, there will be total 3 nurses with ERRN certification; this will allow for more availability to treat STD clients.
- 9/19/20: COVID Community Event with Shady Hill Baptist Church: 75 tests performed.
- 10/7/20: extended hours for flu vaccines (4:30-6:30)
- 10/9/20: County/City flu clinic
- 10/13/20: Person County Schools flu clinic
- Working with several LTCF’s in the county to schedule flu vaccines for them.
- Working with Person County Group Homes to schedule flu vaccines and other needed vaccines for the residents.
- Continuing to work closely with Person County Schools, Bethel Hill, RCS, and RCA regarding COVID/COVID related issues.
- Implementing a work group to begin planning for a mass COVID vaccine event; received some guidance from the State and more information/guidance is forthcoming; continue to have phase trials of the COVID vaccine; States guidance gives phases of who should be vaccinated first:
 - Phase 1: Potentially limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine doses available. Focus initial efforts on reaching people who work in healthcare as phase 1A; 1B: People who play a key role in keeping essential functions of society running and cannot socially distance in the workplace (e.g., healthcare

personnel not included in Phase 1A, emergency and law enforcement personnel not included in Phase 1A, food packaging and distribution workers, teachers/school staff, childcare providers), and people at increased risk for severe COVID-19 illness, including people 65 of age or older.

- Phase 2: Large number of vaccine doses available. Focus on ensuring access to vaccine for members of Phase 1 critical populations who were not yet vaccinated as well as for the general population; expand provider network.
- Phase 3: Sufficient supply of vaccine doses for entire population (surplus of doses). Focus on ensuring equitable vaccination access across the entire population.

- **Environmental Health**

- Laserfiche is still not operational due to cyber incident. Henrietta will be scanning documents into the system once it is restored.
- New software has been implemented for restaurant inspections.
- Adam is continuing to work with EnerGov-may be implemented in January.
- EH received application from Upper Piedmont Landfill for a new facility that will need a wastewater system. The facility will be converting methane gas collected from the landfill into natural gas.
- Jake has completed his 2nd year of employment and will be taking the Registered Environmental Health Specialist exam and Environmental Health law course when they become available.

K. Health Director's Report

- **Various Updates**

- A large amount of staff time, including the health director's, continues to be consumed with the COVID-19 response.
- WIC continues to serve clients via phone and remote loading of cards and have received a grant to purchase mobile technology. WIC continues to meet or exceed caseload.
- Immunizations, including seasonal flu vaccinations, are being provided by appointment.
- I participated in the quarterly Partnership for Children Advisory Board meeting on August 27.
- Kelly and I attended the County Commissioners' meeting on September 8 regarding the waterline extension request.
- On September 10, I provided a presentation to the Rotary Club via Zoom regarding COVID-19.
- A community COVID-19 testing event in partnership with East Cedar Grove Association, which includes 9 churches on September 19 at Shady Hill Baptist Church. There were many planning calls and a Zoom meeting prior to the event.

- Flu vaccination planning discussions across disciplines were held.
- I reviewed the courthouse jury hearing procedures and attended the planning meeting on September 14.
- The QIA Team met on September 18.
- Various meetings continue to be held via Zoom and other means to incorporate social distancing guidelines. Staff are continuing to not congregate in breakrooms, hallways, offices, etc.
- As time allows, staff are continuing to purge and scan files.
- **Personnel**
 - Social Worker II (OBCM)-Elizabeth Haebig joined us today, September 28.
 - The following positions are vacant:
 - Community Health Technician-Part-time
 - Public Health Nurse II-Clinic
 - Public Health Nurse II-Clinic
 - Public Health Nurse III-FP/STD Program Coordinator (Interviews are Friday, October 2)
 - PHN III-PH Emergency Preparedness Coordinator is being resubmitted to OSHR.

Dr. Ben Tillett asked if Person County Health Department is receiving money appropriated for COVID-19. Janet Clayton responded that federal funds as well as funds from the General Assembly have received, but these funds go through NCDHHS first; NCDHHS then decides what part comes to the local governments. Discussion was held regarding federal and state funding for local health departments.

L. Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Stephen Saunders, seconded by Dr. Kimberly Yarborough, and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Clayton
Health Director/Secretary