

**Chatham County Board of Health
Meeting Minutes**

Monday, June 28, 2021 | Chatham County Agricultural and Conference Center

The Chatham County Board of Health held its monthly meeting on Monday, June 28, 2021, in the Agriculture Center, in Pittsboro.

Present: Carol Reitz-Barlow, MSN, RN, CCRN, Chair; Stephanie Freese, DVM; Tammy Lynn Morris Lloyd, MD; Franklin Gomez Flores, Commissioner; John Kessler, PharmD; William Roscoe, OD; Karen Barbee, EDD; Judith Malone, RN

Staff: Mike Zelek, Vicky Guetgemann, Dorothy Rawleigh, Anne Lowry, Maia Fulton-Black, Beth Dickens, Anna Stormzand, Terri Buchanan, Julie Goodwin, Zachary Horner

Public: Jennie Kristiansen, Rob Schooley, Tracy Fowler, Steve Newton, Terry Schmidt, Dale Crans, Colby Sawyer

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Reitz-Barlow called the meeting to order and greeted everyone.

Introductions

None.

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None were noted.

Meeting Agenda

Chair Reitz-Barlow presented the 06-28-21 Meeting Agenda for consideration.
Chair Reitz-Barlow requested an approval of the Meeting Agenda.

Motion

Dr. Freese motioned to approve the Meeting Agenda; this was seconded by Dr. Roscoe. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Chair Reitz-Barlow presented the 06-28-21 Consent Agenda for approval.

Motion

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Dr. Barbee motioned to approve the Consent Agenda; this was seconded by Dr. Kessler. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Input

None.

Board of Health Awards

The Board of Health presented its Partnership and Employee of the Year annual awards. The Partnership Award was given to the Chatham County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for their invaluable partnership in Chatham's Covid-19 Mass Vaccination Campaign. Mr. Terry Schmidt and Mr. Dale Crans received the award on behalf of the CERT team.

The Employee Award for this year was presented to the entire public health department staff for their unwavering commitment to the well-being of the Chatham County community during the Covid-19 pandemic. The CCPHD staff played a critical role during a difficult time, and the Board greatly appreciates the staff's hard work and dedication to the residents of Chatham County. Chair Reitz-Barlow recognized each employee by reading every name out loud during the presentation of the award.

Health Director Report

Mr. Zelek thanked the Board for recognizing CERT and the entire health department staff.

Mr. Zelek said the clinic's transition out of Child Health Primary Care was going smoothly. Notification letters were mailed out after the Board's May meeting and decision, and clinic staff followed up with clients. He added that a memorandum of agreement is being finalized with Piedmont Health Services (PHS) as part of the department's role to assure child health services are available in the county, and confirmed that the department will no longer serve as an advanced medical home under Medicaid Managed Care starting the week of July 1, 2021.

Mr. Zelek mentioned that staff are working to bring the Care Management Programs service transition to the Board at the August 23, 2021, meeting. This transition was preliminarily presented to the Board by the previous Health Director Layton Long in January 2020, who noted at that meeting the time these programs take to manage, difficulty sustaining these programs given the Chatham County population and Medicaid numbers, and changes that are coming with Medicaid Manage Care.

Mr. Zelek mentioned that there have been internal conversations and conversations with the NC Division of Public Health as well as another health department about this transition, which was delayed due to Covid-19.

He said it would be difficult to sustain these programs and meet new quality metrics from prepaid health plans.

Mr. Zelek mentioned that a transition plan is being developed as well as how to best utilize the two public health social workers that are currently working in these programs.

A proposed plan is being developed with the intent to present it to the Board at the 8-23-21 meeting.

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Mr. Zelek reported that the health department's proposed budget was approved by the Board of Commissioners at the 6/20/21 meeting. The budget included the Chatham Health Alliance executive director position and 3% raises for all county staff.

He mentioned that raises were not in the 2020 budget due to fiscal uncertainty related to Covid-19, but a \$1,000 bonus was given to county employees.

Mr. Zelek discussed the upcoming planned merger of Cardinal Innovations Healthcare, which currently provides and manages mental health, substance use and intellectual and developmental disabilities in Chatham for Medicaid clients and the uninsured, and Vaya Healthcare. Under the merger plan, Vaya would take over services in all of Cardinal's counties, including Chatham, in July 2022, when tailored Medicaid plans for higher needs clients take effect. However, NC DHHS has encouraged counties to consider all LME/MCOs and it is possible that the County could select a different LME/MCO.

Mr. Zelek provided numbers from the 2020 early childhood immunization report and thanked staff for their hard work. According to the report, 97% of CCPHD's clients ages 0-2 and 90% of all county residents ages 0-2 were up-to-date on vaccinations, ranking the county and the department among the top of the state. Mr. Zelek said that was quite an accomplishment considering barriers to care during the pandemic.

Mr. Zelek said that in partnership with TIC-NC, the CCPHD will be submitting a proposal in July 2021 for funding to support an initiative to distribute tick kits to migrant farmworkers.

The proposal will be sent to the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.

Mr. Zelek added that Miranda Lanning will begin working at the health department on July 6, 2021 as the Childcare Health Consultant.

Reports

Annual School Health Position Report

Rob Schooley, Chatham County Schools Student Health, Physical Education, and Wellness Instructional Program Facilitator, presented an annual report on the work and collaboration between the health department and the schools.

In the 2020-2021 school year, Mr. Schooley said the goal was increasing teacher access to resources, providing targeted staff development and utilizing community collaboration, all to improve health outcomes and increase student achievement. Collaborators included the Public Health Department, Chatham County Sheriff's Office, Chatham Drug Free, Insight Human Services, the NC Department of Public Instruction, Chatham County Victim Services, Chatham County Libraries and the Chatham Health Alliance.

The position's current initiatives include:

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- The Whole Child Model, which Chatham County Schools has participated in for several years as part of the state's Whole School, Whole Child and Whole Community initiative
- 1801 Grant from the NC Department of Public Instruction, which focuses on addressing physical activity, nutrition and chronic disease management
- Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC), a hub for community engagement with stakeholders across Chatham

Mr. Schooley said these efforts have increased teacher knowledge, which in turn increases student knowledge and skills to improve health outcomes. All of this allows for increased access for teachers to resources.

Due to COVID-19, Mr. Schooley said, his focus shifted to assuring the safe implementation of NC Essential Standards, with the presented goals of:

- Increasing access to instructional resources for virtual and in-person learning
- Supporting staff in creating safe classrooms for returning students
- Creating a supportive environment for returning students

In the upcoming school year Mr. Schooley plans to return to the originally developed logic model with the following goals and objectives:

- Curriculum analysis
- Increasing accountability
- Administering the Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- Returning to regularly-scheduled SHAC meetings

Mr. Schooley said the school district's strengths include significant community collaboration around chosen goals, and that collaboration is at the center of their success. That collaboration will continue with various agencies to address student needs. In fact, he said, a potential weakness could come from working with so many collaborators on these goals that it can be difficult to stay focused. The district will continue to collect data and make data-driven, needs-based decisions.

Mr. Schooley thanked Tracy Fowler, Executive Director of Student Support Services for Chatham County Schools, Mike Zelek, Public Health Director, and Anna Stormzand, Youth Health & Tobacco Initiatives Lead, for their diligent collaboration between the schools and the health department to provide the students exemplary education.

Annual Community Child Protection/Child Fatality Prevention Team Report

Mike Zelek, Public Health Director, and Jennie Kristiansen, Director of the Department of Social Services, presented the annual Community Child Fatality Team (CFPT) and Community Child Protection Team (CCPT) reports.

The teams are made up of mostly statute-mandated positions, with five additional members appointed by the county Board of Commissioners. The CFPT and CCPT are charged with reviewing:

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- Active welfare cases to find gaps or deficiencies in the community's resources that affect child well-being.
- All child (under age 18) fatalities. North Carolina is the only state that does this on a local level.
- Policies and procedures of state and local agencies.

Child welfare cases are reviewed to develop understanding of the complexities and challenges families face, identify gaps in service provision and determine recommendations for system change. Any member of the team can recommend a case for review. Selections, usually chosen by DSS, are made based on how complex the issue is.

In the past fiscal year, a small number of cases were reviewed. Of those nine cases, all children were placed with family and not in foster homes. The primary reasons for child removal in these cases were serious substance use, domestic violence and medical neglect. In response, the following recommendations were made:

- More effective "fast tracking" of interstate placement agreements (placing a child with family in a different state)
- Support for families who are newly-immigrated and Spanish-speaking
- Improved access for uninsured or underinsured parents who have significant behavioral health needs

Other team activities this past year included:

- Reviewing the Child Fatality Intensive Review Process
- Reviewing legislative changes regarding the reporting of abuse and neglect
- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the previous 12 months
- Safe Kids Chatham presentation focused on car safety.

The Child Fatality Team reviewed 5 child fatalities in Chatham County last year. Two fatalities were determined unpreventable and 3 were determined preventable. The team found that unsafe sleep practices and traffic accidents were common causes of preventable deaths among children in Chatham in recent years. Safe Kids Chatham presented car safety information to the team during the year. COVID-19 presented unique challenges, and the team will continue to assess its impacts on Chatham's youngest residents.

The year also had several successes:

- The county received a Trauma-Informed Communities grant.
- Groundwater event hosted by Chatham County Schools, the Chatham County Public Health Department and Chatham County Department of Social Services focused on the impact of structural racism.
- Chatham and Orange collaborated on district permanency initiatives.
- Foster Parent Recruitment: The county saw a 120% increase in the number of families who took the foster parent class.
- COVID-19 Response Efforts: The Chatham Resource Hubs organized through the Chatham Health Alliance provided support for families in many ways throughout the pandemic.
- Meeting requirements for isolation and quarantine related to COVID-19.

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The next year presents some great opportunities for improving the health and wellness of Chatham's children:

- New Treatment county grant for \$900,000 over three years.
- Family First Prevention Services Act: Changes how the federal government allocates funds
- Education for primary and secondary caregivers on safe sleep: Targeted education to not only the primary caregiver of a child but also secondary caregivers to ensure they have the resources to help young children sleep safely.
- System Alignment: Continuing to work to ensure there are no treatment and healthcare gaps in the county.

Community Assessment Report

Maia Fulton-Black, CCPHD Population Health Data Scientist, presented information on the upcoming 2021 Chatham County Community Assessment. The goals for the assessment are to understand the health needs of the community, identify factors that affect health and well-being in Chatham and determine the availability of support services and resources.

A critical tool of the 2021 process is to make it more community-led. That involves hearing all community voices and lead development of the assessment with a community group with decision-making responsibilities. The Chatham Health Alliance's Equity Subcommittee is involved in the process to identify and understand inequities among Chatham's different population groups and develop the ability to disaggregate data based on race, ethnicity and other demographic factors, building on last year's Health Disparities Report.

The proposed timeline for the project

- Current: Recruitment is underway for a community group to provide insight. The Institute of Public Health is looking at a proposal for methodology that will need to be reviewed and approved by the Scientific Advisory Committee.
- Summer 2021: Planning and preparation, developing the survey, communications strategy and a writing guide.
- Fall 2021: Data collection.
- Late Fall and Winter 2021: Complete data collection and data analysis.
- Winter 2022: Chatham Health Alliance selects impact priorities.
- Early 2022: Writing final report.
- April 2022: Submit draft to Board of Health for review.
- June 2022: Final report approval.
- Summer 2022: Chatham Health Alliance begins working on action plans for focus areas.

There are many opportunities for the Board of Health to be involved. Members can attend Alliance meetings, participate in data collection, help with recruitment for cohort and focus groups, write on a topic they are familiar with and then share the final report.

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Covid -19 Update Report

Mr. Zelek reported that 49.1% of Chatham County's residents are at least partially vaccinated and 46% are fully vaccinated. Chatham is closing in on 50% and could be the 10th county in the state to reach that mark.

He reported that approximately 60% of eligible Chatham residents are at least partially vaccinated.

Mr. Zelek reported that the county saw an uptick in youth vaccinations as vaccinations became available for that population, but that has slowed in recent weeks.

Mr. Zelek reported that according to the state dashboard, Chatham has 1 case per 100k over last 7 days and around 1% of tests are coming back positive.

Mr. Zelek mentioned that monitoring of the Delta variant continues, and it is now a variant of concern. This variant can spread more easily than other variants. He said it is important to emphasize that the Delta variant is just one more reason to get vaccinated for those who have not done so already.

Anne Lowry, Environmental Health Director, mentioned that Environmental Health staff has served as a resource for outreach and vaccination.

Ms. Lowry mentioned that Lisa Morgan, Environmental Health Supervisor, and Zachary Horner, Information & Communication Specialist II, prepared COVID-19 information packages for summer camps.

Dorothy Rawleigh, Health Promotion & Policy Division Director, mentioned that she worked with Mr. Horner to develop a flyer on how business can support their employees to get paid for time off to get vaccinated.

Ms. Rawleigh mentioned that there will be an upcoming story in the News & Record newspaper on vaccine progress.

Ms. Rawleigh mentioned that the health department participated in three Resource Hubs: on June 10th at the Cedar Grove UMC; June 15th at the Hampton Village, Siler City; and June 19th at the Juneteenth celebration in Pittsboro.

Ms. Rawleigh reported that Carolina Community Tracing Collaborative (CCTC) participation in CCPHD's infoline will be scaled back to two staff by mid-July. The remaining staff will continue to make direct outreach canvassing calls to Chatham residents to provide vaccine information. The team is leaving hundreds of voicemails to call back 919-545-8323 if they have questions or need help scheduling vaccine appointments.

She said that as of the prior week the team had made 4,821 calls, spoken with 945 people and left 2,132 voicemail messages.

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Julie Goodwin, Clinic Supervisor, informed the Board that health department's clinic continues to administer vaccine by appointment or walk-in on Fridays. She mentioned that vaccinations were conducted at Chatham Recovery.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Dr. John Kessler, PharmD Service on the Board Recognition

Chair Reitz-Barlow presented a token of appreciation to Dr. Kessler for his 10 years of service on the Board of Health.

Dr. Kessler completed a previous Board member's Pharmacy Seat term that had become vacant in 2011.

Dr. Kessler was appointed by the Board of Commissioners in 2012 to begin serving his first full three-year term in 2012 and continued to serve on the Board a total of three terms, with his final term ending this month.

Chair Reitz-Barlow mentioned that Dr. Kessler served as the Board's Chair from 2014-2017, and during his tenure has also served on the Board's Clinical Services Committee, Health Director's Evaluation Committee and the Budget Committee as well as being a member of the Community Assessment Scientific Advisory Committee since 2018. He also served as a Board of Health representative for the County's Comprehensive Plan development process.

Board of Health Training

Dr. John Kessler, PharmD, conducted a Board of Health training based on his 10 years of experience serving on the Chatham County Board of Health.

Dr. Kessler presented his "Top 10 List of Things" to know as a member of the Board of Health, a reflection from his time as a member and Chair of the Board, matching them with the 10 Essential Public Health Services.

10. The Board of Health does a better job when it appreciates Chatham County's diversity in education, economic, opportunity, politics, employment, race, ethnicity, culture, and history and assures that the services of the health department address the needs of all residents in the county.
Core Function #1: Assess: To scan, weigh and balance community needs, resources statistics and politics.
9. The Community Health Assessment and the Chatham Cohort Study are two powerful tools to inform the Board of the county's health and welfare; a rich database that helps guide specific policy and service needs to be addressed by the Board and the health department. The real power of these tools and the validity of the data come from the close partnerships with the Chatham Health

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Alliance and Chatham Hospital, among many other partners and endorsers.

Essential Public Health Service #4: Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve Health problems.

8. About 80% of Chatham County residents rely on private wells for their water. The Board of Health has oversight of 2 key roles on the health department: 1) assuring that well owners know their responsibilities for ongoing testing of water quality; and 2) assuring wells are permitted and water quality sampled at the time of construction.

Environmental Health has the expertise about toxic compounds in ground water, lead remediation, Asthma triggers in the home, or septic systems.

Essential Public Health Service #1: Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.

7. Persistence over several years became a success with the tobacco and e-cigarette free policy on county property. It was a big step forward in protecting public health in Chatham County, showing evidence of harms, and leading to extensive communications to increase awareness, change beliefs, provide new tools, set new goals, provide alternatives such as cessation resource and programs, such as QuitSmart, a program led by health department staff and offered to both county employees and residents.

Essential Public Health Service #7: Linking people to needed personal health care services and ensuring the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.

6. Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement reports have become regular agenda items at Board meetings and help hold everyone accountable to national standards and local goals.

The presentations and metrics are just the starting point of any improvement cycle. The Board is in a great position to assure that improvement actions are directed to the root causes and that these changes are making a difference.

Core Function #3 Assure: To make certain that progress is made.

5. Assuring a positive workplace culture and eliminating systemic racism in policies and practices are two very different but critical tasks at hand that are undoubtedly difficult to measure. The Board has a duty to assure that plans are in place and the best possible metrics are being used to measure progress.

Essential Public Health Service #9: Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.

4. The Board of Health oversees the health department and the Local Health Department Accreditation Board established within the NC Institute of Public Health is responsible for overseeing that the local Boards are delivering on the 10 essential services listed in the General Statutes.

Core Function #2: Address: To determine a course of action; to set targets, to allocate resources, to make Policy and assign responsibility.

3. The Board of Health advocates that prescription drug misuse and abuse is an emerging public health issue that should be included in the Strategic Plan, along with the widely-known problems with recreational and illicit drug use, while advocating for the widespread and ready availability of naloxone in health department clinics, law enforcement, emergency services, and directly in the hands of friends and family of at-risk individuals.

Essential Public Health Service #3: Informing, educating, and empowering people about health issues.

2. The Community Health Assessment Survey morphed into a scientifically- and statistically-valid longitudinal study of the population and health of Chatham County residents. A big step was to

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convene the first Scientific Advisory Committee to guide the health department staff and its partners.
Essential Public Health Service #10: Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

1. The collective wisdom of the Board helps assure that each potential Health Director would fully embrace a quality improvement perspective and the ability to “look around the corner” for emerging opportunities and problems. It is the duty of the Health Director to execute on these plans and the duty of the Board of Health to oversee the effectiveness of the Health Director.

Essential Public Health Service #8: Assure competent public and personal health care workforce.

The Three Core Functions of Public Health: The Job of the Local Board of Health

Assess: To scan weigh and balance community needs, resources, statistics and politics

Address: To determine a course of action: to set targets, to allocate resources, to make policy and assign responsibility.

Assure: To make certain that progress is made.

Adapted from Assess, Address, Assure: Manual for North Carolina’s Local Health Boards.

The 10 Essential Public Health Services

- 1) *Monitoring health status to identify community health problems.*
- 2) *Diagnosing and investigating health hazards in the community.*
- 3) *Informing, educating, and empowering people about health issues.*
- 4) *Mobilizing community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.*
- 5) *Developing policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.*
- 6) *Enforcing laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.*
- 7) *Linking people to needed personal health care services and ensuring the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.*
- 8) *Ensuring a competent public health workforce and personal health care workforce.*
- 9) *Evaluating effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.*
- 10) *Conducting research.*

Closed Session

With no further business to discuss, Chair Reitz-Barlow asked for a motion to go into a closed session per (NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(6)).

Motion

Dr. Barbee motion to go into a closed session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Morris Lloyd. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Dr. Barbee motion to go back into open session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Morris Lloyd. The motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting Discussion Information Items
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In open session, Mr. Zelek joined in, and Commissioner Gomez-Flores asked the Board and Mr. Zelek to consider a potential program for Chatham County. The program is called Experience 180. Mr. Zelek will attend the next community meeting on this program and once plans are fleshed out bring this back to the Board of health at a future meeting.

Adjournment

Motion

Dr. Barbee motioned to adjourn the meeting; this was seconded by Dr. Morris Lloyd. The motion carried unanimously.



Carol Reitz-Barlow, MSN, RN, CCRN – Chair



Secretary Ex-Officio
Michael Zelek, MPH, Health Director