

Chatham County Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 25, 2021

The Chatham County Board of Health held its monthly meeting on Monday, October 25, 2021 – Dunlap Building Board Room.

Attendees

BOH Members: Karen Barbee, EdD, Chair; Stephanie Freese, DVM, Vice-Chair; Zachary Brian, DMD; Franklin Gomez Flores, Commissioner; Judith Malone, RN; Ashley Pappas, PharmD; James O’Keefe, P.E.; Tammy Lynn Morris Lloyd, MD

CCPHD Staff: Michael Zelek, Zach Deaton, Vicky Guetgemann, Cheryl Garrett, Laura Hearn, Julie Goodwin, Zachary Horner, Ann Clark, Anne Lowry, Travis, Maia Fulton-Black, Cutter Wyatt (intern), Beth Dickens, Dorothy Rawleigh, Travis Brown

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Barbee called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. She welcomed Dr. Zachary Brian to the Board, who is filling the Dentist Seat. Dr. Brown said he is excited to serve in this capacity, adding that former Board member Dr. Lewis Lampiris encouraged him to serve. Dr. Brian currently works for Piedmont Health Services.

Introductions

Anne Lowry, Environmental Health Director, introduced new staff member Travis Brown. Travis has joined the Chatham County Public Health Department (CCPHD) from Durham’s Health Department. Travis said he was excited to work in Chatham County.

Maia Fulton-Black, Population Health Data Scientist, introduced Cutter Wyatt, who is interning with the CCPHD as a Research Intern focused on data visualization for the 2021 Chatham County Community Assessment.

Conflict of Interest

Dr. Freese said she has applied for a seat on the Animal Appeals Board (AAB), so she will recuse herself from the discussion to appoint AAB members later in the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Freese moved to approve the agenda for the meeting, Dr. Pappas seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Chair Barbee mentioned that the Board of Health manual was updated and previously sent out to everyone. It is also on the consent agenda

Dr. Pappas motioned to approve the consent agenda; Commissioner Gomez Flores seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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Public Input

There was no public input.

Health Director Report

Mike Zelek, Public Health Director, mentioned the following items in his report:

- He encouraged all Board members to review the updated Board of Health manual.
- Mr. Zelek also welcomed Dr. Brian to the Board and thanked him for his service as well as testing out the revised process for Board of Health orientation.
- Mr. Zelek highlighted Dr. Barbee and Renaissance Wellness Services for a front-page story in the Chatham News + Record, focused on her work on youth mental health.
- Co-location with Piedmont Health Services in Siler City: The CCPHD continues discussions with Piedmont Health Services and the Department of Social Services (DSS) on the shared health campus. UNC Health may also have a presence in the building, which is slated to be across from Chatham Hospital. Those conversations are ongoing. He is hoping there will be more to report next month as the group works to develop building plans.
- The CCPHD staff held an employee flu clinic on October 1st and administered 130 shots on that day. Mr. Zelek said he and his son were vaccinated at the event. He encouraged all to get their flu shot.
- Mr. Zelek said Anna Stormzand is leaving her role with the CCPHD to work as the Safe Kids Coordinator in Orange and Chatham Counties. Mr. Zelek said Ms. Stormzand has worked with the department for 8 years in many areas and highlighted her work with the tobacco-free grounds policy in the county. The position has been posted. He said the department is grateful for all the work she has done.

Bad Debt Write-Off Annual Report

Cheryl Garrett, Accounting Technician IV, said the CCPHD presented the bad debt write-off annual report. She shared that the CCPHD writes off bad debt each year. Patient debt for FY 19-20 was \$40,278.07, and patient debt for 18-19 was \$40,844.08. The CCPHD recovered \$11,716.77 from debt set-off in FY 18-19 and \$10,156.56 in FY 19-20. Since the CCPHD began the debt set-off program in 2005, the department has collected \$167,649.44.

Commissioner Gomez Flores asked if the yearly amount of debt would change due to divestment of child health primary care services. Ms. Garrett said the number would likely increase.

Dr. Pappas motioned to approve the debt write-off for FY 19-20, and Commissioner Gomez Flores seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Lloyd arrived and joined the meeting.

Nutrition Services Report

Ann Clark and Laura Hearn, Registered Dietitians, began the report by introducing themselves and giving their backgrounds and roles with the CCPHD. Ms. Hearn said she began with the county as part of the

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Chatham Health Alliance and is a registered dietitian. Ms. Clark stated she started with the department in December 2020 and is also a registered dietitian.

Ms. Clark said that Medical Nutrition Therapy is designed for 1-on-1 counseling with the ultimate goal of preventing and managing chronic health conditions. Ms. Hearn said the department offers two diabetes prevention programs. The DPP (Diabetes Prevention Program) currently has a class under way for people who have pre-diabetes or are at-risk of developing it. Ms. Hearn said there are 9 people in the class right now. The DSME (Diabetes Self-Management Education) program is designed for people who have been diagnosed with diabetes and receive individual and group education on diabetes, with a class set to get underway soon.

Ms. Clark referenced the partners with whom the Nutrition Services team connects with most often: Chatham Council on Aging (COA), the Chatham YMCA, Chatham County Schools (CCS), the Orange County Health Department and the Chatham Health Alliance. The nutrition team serves the COA with a diabetes discussion group and some nutrition classes. The team connected with the YMCA through summer camps to provide a 4-week nutrition curriculum that included a physical activity aspect. They also worked with CCS through the School Health Advisory Council and the Orange County Health Department to see patients through a grant program for medical nutrition therapy and Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME) at no cost to the patient if they are uninsured or underinsured. Ms. Hearn and Ms. Clark are also both involved in the Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) subcommittee of the Chatham Health Alliance and nutrition working group.

Ms. Clark said the nutrition team is looking to continue to promote and grow clinical nutrition services. She said most recent referrals are from a local physician and are mostly around childhood obesity. There have been discussions about home visits and working with a local pediatrician clinic for further services.

Ms. Hearn said the team has been talking about providing nutrition technical support for the Community Assessment, providing nutrition programming for the Chatham County Sheriff's Office and serving as a nutrition resource for teachers and administrators, potentially with training for teachers and other in-school services.

Dr. Freese said animal obesity is also an issue, and that including that in programming might help with individuals to identify with an animal who might have a similar clinical problem. She said working with those animals might help clients with focusing on something besides themselves while providing physical activity to encourage healthy behaviors. She discussed the possibility of connecting diabetes/nutrition clients with animals through shelters or other groups.

Mr. Zelek said the CCPHD is very fortunate to have these two registered dietitians on the staff. He also mentioned they work on policies, such as the county's healthy food policy for meetings. Mr. Deaton said they are both wonderful public health servants. The Board thanked them for their work.

Diversity Plan Annual Report

Dorothy Rawleigh, Health Promotion and Policy Division Director, said Michelle Wright, Equity and Community Engagement Lead, and Mr. Zelek worked with her to revise the CCPHD's Diversity and Inclusion Policy, 02-01. The goal of the policy is to ensure the department represents the population

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served by the department. The policy includes hiring and retention procedures that will be carried out by an Equity Committee that will be formed from personnel across divisions as well as representatives from other county departments and two public seats.

The committee will conduct a yearly and 3-year equity audit that covers many topics, including professional development and employee assessment of workplace culture. That audit will lead to an action plan. Ms. Rawleigh said Ms. Wright has been laying the groundwork on this for years.

Ms. Rawleigh also provided an update to the department's demographic data and how it reflects compared to the county population.

Mr. Zelek said the department recently received a \$40K grant for Advancing Equity from the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) that aligns with this work.

COVID-19 Update Report

Mr. Zelek said that case rates are continuing to fall from the peak of Delta a couple months ago, but there continues to be a lot of COVID in the Chatham community. He said the level of community transmission is considered substantial, a step below high. He said the county is working toward low. Work continues to get people vaccinated, particularly with their first and second doses. Statewide, those not fully vaccinated are four times as likely to get COVID and nearly 20 times as likely to die from COVID as those who are fully vaccinated.

The county had a vaccine or weekly testing requirement that went into effect a couple weeks ago. Mr. Zelek said that 95% of CCPHD staff is fully vaccinated.

Mr. Zelek said that booster shots are now recommended for certain populations across the three vaccine types. The department is offering Moderna boosters starting this Wednesday afternoon and again on Friday. He mentioned the CDC has allowed mixing and matching of vaccines. A recent press release went out to the public, staff, media and board members that has a lot of information on booster shots. Mr. Zelek said that a sizeable portion of the population is eligible for a booster. He added that the Moderna booster is half the dose of the original vaccine.

He added that there should be news in the next week or two on vaccines for children aged 5-11 years. The department will administer the pediatric Pfizer vaccine at the Siler City clinic whenever that is finalized. Dr. Lloyd said her office is slated to receive 300 doses and is already scheduling patients for when it is ready. Mr. Zelek said pediatricians' offices will be a key provider for this age group. There have also been conversations with the schools and doctor's offices about sharing information and conducting outreach. Dr. Lloyd asked if the schools would be doing vaccination clinics, and Mr. Zelek said there have been ongoing conversations about this.

Mr. Deaton said the clinic had been scheduling appointments and accepting walk-ins for the vaccine. Due to increased demand, individuals are highly encouraged to call ahead and all appointments are already booked for this Wednesday and Friday. The clinic has also worked with the sheriff's office to provide vaccines and some vaccines have been transferred to other providers. There are multiple outreach events this week in the western part of the county.

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Ms. Malone asked about mix and match vaccines and if there is a preference. Mr. Zelek said the CDC doesn't have a clear recommendation. He said there is some potential additional boost for those who got the Johnson & Johnson to get a Pfizer or Moderna booster, but he said he has not seen much to differentiate between those two. Dr. Freese said she recommended for her people to get a booster from a different vaccine than what they had to add additional protection. Dr. Lloyd added that Moderna was better for Delta, and that those who got Pfizer should probably get Moderna, but this could be different for future variants. Mr. Deaton said the CCPHD is continuing to offer Moderna but will receive Pfizer doses for the 5-11 group.

Ms. Rawleigh said her division is continuing to share information with the public and there have been recent stories in the Chatham News + Record. Miranda Lanning, Child Care Health Consultant, is continuing to work with the childcare community. The department has held four Community Resource Hubs in the last week. The division continues to work with the community to learn and get feedback. Ms. Fulton-Black calculated that there are a little less than 6,000 5-11 year-olds who will be newly eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Ms. Lowry said staff continues to meet with child care and long-term care facilities about COVID. She said staffing has been difficult for long-term care centers and that is a primary concern for them. She said Optum continues to serve as a community resource for vaccine clinics. Starting November 1, Optum will have all three vaccines for boosters on Mondays and Thursdays.

Care Management Transition Update

Julie Goodwin, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, shared that since the last board meeting when the decision was made to transition out of care management services (CMARC and CMHRP), she has met with all the prepaid health care programs to talk about the transition. All of the clients have been sent letters and Alicia Doran and Sam Owusu, Public Health Social Workers, have been talking with clients by phone to explain the transition and answer questions. A press release has been sent out and a community resource packet has been developed for each prepaid health care program in Chatham County. They are also working on provider packets for those who send referrals. She said they are still waiting to hear from a couple organizations for some specifics, but those packets should go out by the end of the week.

In the first week of November, Ms. Goodwin said she will meet with staff from all the prepaid health care programs to go over the case load. There are 5-10 clients per provider per program.

Mr. Zelek said there has been a lot of effort to make this a smooth transition and that he appreciated the hard work of Ms. Goodwin, Ms. Owusu, and Ms. Doran to make it a success.

Ms. Goodwin said both Ms. Owusu and Ms. Doran have attended a child passenger safety seat technician training. The CCPHD hopes to be a permanent checking station when the new building is completed, but the department has reached out to the Town of Siler City to see if a parking bay can be used for checking in the meantime. Ms. Owusu is completing a smoking cessation training, and both are attending art therapy training because they are licensed clinical social workers, and this may be a service

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moving forward. Ms. Goodwin said it has been going well so far. November 15th is the transition date for the care management programs.

Mr. Zelek said he was exciting to see the vision moving forward. He said the public health social worker program can be a model for others around the state, and more updates will be given in the future.

Board of Health Committees

Chair Barbee said the board of health visited the list of committees a couple months ago, but with two new members there are spots to fill, noting vacancies in the Environmental Health Committee and Clinical Services Committee. Those spots do not need to be filled, as the new members can choose a different committee to serve on.

Dr. Pappas said she would serve on the Environmental Health Committee, and Dr. Brian will serve on the Clinical Services Committee.

Animal Appeals Board

Mr. Zelek said that while Animal Resources transitioned from the health department to the sheriff's office a couple years ago, the Board of Health still has the responsibility to appoint members to the Animal Appeals Board. The Animal Appeals Board serves to provide rulings on dogs and other animals that are deemed dangerous or potentially dangerous by Animal Resources and the owner appeals the determination. He said the last time the board met was 2016. There are five slots open and multiple applicants for the community member seats.

Chair Barbee said there is one applicant for the veterinarian seat, the law enforcement seat, and the animal behavioral specialist seat.

Dr. Freese recused herself from the discussion, as she is a nominee for the veterinarian position. She said that sitting on the Animal Appeals Board is not always a desirable position because it brings out a lot of passion. She said it is an emotionally wrought situation and it is important to consider these situations when looking at whom to consider for the board. Dr. Freese then exited the meeting.

After a brief discussion, the Board came to a consensus on Dr. Freese (veterinarian), Chief Mike Wagner (law enforcement) and Karen Hall (animal behavioral specialist) for the specified seats, and Madeleine Burgoyne (three-year) and Noel Mazade (two-year) for the community member seats.

Dr. Lloyd moved to approve these nominations for the Animal Appeals Board and Dr. Brian seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Freese returned to the meeting after the vote.

Other Business

Chair Barbee said an email will be sent out 1-2 weeks prior to the next board meeting regarding location. The board also discussed the annual holiday dinner.

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Adjournment

Dr. Lloyd moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. O'Keefe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.



Karen Barbee, EdD – Chair



Secretary Ex-Officio
Michael Zelek, MPH, Health Director