

**Chatham County Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 22, 2021**

The Chatham County Board of Health held its monthly meeting on Monday, November 22, 2021 – Dunlap Building Board Room.

Attendees

BOH Members: Karen Barbee, EdD, Chair; Zachary Brian, DMD; Franklin Gomez Flores, Commissioner; Judith Malone, RN; James O’Keefe, P.E.; Tammy Lynn Morris Lloyd, MD; Tammy Lynn Morris Lloyd, MD; Carol Reitz Barlow, MSN, RN, CCRN; Marcia E. Herman-Giddens, PA, MPH, DrPH

Absent: Ashley Pappas, PharmD; Stephanie Freese, DVM, Vice-Chair; William Roscoe, OD

CCPHD Staff: Michael Zelek, Zach Deaton, Vicky Guetgemann, Anne Lowry, Maia Fulton-Black, Deja Taliaferro (Intern), Dorothy Rawleigh, Casey Hilliard, Lou Ann Vasquez, Beverly Allen, Bonnie Dukeman

Unified Development Ordinance Attendance: Chance Mullis, Jason Sullivan, Tyson Smith, Kelly Cousino, Sean Scoopmire, Ben Hitchings

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Barbee called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Introductions

Maia Fulton-Black, Population Health Data Scientist, introduced Deja Taliaferro, who is interning with the CCPHD as a Community Assessment Research Assistant Data Collection for the 2021 Chatham County Community Assessment. Ms. Taliaferro is studying Health Policy at UNC.

Conflict of Interest

There was no conflict of interest.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Gomez Flores moved to approve the agenda for the meeting, Mr. O’Keefe seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Chair Barbee presented the 11-22-21 Consent Agenda for approval and mentioned a couple of additions to the agenda: Letter I) Approximately \$156,030 Communicable Disease Support Funds and letter J) Approximately \$172,242 Covid-19 Vaccination Support Funds.

Dr. Herman-Giddens motioned to approve the revised consent agenda; Ms. Reitz-Barlow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Unified Development Ordinance Presentation

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Chance Mullis, CZO, Planner II, Project Manager, began the Chatham County Unified Development Ordinance Presentation (UDO) by thanking the Board for providing the opportunity to get their valuable input in drafting the UDO.

Mr. Mullis said that the project is being led by White & Smith Planning and Law Group with support from Clarion & Associates, Green Heron Planning, and Tetra Tech. He said that White & Smith Planning is starting the project with a series of listening sessions and the input from the Board of Health will be important to have from day one.

Tyson Smith, Project Manager, introduced the team and the UDO two-year project to the Board. He said that a UDO is a consolidation of zoning, subdivision, watershed protection, and other land use-related regulatory elements into a single cohesive, cross-referenced code.

Mr. Tyson presented the scope of work, timeline and the four stages of the project: Stage 1 – Project Orientation, Stage 2 – Assessment, Stage 3 --Code Drafting and Stage 4 – Adoption as well as providing a link to access the project at <https://www.recodechathamnc.org/>.

Mr. Tyson mentioned the ordinances that will be revisited: Zoning, Subdivision, Floodplain, Erosion Control, Stormwater Management, Watershed Protection, Voluntary Ag. Districts, Junkyard Ordinance, Compact Communities, Mobile Homes, Off-premises Signs and Wireless Communications.

Mr. Tyson mentioned the following guiding principles that will be used for the project:

- Compliance with N.C. Statutes and legal parameters;
- Implement Plan Chatham;
- Effectuating direction and policy of Board of Commissioners;
- Well informed decision-making;
- Consensus solutions where possible;
- Efficiency of Process

The Team provided the Board the opportunity to have input on:

- What are the issues related to land use, zoning, or other land development actions in Chatham County?
- What development standards would better help address the needs of senior residents in the county?
- What Health Action items from Plan Chatham would the Board like to see implemented in the UDO?

Mr. Zelek shared the importance of incorporating equity into the process. Mr. Tyson thanked Board members, Mr. Zelek, and health department staff for welcoming the UDO presentation.

Health Director Report

Mr. Zelek, Public Health Director, mentioned the following updates in his report:

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- Animal Appeals Board: The Animal Appeals Board is in place and orientation for members took place November 9, 2021. There are no pending cases at this time.
- Care Management: The health department's transition out of care management services became official November 15, 2021. Staff are working through a couple of pending issues with the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) specific to certain Department of Social Services (DSS) child referrals and will continue to serve these individuals until a long-term solution is reached. The public health social workers have hit the ground running in their new roles.
- Health Campus: A draft floor plan has been developed of the shared health campus building in Siler City. There will be an update at the January 24, 2022 Board of Health meeting once these plans are finalized. These discussions also include a focus on service alignment.
- EMBRACe: The EMBRACe initiative was featured in the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice in an article called *The Power of Community in Addressing Infant Mortality Inequities*. Casey Hilliard, Strategic Planning Development Officer, is a co-author on the paper.
- State Budget: A state budget was signed on Thursday, November 18, 2021, and is the first budget passed in a couple of years. The budget includes the communicable disease funding that was added to consent agenda.
- The Youth Health and Tobacco Initiatives Lead position posting has been extended to Sunday, November 28, 2021.
- Michelle Wright, Equity and Community Engagement Lead, will be leaving later this year after more than five years at the health department. Ms. Wright is moving out of state and will be putting to use her new Master of Counseling degree. The position will be updated and moved to the Management Team.
- The health department's first Equity Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. For the first year, the Committee will focus on recruitment, hiring and retention practices.
- Today is "Public Health Thank You Day." Mr. Zelek thanked the staff for the hard work in these challenging times and Board of Health members for their service. He mentioned Vicky Guetgemann, Board of Health Clear put together the "Thank you bags" for Board members. Dr. Barbee thanked Mr. Zelek and the staff as well.

Strategic Planning Report

Casey Hilliard, Strategic Planning & Development Officer, presented a Strategic Plan update and said that it has been a valuable process and the process itself its part of strategic planning. She provided a timeline update of what has been accomplished and what is ahead.

Working on the plan began in March 2019 with a robust process, working with the Management Team and supervisors of different divisions to identify strategic priorities and goals for the department, with a focus on bringing cross-division teams together to strategize the goals and prioritize them. The process was delayed due to Covid-19; however, the department continued to work in other areas and had points along the way that involved the Strategic Plan.

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Ms. Hilliard said that the plan was re-visited from the Covid-19 delay in August 2020 and goals and priorities were discussed to ensure continuance of the plan without overwhelming the staff.

Ms. Hilliard mentioned that the plan will be discussed in January 2022 to look at the goals and strategies with a target date of March 2022 to have the plan finalized.

Ms. Hilliard presented the Strategic Plan Framework containing the Strategic Priorities, Goals, Strategy, Performance Measures (Objectives) and results as well as the Strategic Plan Timeline March 2019-January 2022.

Ms. Hilliard presented the goals of Engaged, Thriving Workforce, Centering Equity and Strategic Engagement and Organizational Infrastructure for Excellence and their 20-21 accomplishments.

Mr. Zelek mentioned that Ms. Hilliard has taken the Strategic Plan to a new level and said that previously, health priorities would have been taken out of the Community Health Assessment, and this is a much higher level process.

Mr. Zelek said the Chatham Health Alliance focuses its priorities for action-planning on the Community Health Assessment priorities, while this process focuses on strategic planning beyond those health priorities, which allows CCPHD to take a higher-level focus, internally and externally.

Communicable Disease Report

Bonnie Dukeman, Public Health Nurse II Supervisor, provided the 2020 Chatham County Communicable Disease Report the State releases by calendar year.

She introduced Beverly Allen, PHNII, and Lou Anne Vasquez, PHNII, and said they have been a rock for the past year and a half dealing with Covid-19 and are the experts when it comes to communicable diseases.

Ms. Dukeman included the 2019 report for comparison between the years 2019/2020. She said that there are 100 communicable diseases that need to be reported and the numbers in 2020 has been way down.

She said that Reportable Communicable Diseases are in four tiers: Confirmed, Probable, Suspect and Did Not Meet Criteria, and the report comes from the North Carolina Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NCEDSS).

Ms. Dukeman reported that there were no Influenza Deaths reported in Chatham County for flu season 20/21. She mentioned that there were 104 Animal to Human Bite Reports, 5 Reports of possible human rabies exposure due to bats found in homes, 34-Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) and 75 Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Not Needed or Recommended. There was one active Tuberculosis case for 2020 and four people with Latent TB who chose to get the prophylactic.

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Ms. Dukeman reported Covid-19 statistics in Chatham County for calendar year 2020 and 2021 to date. There were 2,814 coronavirus confirmed cases in Calendar Year 2020, 67 deaths, and 2,713 confirmed cases. Thirty deaths have been reported in 2021 to date.

Ms. Dukeman said that Sexually Transmitted Disease trends went down in 2020 and trending up in 2021, without any major spikes for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and HIV.

Community Assessment Report

Maia Fulton-Black, Population Health Data Scientist, presented an update on the 2021 Community Assessment process.

Ms. Fulton-Black started with a Cohort Survey Methodology update. After the last Board of Health meeting, door-to-door surveying was ruled out due to COVID-19 trends. To offset that loss, the sample was expanded in order to get more robust numbers for the sample. Additionally, survey participants will be contacted by mail, phone, and email to account for an expected lower response rate, and with hopes that they join the cohort moving forward. The existing cohort counted 244 members, with 302 new households added initially and another 1,314 added to account for the lower response rate due to not being able to go door-to-door. As a result, 1,860 people will be contacted through mail inviting them to participate and hopefully join the cohort for surveys moving forward.

Attempts to contact these individuals were made by initial mailer, followed up by a packet with the survey, consent form and instructions; follow-up emails and phone calls; and additional postcards in December as a last chance reminder and an extended deadline to complete the survey. To date, 296 responses had been collected.

Other components to gather data for the Community Assessment included: a Supplemental Survey placed in partner locations and Resource Hubs; Story Circle sessions held across the county; and the Chatham Snapshots project. The CCPHD has placed newspaper ads, distributed flyers and made social media posts to promote these opportunities.

Ms. Fulton-Black thanked everyone who has been involved with the Community Assessment process.

Mr. Zelek thank Ms. Fulton-Black and everyone else for their work on the Community Assessment process.

COVID-19 Update Report

Mr. Zelek and division directors provided a COVID-19 update report. He shared that staff hit the ground running with vaccinations for 5- to 11-year-olds. These vaccinations are offered Wednesdays and Fridays at the clinic. To date, 15% of 5–11-year-olds in Chatham County have gotten their first dose.

Mr. Zelek added that both Moderna and Pfizer boosters are now available to all adults who have received their second dose at least six months ago. A list of providers can be found at vaccines.gov.

Mr. Zelek reported that Chatham County continues to experience substantial community transmission. The positivity rate is around 3.5%, and cases will like increase during winter.

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Ms. Lowry said that Environmental Health continues to meet with Long Term Care Facilities and Childcare Centers weekly as well as continuing to send updates to non-public schools and restaurant operators.

Mr. Deaton reported that since the last Board of Health meeting the clinic began providing Moderna boosters and expanded clinic hours to better serve community needs providing the vaccine/boosters all day on Wednesdays and Fridays. Appointments are recommended due to the limited availability.

He reported that the clinic is averaging between 20-60 vaccines and/or boosters per day, began to administer the Pfizer vaccine for 5-11 year-olds on Friday, November 5, and will be offering these vaccinations on Wednesday afternoons and all day on Fridays.

He said that the clinic continues to partner with community partners, including the Chatham County Sheriff's Office to provide booster clinics for their staff.

Mr. Deaton mentioned that the clinic has transferred some Pfizer and Moderna boosters to pharmacies.

Mr. Rawleigh reported that health department continues to participate in Community Resource Hubs around the county and shares information with community members about the effectiveness of the Covid-19 vaccination, where to go to get vaccinated, and information about children's vaccine and boosters. This is done with the hopes that these partners will share that information with the people they serve.

She mentioned that Zach Horner, Communications Specialist, along with the Health Director and Dr. Michaela McCuddy, CCPHD's Medical Director, created a Facebook Live "Ask the Doctor" video containing vaccine information focused on youth.

Ms. Rawleigh informed the Board that a new vaccination web page has been created that is devoted to vaccine information.

Other Business

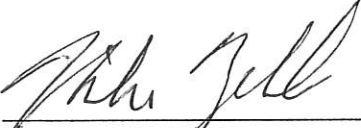
None

Adjournment

Ms. Reitz-Barlow moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gomez Flores seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.



Karen Barbee, EdD – Chair



Secretary Ex-Officio
Michael Zelek, MPH, Health Director