

**Chatham County Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 28, 2022**

The Chatham County Board of Health held its monthly meeting on Monday, March 28, 2022, in the Board Room of the Dunlap Building in Pittsboro, North Carolina.

**Attendees**

**BOH Members:** Stephanie Freese, DVM, Vice Chair; Carol Reitz-Barlow, MSN, RN, CCRN; William Roscoe, OD; Ashley Pappas, PharmD, MHA; Franklin Gomez Flores, Commissioner; Zachary Brian, DMD, MHA; Tammy Lynn Morris Lloyd, MD

**Staff:** Michael Zelek, Vicky Guetgemann, Danielle White, Anne Lowry, Zachary Horner

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Dr. Freese started the meeting at 6:03 p.m., noting she was leading the meeting as Chair Barbee was unable to attend.

**Conflict of Interest**

None were noted.

**Approve Agenda**

*Dr. Pappas motioned to approve the agenda and Ms. Reitz-Barlow seconded.*

**Consent Agenda**

Dr. Freese mentioned that *Item G. \$16,444 State Food & Lodging Grant Funds* needed to be added to the consent agenda.

*Dr. Roscoe motioned to approve the revised consent agenda, Ms. Reitz-Barlow seconded. Both previous motions were approved unanimously.*

**Public Input**

None

**Special Recognition**

The board provided special recognition to Vicky Guetgemann, Administrative Assistant to the Public Health Director and Clerk to the Board of Health. She has spent 20 years with the Public Health Department and 17 years as the clerk to the board of health. She thanked the board for their kindness and professionalism during her time. Danielle White will replace her as the Clerk to the Board.

**Health Director Report**

Mike Zelek, Public Health Director, provided updates:

- Mr. Zelek referenced Ms. Guetgemann's work. He said she has been a huge help as he transitioned to the Health Director role and with onboarding Ms. White. He said he was

thankful for her 20 years with the public health department, adding that the CCPHD will miss her.

- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Mr. Zelek encouraged all to wear blue on April 1 to honor the month. The Board of Commissioners passed a resolution in recognition.
- The department has been holding hot wash discussions to debrief from the COVID-19 pandemic, based on sessions with staff to gauge lessons learned from the pandemic. One of the things discussed was the role of preparedness coordinator, and the department will use a vacant role in the clinic to hire a preparedness coordinator who also serves as an infection control specialist. Since the role will fill an existing position and not necessitate a new position, there will be no request needed from the board for additional funding. Dr. Roscoe asked what the qualifications would be for the position, and Mr. Zelek responded that the position will likely be filled by an RN, particularly for the infection control specialist and ideally would be someone who has experience with preparedness. The position will be housed in the Clinical & Community Health Services division.
- Elizabeth Plata will be the new Policy & Accreditation Officer, replacing Beth Dickens. Ms. Plata formerly worked with CCPHD and will be introduced at the next Board of Health meeting.
- The Community Assessment process is moving forward. Maia Fulton-Black, Population Health Data Scientist, and many others including Zachary Horner, Communications Specialist, have been hard at work drafting the report. The Chatham Health Alliance will be prioritizing health issues at a meeting on the first Tuesday in May. Those interested in participating should be sure to join the Alliance and attend the meeting. The draft assessment report will go before the board in May for review and approval.
- The On-Site Wastewater section in the Environmental Health Division successfully completed the state review for the septic system, wells, and migrant housing programs. The review is part of NCDHHS Program Quality Assurance and accreditation requirements.
- NCDHHS revised their action level for Elevated Blood Lead Levels from 5.0ug/dL to 3.5ug/dL last week to align with CDC guidance. Parents of children with levels between 3.5 and 4.9ug/dL (and higher) across North Carolina will now receive lead prevention education and retesting guidance. Currently per Chatham County Lead Poisoning Prevention BOH Rules, children with blood lead levels of 4ug/dL or greater are provided education and nutrition counseling and are offered an environmental lead investigation. Staff are currently working with NC LEADS to determine if the database can report blood lead levels between 1.0ug/dL to 3.5 ug/dL so Chatham can offer education/nutrition counseling to any parents of children with any level of lead. Depending upon what NCLEADS determines, the local rule may be brought back before the Board of Health for consideration of the recommended changes.
- There is no COVID-19 update agenda item this month.

### Reports

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Board of Health Engineering Seat**

Dr. Freese reported that four different applications have been received for the open engineer seat on the Board of Health. Drs. Roscoe and Pappas were on the committee. Dr. Pappas said that the top candidate previously served on the Orange County Board of Health and would be a natural fit for the role on the Chatham Board. Ms. Reitz-Barlow asked if the candidate was still licensed, and they are.

*Dr. Pappas motioned to recommend Alan E. Rimer to the Board of Commissioners for appointment, and Ms. Reitz-Barlow seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Resolution – National Public Health Week**

Dr. Freese presented a resolution to recommend to the county commissioners to proclaim April 4-10 as Public Health Week. She said the resolution was designed to make sure people are continuing to pay attention to how important public health is as COVID becomes further from our daily lives.

*Ms. Reitz-Barlow motioned to approve the resolution, Dr. Pappas seconded. All approved.*

### **Board of Health Officer Slate Recommendation Committee**

Mr. Zelek said the term for Board of Health chair and vice-chair runs with the fiscal year. There is a need for a committee of the board to make a recommendation to ensure that the board will have a chair and vice chair on July 1. Dr. Pappas, Dr. Brian, and Commissioner Gomez Flores volunteered for this committee.

### **Board of Health Awards Committee**

Mr. Zelek said the Awards Committee is responsible for giving out awards. Ms. Guetgemann explained that two awards are given, one to an Employee of the Year within the Public Health Department and the other for a Partnership of the Year. Dr. Freese, Ms. Reitz-Barlow, and Commissioner Gomez Flores volunteered for that committee.

Before the close of the meeting, Commissioner Gomez Flores asked a couple questions of Mr. Zelek.


First, what was the role of the Public Health Department in the county's opioid settlement? Mr. Zelek said the CCPHD is involved with the Sheriff's Prevention Partnership for Controlled Substances as part of the conversation, along with Chatham Drug Free and the County Manager's Office. Discussions on next steps are very preliminary right now.

Second, is the Public Health Department sharing information on mask guidance as more people are wearing them less? Mr. Zelek said the department can share more, but right now the

guiding principle is to encourage respect for one another because people can have different reasons for wearing a mask. He said the department welcomed ideas, noting this is yet another transition in the pandemic. The county's public libraries are still handing out free N95 masks, which might be the best options for people who still want to wear them or have underlying health conditions. Masks can be found in Pittsboro, Siler City, and Goldston at the libraries and at the Moncure Fire Department.

**Adjournment**

*Dr. Roscoe motioned to adjourn the meeting, Dr. Morris Lloyd seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.*



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Karen Barbee, EdD-Chair



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Secretary Ex-Officio  
Michael Zelek, MPH, Health Director