

**Chatham County Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 25, 2022
Dunlap Building – 80 East Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312**

The Chatham County Board of Health held its monthly meeting on Monday, April 25, 2022, in the Board Room of the Dunlap Building in Pittsboro, North Carolina.

Attendees

Board Members: Karen Barbee, EdD, Chair; Alan Rimer, PE, PhD; Carol Reitz-Barlow, MSN, RN, CCRN; Marcia Herman-Giddens, PA, MPH, DrPH; Judith Malone, RN; William Roscoe, OD; Zachary Brian, DMD, MHA; Franklin Gomez Flores, Commissioner; Tammy Lynn Morris Lloyd, MD

Staff: Mike Zelek, Danielle White, Elizabeth Plata, Zachary Horner, Casey Hilliard, Zach Deaton, Anne Lowry

Welcome and Call to Order

Dr. Barbee started the meeting at 6:01 p.m. and welcomed new board member Dr. Alan Rimer, Engineer. Dr. Rimer said he formerly served on the Orange County Board of Health and was the chair of that board for a couple years. He said he appreciated the opportunity to serve on this board.

Mike Zelek, Public Health Director, welcomed Dr. Rimer. He also introduced Elizabeth Plata, Policy & Quality Assurance Officer. He said that she has worked for the county for nearly 20 years and has hit the ground running in her new role. She is moving from the Management Information Systems (MIS) department after having worked for the Public Health Department previously.

Conflict of Interest

None.

Approve Agenda

Dr. Barbee stated that there was an addition to the previous agenda, Item C under New Business. The item is a Board of Health Annual Training that the board will go through tonight.

Dr. Herman-Giddens motioned to approve, Dr. Lloyd seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Barbee stated that there is an addition, Item F – Board of Health Operating Procedures. Dr. Lloyd motioned to approve the consent agenda, and Dr. Herman-Giddens seconded. The consent agenda was approved with unanimous consent.

Public Input

None.

Health Director Report

Mr. Zelek provided the following updates:

- Maternal Health: The department is having discussions around a transition out of providing Maternal Health (prenatal primary care) services in partnership with Piedmont Health Services, which will allow the department to focus on home visiting services. The plan is for the item to be brought to the Board of Health in May.
- Community Assessment: Maia Fulton-Black, Population Health Data Scientist, and others have been working on the Community Assessment. The report will be brought before the board for a vote next month. On Tuesday, May 3, the Chatham Health Alliance will host two meetings to discuss prioritization – one in the morning and one in the evening – and all members of the Chatham Health Alliance are invited to attend.
- Reaccreditation: The CCPHD is undergoing reaccreditation for the first time in 6 years. The site visit will occur on October 6th. Ms. Plata is working to get everything ready.
- Facilities: The department is working with Facilities to identify and resolve issues with the clinic building in Siler City. The CCHS team will be having a team-building landscaping day on May 6th at the clinic building in Siler City.
- Care Management: The department transitioned out of care management services in November 2021. The department has been working with NC DHHS on a plan for children who are uninsured and/or in foster care. Orange County has filled in the gap there.
- The 2022 Chatham County Recovery Celebration is this Saturday in Siler City near the Arts Incubator. The event focuses on recovery from mental health issues and substance abuse. CCPHD staff have been part of planning.
- COVID-19: COVID-19 at-home rapid tests were handed out to all board members in attendance. The department has at-home tests available for the public at the offices in Pittsboro and Siler City. CCPHD was able to get tests from the state, with Anne Lowry, Environmental Health Director, taking point on that effort. The department has also been putting out information on current guidance, including through an article in last week's Chatham News + Record newspaper. CCPHD also participated in a successful event related to COVID-19 at Mitchell Chapel AME Zion Church in Pittsboro.
- Opioid Settlement: The Sheriff's Prevention Partnership on Controlled Substances met today to discuss the opioid settlement and begin planning, building off of a strategic plan the group previously developed. The group is beginning to plan discussing use of those funds, around \$3 million over 18 years. The group will be meeting again in a couple of weeks. Mr. Zelek thanked Casey Hilliard, Strategic Planning and Development Officer, and Sam Owusu, Public Health Social Worker, for leading those discussions.
- Ticks: There will be an article this week in the paper on ticks and tick-borne illnesses. Zachary Horner, Communications Specialist, and Ms. Lowry worked with Dr. Marcia Herman-Giddens, BOH member, to put the article together.
- Medical Laboratory Professionals Week is also this week. CCPHD has two wonderful lab techs, Cynthia Lambert and Melinda York.

- Mr. Zelek said he is headed to Asheville tonight for the NC Public Health Association Conference, leaving after this meeting, and will be there this week. It is the first NCPHA conference back in-person since 2019.

REPORTS

Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Hilliard presented an update on the department's strategic plan:

- A lot of this information has been presented before, as there is an update on this given every three months.
- The CCPHD has identified five (5) priority areas for the strategic plan: Health Equity as the main priority, and four internal strategies. Ms. Hilliard said a lot of what is being presented is process updates with the goal of setting the department up for practical outcomes in the future.
- Health Equity: Ms. Hilliard said there are a lot of goals and focus areas in terms of outcomes, but the department decided earlier this year to focus on three areas for 2022-2025:
 - Cross-division collaboration to develop and implement data-driven and evidence-based substance use and harm reduction strategies for the county.
 - The percent of Chatham County high school students who are misusing prescription pain medicine or used without a prescription is rising, higher than state and nation, and showing disparities. Additionally, Chatham County overdose deaths have risen significantly from 2016 to 2020.
 - Ms. Hilliard said this is definitely an increasing concern, especially locally in Chatham County. She said the department feels it is important to act here.
 - The department has convened a cross-division action team, dedicated a percentage of time for a Public Health Social Worker role for this effort, and partnered with community stakeholders through the Sheriff's Prevention Partnership.
 - There are other existing or proposed interventions, like distributing harm reduction kits, having free Narcan available at the Siler City clinic, and other opportunities. One important initiative is leading the development and implementation of a robust post-overdose response strategy in partnership with EMS, sheriff and police, jail and hospital.
 - Cross-division collaboration to establish a comprehensive community engagement and outreach strategy for the Department.
 - Ms. Hilliard said there is not data with this, but as related to Public Health 3.0, strong relationships with the community the department serves is a priority. Having a community's trust makes a big difference, as seen in the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Ms. Hilliard said plans are in place to convene a cross-division action team, and the department has made a request of the county for a

- community engagement specialist position. That has not been approved or disapproved yet.
- Develop and implement evidence-based suite of prenatal group and post-partum home visiting services. The CCPHD is proposing to transition out of maternal health as a clinic service but is looking to find a way to provide wraparound care for the women of Chatham County.
 - Ms. Hilliard said birth inequities exist in the county, which are higher than in North Carolina. She said there is a lot of grant money related to EMBRACe to work with others, but the department is looking to what it can do internally. A recent grant proposed piloting an advanced mom and baby postpartum visit with a social worker, nurse, and community health worker, along with group care in the prenatal period, primarily through educational support. The other Public Health Social Worker role is dedicated to leading this work.
 - Internal Priorities:
 - Engaged and Thriving Workforce: The department conducted a staff engagement survey in early 2022 to determine staff needs and concerns. The department will be starting an internal staff newsletter launching in May 2022. There are also plans to establish a workforce development committee. The department is reinstating quarterly all-staff meetings in-person, a way in which staff felt they could get required trainings done and get face-to-face interaction and team building.
 - Centering Equity: The department is actively recruiting for a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, and an Equity Committee has convened and is meeting monthly designed to build up capacity and work through hiring policies and procedures.
 - Strategic Engagement: Ms. Hilliard mentioned several ways the department is working on internal communications to share updates and information but also report and share performance on the Strategic Plan.
 - Organizational Infrastructure for Excellence: Actions taken include divesting maternal and infant health prenatal clinic-based services. The Community Assessment report is set for completion in May. The department has also adopted strategies to improve transparency and accountability in leadership, including revising the Milestone structure and meeting format, and updating the agenda and minutes to follow the 7-step meeting process.

Mr. Zelek thanked Ms. Hilliard for the presentation and the work. He said the department has been deep in COVID over the last two years, but this showed how much more there is to public health than COVID.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 22/23 BOH Officer Slate Committee Chair/Vice Chair

Dr. Barbee opened the discussion to the committee, which included Dr. Brian and Commissioner Gomez Flores.

Mr. Zelek said the committee had an update. Commissioner Gomez Flores said the committee recommended re-appointing the chair Dr. Barbee and vice chair Dr. Stephanie Freese to their current roles. Dr. Brian said the committee unanimously felt that the current officers should be recommended to stay in their roles.

Dr. Herman-Giddens motioned to approved the slate of officers, and Dr. Lloyd seconded. The motion approved unanimously, with Dr. Barbee abstaining.

Board of Health Standing Committees


Dr. Barbee asked if there were any recommended changes to board seats on any committees, and to allow Dr. Rimer to look at what seats might be available and of interest for him. Mr. Rimer said he would take former board member Mr. O’Keefe’s roles, which are the Environmental Health Committee and Health Director Evaluation Committee. No one else asked for a change.

Board of Health Annual Training

The board watched a training – “What is a Board of Health Rule?” through the North Carolina Institute for Public Health at the UNC Gillings School of Public Health. This training was provided to meet the Board of Health’s training requirement in line with re-accreditation standards and department policy.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Reitz-Barlow motioned to adjourn, and Dr. Lloyd seconded. All approved the motion and the meeting adjourned.



Karen Barbee, EdD, Chair



Secretary Ex Officio
Michael Zelek, MPH, Public Health Director