

**Chatham County Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 26, 2022
Dunlap Building – 80 East Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312**

The Chatham County Board of Health held its monthly meeting on Monday, September 26, 2022.

Attendees

Board Members: Karen Barbee, EdD, Chair; Ashley Pappas, PharmD, MHA; Marcia Herman-Giddens, PA, MPH, DrPH; William Roscoe, OD; Carol Reitz-Barlow, MSN, RN, CCRN; Judith Malone, RN; Tammy Lloyd, MD

Staff: Michael Zelek, Danielle White, Zach Deaton, Bonnie Dukeman, Samantha Owusu, Brenda Clegg, Anne Lowry, Julie Goodwin, Zachary Horner, Dorothy Rawleigh, Nathan Stokes, Casey Hilliard

Others: Sheriff Mike Roberson

Welcome and Call to Order

Dr. Barbee called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Ms. Dukeman introduced Nathan Stokes, the CCPHD's new Preparedness Coordinator and Infection Control nurse at the clinic. Mr. Stokes is a military veteran and Chatham County native. Mr. Zelek said this position was a long time coming.

Conflict of Interest

None.

Approve Agenda

Dr. Pappas made the motion to approve the consent agenda, Ms. Reitz-Barlow seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Barbee said there was an addition to the original consent agenda in the form of an approval of \$115,000 in funds for Public Health School Liaisons related to COVID-19.

Ms. Reitz-Barlow made the motion to approve the consent agenda, Dr. Lloyd seconded. Mr. Zelek said the funds could be used for anything related to health in schools, like the School Health, Physical Education, and Wellness Instructional Program Facilitator position and other work done by staff.

The motion passed unanimously.

Public Input Session

None.

REPORTS

Sheriff's Prevention Partnership on Controlled Substances Presentation

Sheriff Roberson began the presentation by saying his department has worked closely with the CCPHD over the last couple years. He said he really appreciated the work by CCPHD staff.

Sheriff Roberson said the Sheriff's Prevention Partnership started in 2017 alongside CCPHD to address the opioid and overdose crisis. He said the wheels were rolling until COVID happened. COVID made the crisis worse. He said Chatham Drug Free and George Gregor-Holt have been heading up the prevention side of this work. The Partnership is made up of many community organizations, including the police departments and other health care organizations.

Chatham County's drug overdose death rate eclipsed the state's rate for the first time in 2021. Law enforcement agencies are seeing increases in response calls, with these agencies and fire departments deploying 116 uses of Narcan since 2017. The Sheriff's Office has been partaking in several efforts in response to these figures.

Sheriff Roberson said fentanyl has been mixed in all sorts of drugs in recent years. He said his office is working on piloting a Medication-Assisted Therapy program with inmates at the detention center.

In conclusion, he said once again that he enjoys working with the CCPHD.

Dr. Lloyd asked if there are pharmacies in Chatham County that carry Narcan, and Mr. Zelek said there are. She also asked if the sheriff's office is providing Narcan to inmates when they leave. Sheriff Roberson said that is being worked on, particularly related to the MAT program.

Mr. Zelek said CCPHD has been working on several items, with more on that to be presented later. Mr. Zelek explained that the opioid settlement funds are coming to the county as part of a \$26 billion agreement between the state and pharmaceutical companies. Beginning this year and ending in 2038, the county will receive a total of \$2.9 million, approximately \$170,000 a year. Mr. Zelek said that this money can go really fast. He said these are good funds but they are not the end-all, be-all.

Mr. Zelek said there are still some questions to answer.

- Which memorandum of agreement to choose? There are two options, either starting with a shortlist of high-impact strategies or to go through a collaborative strategic planning process and then choose strategies from a longer list.
- Who oversees the process and where do the funds go?
- What capacity is needed to do this work effectively?

Mr. Zelek said the group will go with the first option. Some strategic planning has already been done and the majority of the strategies chosen by the SPP fit within Option A. The reality of limited funds means a shorter list is better. The funds will be used with the conjunctive oversight of the SPP and Chatham Drug Free. An Overdose Prevention Coordinator will be hired to oversee the implementation and evaluation of the plan and meet all requirements of the funds.

Some strategies have already been picked, including:

- Post-overdose and jail response program including peer support specialists
- Chatham Drug Free-led education and training focused on prevention and early identification and intervention
- Support convening of a re-entry task force to coordinate services for justice-involved individuals in the community and individuals who are engaged in the post-overdose program
- Support a pilot partnership to provide MAT in the Chatham County jail

Dr. Roscoe asked who would be hiring the Overdose Prevention Coordinator. Mr. Zelek said multiple individuals, including some outside the department, will be part of the interview panel. He said it is a collaborative effort. Dr. Roscoe expressed concern of someone stealing the money. Ms. Hilliard said the state put stipulations in place that municipalities would get the money with MOAs in place. She added that it's not a lot of money at once coming in, about \$170,000 a year. By presenting it to the commissioners, she added, and putting together a plan, it gets out in front of any specific requests from the outside.

Strategic Plan: Substance Use and Harm Reduction Presentation

Ms. Hilliard began by saying that the CCPHD's action teams will be leading some of the updates on the strategic plan in the future. She said her update will be focused on the plan and what's been accomplished since the last update.

She said the department had identified three strategic initiatives for this year, with two from health equity goals. The first was achieving successful and equitable birth outcomes for women and infants, and the second was preventing and reducing the harmful consequences of substance use through compassionate and person-centered FILL IN THE REST. The next part of planning is choosing what strategies are being used to accomplish the goals and measures to evaluate the work.

Regarding the first, the department is working on multiple efforts, including:

- Transition out of mandated programs to increase capacity to pursue data-driven strategies to improve health outcomes in Chatham County.
- Develop and implement and multidisciplinary postpartum nurse home visiting program.
- Research and establish an evidence-informed prenatal group support and education program.
- Work with healthcare partners to develop and implement an enhance role nurse home visiting program for high-risk pregnant people.

Ms. Hilliard also referenced the SAFE Kids Car Seat Program, where CCPHD partnered with Safe Kids Chatham. Four CCPHD staff got trained to be car seat technicians, and 56 families have been served. Ms. Goodwin said the program has been going well and funding has come from multiple mechanisms to keep it going. Mr. Deaton said some of the Agreement Addendums the clinic already had in place have allocated funds specifically for buying car seats for this program.

On the second strategy, the department has several strategies underway, including:

- Develop and coordinate a robust post-overdose response strategy in partnership with EMS, Sheriff's Office, Chatham County Courts Programs, Chatham Hospital, and peer support providers.
- Partner with members of at-risk populations and community-based harm reduction groups (i.e. Chatham County Safe Syringe Exchange) to identify and implement practices that will improve the health and safety of people who use illicit substances.
- Lead education and media campaigns to raise awareness about the Opioid Crisis in Chatham County, decrease stigma, and foster a culture of compassion and understanding for people with substance use disorders and their families.
- Provide harm reduction interventions and increase capacity among partners throughout the county to respond to the crisis through the lens of harm reduction
- Participate in the execution of the County's Coordinated Opioid Overdose Action Plan in order to reduce overdose deaths through collaborative collective impact work.

The third strategic priority for the year is working on investing internally.

- The department has launched a staff newsletter and quarterly all-staff meetings.
- A Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer was hired, and an Equity Committee has been convened and is meeting monthly.
- The 2021 Chatham County Community Assessment has been published and dissemination is underway.

Ms. Owusu and Mr. Horner presented an update on the Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction Team. Ms. Owusu showed a video about Harm Reduction.

Ms. Reitz-Barlow said the board considered a syringe exchange program before but did not ultimately pursue it because the timing was wrong. She said that now might be the right timing.

Mr. Zelek said all the CCPHD teams are doing well and highlighted Ms. Owusu's work related to the

HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT

Michael Zelek, Public Health Director, offered the following comments:

- We are excited to welcome Nathan Stokes as our preparedness coordinator. This position has been a long time in the making and was possible due to our transition in primary care services. Nathan brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the role.

- We are readying ourselves for our reaccreditation site visit October 6th. Due to COVID, this is our first reaccreditation in six years and it has been a team effort to get all documents submitted. We are feeling good about the site visit and are looking forward to a positive report next month.
- As you all know, a task force has been formed around the Maternity Care Center. The first meeting was held September 1, and now the group formed into subcommittees to strategize around priority areas (Community Relations & Trust; Increasing Volume; Nurse Recruitment & Retention; Quality & Safety). There will be a check-in with hospital and UNC Health leadership in the next couple of weeks to make sure the recommendations are feasible, with the final recommendations submitted to leadership by December 5th.
- Our clinic is offering the Moderna bivalent COVID-19 vaccine. We have seen a strong demand for it and clinic slots have been full, but you can reach out to our clinic to schedule an appointment. Our clinic team is also leading a booster and flu shot clinic for County employees and dependents on October 21st. We do this each year in coordination with County HR and the wellness committee and are excited the bivalent boosters will be included as well.
- We also have the Monkeypox vaccine at our clinic in Siler City for anyone who is eligible, and we have had some uptake of that as well. The state's eligibility criteria recently expanded and more information can be found on our website: www.chathamcountync.gov/monkeypox.
- We are bringing back the QuitSmart tobacco cessation program this fall, which is being led by Anna Stormzand, now with Safe Kids but previously with CCPHD. We are currently promoting the program in hopes of getting more participants. There is a flyer in your packet with information on how to register. Please spread the word.
- Our team has participated in several outreach events over the last month, including: The Hispanic Heritage Festival led by Hispanic Liaison, which we sponsored; the Recovery Celebration with Chatham Drug Free and the Sheriff's prevention partnership, which we helped organize, and a Falls Prevention Awareness Event with the Council on Aging.
- We continue to recruit for a few open positions, including an environmental health specialist, a Policy and QI Officer, the aforementioned Overdose Prevention Coordinator, and a processing assistant in our clinic. Minerva Perez previously was in this role but will be moving to a foreign language interpreter position with us. We are also working to create a Business Manager position on our Clinical and Community Health Services team, utilizing a vacancy from our clinic admin team.
- And finally, Jess and I are getting closer to our due date. All continues to go well, and I will update the Board on any developments. I am hoping to make next month's Board of Health meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

Dr. Herman-Giddens made the motion to move the board into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(A)(6), Ms. Reitz-Barlow seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Lloyd motioned to come out of close session, Dr. Herman-Giddens seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Karen Barbee, EdD, Chair



Secretary Ex Officio
Michael Zelek, MPH, Public Health Director