

**Chatham County Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 24, 2023
Dunlap Building – 80 East Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312**

The Chatham County Board of Health held a regular meeting on Monday, March 27, 2023, in the Board Room of the Dunlap Building in Pittsboro.

Attendees

Board Members Present: Karen Barbee, EdD, Chair; Marcia Herman-Giddens, PA, MPH, DrPH; William Roscoe, OD; Franklin Gomez Flores, Commissioner; Alan Rimer, PE, Ph.D.; Carol Reitz-Barlow, RN; Tammy Lloyd, MD; Ashley Pappas, PharmD, MHA

Board Members Absent: Stephanie Freese, DVM, Vice Chair; Judith Malone, RN

Staff: Michael Zelek, Danielle White, Dorothy Rawleigh, Anne Lowry, Zach Deaton, Tia Brown, Morgan Culver, Kevin Overcash

Guests:

Dr. Wolak, COO, Chatham Hospital

Welcome and Call to Order

Barbee began the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

No conflict was disclosed.

Introductions

Dorothy Rawleigh, Health Promotion & Policy (HPP) Division Director, introduced two (2) new employees in the HPP Division. Tia Brown is the new Youth Health and Tobacco Initiatives Lead. She most recently worked as a Public Health Education Specialist at Albemarle Regional Health Services where she served as the Coordinator for the Preconception Peer Health Educator Program. Through this role, Ms. Brown established and maintained collaborative partnerships with regional colleges, universities, agencies, and public schools to recruit and train student program participants to become Preconception Peer Educators. She is a Community Trainer for the evidenced-based teen vaping prevention program, CATCH My Breath. Ms. Brown has completed the Duke-UNC Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training Program, which is the training that is required to teach the QuitSmart tobacco cessation classes. She is also trained in Youth and Adult Mental Health First Aid and the Triple P Positive Parenting Program. In her previous role, Ms. Brown also provided family planning education, women's preventative health education, and maternal health education throughout the eight counties in the Albemarle region. She was the Vice Chair of the Hertford Health Maintenance Alliance and Chair of the Alliance's Infant Mortality workgroup. Ms. Brown completed her undergraduate internship with

Blissful Birthing Services in Greensboro, where she worked to promote doula services for Triad families in need.

Morgan Culver is the new Opioid Overdose Prevention Coordinator. Her previous work includes working as a Bridge Counselor at NC DHHS where she managed drug user health programs that involved: linking people released from correctional facilities to care throughout NC; providing technical assistance to county health departments and harm reduction organizations on disease prevention and outbreak response; creating the NC Drug User Health Resource Guide and a referral network for care; managing a Hepatitis C field testing and education program; and responding to outbreaks of Viral Hepatitis, Meningitis and COVID-19. Ms. Culver has done outreach with several syringe access programs throughout North Carolina, and previously worked at a syringe exchange in Louisiana for two years where she: conducted rapid testing and counseling for HIV, HCV, and Syphilis; provided syringe exchange services; street and venue outreach testing and education; and patient education for STI prevention and safer drug use.

Zach Deaton, Clinical and Community Health Services Division Director, introduced the new Administrative Services Manager, Kevin Overcash. Mr. Deaton shared that Mr. Overcash is a dynamic leader and has 31 (thirty-one) years of military service in the US Air Force where he has consistently moved up the ranks. He received his bachelor's degree in organizational leadership from Mountain State University in 2012. Mr. Overcash has completed many courses around budget and fiscal management, leadership, quality assurance and problem solving. Many of the roles he has been in mirror the roles of this position. He brings a wealth of experience and were excited to have him onboard.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Herman-Giddens motioned to approve the agenda, and Ms. Reitz-Barlow seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda Approval

Dr. Pappas motioned to approve the consent agenda, and Dr. Herman-Giddens seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Input Session

None.

New Business

FY 23/24 BOH Officer Slate Committee Chair/Vice Chair

Dr. Barbee shared that Board volunteers are needed for a committee for the Chair/Vice Chair positions for FY24. Dr. Roscoe noted that in the past the committee reached out to the current chair and vice chair to see if they were willing to continue, and Dr. Barbee said that the committee could decide to do so. This committee will also review and recommend Dr. Herman-Giddens replacement for a Public Seat on the Board.

Mr. Gomez Flores, Dr. Brian, Dr. Roscoe, and Dr. Pappas volunteered for this committee. The same committee will also meet to discuss and recommend a replacement for Dr. Herman-Giddens' seat on the Board.

Animal Appeals Board Committee Appointment

Dr. Lloyd, Dr. Freese, Dr. Rimer, and Ms. Reitz-Barlow recommended Ms. Pam Fulk to fill a vacancy on the Animal Appeals Board. Ms. Fulk has prior experience with Carolina Tiger Rescue and currently resides in District two (2).

Dr. Lloyd motioned to select Ms. Fulk for the Animal Appeals Board, and Ms. Reitz-Barlow seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Board of Health County Email Addresses

Mr. Zelek shared that an email was sent out to all Board members to explain the options for emails for Board communications based on last month's discussion. He shared a Board of Health Email Preference Form for each Board member to complete to state their email preferences and asked that all submit the form.

Mr. Zelek said he spoke with the IT department, and they will attend the next board meeting to get everyone that would like county email addresses set up. He will follow up with details.

Dr. Lloyd asked if a County email address could be created but not checked. Mr. Zelek said the County email would need to be checked since it would be posted on the website.

Dr. Rimer said forwarding county emails to a personal email address is a great idea but it would be difficult to remember to respond from the County email, which could open personal emails to public records requests.

Reports

Chatham Hospital Update

Eric Wolak, Chatham Hospital Chief Operating Officer, shared an update on the Chatham Hospital, including the Maternity Care Center (MCC).

He said he plans to make regular appearances at Board meetings and will provide updates on the MCC, which was a large topic last summer as they struggled with staffing and a low volume of deliveries. Due to that, he said a community task force was created to do the following, noting the progress below:

- Assure community collaboration through a joint Community Health Alliance (CHA)/Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) process.
 - UNC Health Chatham has leadership representation on all CHA sub-committees with COO/CNO sitting on CHA Advisory Board; MCC Task Force updates presented at Planning Committee of UNC Health Chatham Board
- Engage proactively internally to strengthen the regional system perinatal access. Most patients are referred to by Piedmont Health Service.

- CMO working with UNC Network Development to visit & provide overview of CHT MCC services; working with UNC L&D MFM leaders to coordinate referral.
- Track external changes in rural perinatal access & intervene to address acute deficiencies.
 - CMO working with EMBRACE to assess, evaluate, & address both access & service deficits, working with UNCPN for improved prenatal care in Chatham area
- Continue to develop the formal system of collaboration for training & performance improvement. Perform 5 simulations a month- mock deliveries including collaboration with OR.
 - Performing regular monthly simulations in MCC, to include RT, Lab Staff, etc.
- Acknowledge UNC Health's role in addressing the rural maternity crisis.
 - Revised MCC marketing plan in FY23 & into FY24 to focus on Chatham Magazine print ads, digital display, using key phrases as "expert maternity care close to you" and "take a virtual tour."
- Re-engage a community outreach & education campaign to promote MCC. Prenatal classes will begin soon.
 - Potential MCC patients seen in prenatal care invited to tour MCC; Now performing outpatient obstetric imaging procedure in MCC.
- Improve MCC nurse culture & retention by clearly communicating the value proposition of MCC. Fully staffed for 24-hour care, as of March 2023.
 - MCC update on operations, volumes, & status report at least monthly with leaders & every two months with Town Hall; CNO attending MCC staff meetings to demonstrate full support of this program; CNO attending visiting several area schools to discuss MCC unit.
- Immediately work to open MCC 24/7
 - Opened 24/7 on March 20th.
- Prioritize converting internal travelers to regular full-time staff.
 - Highlighting hiring incentives (commitment incentive, Nurse Corp loan forgiveness, etc.) to current internal contractors; Hope to capture at least two as full-time employees.
- Hire new graduates to work at MCC.
 - One CN I just came off orientation; one other CN I to come off orientation in April 2023; offer of another CN I just extended & accepted.

Dr. Wolak shared they continue to recruit nurses by offering sign-on bonuses, merit increases and seeking new graduate nurses. Dr. Lloyd asked who the anesthesia group they were using is. Dr. Wolak stated it is G&G Anesthesia. Ms. Reitz-Barlow acknowledged the hard work of Dr. Wolak and his team for getting the nursing staff and the MCC back up and running.

Health Director Report

Mr. Zelek provided the following updates:

- He is excited to have these wonderful new staff on board and knows they will be instrumental in advancing the Department's important work. He also expects to have additional staff introductions next month or two. This includes a new Community Health and Social Work Services Supervisor position utilizing a vacant clinical position.
- He attended the annual Health Directors' Legal Conference last week. There are several bills we are keeping an eye on. Environmental Health is currently watching bills that have been introduced to the state legislature that would change qualifications for becoming an Environmental Health specialist and other bills that may impact how we permit septic systems and inspect restaurants. There is an agreement on Medicaid Expansion that is contingent upon a state budget, which also affects additional communicable disease funding we are hoping to receive.
- He attended a regional health director retreat a few weeks ago, which included a focus on regional strategic planning to align health departments across the region. This work has been funded by the American Rescue and Protection Act (ARPA), which will go through next fiscal year. The health department is also slated to receive five years of funding to support similar local efforts and workforce development that will total around \$47,000 per year in Chatham.
- There has been an update to COVID vaccine guidelines at the federal level and now only the bivalent vaccine is approved for use in the US. An additional booster is also now approved for adults ages 65 and older as well as those with compromised immune systems. The CCPHD clinic in Siler City now offers these boosters.
- He thanked Dr. Herman-Giddens for her amazing service to the Board over the last nine (9) years, noting she will remain on the Board through June. He asked that Board members reach out if they know of anyone who would be a good fit for the Board, keeping in mind expertise and representation.
- He thanked all Board members whose committees met recently.
- He will be on vacation May 15-19. Ms. Lowry will be the lead for the department that week, but he will be available as well.


Old Business

None.

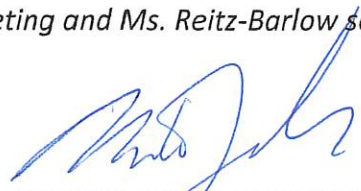
Adjournment

Dr. Barbee said the next meeting will be in the boardroom of the Dunlap Building, on May 22, 2023.

Dr. Herman-Giddens motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Reitz-Barlow seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.



Karen Barbee, EdD, Chair



Secretary Ex Officio
Michael Zelek, MPH, Public Health Director