

**Chatham County Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 24, 2024
Dunlap Building – 80 East Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312**

The Chatham County Board of Health held a regular meeting on Monday, June 24, 2024, in the Board Room of the Dunlap Building in Pittsboro.

Attendees

Board Members: Karen Davis, EdD, Chair, Erika Dunnon, MPH, Carol Reitz-Barlow, MSN, RN CCRN, William Roscoe, OD, Zachary Brian, DMD, MHA, Tammy Lloyd, MD, Stephanie Freese, DVM, Rya Williams, BA, Ashley Pappas, PharmD, Alan Rimer, PE

Absent Members: Franklin Gomez Flores

Staff: Michael Zelek, Danielle White, Bianca Sahota, Dorothy Rawleigh, Kyle Chambers, Zach Deaton, Anne Lowry, Morgan Culver, Sam Owusu, Gabriela Arciniega, Kevin Overcash, Julie Goodwin, Evi Bonilla, Beverly Allen, Shatease Bland, Roxana Lopez, Sara Greene, Lou Ann Riddle, Ann Clark

Guests: Bonnie Dukeman, Eric Wolak, Meenal Khajuria, Laura Sharpe, Laquita Cozart, Danielle Woodall, Quintosha Cox

Welcome and Call to Order

Dr. Davis started the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

None.

Introductions

Anne Lowry, Environmental Health Director, introduced Shatease Bland, who is the new Environmental Health Technician. Ms. Lowry also introduced Roxana Lopez, who moved into the vacant Environmental Health Specialist role. Sam Owusu, Community Health and Social Work Services Supervisor, mentioned that Gabriela Arciniega recently became a full-time Community Health Worker.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Reitz-Barlow made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Dr. Roscoe seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Rimer made a motion to approve the consent agenda with Item J Approval of \$1,500 in National Environmental Public Health Internship Program (NEPHIP) Funds added, and Ms. Reitz-Barlow seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Public Input Session

None.

Fiscal Year (FY) 23/24 Board of Health Awards & Recognitions

Dr. Davis announced the winners of the FY 23/24 Board of Health Awards & Recognitions. Dr. Davis stated that Beverly Allen is the Chatham County Board of Health Employee of the Year. Dr. Davis read her nomination letters, which stated that Ms. Allen “is the best example of the Chatham County Public Health Department's mission” and “exemplifies what a great employee should be.”

Dr. Davis named the Chatham County Board of Health Community Partner of the Year, Vaya Health. Dr. Davis read the organization's nomination letters, which referenced the group's commitment to meeting critical health needs, in addition to its representatives' constant engagement, enthusiasm and devotion to addressing health care access throughout Chatham County. The award was received by Vaya Health staff Meenal Khajuria, Laura Sharpe, Laquita Cozart, Danielle Woodall and Quintosha Cox.

Dr. Davis also recognized departing Board of Health Members Carol Reitz-Barlow, Dr. William Roscoe and Dr. Tammy Lloyd for their years of service and commitment.

Reports

Opioid Settlement Update

Morgan Culver, Opioid Overdose Prevention Coordinator, delivered a report on Chatham County's Opioid Settlement funding. Ms. Culver facilitates a collaborative, interdisciplinary group that plans and implements opioid abatement work. This group is divided into four subcommittees that focus on four topic areas, Prevention, Recovery, Harm Reduction and Treatment Access. Ms. Culver also coordinates naloxone distribution, training, and technical assistance. The purpose of National Opioid Settlement funding is to remediate the impact of opioid deaths and related negative health and social outcomes. It was won from pharmaceutical companies who played a role in the crisis. Chatham County will be receiving a total of approximately \$5 million dollars through 2038. The average amount available to spend from these funds is \$293K per year. Chatham County has proposed directing funds to five of twelve approved strategies: Collaborative Strategic Planning, Evidence-Based Addiction Treatment, Recovery Support Services, Early Intervention and Naloxone Distribution. Ms. Culver stated that the proposed budget for FY 24-25 was approved in March 2024.

Collaborative Strategic Planning (\$139,500 allocated)

This strategy funds the Opioid Overdose Prevention Coordinator's salary and fringe benefits. This funding will support training, continuing education, print and digital communication materials in addition to collaboration and planning costs.

Evidence Based Addiction Treatment (\$55,000 allocated)

This strategy is the focus of the Treatment Access Subcommittee, which features representation from local treatment providers. This funding will be used to expand access to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder. The funds will also help alleviate barriers to this care, such as copays and medication costs, and increase the number of people engaged in care.

Dr. Rimer asked to clarify if co-pay precludes insurance. Ms. Culver said that regardless of insurance status, patients typically have a co-pay of 5-40 dollars. Mr. Rimer inquired if this treatment can be covered by Medicaid. Ms. Culver clarified that yes, it can be. Ms. Williams asked how many people are expected to be treated within a year. Ms. Culver noted that this would vary depending on the partners who can provide this care. Ms. Williams asked how many people are currently engaged in this care. Ms. Culver clarified that an estimated 250 are, which does not fully capture the need in the county for this treatment.

Recovery Support Services (\$50,000 allocated)

This strategy is the focus of the Recovery subcommittee, which includes representation from courts, social services, recovery support groups and people with lived experience. According to Ms. Culver, the funding will be used to provide transportation support for people in recovery to access various resources, such as medical care, legal appointments, and basic needs. One goal is to distribute assistance through Chatham Transit vouchers. This strategy is also focused on recovery related educational events to build a recovery community.

Early Intervention (\$20,000 allocated)

This strategy is the focus of the Prevention subcommittee. It has representation from Chatham Drug Free, Chatham County Schools and other youth-focused programs. Ms. Culver explained that the hope is to spend these funds on peer education for at-risk youth, in partnership with schools and community-based organizations. In addition, it aims to offer education and support for families affected by substance use.

Dr. Lloyd inquired what the research shows is the most effective thing to prevent substance use. Ms. Culver said that societal factors play a key role, such as protective factors like social connections, safe family environment, steady parental employment and financial security. Ms. Williams asked if the programs are going to be present in schools and what programming can be offered to youth who are aged out of the school system. Ms. Culver noted that this program within the school system will serve as a pilot program with one or two schools; the curriculum being used can be adjusted based on age range.

Naloxone Distribution Strategy (\$100,000 allocated)

This strategy is the focus of the Harm Reduction subcommittee. Ms. Culver said that this strategy will focus on administering life-saving medication. According to Ms. Culver, more than 800 naloxone kits have been distributed since Dec 1, 2023. This marks a huge increase over the 157 kits distributed in FY22/23. Ms. Culver explained that Overdose Prevention Training has been held 14 times, training 130 people. Emergency overdose wall units have been installed in six public buildings as well. \$85,000 will be spent on naloxone itself, while the remainder will be allocated to other harm reduction materials and public messaging. This year's allocation of funds includes some startup costs, which Ms. Culver does not anticipate will be allotted every year. She also stated that naloxone distribution is a metric for success across all approved strategies. Based on general rates of substance use, our goal in Chatham is to distribute 3,000 kits over a period of three years.

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the settlement, Ms. Culver clarified that it is required to hold public meetings. Three public meetings were held during the month of May.

Parent Navigator Program

Sam Owusu and Gabriela Arciniega delivered an overview of the Parent Navigator Program. Ms. Owusu discussed how intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnoses are on the rise. She explained that COVID-19 delayed the identification and detection of IDDs. There has recently been an overrepresentation of children with IDDs among people of color, as well as in girls.

Chatham County Schools has communicated to Ms. Owusu that there were a larger number of students with IDDs than predicted. Ms. Reitz-Barlow asked if students who are in the Chatham County School District are the only ones included in an analysis of diagnoses.

Dr. Lloyd emphasized that there is a long process to receive an IDD diagnosis and it is important to receive it as fast as possible. Ms. Reitz-Barlow then inquired if the parents who leave Chatham County to pursue services are being captured. Dr. Rimer asked if homeschooled students and private school students are included in this count. Ms. Owusu said that these populations may not be captured in the county.

Ms. Arciniega mentioned that the Parent Navigator can provide much needed support to a family looking to find IDD services or referrals. The Parent Navigator connects families to resources, in addition to helping navigate the system of services they need. A Parent Navigator can provide guidance and support to families on how to access services, work with providers, and provide emotional support. Dr. Lloyd asked if the navigator could help families with an IDD Waiver, Ms. Arciniega responded that yes, this is possible.

Ms. Arciniega continued to explain that the Parent Navigator facilitates communication between Spanish speaking families and providers, assists with scheduling appointments and

helps identify potential resource barriers, among other responsibilities. To be eligible, a child must be between 2-18 years old, not be meeting developmental milestones and the child/family must live in Chatham County. According to Ms. Arciniega, the goals of the program are to increase awareness, engagement, feelings of community and personal self-efficacy. The program has received 21 referrals from January to May 2024 and engages in regular communication with both therapy centers and Chatham County Schools. Families can also self-refer.

Ms. Arciniega discussed how some barriers to care access remain, such as a lack of local therapeutic services or community support. For FY 24/25, Ms. Arciniega hopes that the program will improve access to support services, expand resource networks, increase the implementation of family-centered services and develop Parent Advocacy training workshops.

Dr. Lloyd stated that it is a challenge to help parents ensure that IDD services are easily accessible. Ms. Khajuria added that trainings are available to help facilitate this conversation. Ms. Williams added that dentistry is also an essential program that should receive a focus by similar navigational support initiatives. Ms. Owusu said the team is working on assessing how to address further needs. Ms. Reitz-Barlow noted there is a need for more organized programs, such as the Special Olympics. Dr. Lloyd mentioned that UNC is trying to staff parent navigators in community offices. Dr. Brian noted that he appreciated the recognition of dental services in this conversation and added that there is a provider in a neighboring county that provides dental services for those with IDDs. Mr. Zelek mentioned that the start of the patient navigator program also coincides with uncertainty around the future of another program run by a local non-profit with a similar focus. This program could help offset some of the gap should that program end. Dr. Rimer stated that a large number of homes are slated to come to the county, which would increase demand for services.

New Business

Dr. Davis introduced a new board member, Erika Dunnon, MPH, who assumed the open Public Board of Health seat.

FY 25 Board of Health Meeting Schedule

Dr. Davis referred to the proposed meeting schedule for the next fiscal year:

August 26, 2024

Dunlap Building Boardroom

September 23, 2024

Dunlap Building Boardroom

October 28, 2024

Dunlap Building Boardroom

November 25, 2024	Dunlap Building Boardroom
December, 2024	No Meeting
January 27, 2025	Dunlap Building Boardroom
February 24, 2025	Dunlap Building Boardroom
March 24, 2025	Dunlap Building Boardroom
April 28, 2025	Dunlap Building Boardroom
May 19, 2025	Dunlap Building Boardroom
June 23, 2025	Dunlap Building Boardroom
July, 2025	No Meeting

Ms. Reitz-Barlow made a motion to approve the Board of Health Meeting Schedule as presented and Dr. Lloyd seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Old Business

FY25 BOH Chair/Vice Chair

Dr. Davis proposed Dr. Freese assume the role of BOH Chair as discussed and Dr. Brian assume the role of Vice Chair for the next fiscal year.

Dr. Lloyd made a motion to approve the Board of Health officer slate as presented and Ms. Reitz-Barlow seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Health Director Report

Mr. Zelek shared the following updates:

- Welcome to Erika. It is great to have you on the Board.
- Thank you to our three outgoing Board members: Carol, Dr. Lloyd, and Dr. Roscoe, he appreciates all the support and guidance you have provided over the last nine years. As a reminder, three additional new Board members will join the Board's August meeting.

- Congratulations to our three staff (Ms. Bland, Ms. Lopez, and Ms. Arciniega) who were recently promoted. It is great to see these opportunities for our team members.
- The Chatham County Public Health Department's budget for next fiscal year has been approved. This includes the two expansion requests that were previously submitted, one for the well testing initiative and the other to cover the gap in funding for the early childhood positions. It also includes a 4% raise for staff.
- The Heat Action Plan has launched, and just in time. A press release was sent out last week, and there are posts on the Chatham County Public Health Department's social media pages as well.
- Mr. Zelek will be on vacation from July 5-19.

Closed Session

Dr. Freese made a motion to proceed to a closed session, and Ms. Reitz-Barlow seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Ms. Reitz Barlow made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Dr. Lloyd seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.



Stephanie Freese, DVM, Chair



Secretary Ex Officio

Michael Zelek, MPH, Public Health Director