

ALAMANCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Health

December 16, 2014

The Alamance County Board of Health met at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2014, in the Professional Board Room of the Human Services Center located at 319-B North Graham-Hopedale Road, Burlington, North Carolina.

The following board members were present: Mr. Kent Tapscott, Chair; Dr. Karin Minter; Dr. Annette Wilson; Dr. Kary Dodd; Ms. LaTina McGee; and Dr. William Porfilio.

The following staff members were present: Ms Stacie Turpin Saunders, Mr. Carl Carroll, Dr. Kathleen Shapley-Quinn, Ms. Gayle Shoffner, Ms. Janna Elliott and Ms. Ariana Lawrence.

The following guests were present: Ms. Carla Hampton, Ms. Kathleen Daugherty, Mr. Barry Bass, Mr. Chris Lavender, and Mr. Madison Taylor.

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Board of Health Chairman, Mr. Kent Tapscott, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Recognition of 2014 Board of Health and You Can Count of Me Award Recipients and Retirees

Mr. Kent Tapscott presented the 2014 Employee of the Year award to Ms. Carla Hampton who serves as Physician Assistant at the Alamance County Health Department.

Mr. Kent Tapscott also presented the 2014 Public Health Partnership Award to The Times News. Mr. Madison Taylor and Mr. Chris Lavender were present to accept the award.

Ms. Stacie Saunders presented the 2014 You Can Count on Me Award to Ms. Kathleen Daugherty who serves as Nursing Supervisor at the Alamance County Health Department.

Mr. Tapscott recognized Mr. Barry Bass for his dedication and successful leadership serving as Alamance County Health Department's Health Director. Mr. Bass retired March 1, 2014.

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments made.

IV. Approval of the October 21, 2014 Board of Health Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. William Porfilio to approve the October 21, 2014, Board of Health minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Karin Minter and approved unanimously by the board.

V. Administrative Reports**A. Personnel Report**

Ms. Janna Elliott provided the Board with the Personnel Update.

PERSONNEL UPDATE***New Hires / Transfers / Resignations:***

- Ann Meletzke resigned from her position as Human Services Planner/Evaluator II - LAUNCH Program Manager effective November 26, 2014.
- Kimberly Coble began employment in the Processing Assistant III- Finance Clerk position effective November 5, 2014.
- Lia Dykes began employment in the Processing Assistant V- CNA/CenteringPregnancy Coordinator position effective December 9, 2014.
- Tammy Ward has resigned from her position as Processing Assistant III – Maternity Clerk effective December 19, 2014.

Recruiting to fill the following positions:

- Processing Assistant III – Intake Clerk (accepting applications)
- Public Health Educator III – Health Education Supervisor (appointment pending)
- Public Health Nurse II – Child Care Health Consultant (accepting applications)

Vacant positions:

- Public Health Nurse I (two positions)
- Processing Assistant III – Admin
- Processing Assistant III – Intake Clerk
- Processing Assistant III – Medical Records
- Human Services Planner/Evaluator II

VI. Personal Health Committee Update

Dr. Dodd reviewed the minutes from the Personal Health Committee held on November 18, 2014. Ms. Saunders pointed out that the Centering Counts dashboards points out the cost savings that Centering Pregnancy provides because of higher rates of breastfeeding rates and lower preterm births associated with this program. Dr. Porfilio asked for an update about the potential policy for staff members to be vaccinated for the flu. Ms. Saunders and Dr. Shapley-Quinn answered that no policy

has been formed, but the flu committee is planning to meet in January 2015 to discuss this further.

VII. Personal Health Update

Ms. Shoffner reported that staff flu vaccine rates are currently at 74%. Two sections in the health department were at 100% for receiving the vaccine; Provider and Administration staff. Both sections were recognized at the December quarterly staff meeting. Currently the amount of flu vaccines given to the public is 1,373. Last year at this time, there were 1,469 vaccines given. Ms. Shoffner reported that the health department still has plenty of flu vaccine/mist to administer.

Ms. Shoffner also updated the board about Centricity. The practice management piece of Centricity was implemented on December 1, 2014. Clinic appointments were reduced by 50% beginning in late November to educate staff. Ms. Shoffner explained that clinic function is now at 75% with the expectation to return to 100% the week following Christmas. Ms. Shoffner is pleased with how well the staff has transitioned, and wanted to say thank you to Kathleen Daugherty and Karen Schwabrow for their efforts and working so hard during this transition.

Ms. Shoffner informed the board that the travel monitoring for the individual returning from West Africa ended on November 23, 2014. There were no symptoms of Ebola identified during the 21 days of monitoring.

Ms. Shoffner shared that on November 25th, county staff participated in the Cone Health full scale Ebola exercise. During this exercise, the contact monitor nurses visited a returning traveler from West Africa. During their time in West Africa, this person served as a health care provider and provided direct services to sick Ebola patients. The monitor nurses visited her at her work site. During that visit she developed symptoms of Ebola exposing other co-workers to her bodily fluids. Symptoms were identified, the Medical Director consulted, with recommendations to transport this person to Cone Health ED. EMS notified and arrived with the truck fully prepared to transport an Ebola infectious person. As EMS supervisors assisted, responding EMS staff wore the recommended full PPE suits. The Ebola suspect was transported to Cone Health where staff was waiting to assist. In January the health department staff will work through this situation and how monitoring nurses would handle it.

VIII. Environmental Health Committee Update

Dr. Annette Wilson reviewed the minutes from the Environmental Health Committee held on November 18, 2014.

IX. Environmental Health Update

Mr. Carroll reported that the turnaround time for environmental health onsite wastewater and well services has been about three to four weeks depending on the weather, and the number of requests received. Last year during the first five months of the year Environmental Health had 69 requests for improvement permits, and this year during the same time period there has already been 134 requests. Mr. Carroll reported that revenue is up about 30%. These numbers are close to what was seen in 2008.

Mr. Carroll gave an update about new constructions and openings around the county. There is a new apartment complex being constructed on 54 East across from Waffle House. Environmental Health has been involved to review plans for the apartment's public swimming pool. There is a new childcare facility being built on Apple Street, as well as a new smoothie restaurant off University Drive in Burlington. A new retirement home has been opened and it is called Mebane Ridge Retirement Homes.

Mr. Carroll informed the board that January is Radon Awareness Month. In partnership with the North Carolina Radon Protection Section, many county environmental health programs are receiving fifty free radon detectors to give to the public, Alamance County Environmental Health included. Information will be sent to the local media about this program and folks will also be able to order a Radon detection kit from this website <http://www.ncradon.org/Home.html>. Radon is a colorless odorless gas that is naturally occurring. It can be harmful if levels are elevated inside the home. It can come through cracks in the slab of a home or in from a crawl space where holes or cracks are present in the floor. On average if an elevated level is found in a home, it will cost about \$1,500 to vent the radon gas to the outside. There may be assistance available to those that can't afford the cost. On average, Alamance County historically has not had a problem with radon, but testing has been limited and the free kits will help folks identify if they have a problem. Mr. Carroll reported that nationally each year, more than 22,000 people die from radon-induced lung cancer and some 54 percent of those diagnosed with early-stage lung cancer are expected to live no more than five years after diagnosis.

Mr. Carroll informed that board about a complaint that Environmental Health received three years ago. A property owner had trash in his backyard, sewage running into a stream, and he was operating a mobile food truck without a permit and using meat products that he was cutting up in an abandoned house and he was also burning trash in a burn barrel. First Environmental health staff shut down the food truck and convinced him to stop burning his trash, and he gradually cleaned up the solid waste. The wastewater system which was failing was the most challenging. The property was not suitable to repair the wastewater system. Environmental Health started searching for available adjacent properties, but it took some time to find and then make contact with the adjacent property owner. Environmental put the owner of the failing system in contact with the adjacent property owner to begin negotiations for this man to buy the property. He eventually bought the property and was issued a permit for a new wastewater system. The owner failed to move forward, so environmental health issued a criminal summons for his failure to clean up his property and the failing wastewater system. All the issues have now been resolved, but it takes a tremendous amount of staff time to deal with these types of issues. Mr. Carroll said he was proud of staff for

being so persistent and resourceful in eliminating all the public health issues related to this site and although this was an extreme case, environmental health investigated and successfully handled over six hundred complaints last year related to solid waste, food and wastewater.

X. Medical Director's Report

Dr. Kathleen Shapley-Quinn reported that she has been working with Betsy Bledsoe, who is a professor at the UNC School of Social Work, on a number of research studies for the health department maternity clinic. The health department has agreed to be involved in another study if it gets funded. The \$250,000 funding will support a Social Worker position at the health department for three years.

Mr. Kent Tapscott asked Dr. Shapley-Quinn for an update on the states flu statistics. Dr. Shapley-Quinn stated that there has been a rise in the number of individuals getting the non-typical "A" flu virus which is more problematic. Mr. Tapscott asked if there was a plan for the health department to target specific populations for obtaining the flu vaccine this year. Ms. Shoffner shared that the health department has been invited to take part in the "Project Homeless" event on January 29. Mr. Tapscott said it would be a great idea to get the word out to the media and surrounding medical facilities that the health department still has flu vaccines available. Mr. Tapscott asked about reaching out to the Hispanic population with regard to flu vaccines. Ms. Saunders said she would reach out to some of the Spanish speaking groups to spread to the word to that population.

Dr. Shapley-Quinn added that she has a purchasing flu vaccine on a community level. Mr. Tapscott and Dr. Minter shared that they would be interested in hearing more about this.

XI. Health Director's Report

Ms. Stacie Saunders informed the board that the Board of Commissioner's approved that the 55% cut in longevity be restored for this fiscal year for eligible employees. The Commissioner's wanted to make this a one-time only restoration because they want to evaluate the longevity program and how it can be improved. Ms. Saunders informed the board that the new Board of Commissioner's representative on the Board of Health will be Bob Byrd beginning in 2015.

Ms. Saunders reported that back in October, the board reviewed a work site tobacco survey and gave some suggestions for the work group. Since then the work group put together a survey from the first and second survey received from DPH. The survey now includes questions regarding different types of tobacco products used. Dr. Wilson asked if this survey is anonymous. Ms. Saunders answered that the plan is to do this survey via an online tool called "survey monkey" and will be e-mailed out for employees to fill out anonymously. Mr. Tapscott suggested adding the question "if HSC was a tobacco-free facility, would it affect your desire to be employed here?" Ms. Saunders asked if the board thought if having a question regarding which agency the employee filling out the survey works in is helpful information. The board agreed that it would be helpful, and a good piece of information to have. Ms. Saunders reminded the board that if they decide to make a tobacco-free rule, it would have to be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Saunders gave an update about Performance Management and Performance Based Budgeting (PMPBB), which is a policy approved by the county commissioners in which County departments will set goals to track and report on regularly. Based on the success of these goals and the County's financial health, the department will be able to retain percentages of any savings at the end of the fiscal year. In the health department, eligible employees received a \$500 bonus, HVAC assessment, Epi room improvements, and GIS software. County administration is assessing 2013/2014 goals to determine if the health department has achieved the set goals in order to receive a percentage of those savings. For fiscal year 2014/2015 some of the goals are implementation of electronic medical records, decreasing delinquent accounts in the Dental Clinic, and maintain customer service goals in Environmental Health.

Ms. Saunders reported that the SOTCH report deadline is now March of 2015. The Community Health Assessment group has completed the data collection. This group is made up of the health department, Alamance Regional Medical Center, Alamance Community College, United Way, Elon University and a lot of other groups. The Board of Commissioner's requested that the Community Health Assessment be presented to them upon completion.

Ms. Saunders reported that Impact Alamance invited the health department, department of social services and some other agencies to participate in discussions about public impact. There was a lot of talk about how these agencies can work together to improve all aspect of health outcomes as a community.

XII. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

XIII. New Business

A. Board of Health Applicants

The board reviewed an application that was submitted for the Representative of the General Public position. The board was agreeable to move this forward to the Board of Commissioners. Dr. Dodd's term is expiring 12/31/2014, but has agreed to serve another term on the board until another dentist is found to serve. The professional engineer position will be vacant as of 12/31/2014.

B. Election of 2015 Board of Health Officers – Mr. Kent Tapscott

Mr. Kent Tapscott reviewed the nominations for 2015 Board of Health officers.

A motion was made by Dr. William Porfilio to elect Mr. Michael Venable as Board of Health Chairman, Dr. Karin Minter as Board of Health Vice Chairman, Dr. Annette Wilson as Environmental Health Committee Chairman and Dr. Kary Dodd as Personal Health Committee Chairman for 2015. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kary Dodd and approved unanimously by the board.

C. Approval of 2015 Board of Health Meeting Schedule – Mr. Kent Tapscott

Mr. Kent Tapscott reviewed the proposed 2015 Board of Health Meeting Schedule.

A motion was made by Dr. Karin Minter to approve the 2015 Board of Health meeting schedule as proposed. The motion was seconded by Dr. William Porfilio and approved unanimously by the board.

XIV. Other

No other business was discussed.

XV. Adjournment

With no further action or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

ALAMANCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Mr. W. Kent Tapscott, Chair

Ms. Stacie Turpin Saunders, Secretary