

WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

The Wilson County Board of Health held a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2011 in the Board Room at the Wilson County Health Department. Members present were:

Thomas Lucas
Norma Velasco
Samuel Teruel-Velez
Jessica McKee, D.O.
Ronnie Sutton

William B. Boles, III, D.D.S.
Russell Stone, O.D.
Kathy L. Dixon, RN
Dr. R. David Scott, D.V.M.

Others present:

Felix Meyer, Debra Harris, Lida Blalock, Jenny Nicholson, Karen Boyette, Phyllis Rathbun, Cinnamon Narron, Christie White and Lynn Barnes.

Welcome

Ronnie Sutton, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and extended a welcome to attendees. Dr. Jessica McKee and Dr. Russell Stone were sworn in as new Board members by Mr. Sutton.

Election of Board of Health Officers

Officers for the FY 2011-2012 were nominated and elected. For Chairperson, Ronnie Sutton was nominated by Dr. William Boles and Kathy Dixon seconded. No other nominations were made. Dr. Boles made a motion to elect Ronnie Sutton as Chairperson and Samuel Teruel-Velez seconded. For Vice-Chairperson, Samuel Teruel-Velez was nominated by Norma Velasco and seconded by Dr. Boles. There were no other nominations. Dr. Boles made the nomination to elect Samuel Teruel-Velez as Vice-Chairperson and Dr. R. David Scott seconded.

Approval of Minutes of June 14, 2011 meeting

The minutes from the June 14, 2011 meeting were accepted without corrections, additions, or deletions.

Health Director's Report

Mr. Meyer welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated the new Board of Health officers, Ronnie Sutton, Chairperson and Samuel Teruel-Velez, Vice-Chair. Updates were given on two ongoing personnel cases. As of June 1, 2011, sale of synthetic cannabinoids became illegal. Discussed how the number of increasing deaths with potency can be as much as 100 times street marijuana. Since becoming a tobacco free community, Wilson is one of few counties who have been without a violation or complaint since the inception of HB-2. It was recommend by the Health Director to consider a rule making recommendation to County Commissioners completely tobacco free facilities. A preliminary survey was recommended to the community to assess public interest and or support. An extract of the Administrative Statute 130A-39 "Powers and duties of a local board of health" were given out. A full copy of Public

Health and Related Laws of North Carolina is available in the Health Director's office and a full copy is available on the Wilson County Health Department website within the BOH Handbook. More bills were gone over as well as Sen. Hartzell's substitute bill after further negotiations with DPH/NCALHD. DPH/NCALHD would agree to support "concept of regionalization". HB 580 was withdrawn at the 11th hour of the General Assembly. There will be more discussion on the bill in short session. All personnel urged continue pressure against GA representatives to veto. Tammra Morrison will be presenting jointly with DPH Epidemiology Branch on the Strep A outbreak at NCPHA in Charlotte September 16th. The Health Director will also be presenting at NCPHA: "Implementation of Mandatory Flu Vaccination Program-WCHD's Successful Experience". Personnel updates were given with one retirement and two new employees. Update on Personnel Achievements: Tammra Morrison received "Outbreak Response Award" from NCDPH at Communicable Disease Conference, for management of recent Strep A outbreak and Beverly Cooper completed state mandated Infection Control Course. Winners for Employee of the month were recognized for the months of May, June and the second quarter. Dr. Krabill was thanked for his continuing support. Mr. Thomas Lucas, Chairman, and all of the County Commissioners were thanked for passing the budget for FY 2011-2012. The Health Department received all funds requested, including funds to support multiple personnel actions as previously described. The forecast for next year remains bleak. Cinnamon Narron and staff were thanked for their hard efforts on behalf of the department.

The School Nurse Funding Initiative (SNFI) related to the School Nurse Program was discussed. This was designed to increase student to nurse ratio in public schools to state and national goal of 1:750. Wilson County had a ratio of approximately 1:4082 and the State ratio was approximately 1:1600. Since SNFI inception, the State ratio has improved to approx 1:1185 and Wilson County has remained at a ratio of 1:2050 (after SNFI funding x 3). The NC General Assembly passed HB 200, "Appropriations Act of 2011". This will mandate allocation of SNFI funds to be routed through local health departments. The bill also added specific tasks between public health and school nurses. School nurses would now be available to assist in public health emergencies. Prior to this year the SNFI funds were routed to the Department of Instruction and the school nurses were then directly employed by the school system. This is no longer an option per HB 200. The Health Director and DON believe public health might be better served by shifting the school nurse program to the health department. Four school nurse models exist within the state. The Health Director, Ms. Rebecca Hunt-Hawley, RN, DON and Barbara Williams met with DPI reps (Dr. Sean Bulson and staff) on July 11, to discuss management of SNFI funds and consider options for future of county school nurse program. At this time the Health department will transfer the SNFI funds to DPI for current funding of three school nurses. All participants believed this to be a major step forward in open dialogue between HD and DPI, most productive in four years. WCHD believes the best long-term option, in interest of public health at school level, is assignment of school nurses to the health department. Board member, Kathy Dixon and who has been a school nurse since 1989 was able to give a clearer picture on the ratio, with her ratio, 1:2300. Wilson County Schools currently has 6 nurses for 25 schools who generally treat medically fragile children and children with chronic illnesses. Mr. Meyer asked for a motion from the board that the SNFI funds be transferred to DPI this year. Dr. William Boles, III made the motion to move the SNFI funds and Samuel Teruel-Velez seconded. Health Director was directed to proceed with discussion with school system.

Title X Latino Services was gone over beginning with the history about how NC has experienced a rapid influx of Latino immigrants in recent years. The goal of the Title X funding initiative is to increase the number of Latino clients receiving comprehensive family planning services through new patient recruitment and improved retention. WCHD received a Latino Family Planning Grant for \$25,000.00 for 2011-2012. This grant targets the Latino population, young females who are in peak childbearing years. This contract will include adding four additional hours of Family Planning hours for Latino clients. Contract with a bi-lingual educator to provide culturally based intervention to reduce HIV and pregnancy risk among Latino youth. The Diabetes Education Recognition Program whose mission is to provide quality comprehensive diabetes self-management education to empower persons with diabetes. The first class is scheduled to begin September 13, 2011. Approval was requested from the BOH to continue with implementation of Diabetes Education Recognition Program. Dr. William Boles, III made the motion to

continue and Samuel Teruel-Velez seconded. There was no further discussion. More information was given on the Teen Clinic by Phyllis Rathbun discussing what was available for the teens. This program was originally announced in the newspaper (see article) and on the Health Department electronic signboard. Blog comments from the public were discussed. During teen clinic times, a nurse practitioner, nurse and a health educator are available to the teens. Approval was asked from the BOH to continue the “Teen Clinic” services. No further discussion was held. A motion was made by Norma Velasco to continue and Dr. Jessica McKee seconded. SNS attained a score of 94 on biennial preparedness survey, which was up from a score of 66 two years ago. At the conclusion of the meeting, there was discussion held on switching the December BOH meeting to December 6th and everyone was in agreement.

Home Health Advisory Board

Debra Harris, RN, Home Health Director gave the annual Home Health orientation the BOH members. Information was handed out to each member.

Environmental Health

Jenny Nicholson, Environmental Program Specialist, gave an overview of Environmental Health and the different type of services they provide.

Board Chairperson’s Report

Mr. Sutton expressed his thanks to the Board members for the confidence that they have bestowed to him. Meetings will continue to run as they have in the past and wants to let everyone know they have the opportunity to voice their opinions.

Questions from the Board

Mr. Sutton asked if there were any questions from the Board. No one, at this time, had any questions.

Concerns of the Public

No one present from the public.

Adjournment- There being no further business Mr. Sutton adjourned the meeting at approximately at 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Felix Meyer, Secretary
Wilson County Board of Health

AFM/lmb