

The Pamlico County Board of Health
Regular Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting
March 13, 2017
6:30 p.m.

Board of Health Members:

Present: Cliff Braly, Edward Riggs, Jr., Jason Rose, Joshua Rose, Starr Murphy, Sheri Rettew, Michelle Parish, Anita Mayo

Absent: Tunmorya Bennett, Lori Altman, Susan Woods

Other Attendees: Scott Lenhart, Susan McRoy

Chairman Cliff Braly called the meeting to order at 6:30. He opened the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves, since we had 5 new members joining the Board tonight.

Susan McRoy administered the Oath of Office to Joshua Rose, Starr Murphy, Anita Mayo, Sheri Rettew, and Edward Riggs, Jr. Cliff Braly welcomed the new board members.

A motion was made and seconded by Edward Riggs, Jr. and Jason Rose to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded by Jason Rose and Starr Murphy to approve the minutes from the regular February 13, 2017 meeting. The minutes were approved. A motion was made and seconded by Edward Riggs, Jr. and Sheri Rettew to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2017 Consolidation Meeting. The minutes were approved.

There were no public comments.

Cliff Braly turned the floor over to Scott Lenhart to give health department updates. Susan McRoy said that expenditures for February were about the same, however, revenues were a little lower. One of the major expenditures for the month was the initial cost for Patagonia of \$13,330. This expenditure was covered by the \$20,000 that the State had given health departments who were still on HIS. The remaining amount will be used for the monthly fee.

Scott Lenhart reviewed the health department numbers with the Board. Environmental Health numbers were steady in February. Revenues were lower than January, which was an unusually high month. The budgeted amount for the year is \$40,000, and we are on track to meet or even exceed this amount. The Commissioners approved the changes in the pool fees at the last meeting. Patient numbers increased in February. Jason Rose asked if there was a reason why STD service counts

almost doubled. There was no definite answer. Edward Riggs, Jr. asked what services are provided under "OS". Susan McRoy explained that these are flat fee services such as: flu shots, TB skin tests, pregnancy tests, HepB, Jail physicals, DOT physicals. WIC numbers are at 96% which is close to the benchmark that the State requires. Starr Murphy asked if we have a Spanish interpreter. We do not but use a language line for interpreter services. Our contract Nutritionist is bi-lingual.

Scott Lenhart gave a staffing update. The Commissioners approved splitting the HS Planner Evaluator into 2 positions. He gave them 3 options: hire both now, hire 1 now and 1 after July 1st, or do nothing. They approved hiring 1 now and 1 after July 1st. The money we receive from the State will cover the salary for both positions, but the County will have to cover the fringe. He has offered the mid-level provider position to a candidate and is waiting for a response. The provider is looking for a HRSA site, which we are not at this time. This program gives new grads \$60,000 towards their student loans if they work for a local health department for 2 years. Applications for the program are submitted in September. We received 5 applications for the Social Worker position. We offered to one, but she declined due to salary. We have another that qualifies if we reclassify the position to a Public Health Nurse. We have not received any applications for the Health Educator, Environmental Health Specialist, or Nutritionist positions. Starr Murphy said she had talked to some Nurse Practitioners, but salary was an issue. Scott Lenhart said that our salary is above the State average but below the National average. Providers want a 6 figure income.

Scott Lenhart gave an update on the Consolidation meeting that occurred on February 20th. It was a combined meeting of the Board of Commissioners, DSS Board, and Board of Health. He felt that the meeting went well. The Commissioners decided to table discussions of consolidation for now. They have the information should they need to look at it again in the future. He pointed out that consolidation works best if the agencies are in the same location, not 3 miles apart. One of the best things that was mentioned at the meeting was that the Boards need to meet at least annually to have open discussions like they did at this meeting. Edward Riggs, Jr. said that it is important to make sure the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Health are on the same page. It was also pointed out that the reason consolidation was brought up in the beginning is not an issue anymore. He also noted that the department heads used to present to the Commissioners on a regular basis, especially if there was a need. Now, the Commissioners only get a piece of paper. There was much discussion regarding where services are provided. Starr Murphy would like to see services redirected back to the health department instead of elsewhere. Scott Lenhart pointed out that the FQHC is not free health care. Clients are either sliding fee, or they pay \$3. It looks like ACA is going away.

Scott Lenhart gave an update on the repairs to the building. He gave the Board the quote for the new phone system. H.L. Williams has completed a lot of the items but cannot do the windows because of asbestos. CenturyLink wants \$150 to come out and identify the phone lines that are hanging in the clinic area. The tile floors will have to be covered since they have asbestos under them. We received 2 quotes for replacing the doors with automatic doors and replacing the floor in the administrative section. Scott Lenhart gave the Board the report from the ADA inspection. We will be changing the main entrance of the health department in the near future to make it more handicap accessible and ordering a new sign. We do not have enough bathrooms, and the only bathroom in the clinic area cannot be made handicap accessible. Michelle Parish asked if there was a building that could be rented. There was some discussion regarding old plans for a 2 story building behind the County Manager's office and possible space to rent. Edward Riggs, Jr. asked how much space the health department would need if it moved to Alliance or another building. Scott Lenhart said that we need 6,000 sq. ft. to accommodate the health department and Hope Clinic. Edward Riggs, Jr. said that he

would rather put money in a move than in the current building. There are currently 2 buildings for rent and 1 for lease that have the space that we need. Cliff Braly has concerns about rebuilding on the current health department location due to the soil composition. Starr Murphy talked about the issues with the jail floor.

Scott Lenhart told the group that the \$30,000 in Child Health funds had been approved. These funds will pay for new doors, a handicap accessible scale, a handicap accessible bed, painting in the clinic, and computers for clinical use.

The contract for the Pediatrician is at the County Manager's office. We are answering his questions so that it can be processed.

Scott Lenhart reviewed the proposed FY 17/18 budget. This budget will change once it goes to the County Manager and the Commissioners. The current budget has local appropriations at 68%. The proposed budget has local appropriations at 70%. Scott Lenhart explained the additional costs associated with this increase.

Starr Murphy asked if the Commissioners want the health department to thrive. Edward Riggs, Jr. said that the health department is a small fish in the big picture. The courthouse repairs are costing the county a large amount of money each year. They have been playing catch up with the Sheriff's Department for the past couple of years. The current thought is for the health department to be the best it can be at what they are mandated to provide. Cliff Braly pointed out that the health department needs to serve the underserved in the county. Sheri Rettew talked about Hope Clinic and the health department working together more to serve the underserved in the community. She talked about the cost of not providing services and the economic impact that would have on the county. She pointed out that the FQHC is not a non-profit. Edward Riggs, Jr. said that it may be helpful to have the annual meeting of the Boards closer to budget time so that everyone understands the needs and concerns prior to the approval of the budget. He recommended that the request for a joint meeting be made thru the County Manager. He said that in the current year the school system got 1/3, the sheriff's department got 1/3, and everyone else got the other 1/3. The proposed budget is due in Munis (to the County Manager) March 20th. There was a lot of discussion regarding the economic impact of not treating individuals and trying to prevent substance abuse in the schools. Cliff Braly recommended that the Commissioners come to the health department on a Thursday night. Edward Riggs, Jr. said he was surprised to see the current conditions when he toured the health department.

Scott Lenhart talked about a possible merger with Hope Clinic, and their paid staff becoming county employees. There was much discussion regarding how this could affect fundraising, donations, grants, and services. It was recommended that a plan be present to a joint meeting of the Board of Health and the Hope Clinic Board. Sheri Rettew gave a brief description on how their boards/committees are structured. Starr Murphy said that they have approximately 92 inmates currently in the jail. Of these, 63 are federal inmates, and the rest are mostly repeat county offenders. A lot of these have depression and substance abuse issues. She also has STD and TB cases which can be treated at the health department. If she has any other issues, she has to send them to Craven County or Raleigh Central depending on the situation. We need to have prenatal care in the county. Starr Murphy gave an example of the cost of care for an inmate that had been shot. The bill was approximately \$518,000. She stressed that we need to be able to take care of these people in the county. If the depression and substance abuse could be treated or prevented within the county, there would be fewer repeat offenders from the county. Edward Riggs, Jr. made a motion for Sheri Rettew to present a cost analysis and

report on the cost of not serving the underserved. Michelle Parish seconded the motion. The motion passed. The report should be ready in 90days.

There was more discussion regarding the merger of the 2 agencies and possible effects on fundraising. Jason Rose pointed out that if it was presented as 100% of funds raised/donated go to direct patient care the merger should not hurt donations. Sheri Rettew said that currently \$.97 or every \$1 goes to patient care. Scott Lenhart said that the health department can accept donations. They just need to be designated for a specific program. If they are not designated, they go into the general fund.

Scott Lenhart gave the Board several pages of training materials for webinars that will meet the requirements for Accreditation. He asked that everyone complete the training and give a copy of the certificates to Susan McRoy as proof that the training was completed. He also gave a handout on "Open Meeting" for members to review.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jason Rose, seconded by Joshua Rose, and unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 8:20 p.m.

Cliff Braly, Chairman Board of Health

Date

Scott Lenhart, Health Director

Date

Susan McRoy, Secretary

Date
