

**WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES**

**June 08, 2021**

The Wilson County Board of Health held a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 08, 2021 in the Board Room at the Wilson County Health Department. Members present were:

Scott Dixon, D.D.S.  
Shannon Drohan, M.D.  
Catherine Melin  
Russell Stone M.D.

Maria Glennon, D.V.M.  
William T. Bass, IV  
Linda Cooper- Suggs  
Rosario Ochoa

Others present:

Teresa Ellen, Cinnamon Narron, Valerie Bulluck, Jordan Jernigan

**Welcome**

Dr. Scott Dixon, called the meeting to order at 6:02pm and welcomed all in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes of March 2021 Meeting**

The minutes from the March 2021 meeting were accepted without corrections, additions, or deletions.

Review and approval of the minutes shall be construed as review/discussion/approval/of all items distributed prior to the meeting for consideration and shall be so reflected in the minutes.

**Administration**

Ms. Cinnamon Narron presented the financial report YTD as of June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (See Handout). The full report was not completed because the end of the year is June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Health Department YTD Net funds is in a good position. The Immunization Action Plan received \$213,855 dollars in vaccine administration fees. The Covid-19 vaccine is free, but the Health Department billed insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid for the administration of the vaccine. Maternal health has a deficit of \$30,033 dollars with 76 patients that are pending payments. The Health Department cannot bill Medicaid until the mother has given birth. Most of the deficit for the Maternal Health program are unpaid claims. The Dental Program has a deficit of \$41,275 dollars and \$50,000 dollars in dental claims that haven't been received. The Dental program has dealt with school closures and the departure of the dentist Dr. Maldonado. Dr. Melanie Smith was hired as the new dentist and will work contract during the summer and will start full time August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Medicaid Max 10% hold for 2017 and 2018 was received earlier in the year, and the Health Department anticipates over \$500,000 dollars in Medicaid Max for the 2020 fiscal year that will be added to this year's budget.

Ms. Narron presented the Fee schedule which shall go into effect starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. (See Handout) The highlighted items are either new items or fee changes for the upcoming year. After evaluation of the current fee schedule, it was decided to increase due to reimbursement and cost. Ms. Linda Cooper Suggs asked why the MMWR vaccine increased from \$150 Dollars to \$260 dollars noting that it is a substantial increase. Ms. Narron said the increase is related to the cost of the vaccine and the amount allowed to be payable by private insurance. Dr. Dixon DDS asked if there will also be a Copay. There is no Copay.

Dr. Dixon asked for a motion to approve the Health Department Fee Schedule for 2021-2022 as submitted. Dr. Stone made a motion to accept the budget as submitted and Ms. Linda Cooper- Suggs seconded. There was no opposition, and the motion was approved.

### **Personal Health**

Ms. Valerie Bulluck, Director of Nursing said the safe sleep initiative came from the intensive child fatality review. It was made to warn mothers about the dangers of sleeping with babies in bed and rolling over on them. It is not uncommon for parents in North Carolina to sleep with their children at night and accidentally roll over on them. The videos are very poignant because they are from mothers that have lost their infants from rolling over on them. Ms. Bulluck is also on the committee and the Health Department currently plays the video in the maternity clinic, main clinic, and if a patient plans on getting pregnant. Back in the day people used to have family beds, but today we educate to let people know that sleeping with a baby in the bed is not a good solution and its dangerous because if you roll over, your baby you're not going to be able to hear them. Ms. Ochoa asked if they show the videos at the hospital and Ms. Ellen said that she would get in touch with the hospital and ask if they would be willing to play the safe sleep initiative video.

### **Environmental Health**

Jordan Jernigan, Environmental Health Supervisor was introduced and reported Food and Lodging are at 100% of required inspections. That includes childcare centers and school building inspections also. New establishments are set to open in Wilson County including Starbucks, Marcos Pizza, Culvers, Crab du jour, and a scooter's coffee. A new YMCA competition pool will be added on Nash Street, and we are currently working on that approval. On site wastewater are tracking 6-8 weeks out due to an increase in more subdivisions coming into the department. EH is working diligently with the well permits and water sampling. Mr. Jernigan presented his proposed fee schedule (See Handout). For tattoo permits EH is asking for an increase of \$50 dollars in comparison to other counties in the area it is a fair price. The 2<sup>nd</sup> requested increase of \$50 dollars is for the food establishment plan which is currently \$200 dollars. \$250 dollars is the maximum that can be charged according to general statue for involvement required by the department. Additionally, EH is requesting two additional services to be added to the fee schedule for services customers are already being charged for but renamed so the customer is aware of all the fees being paid. Licensed Soil Scientist S.L 2020-3 Which is in response to Coronavirus has been charged under Engineered Option Fee. Licensed Soil Scientist S.L. 2018-114 has been charged under Lot evaluation.

Dr. Dixon asked for a motion to approve the Environmental Health Fee Services for 2021-2022 as submitted. Catherine Melin made a motion to accept the fee schedule as submitted and Dr. Drohan seconded. There was no opposition, and the motion was approved.

### **Health Director's Report**

Ms. Teresa Ellen, Health Director notified the BOH that the I PAD set up will be done at the next meeting in August. Ms. Ellen reported that currently there are 9,810 cases with a percent of positives at 3.1% an increase from the low of 2.1%. The numbers go up and down slightly every week. The average number of positive covid cases are 4 cases per day. 30,401 citizens have had the first dose of the vaccine and 27,571 citizens have been fully vaccinated. 34% were African Americans, 56% White, 10% Latin X. Wilson is meeting the same demographics as county populations for White, and Latin X but still behind with the African American population. Vaccine demand has slowed to 60 to 80 a week. Demand slightly went up when Pfizer made the vaccine available for 12-17-year-olds and Johnston County provided us with over 400 doses and the HD can get more if they need it. At the beginning of the pandemic the call center was very crucial, and the HD is continuing with over 100 calls a day. Ms. Ellen presented a recap of all of our Covid events from the beginning of the Pandemic. Testing started at the Lida Blalock Hall to make sure Covid patients didn't mix with clinical patients. Testing then moved on as a drive through along with several testing events, and a tent behind the Health Department. With the Covid money the HD was able to hire 3 additional nurses and an interpreter which has been very helpful in case investigations, contact

tracing, and mass vaccination. Testing, contact tracing, and case investigation will continue until the virus is gone.

The Health Department held mass vaccination events. Fike High School was one of the first big events. The HD also went to Assisted Living facilities, Group homes, Daycares, and the strike team also assisted. The over age 65 population was eager to get the first vaccine, and there were a lot of calls for appointments, causing the phones to crash. The IT department set up a new phone system to handle the high volume of calls. For the HNP Population the HD worked with minority pastors, various churches, Darden Alumni Hall, and Bedding Field High School. Code red calls went out where Ms. Ellen had a message informing how to call where to call to set up an appointment to get your vaccine and that there was also free transportation available. Southeastern Healthcare is currently having a canvassing event in the under vaccinated census tracks. The group goes door to door explaining why it is important to get the vaccine, handing out educational materials, goodie bags, and information on where they can get the vaccine. Within the Census track there are four providers including the Health Department, Walgreens, Wilson Value Drug, and The Community Health Center. There is also a survey to try and find out from people what is the greatest reason for not getting the vaccine and it seems the greatest reason is the speed of the vaccine's development. The Health Department got a call from a group that works with the NAACP, and the A&E Zion churches. They will be coming in and doing some educational work with the churches and provide vaccines if there is enough demand. There were also vaccination events for teachers, school employees, law enforcement, jails, county employees, community-based organizations, like SAY, Sally B Howard, Barton College, Wilson Community College, and smaller municipalities. The strike team visited 60-70 home bound patients. There was also focus on 12 and up where some evening events were held with 2<sup>nd</sup> doses on June 11<sup>th</sup>. There were also Saturday events, pop up events, and events for farm workers. Ron Hunt and Ms. Ellen have also made weekly videos and maintained a constant presence on social media, and we have participated in multiple newspaper articles. Ms. Linda Cooper Suggs thanked Ms. Ellen and the Wilson County Health department for all their efforts and what they have done for the community. Ms. Ellen thanked Ms. Suggs on behalf of the staff.

The WASH program has been somewhat of a challenge this past year because it is a school-based health center, and schools haven't had a consistent schedule. While the schools were open a lot Covid testing was done which was helpful. The relationship with the schools and the students made contact tracing easier. Dr. Williams was phenomenal this year with keeping up spread sheets, keeping up with the kids that were positive, and the contacts. Ms. Ellen looks forward to a normal school year. The HD is currently doing some work with the football teams, in which they received some packets so that they can get their sports physicals to get them ready for the new year. A new nurse was hired and will be working with the WASH program, and an interpreter that was hired for help with covid will also be joining the HD full time.

Ms. Ellen also presented the Child Fatality Task Force Report which comes from Wilson County Child Fatality Prevention Team (See Handout). The purpose of the team is to identify deficiencies in the delivery of services to children and families by public agencies. Make and carry out recommendations for changes that will prevent future child deaths; and promote understanding of the causes of child deaths. In 2020 they reviewed 7 child deaths and identified one system problem. There was a total of 12 deaths, but due to Covid the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter cases were not received in time. One of the cases reviewed was in the County Court System in 2019 for a 2018 death was reviewed in 2020 so it counts in the 2020 statistics. Of the 8 deaths one was a birth defect, two were Perinatal conditions, two from illness, one homicide, two were called other/unspecified. Four were under 1yrs old, one was between the age of 5-9, three were between the ages of 15-17. The issue that was identified was a need for ongoing safe sleep education for all parents, and care givers. The Wilson County Safe Sleep Ambassadors can/will provide training free of charge to childcare centers, churches, and parent education classes. This year a lot of their accomplishments were participating in webinars, playing the safe sleep video in the HD waiting rooms. Several members participated in the delivery of items to families receiving prevention services through DSS. Dr. Dixon asked, how many babies are born in Wilson County a year. Dr. Drohan estimated 800-900. Dr. Dixon also asked if 4 children passing under the age of 1 is a low number. Dr. Drohan believes the number to be normal based on the average and thought it would've been a little more. Ms. Ellen

reminded the board that there were 4 other children that were not recorded in the report due to Covid. There has been a decrease in maternity patients at the HD, and at Wilson OB-GYN. Ms. Ochoa asked about the J&J vaccine and if it is a good option because it is one dose. Technically the J&J is a good option but once a lot of negative information, and questions came out about it there is no longer a demand for J&J vaccine. Wilson Community Health Center received several doses, and the plan was to administer it to the farm workers. It would've been ideal because they are transient. The day before the event for the farm workers was supposed to take place is when the news hit about J&J and so they received Moderna. J&J doesn't have the same efficacy as Pfizer and Moderna but it's still a good viable vaccine.

There was a concert recently held at the fairgrounds it'd worrisome that we might possibly have a spike in positive cases. An estimated 900-1,000 people attended the concert. Dr. Dixon asked if positive Covid people are getting the vaccine. Most people are waiting 90 days after they have tested positive to get the vaccine. There has been some talk of a booster vaccine but so far that is not official. As with the Flu there are always variants with a virus, which is why a new Flu vaccine comes out every year. In comparison to other counties Wilson is right along all other counties in vaccinations and positive cases within a few percentage points of each other. The latest information on percentages, how many people have been vaccinated, how many doses have been taken, hospitalizations, etc., can be found on the state website by going to [covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard](https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard).

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Dr. Scott Dixon, and Ms. Ellen presented a certificate to Dr. Glennon, and Dr. Stone. Ms. Ellen thanked Dr. Glennon for nine years of service and added a special thank you for her time and support as chairperson. Dr. Glennon said that she enjoyed her time on the board. Ms. Ellen also thanked Dr. Stone and appreciates his service. Dr. Ariel Fulghum will be joining the BOH. The BOH will need to elect officers in the August meeting. Bill Bass agreed to be considered for Vice Chair and the vote will take place at the August BOH meeting.

### **Member Comments**

None

### **Chairperson's Report**

None

### **Public Comments**

None

**Adjournment**- Meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa C. Ellen, Secretary  
Wilson County Board of Health

TCE/lmb