

**WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES**

**June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

The Wilson County Board of Health held a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 14th, 2022, in the Conference Room at Wilson County Health Department. Members present were:

Scott Dixon, D.D.S.	Dr. Ronald Stahl
Shannon Drohan, M.D.	Bill Blackman
Ijeoma Uwakwe	Catherine Melin F.N.P
Dr. Matthew Aldrich	William T Bass
Ariel Fulghum D.V.M	Rosario, Ochoa

Others Present:

Teresa Ellen, Cinnamon Narron, Valerie Bulluck, Celita Graham, DeEtt Taylor

**Welcome**

Dr. Scott Dixon, called the meeting to order at 6:01pm and welcomed all in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes of February 2022 Meeting**

The minutes from the March 2022, meeting was accepted without corrections, additions, or deletions. Motion to accept was made by Bill Blackman and seconded by Dr. Ronald Stahl. The motion carried unanimously.

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 reviewed her Financial Report for 2022- 2023 (see handout) She reported the state fiscal year ends May 31 for expenditures. There are three programs currently in the red. No fund balance has been applied in the current figures. The HD usually budgets the fund balance with the anticipation of the cost settlement covering expenses. The Health Department is potentially receiving \$762,460 dollars. Primary care and maternity are in the red, but both will earn enough funds from the cost settlement to cover their balance. The rest of the programs did not require cost settlement funds for last year. The Health Department has only received one quarter of the Managed Care cost settlement payment. At this time the third quarter payment should have been received. The state has not communicated about when the next payments will be sent. We did receive a Utilization Based Payment in the amount of \$82,000 dollars for the first quarter. Dental is currently in the red and the fund balance was used to cover the cost. The immunization program is good at \$331,768 dollars. The Child Health program is also good at \$238,529 dollars. Environmental Health has had a lot of staff turn over but overall the programs are financially good. When Home Health was sold \$350,000 dollars was put into a trust for 3years. The three years have passed, and the money has been returned. The WIC department Construction has been completed. The Dental program was not able to attend the last school as it intended. The goal for the upcoming year is to visit middle schools and return to elementary schools for 6 month checkups. BOH member Ms. Uwakwe asked how the dental referrals were sent. The Dental office manager plans the schools, meets with the principles, and staff, and gives packets to the students for parents to sign up for the dental program.

### **Personal Health**

Ms. Valerie Bulluck, Director of Nursing reported the Health Department has administered 30 booster Covid shots for ages 5-11. 100 Covid vaccine doses were ordered for the 5 and under, which will start to be delivered the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> of the month. 100 was the minimum that can be ordered, and the HD does not expect many patients in the 5 and under age group. Rebecca Hunt Hawley the nurse practitioner and Dawn Lashley the STD coordinator have both retired. There is a replacement for the STD Coordinator which is already a current Health Department staff member. There are currently two vacant Nursing positions a PHN I, and PHN III. The PHN I position has been vacant for 6 months. The County is conducting a salary study to see where our salaries fall in comparison to our neighboring county and city governments. We hope to receive results by the end of the year. During the summer months the HD tends to see less patients coming in for appointments due to summer travel, but primary care has had a full schedule.

### **Environmental Health**

Ms. DeEtt Taylor, Environmental Health Supervisor reported currently the department has two interns that are now fully authorized. The new Onsite position has been filled and the candidate is expected to start August 8th. Onsite inspections for new lot evaluations are 18 weeks out, 3 weeks out for wells re-use, and additions. Food and Lodging is 100% in compliance. Hiring qualified individuals has been a challenge across the state and many are significantly adjusting starting salaries to meet demand. EH has applied for a \$1,000 dollar lead grant. It is in connection with NC Child to promote the new NC Lead-Paint safe housing database. The new Bojangles on Tarboro has completed construction and has been open for a month. Tru by Hilton and Jersey Mikes construction on 264 is coming along. Three convenient stores are to start construction once city planning agrees. Isahana, and breakfast bar's plans have been approved, however no progress has been made regarding the opening or permitting date.

### **Health Education**

Ms. Celita Graham Health Education Supervisor and Communications Manager reviewed the State Of The County Health Report (See Handout) A community health needs assessment (CHNA) is the foundation for improving and promoting the health of the community. It helps identify factors that affect the health of a population and determine the availability of resources within the community. The Health Department is responsible for collecting the data every three years and providing a State of the County Health Report (SOCTH) in the interim years. This report can assist with community health action planning, influence policy development, and engage community in public health strategies. The report gives an analysis of what's been done since the last report was published in 2019. The Health Education team has submitted a grant to The Health Care Foundation of Wilson and was rewarded \$25,000 dollars. With the grant HE will be working with after school programs to help bring down adolescent pregnancy prevention, and STD rates. Wilson County's STD rates have consistently ranked higher than statewide averages. Hopefully working with the younger generations, we can help with prevention. Health Educations goal is to focus on prevention versus the management of disease. The Health Care Foundation of Wilson is funding the YMCA to host an adolescent program after school program for the middle school aged children. The goal is to direct them on there future goals, aspirations, teen pregnancy, and STD prevention. The Real Baby Program will be re-introduced. Participants will take home a baby simulator for 2-3 days to learn what its like having a newborn. HE will be monitoring, and the baby will have real life baby functions. HE is happy to have received the grant and put it back into the community.

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

Ms. Teresa Ellen, Health Director introduced the new Environmental Health Supervisor Ms. Taylor to the BOH members. Ms. Ellen reported that the Covid transition level remains low in Wilson County. The State sends a report every Tuesday on Covid numbers for the last 7 days. Positive Covid test numbers are down. There was a total of 59 positive cases across the county. Two weeks prior there was a total of 76 cases the percent of positivity was down to 12.8%. The wastewater report given by the City of Wilson

reported that Covid in the wastewater is down. Paxlovid is an antiviral and it's been reported that it works well to alleviate Covid symptoms sooner. Covid is a virus that will be with us for some time just like the Flu. Total population for vaccinations went up slightly. It was at 53% and now the CDC reports its now 54.8%. The number of boosters hasn't budged much and is at 33.1%. Boosters are available now for 5–11-year olds. The vaccine for 6 months-5-year-old children was approved today by the FDA. The CDC advisory committee on immunization practices will meet in the coming days. Moderna is two doses 28 days apart for the younger kids. There had been a slight increase in demand for younger kids most likely due to summer travel. Every three years the Health Department creates a Community Health Assessment in partnership with Wilson Medical Center, and the Health Care Foundation of Wilson. The Assessment is to figure out what the actual data says, and what the community feels are the most important health issues we should be addressing for the next 3 years. Life Point has hired Stratasan a company who will do the data mining, facilitate our summit, and write the assessment. The survey is available now and has been advertised with several sources, through social media, and newspaper. The Health Education team will analyze the answers and go out to different places in the county and hold focus groups to make sure we receive input from all parts of our community. When the results are received there will be a summit and the BOH members are invited to come as well as get the results at the next meeting. Board of Health feedback and input is welcomed.

The Governor's budget contains \$10 million dollars in recurring money to improve Public Health infrastructure. Last year the legislature allocated \$36 million dollars in non-recurring ARPA funds. The funds were for communicable disease response, and the Health Department added a new communicable disease Nurse to act as backup to our one other Communicable Disease nurse. Senate Bill 372 has not been approved yet but maybe a concern. A response is required within 10 days to a local soil scientist, or engineer for a new septic permit. It's not clear if any issues arise who would be responsible. It's concerning when an engineer or a local soil scientist design a system that the Health Department has to approve and may be held responsible. The Health Directors Association and, Environmental Health Supervisors are working with legislators. Medicaid expansion has passed the Senate, with the House not expecting to vote until the long session which starts in January. One Wash location will remain open during the summer. Summer school will be open this year, but the schools are open on different track schedules. Beddingfield High School or Forrest Hills Middle School will be open. The budget was approved and that includes a 5.5% salary increase adjustment for employees. The budget includes two new positions. A program secretary for Personal Health, and Environmental Health Specialist for onsite. Several reclassifications were approved for the clerical staff. These were reviewed with the BOH at our last meeting.

There are now 65 cases identified in the United States for Monkeypox. There are no reported cases in North Carolina. California has the most cases with 15, New York 11, Illinois 8. Symptoms include fever, nausea, muscle aches, chills, swollen lymph nodes, and a blister like rash that appears 1-3 days after the fever. It resembles Chickenpox with a blister type rash. The Smallpox vaccine is effective against Monkeypox however the threat to the public remains low, so it's not recommended that everyone get the vaccine at this point. There are 72,000 doses in the Strategic National Stockpile so there are doses on hand if we get to the point that its required. Monkeypox is spread through direct contact with body fluids, or open infected sores. Across the globe there are more cases. The United Kingdom has had 470 cases, Spain 275, and Portugal 209 cases. It expected we'll see more cases in the United States due to travel.

The Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT) have released their report. The purpose of the (CFPT) report is to identify deficiencies in the delivery of services to children and families by public agencies, to make and carry out recommendations for changes that will prevent future child deaths, and to promote understanding of the causes of child deaths. In 2021 the CFPT reviewed 14 child deaths and identified 3 system problems. There was a total of 13 deaths for 2021. Due to Covid the 2019 4<sup>th</sup> quarter cases with 5 deaths were not reviewed until 2021. Most of the deaths were reported to be birth defects, and perinatal conditions. 1 case was malignant Neoplasm for 2020. The deaths occurring in 2019 reviewed in 2021 there was a drowning in that group as well as birth defects and Perinatal conditions. The CFPT suggestions for systems approvals was a need for ongoing safe sleep. Wilson County DSS offers the safe sleep and feeding training for free. They offer to childcare centers, churches and parent education classes.

CFPT had a difficult time retrieving records for one child because the child passed away out of state, therefore one of the recommendations is to encourage the State CFPT to work on agreements necessary to facilitate getting a National Database to retrieve out of state records. The last recommendation for improvements is water safety, classes to expand what the YMCA already does with 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to provide swimming lessons and make them available at no cost or low cost. This would help prevent children from future drownings. Included in the CFPT report are all the CFPT accomplishments for the last year. The BOH Members were asked to vote to receive the report annually or quarterly.

Dr. Dixon asked for a motion to approve the Child Fatality Prevention Report Annually instead of quarterly. Dr. Drohan made a motion to accept the CFPT Annually, and Mr. Bill Blackman seconded. There was no opposition, and the motion was accepted.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Member Comments**

None

**Chairperson's Report**

None

**Public Comments**

None

**Adjournment**- Meeting was adjourned at 6:39 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa C. Ellen, Secretary  
Wilson County Board of Health

TCE/lmb