

**WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES**

August 9th, 2022

The Wilson County Board of Health held a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 9th, 2022, in the Board Room at the Wilson County Health Department. Members present were:

Scott Dixon, D.D.S.	Ariel Fulghum, D.V.M.
Shannon Drohan, M.D.	Bill Blackman
Catherine Melin	Linda Cooper- Suggs
Matthew Aldrich M.D.	Ronald Stahl M.D.

Others present:

Teresa Ellen, Cinnamon Narron, DeEtt Taylor, Celita Graham, Ron Hunt

Welcome

Dr. Scott Dixon, called the meeting to order at 6:03pm and welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of Minutes of June 2022 Meeting

The minutes from the June 2022, meeting was accepted without corrections, additions, or deletions. Motion to accept was made by Catherine Melin and seconded by Bill Bass. 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, reported that the Health Department would like to add three new procedures to the fee schedule which requires the Board of Health members approval. Ondansetron injection, Ondansetron Oral, and a DOT Physical. Kim Almkuist is authorized to perform DOT physicals and will provide that service to school bus drivers.

Dr. Dixon asked for a motion to approve the Health Department Fee Schedule additions as submitted. Bill Bass made a motion to accept the three new additions as submitted, and Ms. Linda Cooper- Suggs seconded. There was no opposition, and the motion was approved.

Since the approval of the budget, the Health Department has received additional agreement addendums mostly related to vaccines, and pandemic recovery. The state provided funds for the School Health Team Workforce which can potentially go towards hiring more mental health staff for students. The annual settlement for SFY 2021 has not been received but the Health Department anticipates \$762, 460 dollars. The funds will go towards any outstanding balance from last year. The HD received \$83,508 dollars for the first quarter 2021 and is expecting \$105,443 dollars for the second quarter. The Dental, Child Health Immunizations, and Family Planning will be paid annually, and will not be a part of Managed Care. Maternity, and Primary Care programs fall under Managed Care, and the Health Department hasn't received any payments for the last two quarters.

Personal Health

Ms. Valerie Bulluck, Director of Nursing was not present. Ms. Ellen reported that the nurses are getting back into a normal routine since the Covid-19 outbreak. There was a two-year grace period for accreditation renewal, and audits, due to the Corona Virus. The Health Department accreditation is due in 2026. The Health Department call center answers Covid-19, and Monkey Pox questions at (252) 360-0050.

Environmental Health

Ms. DeEtt Taylor, Environmental Health Supervisor reported that The Environmental Health On- Site Department is now fully staffed and is expecting shorter customer wait times. The On- Site wait time is 12-14 weeks out. At the last meeting it was previously reported to be 18 weeks out, so there has been progress. The Wilson County Fair is scheduled to return this upcoming September.

Health Education

Ms. Celita Graham, Communications Manager and Health Education Supervisor gave an update on the Community Health Needs Assessment Process. The three agency teams working together include the Health Department, the Hospital, and the Health Care Foundation. The Survey for the Community Health Needs Assessment is complete. There are two parts of data collection primary and secondary. The survey data collection is primary, and 928 surveys have been collected. 150 men completed the survey, 198 from the African American Community, and 37 from the Hispanic population. One third of the surveys were from households that have an income of \$75,000 dollars or less. Part two of the primary data collection process are focus groups. Our first focus group took place at the Health Department with the Primary stakeholders from the community. The three highlights discussed were mental health, access to care, availability of services to children and youth, poverty and how it relates to food insecurity, medical issues, and housing. Another focus group has been scheduled and will be added to the data. The teams are scheduled to discuss the primary and secondary data in two weeks. The Health Summit is scheduled August 30th 2pm at the Frank Eagles Business Center, and all the data will be presented to a large group of community members. After reviewing the primary and secondary data the group will choose the three health priorities Wilson County will focus on for the next three years.

Health Director's Report

Ms. Teresa Ellen, Health Director gave an update on Covid. The numbers of positive cases have decreased. There is no accurate number of positive Covid cases due to at home testing kits. Positive cases reported to the state two weeks ago were 177. Last week there were 184 positive reported cases. For the current week there are 142 cases. The BA 5 Covid Variant is prevalent across the United States. According to the CDC 55.4% of the population are fully vaccinated. Over the age of 5 is at 58.9% fully vaccinated. Boosters have not increased and are at 33.8%. A new Vaccine called Novavax has been released, but there is no demand from the community so far. Moderna has a fully authorized FDA approved vaccine called Spikevax. It is the same vaccine formula that was administered under the Emergency Use Authorization. Moderna and Pfizer are expected to release a bivalent vaccine in the fall that will contain the Omicron variant. The Health Department is hopeful the new vaccine will be released before school starts to prevent a spike in positive covid cases.

August 8th, 2022, the Health Department tested the first positive case for Monkey Pox in Wilson County. There are 114 positive cases of Monkey Pox in North Carolina. All the positive cases so far have been men that have sex with men. 70 % of the positive cases are African American men. The Health Department is working hard to stop the spread and inform the community. The Smallpox vaccine is being used for Monkey Pox. The vaccine the state has available is called Jynneos. The CDC is looking into making the vaccine intradermal instead of subcutaneous. The Health Department does not have any

vaccines for Monkey Pox currently. The Community Health Center has a small amount of the vaccine and were given priority for their Ryan White program. The positive Monkey Pox case, and his partner were referred to the Community Health Center to receive the TPOXX anti-viral treatment and the vaccine. The Health Department will have a press release tomorrow to increase awareness to the community and encourage people to get tested if they have symptoms. Wake County, and Durham County have held vaccine clinics for Monkey Pox. The recommendations for the vaccine are for contacts to a positive, men or transgender individuals who have sex with men, or multiple partners, diagnosed with an STI, or prescribed Prep within the last 90 days. Prep is a medication to prevent the spread of the HIV virus. The TPOXX vaccine is administered in two doses 28 days apart. The State has received 3,055 vaccines and the African American male population has accounted for only 23% of vaccines administered. All positive cases in North Carolina are men that have sex with men. Anyone who has direct contact with the fluid or lesions may contract the virus. The state has a limited amount of the vaccine and is only making it available for the recommended group. The sex worker, and prison population is a concern because they are an at-risk group.

Employee turnover for the last fiscal year is at 20%. On July 1st there were two retirements and three resignations. 33% of the employees that left transferred to local government, or state employment. 20% transferred to the private sector for higher salaries. Environmental Health had a turnover of 50% and is now fully staffed besides the program specialist. There are five open nursing positions, and the Health Department is recruiting for a new WIC Director. New hires at the WASH clinic's will be 10-month positions. The County has a salary study in progress which should be completed in October. The goal of the salary study is to make Wilson County competitive with other counties in terms of salaries.

Ms. Ellen reported that WASH is getting ready for the new school year. Dental staff and Clinical Wash staff will be attending the schools open house. Construction is underway at Fike High School for a new WASH clinic. Construction should be completed before school starts and the Health Department is currently recruiting new WASH staff positions. The program development is a wonderful partnership between the Health Care Foundation and the school systems. The Health Care Foundation is an asset to the community.

The meeting went into a closed session.

Old Business

None

New Business

Member Comments

None

Chairperson's Report

None

Public Comments

None

Adjournment- Meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa C. Ellen, Secretary
Wilson County Board of Health

TCE/lmb