

**WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES**

October 11, 2022

The Wilson County Board of Health held a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 11th, 2022 in the Board Room at the Wilson County Health Department. Members present were:

Scott Dixon, D.D.S.	Rosario Ochoa
Shannon Drohan, M.D.	Bill Blackman
Catherine Melin	Ronald Stahl M.D.
William T Bass	

Others present:

Teresa Ellen, Cinnamon Narron, Jennifer Dixon, DeEtt Taylor, Celita Graham,

Welcome

Dr. Scott Dixon, called the meeting to order at 6:04pm and welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of Minutes of August 2022 Meeting

The minutes from the August 2022, meeting were accepted without corrections, additions, or deletions. Motion to accept was made by Bill Blackman 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, gave the finance report. The first quarter of the fiscal year July 1,2022 through September 30th, 2022. All programs look financially well. The immunization program is the only program that is in the negative. Over \$58,000 dollars was spent on vaccines. The Health Department expects to recoup the cost back as vaccines are administered throughout the year. The 2021 cost settlement was received and will be accounted for in the current year. The Health Department has received two quarterly payments from the Medicaid Direct Payment Program which were from last year but will be used this year. Two payments are expected for the third and fourth quarters. Part of the fund balance from last year was budgeted for the new Heating and air system which was moved to this year and is almost complete. Pricing for the new cooling and heating system remains the same, however, there have been delays with materials and workers.

Personal Health

Ms. Jennifer Dixon Clinical Supervisor reported Nurse Practitioner Rebecca Hunt Hawley retired and Ms. Lisa Blevins replaced her position as Nurse Practitioner in September. The Health Department is currently hiring for a Nurse Practitioner due to a recent resignation. Two candidates have been interviewed for the open position this week. The Clinical personnel are close to being fully staffed. The Health Department is looking forward to having a full staff and getting the new nursing staff fully trained to serve the needs of the patients.

Environmental Health

Ms. DeEtt Taylor, Environmental Health Supervisor reported that all the inspector and specialist positions have been filled. The Food & Lodging program specialist position has been vacant since June. On-Site inspections have decreased from 18 weeks to 12 weeks. Food and Lodging is at 100% compliance for required inspections. Environmental Health sent out the annual notification of lead hazards to parents and children under the age of six to five elementary schools. Any child with a letter from the Health Department is eligible for testing. The Whirligig festival is scheduled to return soon, and we will be issuing temporary food permits. Royal Family Farms, and Wawa have been approved to open soon here in Wilson. Senate Bill 470 and House Bill 768 effected bar exemptions. The bar or other similar areas in an establishment where alcoholic beverages are prepared, poured, or mixed before service to customers and food is not prepared (except for the preparation of garnishes for alcoholic beverages) are exempt from inspection and therefore should not be included in plan review or permitting. The Health Department will no longer be able to inspect any area behind the bar. ABC or ALE will handle bar inspections if issues arise.

Health Education

Ms. Celita Graham, Communications Manager and Health Education Supervisor gave an overview of the health education and promotion department. The Communications Manager works under the health director and supervises two health education specialists. Public Health is responsible for the health of Wilson County. The Minority Diabetes Prevention Program also known as prevent T2 was started in November 2021. The program is an evidence-based program through the CDC and is a yearlong program. The participation rate for the program is at 67%. The goal is to help participants make healthy lifestyle choices. The Coordinated Approach to Child Health also called CATCH is the Health Departments Youth Program. CATCH is for youth grades K-12. There were 57 participants for the summer program. 40 participants have signed up for the afterschool program. Youth classes are divided by age K-2, 3-5, 6th grade and up. The Eat Smart Move More program is in partnership with the Department of Social Services. The Eat Smart Move More program helps Wilson County citizens to live a healthier lifestyle, 35% of the participants met their weight loss goals.

The Syringe Services program is funded by Healthy Communities, and NC Department of Health and Human Resources. The program serves at three sites which include the Health Department, RC3, and one mobile site. The mobile site is in partnership with OIC. The mobile site can meet participants at their location, as well as test for HIV, Hepatitis C, and Syphilis. There are 75 participants in the needle exchange program. 336 Narcan Kits were distributed, and 7 participants were linked with treatment. The goal for the needle exchange program is to build relationships and help participants get treatment. The benefit of the needle exchange program is to minimize the spread of diseases including Hepatitis and HIV.

A Review of the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHA) was given. The Community Health Needs Assessment has been completed and a summit was held in August to present the information to our Community Partners. Wilson County has a population of 78,584. The population shows a drop from previous collected data which may be inaccurate due to Covid-19. Wilson County has seen a lot of growth and the population is expected to increase. The Median age in Wilson County is 40.9 and the median household income is \$45,398 dollars. North Carolina ranks 28 in America's Health Ranking, and 45 in Public Health Funding. North Carolina ranks 45 out of 50 states in Sexual Health. Smoking in Wilson County is at 23% and the target is 5%. Heart Disease is the leading cause of death in Wilson followed by cancer and unintentional accidents. 979 survey participants completed the 2022 CHNA Community survey. Most of the participants were women between the ages of 40-59. Over 40% of the participants rated their personal health good and over 35% rated their mental health very good. Over 40% of the participants exercise on average 1-2 days a week. Over 49% reported that they exercise at home. Social Determinants of Health are non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. They are conditions in which people are born, grow, live, and age and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. Participants top concerns are income and poverty, affordable housing and homelessness,

crime and safety, drugs, and alcohol. 67.25% of the participants get their medical care in Wilson County. The three most important issues related to health and disease that were chosen at the summit in Wilson County are alcohol/ drugs, (Substance misuse), mental/ behavioral health, and overweight/ obesity. The Community focus groups had similar answers to what was collected in the survey. The Focus Group questions are discussion based. The most important health issues facing children are vaccination health, lack of activities for youth, and teen pregnancy. The most important health issues facing seniors are safe and affordable housing, affordable caregivers, Dementia and Alzheimer's, and food insecurity. The Community Health Assessment performed a CHNA in 2019 and identified priorities for health improvement. Obesity, Fitness and Nutrition, Mental Health including alcohol and substance misuse. The 2022 CHNA have the same issues from the previous report. Health priorities selected for 2023-2025 are Mental & Behavioral Health, Substance Misuse, and Healthy Eating/ Active Living. The Written copy of the Community Health Report should be completed at the end of the year and is a collaboration between the Health Department, Hospital, and The Health Care Foundation.

Health Director's Report

Ms. Teresa Ellen, Health Director reported wastewater counts for Covid-19 are down. Recorded cases of Covid have ranged between 35 and 91 within the last four weeks. 91 cases were four weeks ago and 35 reported this week across the County. The positive cases only reflect reported cases and not tests taken at home. Bivalent boosters have been administered that contain the Omicron variant. 466 Moderna boosters, and 168 Pfizer boosters have been administered. The Bivalent booster for children should be released soon.

There have been six reported cases of Monkey Pox in Wilson County. Pharmacists can administer the Monkey Pox Vaccine to those that fall under the CDC guidelines. The Health Departments Communicable Disease nurses have followed up on positive patients as well as their contacts. Ebola is the newest Communicable Disease due to an outbreak that started in Uganda. Any travelers flying from Uganda must travel through one of five airports including JFK, Dulles, O'Hare, Newark, or Atlanta. The Health Department will monitor any travelers from Uganda daily and issue a thermometer. Any patient with symptoms can be seen at Duke, ECU Health, Or Wake Med Hospital.

Construction at the 4th WASH center has been completed. Supply issues have caused a delay in receiving furniture and equipment for the center. The WASH Centers continue to stay busy. Sport, and DOT physicals, along with Vaccines are in demand.

The Health Director position has been posted and will be open until the end of October.

Old Business

None

New Business

Member Comments

None

Chairperson's Report

Chairman Dixon gave an overview of the process for selecting a new Health Director. A selection committee to include Commissioner Blackman, Dr. Ron Stahl, Dr. Dixon, and Tim Bilderback the County HR Director was selected. Dr. Dixon asked if there were any others who wished to volunteer for

the selection committee. The selection committee will review the applications, narrow them down to no more than four finalists to be interviewed. Once a candidate is selected, they will be presented to this board for approval. The County Manager will approved the proposed salary.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment- Meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa C. Ellen, Secretary
Wilson County Board of Health

TCE/lmb