

# WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

November 14th, 2023

The Wilson County Board of Health held a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 14th, 2023 in the Board Room at the Wilson County Health Department. Members present were:

Scott Dixon, D.D.S.	Shannon Drohan M.D. (Virtual)
Ariel Fulghum	Catherine Melin N.P.
William T Bass (Virtual)	Ijeoma Uwakwe
Linda Cooper- Suggs	Dr. Matthew Alrich
Leslie Atkinson	Dr. Ronald Stahl

Others present:

Cinnamon Narron, Jessica Williams, Jennifer Dixon, DeEtt Taylor, Shereen Mitchell, Celita Graham, Lori Winstead.

## **Welcome**

Dr. Scott Dixon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and welcomed all in attendance.

## **Approval of Minutes of September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Meeting**

The minutes from the September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting were accepted without corrections, additions, or deletions.

A Motion to accept was made by Ms. Catherine Melin and seconded by Mr. Leslie Atkinson. 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. Jessica Williams, Deputy Health Director gave an update on the Health Resource Service Administration Grant "HRSA" that was discussed at the last BOH meeting. The Health Department has been working with the Department of Social Services to secure funding for a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for the WASH program. DSS has opted to go in a different direction with the HRSA funds. The Health Department will reevaluate other options and Ms. Celita Graham will give a grant update.

## **Personal Health**

Ms. Jennifer Dixon, Director of Nursing, gave an update on staff reports. The Physician Extender II position has been filled by Hannah Jonas Physician's Assistant; she will start December 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Jonas will be the first Physician's Assistant in the Health Department. The Public Health Nurse III (STD) position is still vacant. Applicants have applied but haven't shown interest. The PHN II position has been contracted with On Target Preparedness "OTP". The OTP agency will take care of preparedness responsibilities which will include policies, activities, events in the community serving as a good resource for the Health Department. The OTP Agency will absorb some duties for Shereen Mitchell's position when she retires.

The Local Child Fatality Prevention Team met at the Health Department September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and reviewed five cases. Case # 1 Cerebral Palsy no system failure. Case #2 Noninfective disorder of lymphatic vessels and lymph nodes, heart failure, acute respiratory failure, chronic respiratory failure no system failure. Case #3 Maternal Circulatory and respiratory disease that led to no oxygen to the baby no system failure. Case #4 Drowning System failure was identified. The Health Department is planning a campaign on pool safety and education in the spring. The LCFPT would like to start recruiting more members to join its very important team. Health Departments across the state participate. Case #5 The LCFPT is waiting on records to review and case #5 will be carried over to the next LCFPT meeting scheduled in March 2024. The LCFPT reviews cases one year behind. The LCFPT will present all Child Fatality cases and data for the year 2022 to Commissioners in January 2024.

The Wilson County Health Department Flu vaccine clinic partnered with the Senior Center October 21, 2023. Offering the Flu and Covid vaccine. 83 vaccines were given and a couple of free Flu. Senior Center staff had originally planned to come to the Health Department on Mondays to give out incentive cards, but their staff has been able to come out every Monday- Friday to give out incentive cards, and it has worked out well. Patients 60 and older that receive a Covid and Flu shot will also receive a \$25 dollar incentive card. Since the beginning of the Flu season 485 Flu vaccines have been dispensed. Since October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 270 Covid Moderna vaccines, and 120 Pfizer vaccines have been dispensed. As of today, the Health Department will no longer schedule appointments for Adult Pfizer. The Health Department will provide Moderna Covid vaccines for adults which is cost effective. The cost of purchasing Pfizer and Moderna both is very expensive. The Pfizer Vaccine will still be available for children. Adult patients that request the Pfizer vaccine will be referred to Walgreens. The majority population for Flu and Covid vaccines are patients 65 and older. Ms. Dixon recognized her staff for seeing 679 patients through the immunization clinic and giving 935 vaccines in one month.

Once a year all Nursing Supervisors, and Nurse Directors from across the state have a conference. This year the conference was in Concord. A Resolution is an Honor recognizing an individual that has made a huge contribution to public health. Ms. Dixon submitted Ms. Valerie Bulluck the previous Nurse Director for a Memorial Resolution. Ms. Dixon was asked to speak on Ms. Bulluck's behalf and awarded the Memorial Resolution.

Ms. Shereen Mitchell, Quality Improvement and Accreditation Coordinator gave a summary of the quarterly WASH and WCHD customer satisfaction surveys. The Health Department scored a 100% satisfaction rating regarding protection of privacy. No one answered "Yes" to the question of feeling uncomfortable due to age, gender, sexual orientation, etc. 90% Overall satisfaction rating for patient visit. The WASH clinic had a total of 44 surveys. 43 answered very satisfied, and one answered satisfied in regard to protection of privacy. Patients that visited the WASH clinic commented that they love the ease of their appointment and to please continue providing service. WASH staff was recognized for being outstanding from the Receptionist to the Nurse. Surveys can be completed on paper, and electronically using a QR code. Surveys are available in both English and Spanish.

### **Environmental Health**

Ms. DeEtt Taylor, Environmental Health Supervisor, reported On-Site Wastewater upcoming 18E rule change will take effect January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Changes repairs and Best Professional Judgement (BPJ). If a homeowner does not agree to using (BPJ) and signing the form, it will be a permanent pump and haul. New affidavit for additions including outbuildings, decks, and pools for new increase in wastewater flow. Session law 2023-137 immediately went into effect October 19<sup>th</sup> which affects food and Lodging. Category IV food establishments will now receive 3 inspections per year and one educational visit. Re- Inspections for the purpose of raising an alphabetical grade is reduced from 15 to 10 business days effective immediately. Wilson County Environmental Health has seen a significant increase in lead poisoning over the last 3 months in children. EH is now seeing an average of 5 cases of lead poisoning cases per month.

### **Health Education**

Ms. Celita Graham, Communications Manager and Health Education Supervisor gave a grant update report. The Wilson County Health Department was awarded a \$60,000 dollar grant through Eastpointe to provide whole person care integrating mental health counseling in the WASH centers. The Health Department plans to use revenue generated from billing along with other grants to sustain the program.

The Health Department is in the process of applying for Supporting Women's Health Services which is through the state. If awarded, the grant will allow us to increase access to contraceptives and improve maternal and infant health outcomes. Through this grant there will be three different initiatives. The first will be to extend clinic hours. And bringing back the teen clinic. Since implementing a Flex schedule at the Health Department appointment slots can be added in the between 7:45-8:00, and 5:00-5:15. The Second strategy is having a nurse conduct postnatal home visits. The third strategy is to integrate a Community Health Worker to connect women and families to the resources the Health Department provides. The funds are also for residents without adequate health insurance coverage.

The Health Department is also in the application process for the Community Health Grant which is through the office of Rural Health. The goal is to provide primary and preventative care for uninsured residents. The Health Department is requesting \$150,000 dollars to cover 1500 primary care visits at \$100 dollars per visit.

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

Ms. Cinnamon Narron, Health Director, reported that the Preparedness Coordinator Position which is usually filled by a nurse has continued to be vacant and is difficult to fill. The Health Department decided to contract with On Time Preparedness (OTP). OTP has a long history of preparedness with local Health Departments and a good professional background. OTP is very active and highly recommended. Ms. Shereen Mitchell and Terry Williams will be retiring next month, and we wish them both well. The Health Department is moving toward using more QR codes for patients to complete enrollment packets. This will help save paper and has shown success. Paper enrollment forms will still be available to patients. The State has approved a LCSW position to work part time at schools and the goal is to have the position filled by January. Ms. Narron invited the BOH members to follow the Wilson County Facebook Page and if they would like to receive our digital monthly newsletter. The financial report July 1st, 2023-October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, the YTD immunization program is in deficit because of the purchase of immunizations but the revenue is expected to increase. The Dental program is also in the red due to the Office Manager leaving and not being able to bill for services. The Health Department has hired someone to help with dental billing part time. All the other department programs are doing very well. The Health Department received the 2023 Partners in Service Award at Diversified Opportunities 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House. This award honors our ongoing collaboration to promote an inclusive healthy community.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **Member Comments**

None

### **Chairperson's Report**

None

### **Public Comments**

None

**Adjournment**- Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cinnamon Narron, Secretary  
Wilson County Board of Health

CN/JNC