

WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

March 12th, 2024

The Wilson County Board of Health held a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 12th, 2024, in the Board Room at the Wilson County Health Department. Members present were:

Scott Dixon D.D.S.
Linda Cooper- Suggs
Leslie Atkinson

Shannon Drohan M.D. (Virtual)
Catherine Melin N.P. (Virtual)
Ijeoma Uwakwe (Virtual)

Others present:

Cinnamon Narron, Jessica Williams, Jennifer Dixon, DeEtt Taylor, Celita Graham, Celeste Johnson, Trinity Anderson, Lori Winstead.

Welcome

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

Approval of Minutes January 9th, 2024, Meeting

The minutes from the January 9th, 2024, meeting was accepted without corrections, additions, or deletions.

A Motion to accept was made by Mr. Leslie Atkinson and seconded by Ms. Linda Cooper-Suggs. 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, introduced Ms. Trinity Anderson as the Health Education intern. The Darden WASH clinic is slated to open this fall in August. The Beddingfield mobile WASH clinic is slated to move inside of the school. The Deputy Director and the Health Director have toured both spaces. Both clinics look phenomenal, especially the Beddingfield location. Ms. Narron held meetings with the Healthcare Foundation, State Representative Ken Fontenot, and other County members regarding funding, which looks promising. All parties are aware that funding is needed for the Health Department to consistently offer the WASH clinics every year, especially opening new clinics at the rate the State Representative suggested, which would be as many as possible over the next couple of years. The Health Director and Deputy Director have had conversations with Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services Dr. Ben Williams, and he has looked at which schools are the most viable options. It wouldn't be possible to put a WASH clinic in each school because some schools are older or don't have enough space for a clinic. The Summer WASH clinic will follow a different schedule than usual. The WASH Clinic will be open Monday- Thursday, and the nursing staff will work 10-hour days. Kim Almkuist, the provider, will also follow the same schedule.

Personal Health

Ms. Jennifer Dixon, Director of Nursing, reported Amanda Easter Nursing Supervisor has resigned. Celeste Johnson was hired as the new Nursing Supervisor and started February 15th. Ms. Johnson previously worked in Home Health in the Health Department. She has Medicaid Managed Care experience and would be a positive asset navigating the Managed Care process. Shelly Reese was hired March 1st as Child Health Coordinator, a position in which she previously held. The PHN III (STD) Nurse

and PHN I (Postpartum Home Visit) Nurse positions are still currently vacant. The Primary Care Coordinator (PHN III) submitted her resignation, and her last day of employment is Friday, March 15th. The local Child Fatality Prevention Team meeting is scheduled for next Thursday. A State Consult recently completed a Communicable Disease STD Program Audit. The last Audit was completed in 2016. The Audit went well, the Health Department did not have a corrective action plan. The Health Department is very proud of its staff, including the senior nurses and STD nurses. The nursing team does a fabulous job and it showed in the Audit. Ms. Dixon presented a three-slide PowerPoint presentation of the updated CDC guidelines starting March 1st. The new guidelines encompass all Respiratory Viruses, Covid-19, Flu, and RSV (See attachment).

Environmental Health

Ms. DeEtt Taylor, Environmental Health Supervisor, reported the Food and Lodging Program Specialist, and Food and Lodging inspector positions are still vacant. The Administrative Assistant work position has been vacated with the hope to start a new hire April 1st. Wilson County Environmental Health Fees are lower in comparison with other counties. To stay on par with other counties and to match inflation, the proposed fee schedule has gone up. (See attachment). The Environmental Health Department plans to go live to the public with OpenGov April 1st.

Health Education

Ms. Celita Graham, Communications Manager and Health Education Supervisor, reported that the community health needs assessment process will start this year, earlier than scheduled. The community health needs assessment is every three years, and the assessment due date is 2025. Health ENC is a regional collaborative of many different counties on the Eastern side of North Carolina. They have asked the Health Department to join in with them to do a regional Health needs assessment. Wilson County participated in 2018. The COVID-19 pandemic changed things in 2021. The Health Department and the Healthcare Foundation decided to do their own assessment because it didn't align with the Regional Community Health needs assessment. This year Ascendient will be doing all the primary data collection as well as the secondary data collection. The Ascendient agency has worked with hospital organizations for over 20 years. They know how to tailor to the community health needs assessment and they are in Chapel Hill. The last agency we used was from the St. Louis area so its always good to use an agency in the state. We will be partnering with 30 plus counties in Eastern North Carolina to fulfill the community health needs assessment. The surveys will start coming out around April, and the Health Education staff, as well as different colleagues in the community, will be going out and collecting primary data, reaching areas that aren't targeted well. The data that will be collected is to see what the demographics look like and what is lacking in certain areas. Focus groups will be scheduled within the data collection time frame. The surveys will wrap up in June, and then we will come together as a community to select what top priorities Wilson wants to work on over the next three years based on the data collected and shared with the other counties collectively. The Wilson County Health Department was recognized for the WASH clinic services by CBS 17.

Health Director's Report

Ms. Cinnamon Narron, Health Director, reported the Health Department currently has vacancies but the priority is to recruit, retain, continuation of staff development, and to serve the community. The Health Department would also like to increase the patient population with Medicaid expansion. The community needs to consider the Health Department as a viable resource to be served as regular patients. We would like to improve our services and improve outcomes for patients with both prevention and treatment. Doing so would maximize revenue. Steps are being made to improve and increase billing with insurance and private pay sources. Salary and benefits total 8 million, which includes 401k, retirement, hospitalization, workman's compensation, and a 5% salary adjustment. The Health Department is asking for an additional 900,000 dollars for capital improvements. 840,000 dollars to repave the parking lot and 60,000 dollars to replace an aging fire alarm system. WIC funding for next year has been cut by \$91,832. The State is working on a new WIC portal that will make it easier for new program enrollees. A big goal

for the coming new year is to increase quick enrollment into WIC. Moving forward, the Health Department needs sustainable funding for the School Based Health Centers. All funding for the program is currently provided by the Health Care Foundation. The WASH program earns revenue from private insurance and Medicaid, but as the program continues to grow, that means more personnel and more supplies for expansion. Two grant applications are pending that have not been approved and are not in the budget. If the grants are awarded that will decrease the amount of County dollars needed, and it will be added to the budget. The Health Department would like to add a new position to the budget, Public Health Epidemiologist; the position will serve as a full-time data analyst.

Dr. Dixon asked for a motion to approve the Health Department proposed Fee Schedule and the Environmental Health proposed fee schedule as submitted. Mr. Atkinson made a motion to accept the fee schedule, and Ms. Linda Cooper-Suggs seconded. There was no opposition, and the motion was approved.

Dr. Dixon asked for a motion to approve the Health Department proposed Budget as submitted. Ms. Linda Cooper-Suggs made a motion to accept the budget, and Mr. Atkinson seconded. There was no opposition, and the motion was approved.

The Eligibility and Fee Policy and Procedure was emailed to all Board of Health Members for approval March 21st, 2024. Ms. Catherine Melin approved the Eligibility and fee Policy Procedure, and Mr. Ronald Stahl seconded the motion for approval. Eight Board of Health Members approved the motion. There was no opposition.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Member Comments

None

Chairperson's Report

None

Public Comments

None

Adjournment- Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cinnamon Narron, Secretary
Wilson County Board of Health

CN/JNC