



Stanly County Health Department

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Dennis R. Joyner, MPH
Director

STANLY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

April 3rd, 2014
Meeting Minutes

The Stanly County Board of Health met on April 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Stanly County Health Department. All Board Members were present with the exception of Doctors Janice Dunlap and Laura Mauldin. Staff members present were Dennis Joyner, Health Director, Judie DeMuth, Debbie Bennett, David Ezzell, Dean Lambert, Patti Lewis, Amy Irving, Becky McKeon and Thomas Taylor. Mrs. Jenny Furr, County Attorney was also in attendance.

Chairman Faulkner called the meeting to order and after introducing himself explained that the first item on the agenda would be an Appeal Hearing concerning a potentially dangerous dog declaration by Stanly County Animal Control, with Amber Biggers and Jeremiah Johnson the appealing parties. The purpose of the hearing was explained which consisted of the appeal of an insurance requirement of \$100,000 for maintaining dogs that have been declared potentially dangerous by Stanly County Animal Control.

Animal Control Officer Amy Irving was sworn in and testimony was given concerning the events and circumstances of March 15, 2014 that lead to the impoundment and determination of the dogs being declared potentially dangerous. Deputy Boone from the Stanly County Sheriff's Department was sworn in and comments were shared concerning his responding to the March 15th call concerning the same dogs. Next, Elizabeth Harrison, Linda Hoy, and Terry Furr were sworn in and gave testimony. After being sworn in, Jeremiah Johnson shared comments regarding his request for appeal of the potentially dangerous dog declaration. Last to give testimony was Jo Harwood, mother of Amber Biggers who stated why the requested appeal should be granted and also raised concerns of the insurance requirements and required fence guidelines.

Board Members asked questions, made comments and discussed the circumstances, testimonies and appeal of the case brought before them. Chairman Faulkner entertained a motion to uphold/or waive the insurance requirement for maintaining ownership of the declared potentially dangerous dogs. County Commissioner Ascitutto made a motion to uphold the insurance requirement as stated in the Stanly County Animal Control Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hal Royer and passed by the board. The appealing parties were informed that they would receive in writing, within 72 hours the decision of the Board of Health, which would explain the appeals process and expectations.

The Board of Health proceeded to the regular monthly meeting agenda and Chairman Faulkner entertained a motion for approval of the March 6, 2014 board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Cain, seconded by Mr. Carter, and approved by the board.

With no general public present, no comments were noted under the Public Comments agenda item and the meeting was turned over to the Health Director for his report.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Joyner updated the board on the agency's personnel status informing them that after recruiting and interviewing for three vacant Processing Assistant IV positions over the past few weeks, all vacancies have been filled. He informed them that Ms. Laura Ramirez-Soto began work on 3/17/14 in the WIC Program, Wendy Eudy began employment 3/25/14 in the Home Health Program and in the Dental Clinic, Brandy Smith is scheduled to begin work on 4/14/14. The board was informed that re-posting and recruitment for the vacant Animal Control Officer position would take place next week in hopes of being fully staffed by summer months.

Reports on expenditures and revenues for all Health Department programs as of 2/28/14 were reviewed. Mr. Joyner explained that at 66% into the year most figures are consistent with past months. He added that in the dental clinic, since operating room procedures are now taking place two days weekly and the two new operatories are fully functional, the program should see an increase in their figures.

In the performance measures, Director Joyner explained that in the Environmental Health Program numbers had been low in some areas due to weather conditions but should start increasing in March. Numbers in the employee wellness clinic reflected the lowest number since the program began but it was primarily due to a short month and weather related closures. The Director explained that the numbers are already beginning to increase with March numbers back up to expected levels.

NEW BUSINESS

The budget process and schedule for FY2014-15 was discussed and the board was informed that the Health Department budget will be ready for presentation at the May 1st board meeting. The Board of Health Budget Committee, Larry Faulkner, Conrad Carter and Ric Cain agreed to attend a noon lunch meeting on April 22nd to review the proposed budget before submission to the entire board.

Dr. Hal Royer confirmed that he was relocating as of 6/12/14 and therefore would be resigning as the physician member on the Board of Health. Possible physician candidates to serve in Dr. Royer's position were discussed and any recommendations from the board will be forwarded to the Health Director.

The need for timely rabies vaccinations for rescue/adoption animals was discussed and Director Joyner explained that if an animal is at the shelter longer than 14 days, they must be vaccinated against rabies. The board was asked to consider a proposal to allow Animal Control Officers, trained as Certified Rabies Vaccinators, to provide the needed vaccinations. This would also help assure that any dog/cat leaving the shelter to a rescue or foster group was vaccinated in a timely manner. Dr. Amy Jordan commented on this issue stating her support to allow administration of the rabies vaccinations which would also help the Humane Society working to adopt the animals. Mr. Conrad Carter made a motion to allow Animal Control Officers to administer the vaccinations as requested. The motion was seconded by Debora Norris and passed by the board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A new brochure outlining responsible pet ownership was distributed and reviewed. The Health Director thanked Dean Lambert, Debbie Bennett, Dr. Jordan and Conrad Carter for assisting with this effort to make the general public aware of responsible pet ownership including rabies prevention, animal bite prevention and penalties included in the Stanly County Animal Control Ordinance that was adopted last year. Dr. Amy Jordan suggested a change in one of the pictures included in the brochure and everyone agreed. The brochure will be printed and distributed throughout the county to further educate the public regarding the importance of taking care and maintaining control of animals.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Health Director shared information from the recent Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Ranking Report and explained that the County's overall rank in several categories were better than the previous years.

Information from the 2014 State of the County Health Expo which was held on March 17th at Stanly Regional Medical Center was discussed. Director Joyner stated that the event was well attended and information that was shared on the topic of Prescription Drug Abuse and Project Lazarus was enhanced by local families who were featured speakers and who have been personally touched by this issue.

The Health Director informed the board that an orientation for new board member, Dr. Amy Jordan took place on March 27th. Dr. Jordan and all board members were extended an open invitation to visit the Health Department at their discretion.

Board Members were reminded that the yearly "Golden Shoe" initiative was currently taking place at all county parks with prizes scheduled to be awarded this Saturday, April 5th at City Lake Park. The effort promotes physical activity and use of local parks throughout the County.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Carter moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Joan Eudy and passed by the board.