



Stanly County Health Department

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STANLY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

April 7, 2016

Meeting Minutes

The Stanly County Board of Health met on April 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Stanly County Health Department. All Board Members were present with the exception of Commissioner Lowder and Dr. Norwood. Staff Members present were Dennis Joyner, Health Director, Judie DeMuth, Debbie Bennett, Patti Lewis, and Becky McKeon.

Chairman Faulkner called the meeting to order and after welcoming those present entertained a motion for approval of the March 3rd, 2016 board meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Debora Norris, seconded by Conrad Carter and approved by the board.

With no general public in attendance, no comments were noted under Public Comments and the meeting was turned over to the Health Director.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Board Members were updated on the agency's personnel status with the Health Director informing them that no changes have taken place since the last meeting with the exception of the vacant Animal Control Officer position which has been posted with the NC Division of Employment Security and Stanly News and Press.

Reports on expenditures and revenues for all Health Department programs along with performance reports in all areas of the department, including Home Health and county employee health clinic as of 2/29/16 were reviewed. Mr. Joyner explained that figures and performance statistics are at expected levels at 66% into the fiscal year.

Performance reports reflected increased numbers in Environmental Health and Animal Control programs with a consistent average number of patients seen through the Employee Wellness Clinic.

NEW BUSINESS

The Health Director reviewed the National County Health Rankings for 2016 in North Carolina produced by University of Wisconsin and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. While our rankings are favorable in the report, he explained the fluctuation of our ranking from year to year was due to changes in the types of data that was used to derive the rankings. Unlike our community health assessment process, the rankings do not lend consistency in monitoring our health status. Board Members expressed some concern about the data and how the numbers may be viewed by the general public as well as the accuracy portrayed. Director Joyner informed the board that this information, along with the points of concern in reviewing the rankings, has been shared with the County Manager who was pleased with the improvement of Stanly County in health outcomes and health factors.

Consideration of a resolution in support of legalizing syringe exchange programs in North Carolina from the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition in Durham was discussed. The director explained that this program allows persons using drugs to safely exchange old syringes for new ones in hopes of reducing the spread of disease. The fact that there is an increase in heroin use accompanied by a 273% increase in acute hepatitis C (HCV) cases in North Carolina was discussed as a justification to support the resolution. After discussion, board members expressed a desire to hear more about the Harm Reduction Coalition, becoming more educated on the subject before making a decision to support the resolution on legalizing syringe exchange programs in NC.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The budget process and schedule for FY2016-17 was discussed and the board was reminded that the Health Department budget will be ready for presentation at the May 5th board meeting. The Board of Health Budget Committee, Rick Cain, Conrad Carter and Larry Faulkner agreed to attend a noon lunch meeting on Friday, April 22nd to review the proposed budget before submission to the entire board.

The Health Director shared that the date of 4/14/16 at 2 PM has been scheduled for orientation of Dr. Tom Norwood, the newest board member. All board members were invited to join the orientation meeting should they wish to participate.

The Health Director updated the board on the State of the County Health Expo scheduled to take place on May 3rd at the Agri Civic Center. Brochures outlining the event with presenter Kevin Hines, author of "Cracked Not Broken" was distributed with extra copies made available for businesses, church bulletins', etc. Board Members were encouraged to make plans to attend the event. Mental health providers will have educational booths in the lobby an hour and a half before the event in hopes of increasing community awareness of suicide and mental health issues. Also, light refreshments will be available with the presentation scheduled to take place from 6:45 - 8:00 PM. Director Joyner reminded the board that Mr. Hines, a national speaker is one of the few who has survived a suicide attempt of jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge, and will address issues surrounding suicide prevention and mental health. Everyone was encouraged to pre-register to attend and help promote the event.

OTHER BUSINESS

Copies of the 2016 Stanly County Annual Rabies Vaccination Clinic schedule was distributed to board members, with extra copies made available for distribution. Director Joyner thanked Dr. Jordan for her participation in the vaccination clinic on May 7th, as well as Dr. Link on April 30th, Dr. Mangum on May 14th, and Dr. Pike on May 14th.

The Health Director expressed appreciation to Board Chairman Faulkner and Vice Chairman Carter for their participation on March 22nd in the taping of an upcoming "Public Health in Action" local cable TV program. Board Members will be informed when the program will be available on channel 21, which also contains inserts from last month's board meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Mrs. Lowder moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cain and passed by the board.