

**Buncombe County Department of Health  
Board of Health Minutes  
April 8, 2010**

The Buncombe County Board of Health held its monthly meeting at the Department of Health Building on April 8, 2010.

**Board Members Present:** Winnie Ziegler, Bill McElrath, John Whitener, David McClain, Carol Peterson, Mike Goodson, Linda Morgan, Susanne Swanger and Gibbie Harris.

**Staff Present:** Julie Montanea, Rich Munger, Amy Harmon, Erin Henderlight, Dr. Yancey, Eddie Shook, Gaylen Ehrlichman, J. Nelson-Weaver and Terri Rogers.

**County Administrators Present:** Mandy Stone

Vice Chair, Mike Goodson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Goodson asked if there were any changes to be made to the Agenda before the meeting proceeded. Mr. McElrath asked that a closed session be added pursuant to GS 143-318.11. Mr. Goodson then asked if there was a motion, Mr. McElrath made a motion, seconded by Ms. Peterson. All were in favor of a closed session will follow the public session of this meeting.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 11th Meeting were reviewed.

Mr. McElrath wanted to clarify the minutes of March where he as agreed to continue his seat on the Board of Health for another term of 3 years; He has in fact agreed, but it is ultimately up to the County Commissioners to vote on another term. He does not see a need to change the minutes and a motion was made by Mr. McElrath to accept the minutes Ms. Peterson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**PRESENTATION:**

**Septic Repair Permit Fee Proposal – Eddie Shook**

Mr. Shook shared information to the Board concerning a WISE recommendation by Erin Foreman, an employee in Environmental Health to possibly have a fee associated with septic repair permits. This presentation is essentially a proposal to the Board of Health and Mr. Shook is asking them to consider this proposal for a recommendation by the Board of Health.

The Division of Environmental Health is responsible for septic permitting in Buncombe County. Correctly installed septic systems protect public health by preventing groundwater contamination resulting from improperly treated wastewater and sewage discharges to the surface of the ground. Any person owning a residence which is not served by a public sewer must obtain a septic permit prior to obtaining any building permits or initiating construction. Over years of use or for other reasons of malfunctions, systems will fail and need repaired. When systems fail the Environmental Health Division may be called upon by a neighboring property owner to complain of the block drainage that can be of unfavorable odor and unsanitary. In this year so far there have been 138 septic system repair permits provided. Each time a home/land owner has an issue with a system and our Environmental Health staff are called out to do an inspection of the problem, this is done to make sure that the home owner is not creating any groundwater contamination.

Buncombe County in the past has not charged any fees for the repair permits. With some research it has been noted that many other counties in the state do charge fees that range from \$40.00 to \$300.00. With that being noted the average fee runs at \$125.00. Buncombe County is proposing a fee of \$95.00. This year alone with the permits of 138 by the \$95.00 fee that could have been revenues of \$13, 110.00 so far this year alone. This would assist in the overall cost of the county as it takes a minimum of 2 trips to a residence before a repair has been completed. Mr. Goodson asked if the county is the one that has to design these systems, which is also a large consumption of time. Mr. Shook did say that yes, the county designs these and there are also times where an easement issue is involved.

Ms. Peterson asked if the rates from other Counties are figured by the population of septic systems. Mr. Shook was not aware of the reasons for the charges made by other Counties. Dr. McClain asked if Buncombe County has any Mound Systems in place. Mr. Shook said there may be a few, but those particular types are more expensive to the homeowner and are also regulated by the State not the County. Dr. Whitener asked Mr. Shook if the Board was expected to make any action on this proposal at this meeting. Mr. Shook said that it will be brought up at the next meeting for action. Ms. Peterson asked if there would be any type of education to the public about any changes in the application and notification that there will be a fee required by the property owner. Ms. Swanger also suggested that the community be given notice of a change along with the educating the public on the changes that may come relating to a fee. Mr. Shook said they would definitely be doing both.

### **FY11 Draft Budget Review – Gibbie Harris**

Ms. Harris shared Jim Holland's report that has been discussed the last two Board meetings. The overall budget is for \$7,605,393.00. This is after the 2.3 million pulled out for the Primary Care contract. There are some changes this budget compared to previous years that are particular highlights such as; the first full year without Primary Care, Changes in childhood vaccine administration where the state no longer provides all childhood immunizations for free, Smart Start Dental contract was not renewed this year by Smart Start, there is an increase in federal funding for WIC. There is also the factor that the State Budget has not yet been approved.

With these changes in place Mr. McElrath asked if Ms. Harris was comfortable with the proposed Health Center Budget. Ms. Harris did share that she was sure that the budget will need to be adhered to and stay within the budget in regards to expenditures. She felt it was a working budget.

Mr. McElrath made a motion to recommend the Board of Health to approve the budget to go to the County Commissioners for approval. Ms. Swanger seconded the motion, Mr. Goodson asked for a vote. All were in favor of the vote, except for Ms. Peterson who abstained from the vote.

### **Celebrating 100 Years of Public Health in Buncombe County- Gaylen Ehrlichman**

Ms. Ehrlichman shared some history with the Board of Health about Buncombe County and the City of Asheville from the early 1900's of the beginning of public health in our area. This month marks the beginning a few months of promotions to celebrate the 100 years of public health in Buncombe County. Key messages that we are hoping to share with the public during the promotions are what public health is and how public health touches everyone's lives everyday where they live and work.

The information to be shared about Public Health Month and 100 Years of Public Health in Buncombe County will be distributed with the General Public by; County Website, WNC Parent magazine, Newspapers, Buncombe Life and a possible promoting story with WLOS. We will also be sharing this information with the Community Leaders and Partners.

## **REPORTS**

**Health Director's Report:** Gibbie Harris

### Community Health Assessment-Steering Committee

A Steering Committee invitation had been sent out to approximately 100 county leaders, community partners, religious leaders, school administrators, Board of Health members and City and County Leaders. The goal is to obtain various people that will become part of the steering committee to address the health issues of Buncombe County. At current we have about 50 replies of interested people and 7 of those are from the Board of Health. This meeting will take place on April 15<sup>th</sup>. More information will be shared as this committee progresses.

A Healthy Living Summit is also in the works the Buncombe County Department of Health along with Health Partners will be holding this on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the NC Arboretum. Each Board Member is also invited to attend this event which will focus on positioning for action to improve health in Asheville and Buncombe County.

### Public Health Improvement Plan

This plan has changed even as late as this afternoon. The original plan to have this completed by the end of March just did not happen. Mr. McElrath asked that an updated plan be shared with the Board of Health. Ms. Harris said she will get the most up to date information out to the Board.

### **Monthly Financial Report:** Gibbie Harris (for Jim Holland)

Ms. Harris gave our financial report for this month. The spending target for Operating expenses is 75%. However, the target is 77% for salaries because there have been 20 of the 26 pay periods. Overall, agency spending is at 77.86%. Agency spending for salaries is at 82.76%. This is due to the front-loaded spending on a half-year of primary care. We have also had to absorb significant severance payments related to the transition. Agency spending for Operating expenses is well under the target, coming in at 61.42%.

The revenue budget still reflects a full year of primary care. When looking at our "internal" revenue budget (that reflects a half-year of primary care), the revenue projection of \$10,129,857 exceeds our "internal" target by about 3.3%. This comes from increased agreement addenda funds overcoming shortfalls in third party billing revenue.

### **HR Recruitment & Retention:** Amy Harmon for Lisa Eby

There have been no changes from last months report. There are still 4 vacancy carry-overs from before the 1-1-2010 transition of Primary Care. MCC's have several vacancies, one of which is Spanish speaking, 2 are held due to funding, 1 School Nurse position which is temporary which is being held incase a position is needed after any changes to Pre-natal services.

### **Performance Analysis Reviews:** Julie Montanea

Medical records pulled for the time period of February were high in numbers due to the Primary Care transition with 5,711 in the month which is 286 averages daily. This is compared to 6,258 or 322 per day in the 6 month averages of January to June of 2009.

Nutrition Counseling was down 13% compared to the FY09 numbers. The WIC department recently moved to the basement level and was closed for 3 days which could have made this number a bit lower.

### **Behavioral Health Services:** Rich Munger

Mr. Munger shared part two of the 2010 Asheville-Buncombe Homeless Count that he was involved in and shared part one with the Board in February. The study of cost comparisons utilizing figures from upstate SC are \$2,269 for emergency shelters, \$1,209 for transitional housing and \$661 for permanent supportive housing. The number of homeless entering emergency shelter housing has gone down from 217 in 2009 to 197 in 2010. While during the same time frame it has gone up in transitional housing

from 209 to 265. The best numbers to report are those in permanent supportive housing that has gone from 125 to 305, these might look bad but in this case the higher numbers are better as the cost is much cheaper overall.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Board of Health Orientation

As new members are brought on to the Board of Health and with all the recent changes within the Department of Health the discussion of beginning an orientation has begun. To make this more feasible to the members of the board it may be looked into as whether to hold an hour long session prior to the monthly meeting for a few months to complete an orientation. This suggestion will be discussed next month in greater detail.

Ms. Morgan would like to hear how the Pharmaceutical dispensing is working in the Clinical areas. Ms. Harris suggested that the Pharmacist do a presentation in the coming months to share that information to the Board.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next meeting will be at 6:00 pm on May 13, 2010. The location will be announced here at the Department of Health.

Mr. McElrath motioned to adjourn the public meeting, and proceed to the closed session, seconded by Ms. Peterson.

**CLOSED MEETING:**

Mr. McElrath motioned to adjourn the closed meeting, seconded by Ms. Morgan.

Vice Chair, Mike Goodson adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Gibbie Harris, Secretary

Adopted:

Mike Goodson, Vice Chair