

**Buncombe County Department of Health
Board Minutes
April 10, 2012**

The Buncombe County Board of Health held the April Meeting at 200 College St., on April 10, 2012.

Board Members Present: Susanne Swanger, Dr. John Whitener, Dr. Richard Oliver, Dr. Bart Martin, L.C. Ray, Bill McElrath and Linda Morgan.

Health Staff Present: Gibbie Harris, Julie Montanea, Rich Munger, Eddie Shook, Linda Tettambel, Lisa Eby, Karan Smith, Alice Elio, Karen Caldwell and Terri Rogers.

Board of Health Chair, Ms. Swanger called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

DISCUSSION & REVISION OF PROPOSED AGENDA/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. Swanger asked if there were any revisions to the agenda, with no revisions a motion was made to accept the agenda as written by Dr. Whitener and seconded by Dr. Oliver.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Board of Health Meeting on March 8, 2012 are in the packets. Ms. Swanger presented the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Ms. Morgan and seconded by Mr. McElrath. Motion passed and minutes approved.

QUESTION and ANSWER MONTHLY REPORTS:

Financial Report

The expenditure report shows we are at 75.00% of the way into the budget year. The grand totals for expenditures are at 79.41%. The expenditures are right on track with the budget. The revenues are also on track, it is not yet known when the Medicaid Cost Settlement will be in and it will be done by percentages which currently are not available to us.

HR Report

No HR Report this month everything is quiet in human resources for health.

Performance Analysis Review

Dr. Whitener asked about the School Nurses section of the PAR report. His question was about funding the school nurses. Nelle Gregory shared that they are funded by the County, State and School Funding, with the County funding the majority.

Dr. Oliver asked about the higher rate of STD Clinic Visits and what may have contributed to the increase. Linda Tettambel and Gibbie Harris shared that the Dept. of Health held 2 Outreach Services for this area at Warren Wilson College and UNC Asheville.

Behavioral Health

Nothing specific to share on the Behavioral Health PAR.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tobacco Program Update

Karen Caldwell shared information on the Tobacco Program. The Tobacco Free Priority Team - BC Department of Health & Project ASSIST Coalition are working together along with other health partners to tackle the tobacco issues in our state. They are working with the 1-800-QUIT NOW call center that have assisted the public in quitting smoking to the total of 46,000 previous smokers.

The law passed that prevents smoking in food establishments has gone well, there have been two separate law suits in Pitt and in Guilford Counties with the Court of Appeals but the decision of the court was in favor with Public Health on the issues. There has been a decrease of 21% less heart attacks in NC after the law has been placed in effect. So the health factors are showing progress.

In Buncombe County we have responded to complaints of tobacco use in food establishments and only one establishment that received and paid a fine of \$200.00.

The Town of Black Mountain is now getting ready to vote on a smokeless ordinance for that city. Woodfin and Biltmore Forest have not yet gotten on line with ordinances.

The Bele Chere smoking issue was taken to the Asheville City Bele Chere Committee, it was voted on 4-4 to stop the Tobacco Tent at Bele Chere, but will come back to the committee in May.

The NC Alliance for Health is asking for signatures of individuals and groups for a “Resolution in Support of Recurring Funding for Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Programs”. Karen handed out these resolutions for anyone interested in signing them.

Dr. Whitener made a motion to accept the resolutions support from the Board of Health, the motion was seconded by Dr. Oliver. Chair Ms. Swanger opened the floor for discussion and the motion was passed with all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Website for Children with Special Health Care Needs/Innovative Approaches

Alice Elio shared a new website that is live as of today that will assist parents, doctors and public agencies with connections for services for children with special health care needs. The site address is www.youfindservices.com. This was a collaboration of work with parents, professionals and Buncombe County Health staff over many months and the work will continue to better the site as time goes on. The Innovative Approaches grant paid for the design of the site, it is also possible for the providers listed on the site to add special information for an additional fee that will offset any funds for the site.

Public Health Month/County Health Rankings

April is Public Health Month. Gibbie shared a presentation of Why Public Health? In this presentation the question of why there are county health rankings is answered. Where we live matters to our health and there are differences across the state. Rankings help us to identify problems and factors that contribute to problems. Health is everyone’s responsibility. Buncombe County has ranked 14th in Health Outcomes across the state. These rankings cover Health Behaviors, Clinical Care, Social & Economic Factors and Physical Environment.

Imagine if there was no public health. There would be no one to prevent the occurrence and spread of disease, keep physical environments safe, prepare for and respond to disasters and emergencies, inspect food establishments and ensure food safety, investigate and treat communicable diseases or provide immunizations to the people of our county. Public Health protects our population through education, promotion, & prevention strategies. We promote better health throughout the lifespan by family planning, positive pregnancy outcomes, assure access to quality health care services and address health disparities and community transformation.

In this most recent Health Rankings for the Physical Environment section it does not measure the Blue Ridge Parkway, Biking, Hiking paths or Parks and Recreation. These are areas that we have plenty of in our community, so that lower ranking of 59th would be different if they were included.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments

CHAIR COMMENT:

Ms. Swanger thanked everyone for attending the meeting and those that presented such positive information. The next Board of Health Meeting will be May 10, 2012.

A motion was made by Ms. Swanger to Adjourn, seconded by, Mr. Ray, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Gibbie Harris, Secretary

Adopted:

Susanne Swanger, Chair