

**Buncombe County Department of Health  
Board Minutes  
June 14, 2012**

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

**Board Members Present:** Susanne Swanger, Dr. John Whitener, Dr. Richard Oliver, L.C. Ray, Winnie Zeigler, Suzanne Malloy and Dr. David McClain.

**Staff Present:** Gibbie Harris, Eddie Shook, Nelle Gregory, Jennifer Mullendore, Julie Montanea, Rich Munger, Linda Tettambel, Lisa Eby, Karan Smith, Gaylen Ehrlichman, Tim Rhodes, Christina McEntee and Terri Rogers.

**Guests Present:** Curt Euler, Gordon Smith and Amanda Houpt.

Board of Health Chair, Ms. Swanger called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

**DISCUSSION & REVISION OF PROPOSED AGENDA/ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Ms. Swanger said that the agenda was updated and one of the Actions Items has been removed. What members have in front of them is the updated version. Ms. Swanger asked if there were any revisions to the agenda, with no other revisions a motion was made to accept the changes by Dr. McClain and seconded by Mr. Ray.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the Board of Health Meeting on May 10, 2012 are in the packets. Ms. Swanger presented the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Ms. Zeigler and seconded by Mr. Ray. Motion passed and minutes approved.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Ms. Harris shared with the board the action items on the table for discussion. There are certain policies that each year are presented and approved by the board. There may or may not be changes made to them each year, the ones that we have tonight have certain changes due to the name of the BCDH and other small changes.

- 1) Community Outreach Policy- This policy ensures the general public and outside agencies are informed about the services and programs at the Buncombe County Dept. of Health.

Ms. Swanger asked for any discussion on the policy, Dr. Whitener made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Zeigler, all were in favor-the policy was approved.

- 2) Media and Public Request for Information Plan- The purpose of this policy is to ensure appropriate management for releasing public health related information to the media and the public.

Ms. Swanger asked for any discussion on the policy, Ms. Malloy made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Ray, all were in favor-the policy was approved.

- 3) Rabies Exposure Treatment Plan- This policies purpose is to outline the BCDH plan for expeditious treatment of the county residents exposed to rabies.

Ms. Swanger asked for any discussion on the policy, Dr. McClain made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Zeigler, all were in favor-the policy was approved.

- 4) Well Ordinance Resolution- The well ordinance is one that was developed and presented to the Board of Health in May 2004. This ordinance was approved by that board at the June 2004 meeting the ordinance itself was approved. During the research of that ordinance we discovered that an actual signed copy of the resolution was no located in archives. This is now presented to the current Board of Health Members in order to revisit this prior approval and re-adopt the resolution.

Ms. Swanger asked for any discussion on the re-adoption of this Well Ordinance Resolution , Ms. Zeigler made a motion to re-adopt, seconded by Dr. McClain. All were in favor.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Food Policy Council – Mr. Gordon Smith, Councilman with the City of Asheville**

Mr. Smith shared with the Board of Health the future of food in Asheville & Buncombe County and how we are addressing poverty, public health, local commerce and sustainability through food security.

The Asheville/Buncombe Food Policy Council’s Mission Statement is: will identify and propose innovative solutions to improve local food systems, spurring local economic development and making food systems environmentally sustainable and socially just. The world health organization defines food security as existing “when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life”.

The Regional Food Security has researched and found that 14 of Buncombe County’s 15 ZIP codes contain a food outlet of some sort yet 1 out of 6 people in WNC experience food insecurity. There was a 27% increase in county residents receiving food assistance in 2010, 50% of students within Buncombe County School system were enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program during 2009-2010 year, up from 47% the previous year.

The problems associated with Food Insecurity are impaired mental and physical development in young children. Food insecure children are 90% more likely to be in fair or poor health than food secure children, a poorly prepared and uncompetitive work force, also problems in family and personal instability, where uncertainty over “the next meal” creates a roadblock to dealing with other problems.

There are many causes of food insecurity-“Food Deserts”-areas that do not have a convenient, affordable, healthy food source nearby, or full scale grocery store. High prices for healthy food even when it is available, inadequate cooking education and nutrition information, limited public awareness on the necessity and accessibility of affordable, healthy foods.

The goals of the council are to improve food sustainability within the region, coordinate production and distribution to increase efficiency, expand food education, improve land usage and increase access of healthier food options.

We are looking at collaboration & partnerships in developing food systems cross governmental and geographic lines, and only by partnering with others can we take the necessary steps to create a food secure future.

Asheville will work with all of our partners to ensure that food policies integrate sustainably with others’ efforts, plans, and visions.

Mr. Smith asked the board of health if they would support and be in collaboration with the Food Council in making this venture profitable in our community for the people that need better food options.

## **Ordinances and Rules – Curt Euler, Associate County Attorney**

Mr. Euler spoke to the Board Members about ordinance and rules and the difference in them. Currently there is a Smoking Policy on Buncombe County Property that some changes or additions may possible need to make this a Tobacco Free ordinance.

Mr. Euler stated the Board could adopt a rule that would include in that rule smokeless tobacco but could run into hardships along the way. The County Commissioners could also adopt this on County owned properties but not on municipalities without the support of those municipalities. A discussion needs to take place with Mandy Stone, Assistant County Manager to see what support we have and can obtain in these municipalities located within Buncombe County. The Board of Health can bring back the draft resolution to the next meeting for another look.

### **Tobacco Resolution**

As it is stated the Buncombe County Board of Health is responsible for assuring that the Buncombe County Department of Health meeting the NC Public Health Accreditation Standard requiring a ban on all tobacco products in buildings and grounds where public health services are provided. Currently our policy is for smoking and it is the Boards request to make that policy also cover smokeless tobacco products. This draft will be revisited next month.

Ms. Harris stated that she will meet with Ms. Stone and see what the municipalities in the County currently have in place and share that next month.

### **QUESTION and ANSWER MONTHLY REPORTS:**

#### **Financial Report**

The expenditure report shows we are at 91.67% of the way into the budget year. The grand totals for expenditures are at 93.58%. The revenues are on target, it is not yet known when the Medicaid Cost Settlement will be in, Ms. Harris stated that she actually received information today via email and once she signs off on that we will have more information to the cost settlements from Medicaid.

#### **HR Report**

There is nothing new to mention concerning the HR Report for this month.

#### **Performance Analysis Review**

The PAR is in the packets. The special events or projects section highlights pool programs this month. Currently there are 238 pools, spas or wading pools in Buncombe County. For these 238 locations there were 315 inspections completed. The rule was enacted in relation to anti-entrapment drain covers for pools back in 2007 by the federal government, here in Buncombe County the change came and was enforced beginning in 2010.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comments

#### **DIRECTORS REPORT:**

Ms. Harris gave an update on the salmonella outbreak that there were a total of 89 cases which 81 were in North Carolina, 64 of them were in Buncombe County. As of May 21<sup>st</sup> there are no new cases. The FDA is working with the tempeh starter company.

We have had 11 cases of pertussis recently that have exposed a range of other from various public venues such as a funeral, wedding, gyms, boy scouts and 2 private pre-school bus loads. This is a good example as to getting the Tdap immunization and how important prevention is for public health.

We are experiencing more Ticks this year. Due to the warmer winter the ticks are out in full force. Ticks are vectors of a number of diseases, including Lyme disease.

HB433 passed the Senate and passed the House today, it will go back to the Senate with some changes. The amendment offered today was not accepted. Ms. Harris will keep the board informed.

The state budget began friendly to public health, but there are things that will be a struggle once passed. Ms. Harris will also keep the board informed of the budget once it gets passed.

A new document will be in your packets each month, more information on this will be shared next month. It is a monthly morbidity summary, which shows the number of incidents reported in disease control for the entire county.

**CHAIR COMMENT:**

Ms. Swanger thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The next Board of Health Meeting will be July 12, 2012.

A motion was made by Mr. Ray to Adjourn, seconded by, Dr. Whitener, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Gibbie Harris, Secretary

Adopted:

Susanne Swanger, Chair