



Stanly County Health Department

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Dennis R. Joyner, MPH
Director

STANLY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

February 6th, 2014

Meeting Minutes

The Stanly County Board of Health met on February 6, 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 Dr. Laura Mauldin. Staff members present were Dennis Joyner, Health Director, Judie DeMuth, Debbie Bailey, Debbie Bennett, David Ezzell, Dean Lambert, Patti Lewis and Becky McKeon. Leon Warren attended as media representative.

Chairman Faulkner called the meeting to order and after welcoming those present entertained a motion for approval of the January 2nd, 2014 board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Shirley Lowder, seconded by Ric Cain, and approved by the board.

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

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Joyner updated the board on the agency's personnel status informing them that Ginny Burris who is currently working in the Dental Clinic, has been chosen to fill the vacant position in the Business Office. Recruitment has begun for the Processing Assistant position left vacant in the dental office and will be filled as soon as possible. In the WIC Program, Amanda Howard, Processing Assistant IV resigned from her position to become effective in two weeks. Recruitment for this position will begin immediately, and in the Home Health Program, the Processing Assistant position left vacant with the retirement of Judy Bledsoe will be included in the recruitment process. Also in the Home Health Program, Wanda Mesimer has submitted her resignation/ retirement to become effective on 3/29/14.

Reports on expenditures and revenues along with performance reports for all Health Department programs as of 12/31/13 were reviewed. Mr. Joyner explained that at 50% into the fiscal year figures and performance statistics are at expected levels. He reminded everyone that final figures for the Animal Control Program will not include civil penalties collected as they will be transferred to the school system per State law. In the performance measures, Director Joyner explained that in the Environmental Health Program, soil evaluations completed within 10 days reflected a low percentage rate of 41%, which was the result of several factors which included bad weather and readiness of contractors and developers. He added that a large subdivision being developed in the Stanfield area contained 37 lots and had required a significant amount of time. The employee wellness clinic reflected a total of 75 visits for the month of December, and according to the County Manager, saved the county approximately \$12,000 over the last quarter.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Debbie Bailey, RN, Home Health Supervisor shared information from the Home Health Program reviewing the 4th quarter Performance Tracking Tool, a detailed monthly activity report and a Dashboard Outcome Report. After time was allowed for discussion and questions from the board, Director Joyner commended Home Health staff for their hard work and dedication which was reflected in the latest reports.

A snap-shot report of various program areas of the agency for the years of 2011, 2012, and 2013 was reviewed and compared, with most areas showing improvement. In the Animal Control Program, Mr. Joyner explained that the numbers of stray/unwanted pets impounded had decreased considerably and animals adopted or placed in new homes had increased primarily due to the work of the local Humane Society. Dr. Jordan commended all staff involved and stressed the importance of both the shelter and Humane Society working together to make improvements. She also made the board aware of the need for financial assistance for the non-profit organization, stating that their only source of funding comes from adoption fees which do not cover medical expenses, food, lodging, utilities, etc. Director Joyner stated his intentions of discussing this issue with the County Manager in an effort to possibly identify any financial options to assist. Euthanasia issues were discussed, and the director noted that animal euthanasia rates had improved over recent years. He also reminded members that the program utilizes euthanasia by injection and has not used the carbon monoxide method for several years.

Information on Project Lazarus was distributed and Director Joyner explained that this project was an initiative which started in Wilkes County to address drug overdosing, substance abuse and unintentional poisonings. Several charts containing epidemiologic profiles of unintentional poisonings were reviewed which listed data from Stanly, Rowan and Cabarrus counties, and included Emergency Department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths. The Health Director pointed out that according to information for 2009 - 2011, Stanly County was above the state average which was a concern and Health Educators are considering the development of intervention points and working with the Stanly County Partners in Health Coalition to further investigate possible efforts to address this issue. Dr. Royer added that his experiences with this problem was mainly due to pain management issues in the older population and he also explained the process of physicians/medical offices being able to enter patient prescriptions on a registered physician computer site which allows physician review patient medications/prescriptions. Board members agreed these issues should be considered as an important health concern.

The Health Director shared information on the upcoming State of the County Health Expo to be held on March 17th in the Magnolia Room at Stanly Regional Medical Center. Board Members were informed that this year's expo will focus on the topic of prescription drugs and will begin with dinner served from 5 to 6:00 PM, and the program from 6:15 to 7:30 PM. He added that featured speakers will include local families personally touched by prescription drug abuse and Mr. Fred Brason, founder of Project Lazarus. Everyone was encouraged to mark their calendars to be in attendance.

OTHER BUSINESS

Director Joyner then recognized Becky McKeon, RN who gave an update on flu activity throughout the state. She shared that 10 more people died from the flu last week in North Carolina, bringing the death toll for the flu season up to 56, nine of which were adults. In the past two weeks, 21 deaths have been reported in North Carolina. After discussion, Mrs. McKeon explained that the flu vaccine has shown 70 - 75% effectiveness in preventing the flu in previous years.

The Health Director discussed scheduling a time with the new board member and any others who would like to participate in an orientation and tour of the health department. Further communication will be shared with the board as orientation opportunities are scheduled.

Chairman Faulkner then discussed the need to review and approve the Health Director's current job description as part of the yearly evaluation process. He stated that Mr. Joyner's job description was forwarded to all board members in January for review, discussion and approval of the job description. With no requested changes, Dr. Dunlap made a motion to approve the job description as presented. Commissioner Ascuitto seconded the motion, and was passed by the board.

Director Joyner informed board members of a break-in at the Animal Shelter last Tuesday night, January 28th. He shared that someone scaled an outer fence, broke through a locked door and a secured cage, escaping with a 50 pound boxer-mix dog. He further explained that the dog was under quarantine and listed as "dangerous" as a result of it biting a pedestrian on Monday, January 27th and there was no identification or proof of rabies vaccination of the dog. Since no one in the neighborhood claimed ownership, and since the bite victim required medical attention, a series of vaccinations for rabies may be required since the dog is no longer quarantined and/or being observed which N.C. law requires for 10 days after a bite occurs. Animal Control assumes the dog is a stray and unvaccinated for rabies. The Health Director added that nothing else was taken or damaged during the break-in and surveillance equipment, alarm systems, etc. are currently being considered. The need to locate the dog that was discussed, and there was a consensus among board members to publish this incident in the SNAP as soon as possible along with a picture of the dog. Mr. Joyner indicated that he will make every effort to get an article in this Sunday's local paper. Dr. Amy Jordan noted that the general public often does not recognize the prevalence or danger of rabies in the county nor the importance of rabies prevention and volunteered to assist as needed to help raise awareness.

Next, Mr. Ascuitto made a motion to go into closed session to discuss the Health Director's annual performance evaluation. Mrs. Shirley Lowder seconded the motion, which was passed by the board. After discussion of the evaluation, Dr. Dunlap moved to come out of closed session; the motion was seconded by Mr. Cain and passed by the board.

With no further business brought forward, Mrs. Lowder moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jordan and passed by the board.