



Stanly County Health Department

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Dennis R. Joyner, MPH
Director

STANLY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

March 7th, 2013

Meeting Minutes

The Stanly County Board of Health met on March 7, 2013 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. Ann Yowell. Staff members present were Dennis Joyner, Health Director, Judie DeMuth, Debbie Bennett, Patti Lewis, Becky McKeon, Debbie Bailey, Denise Burns, Marla Lukach, Judy Hartsell, Patricia Hancock, Shannon Henry, Dean Lambert and David Ezzell. Leon Warren and Jessica Carelock attended as media representatives.

Chairman Faulkner called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. First term Registered Nurse member, Debora P. Norris was sworn in by Mr. Faulkner and Judie DeMuth, clerk to the board witnessed and notarized the Oath of Office.

Chairman Faulkner then entertained a motion for approval of the February 7th, 2013 board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Dr. Mauldin, seconded by Mr. Ascutto 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

The Health Director updated the board on the agency's personnel status informing them that in the Home Health Program Judy Bledsoe, Processing Assistant has turned in her notice of retirement as of 3/15/13 and Shannon Henry, Public Health Nurse Supervisor also in the Home Health Program, has resigned indicating that 3/15/13 will be her last day of work. Mr. Joyner explained that the Home Health Program is currently recruiting for two vacant RN positions and with no qualified applications received to date; it's becoming more difficult to accept patient referrals from the medical community. Board Members were informed that in this challenging time for the Home Health Program, Debbie Bailey, RN has agreed to take the lead role in Home Health on a temporary basis. Also, in an effort to have patient coverage during the staff shortage the County Manager has approved the use of contracted workers/staff until vacant positions can be filled.

Director Joyner informed board members that he is in the process of contracting with a consultant who will conduct an operational assessment of the Home Health Program at a cost of approximately \$5-\$6,000. Mr. Joyner added that in the past several years, the Home Health Program has averaged a \$70,000 gain at the end of the fiscal year which is rolled into a fund balance and has been used numerous years to cover the cost of various expenses incurred by the Health Department. However, this year thus far the program is reflecting a deficit of approximately \$36,000. The Health Director stated that due to the high volume of staff turnover,

and the need to cover the cost of program operations, he has met with Home Health Program staff and made them aware of his concerns and his decision to hire a consultant to conduct an operational assessment. He added that the results should help better understand the stability of the program and give guidance on the direction that should be followed. Board Members shared their concerns and commented on the importance of the long history that the Home Health Program has provided with high quality, excellent patient care to the residents of Stanly County. Also, the need to assess reasons why staff are leaving was suggested to further understand the shortage of staff. The Health Director acknowledged that home health was a challenging and changing field and he will work to reach the best possible solution.

In conclusion of the personnel update, board members were informed that Shayle Love, Dental Assistant resigned as of 2/28/13. Mr. Joyner stated his intentions of expanding the dental clinic to include an additional full time Dental Hygienist, which is currently posted with the Employment Security Commission. Dr. Mauldin expressed concern in not recruiting for the vacant Dental Assistant position instead of adding a Dental Hygienist at this time. The Health Director stated that, while the Dental Assistant will be needed, the dentists preferred to bring on the Dental Hygienist first because the position would be expected to provide broader assistance in the clinic as needed.

Reports on expenditures and revenues along with performance reports for all Health Department programs as of 1/31/13 were reviewed. Mr. Joyner explained that at 58% into the fiscal year figures and performance statistics are at expected levels.

NEW BUSINESS

Since information concerning the Home Health Program was discussed as part of the Health Director's report, the meeting was turned over to Patricia Hancock, Nursing Director who presented information on the re-accreditation process. Mrs. Hancock reminded board members that the Health Department first received accreditation status in 2008 which is granted for a period of four years and this year re-accreditation is scheduled for the month of July. A slide presentation was then shared which covered all aspects of requirements that must be met in order to become re-accredited. Board Members were informed that departmental policies are being reviewed and updated as well as making sure all required benchmarks are addressed and ready for the State Review Team upon their arrival.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board Members were informed that in response to the County Commissioners request at their 2/4/13 meeting, a subcommittee meeting was held on 2/28/13 to discuss the proposed Animal Control Ordinance. Those in attendance were the Health Director and Dean Lambert, Animal Control Supervisor, County Commissioner's Ascitutto and Dunevant and Board of Health Member's Conrad Carter and Dr. Ann Yowell. Information was shared on issues that were discussed at the subcommittee meeting, including the keeping of stray animals, allowing animals to ride in open bed trucks and the one acre differentiation for dog restraint requirements. Board of Health Members discussed possible changes that should be considered and also shared information from calls and emails they had received from the general public. Mr. Joyner confirmed that additional subcommittee meetings would be necessary before a final ordinance can be submitted for approval, and updates will be presented to the board as appropriate.

Director Joyner stated that since time did not allow for the Animal Shelter to be included in the orientation of Health Department programs earlier today, all new board members as well as other interested board members were invited to arrive early (6 PM) at next month's scheduled meeting date of April 4th to take a trip to the Animal Control facility for a tour and to learn more about the day to day activities at the Animal Shelter. A reminder and confirmation of this activity will be included with the April meeting mailings. Board Members were encouraged to visit the UNC School of Government web link for an overview of North Carolina General Statutes that defines both the responsibilities and the composition of local boards of health. They were also reminded that helpful information could be found in the handbook issued to them at their first meeting as a board member.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Home Health Program Performance Tracking Tool for the period of October thru December, 2012 was distributed and reviewed. Director Joyner explained that the report was required on a quarterly basis as part of the accreditation process and quality improvement program.

Board Members were made aware that the Home Health Program is due for re-accreditation this year by the Accreditation Commission for Health Care, Inc. Director Joyner stated that the Home Health Program review is conducted every 4 years but due to the shortage of staff and since an operational assessment of the program will be forthcoming, he has opted to not seek re-accreditation at this time. He added that this decision was reached also because accreditation is not a requirement for home health operation or for revenue sources such as Medicare and Medicaid.

The Health Director shared information on the upcoming State of the County Health Expo to be held on March 25th in the Magnolia Room at Stanly Regional Medical Center. Board Members were reminded that this year's Expo will focus on the topic of bullying and will begin with dinner served from 5 to 6:00 PM, and the program from 6:15 to 8 PM.

Board Members were reminded of the importance of participating in the Community Health Assessment by completing the survey at the Stanly County website forwarded to them along with their board meeting information. They were also informed that hard copies will be made available upon request.

With no further business to discuss, Dr. Mauldin made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Dr. Dunlap and passed by the board.