



## Stanly County Health Department

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Dennis R. Joyner, MPH  
Director

### ***STANLY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH***

**April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**Meeting Minutes**

The Stanly County Board of Health met on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 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. Laura Mauldin and Dr. Hal Royer. Staff members present were Dennis Joyner, Health Director, Judie DeMuth, Debbie Bennett, Becky McKeon, and Dean Lambert. 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 March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 board meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Carter, seconded by Dr. Dunlap 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 interviews are in process for the vacant nursing positions and billing secretary/processing assistant in the Home Health Program and dental hygienist in the Dental Clinic. He explained that several applications have been received from qualified applicants and decisions on job offers should be reached within the next couple of weeks in an effort to fill all vacancies. Board Members were reminded that in the Home Health Program, contracted/PRN staff is being utilized in order to provide patient care coverage and maintain a reasonable caseload during the staff shortage.

Reports on expenditures and revenues for all Health Department programs as of 2/28/13 were reviewed. Mr. Joyner explained that at 67% into the fiscal year, most figures are at expected levels. He added that in the dental clinic figures are somewhat misleading due to the addition of grant funds from the Cannon Foundation in the amount of \$75,000 reflected in the revenue amount. Also, he reminded the board that several programs receive state money which is sometimes not received until the end of the fiscal year.

Performance reports for all Health Department programs through the month of February were reviewed and Mr. Carter inquired about the low number of TB cases. The Health Director along with staff nurse Becky McKeon and board member Debora Norris, RN with Stanly Regional explained medication requirements for anyone testing positive and/or determined to have an active case of TB.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The budget process and schedule for FY2013-14 was discussed and the board was informed that all department budgets are due in County Administration/Finance Office no later than 4/12/13. Mr. Joyner added that he is currently reviewing the Health Department budget, which will be ready for presentation at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Board of Health meeting. He explained that since budgets must be turned in to the county before the next board meeting and due to the size of the Health Department budget, the County Manager has agreed for changes to be submitted after the April 12<sup>th</sup> due date. Director Joyner informed the board that the County Manager has given each department budget targets which include proposed cost of living salary adjustments (COLA) and merit pay salary adjustments which are already factored into department budgets. Board Members were informed that capitol items that will be requested in the Health Department budget will include an audiometer and a new vehicle replacement for the Animal Control Program. Board of Health members who have agreed to serve on a Budget Committee consisting of Larry Faulkner, Conrad Carter and Rick Cain were informed that a meeting would be scheduled for their review of the budget before the next board meeting.

Next on the agenda was the approval of recommended Fee Schedules for FY2013-14 and the Health Director explained that this information is not ready for presentation but will be included in the new fiscal year budget presentation. He added that very few changes if any are expected in fees.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Board Members were informed that a subcommittee meeting was held on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposed Animal Control Ordinance. Information discussed at the meeting was shared by the Health Director and Commissioner Ascitto, including the keeping of stray animals, size of kennels, allowing animals to ride in open bed trucks and the one acre differentiation for physical dog restraint requirements. Mr. Ascitto expressed appreciation for the participation of the Board of Health subcommittee. Director Joyner explained that after making the edits from the subcommittee meeting, the ordinance will be presented to County Commissioners at a future public hearing. Mrs. Shirley Lowder questioned if minutes could be made available from the March 26<sup>th</sup> committee meeting and the Health Director explained that notes could be made available to anyone interested in the details of the meeting.

Updated information was shared on the Home Health Program and Mr. Joyner informed the board that he has submitted a contract to the County Attorney for a consultant to be hired to conduct an operational assessment of the Home Health Program. Also, information on the shortage of staff was discussed with the director explaining that all vacant positions have been posted with the Employment Security Commission, the Stanly News and Press, the county web site and with the North Carolina Alliance of Public Health Agencies. Several applications have been received thus far and interviews have been scheduled with hopes of filling the vacant positions as soon as possible. The Health Director shared the most recent home health agency statistical information stating that that Home Care of the Carolinas has a little more than 50% of market share in Stanly County, with the Health Department's Stanly County Home Health Agency receiving approximately 15%. Another agency was at 12% and a few others reporting less than 10%. He explained that the Health Department's agency maintains an average monthly caseload of 104 patients with referrals still being received but it is a challenge with the current

staff shortage. When questioned about investigating the reasons staff had left the agency, Mr. Joyner stated that salary issues and more attractive opportunities were among his findings.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Stanly County annual rabies vaccination clinic information was distributed to board members and Dr. Yowell expressed her appreciation for the Veterinarians who conduct the clinics with Dr. Kay Griffin, Dr. Jim Link, and Dr. Tom Mangum participating in the 2013 clinics throughout the county on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The question of how often dogs and cats are required to be vaccinated was posed and Dr. Yowell explained that any dog or cat four months old or older that is receiving its first dose of vaccine will be vaccinated for a period of one year and three years, thereafter.

The Health Director shared information from the recent national County Health Ranking Report and explained that the overall rank in several categories had fallen a bit from previous years. He also pointed out that some of the information used was dated and some could not be compared to previous years because of changes in types of data used. He reported that the overall rank for “health outcomes” was 82 among North Carolina counties. A computer link can be forwarded to board members wishing to review the report.

Board Members were informed that data obtained through the survey portion of the 2013 Community Health Assessment process is now being compiled and will be combined with other gathered data for a final report expected in August, 2013.

The board was made aware that April is recognized across the state as Public Health Month and displays will be set up in the public area of County Commons by Health Department staff on April 9th from 9:30 to 11:30 AM.

Mr. Conrad Carter expressed his concern of contagious infections recently discussed by news media. Debora Norris, Communicable Disease Nurse with Stanly Regional Hospital explained how communicable diseases such as MRSA, VRE and C. difficile are contracted and spread, with the number one reason identified as poor hand washing patterns. She explained that if nursing homes, hospitals, physician offices, schools, daycares, etc. would establish and enforce good hand washing policies, the transfer of diseases would be greatly reduced.

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Ascitutto made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lowder and passed by the board.