

Harnett County Board of Health  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
July 16, 2020

The Harnett County Board of Health met in regular session on Thursday, July 16, 2020 in the Health Department Board Room, Harnett County Governmental Complex, 307 W. Cornelius Harnett Blvd., Lillington, North Carolina. A virtual Board of Health meeting using audio conference call was held for the July 16, 2020 meeting. Due to COVID-19 the Board of Health meeting was not open to members of the public to attend in person however, citizens were provided options to listen to the meeting. Only Public Health staff necessary to conduct the meeting or to speak on scheduled agenda items were in attendance. As the Board demonstrated compliance with State law and prudent public health practices.

**Members present by conference call:** Ms. Amy Allen, RN, Vice-Chairwoman, Dr. Amanda Langdon, DVM, Ms. Barbara McKoy, Dr. Catherine Evans, DDS, and Ms. Emily Barefoot.

**Members present:** Dr. Laura Smith, Chairwoman and Mr. John Rouse, Jr., Health Director.

**Others present:** Mary Jane Sauls, Oliver Tolksdorf, Debra Harris-Hawkins, Donna Surles, and Natasha Johnson.

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**Chairwoman Smith** called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Announcements** – Mr. Rouse reported Gayle Adams, Dr. Kim Fowler, PhD and Gail Hobbs would not be present tonight. Donna Surles, Director of Nursing will be retiring as of July 31, 2020. Mr. Rouse announced Dr. Kim Fowler, PhD and Stacie Hogan, RPH received their Board of Health orientation on February 25, 2020, Dr. Amanda Langdon, DVM will receive her orientation at a later time.

**Consent Agenda – Minutes – Motion made by Ms. Barbara McKoy for the May 21, 2020 minutes to be approved as presented and seconded by Ms. Amy Allen, RN. Motion Carried.**

**Consider additions and deletions to the published agenda – Chairwoman Smith** called for additions and deletions to the published agenda. Mr. Rouse asked to add 7a and 7b Bright Ideas Grant and North Carolina Community Foundation Grant.

**Public Comment – Period of up to 30 minutes for informal comments allowing 3 minutes for each presentation – Chairwoman Smith** opened the floor for informal comments by the public, allowing 3 minutes for each presentation up to 30 minutes. Citizens were allowed to call in and provide their public comments verbally during this

period. No one called in and no public comments were received. Chairwoman Smith closed the informal comments.

**Debt Setoff** – Mr. Rouse reported that since the last meeting, the Debt Setoff program has collected an additional \$146.66 and the collection year to date total is \$5,787.95.

**Establish Fees** – Mr. Rouse presented the recommendation to establish a new fee. Mr. Rouse discussed most charges for COVID-19 labs are paid by individuals with insurance, sent to the State Lab for processing with no charge to the patient or the Health Department. In some instances, we may need to bill the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) COVID-19 Uninsured Program for reimbursement for the cost of the testing on uninsured patients.

CPT CODE	DESCRIPTION	OLD RATE	RECOMMENDED PRICE
87635	COVID-19 Test	n/a	\$51.31

**Motion to approve the new fee from Ms. Amy Allen, RN, Vice Chairwoman and seconded by Dr. Catherine Evans, DDS. Motion Carried.**

#### **Health Director's Report and Program Reports – Mr. John Rouse**

- **Bright Ideas Grant & North Carolina Community Foundation Grant** – Mr. Rouse presented a request for the opportunity to submit a grant application to Public Health Preparedness and Response for the Bright Ideas Grant. The grant will provide the funding necessary to purchase medical grade, monitored coolers for vaccines. The grant amount is \$9,747.00.  
The North Carolina Community Foundation Grant is to provide citizens in need that have been adversely affected from the COVID-19 pandemic to receive gift cards for gas and groceries. The grant amount is \$1,000.00.  
**Motion by Dr. Catherine Evans, DDS to approve the addition to the agenda as presented and for the Bright Ideas Grant and North Carolina Community Foundation Grant request to be approved and seconded by Ms. Barbara McKoy. Motion Carried.**
- **COVID-19 Updates** - Mr. Rouse announced the most recent total of COVID-19 cases in Harnett County, with 823 confirmed cases, 677 recovered and 32 deaths. Average age range is 1 month-97 and the average age is 42 years old. The 823 total confirmed cases by race include 345 Hispanic, 291 White, 169 Black and 18 other. Positive cases by ethnicity include 345 Hispanic, 460 Non-Hispanic and 18 other. Confirmed cases by gender include 52% female and 48% male.

The Health Department conducted a mass drive thru testing event today for contact COVID-19 cases, the event was held by appointment only. A total of 25 appointments were made with 20 individuals showing up for testing. The Health Department will continue to do this event weekly. The Health Department staff has received 374 phone calls during May and June with COVID-19 related items and questions. Mr. Rouse continues to send a power point presentation and COVID-19 case numbers to the Board of Health members weekly. Mr. Rouse announced the Health Department would release information on fall festival events as we receive guidelines from the State.

- **Accreditation/Strategic Plan** – Debra Harris-Hawkins reviewed the Strategic Plan Status Report, copies of the Strategic Plan Status Report were provided with the Board of Health packets. The Strategic Plan Status Report is meant to highlight some of the work that has been completed to advance the Health Department's (HCHD) Strategic Plan, from the beginning of its implementation on through the end of 2019. Throughout this report, programs and initiatives will highlight progress that has been made in addressing health issues identified in the Strategic Plan. We will continue to work towards maintaining the successful public health programs, services and organizational improvements that we have achieved, and we will work to meet the current needs of a changing community. The Health Department recognizes that the plan will need to be revisited and amended to stay on track. The timeline selected for this strategic plan was revised to a three-year plan 2018-2020, which enables HCHD to align efforts with other planning documents such as Community Health Assessment (CHA). Another revision made to the plan were to include as priorities to maintain Accreditation and the completion of the Community Health Assessment. We will be working on bringing to the Board of Health a plan in January 2021, which will be the 2021-2023.
- **FY 2021-21 County/State Budget** - Mr. Rouse stated the county budget has been approved and he will bring the final year-end report to the September meeting. Under the contract addendum with the State, we will continue to receive the same amount we received in the past fiscal year. COVID-19 federal money that was received through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) had been utilized at the end of June 2020.

#### **Clinical Reports – Donna Surles**

**Communicable Disease** continues COVID-19 investigations and have been very busy for the past few months. Staff has been conducting the investigations, follow up, and data entry into the North Carolina Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NCEDSS) and COVID-19 Community Team Outreach

(CCTO) systems. The State has supplied the Health Department with Contact Tracer positions that are making phone calls and helping with contacts to a positive case. The State has supplied one position of Data Entry who is bilingual and is helping with investigations and data entry, which has been helpful. We continue to monitor the outbreaks in the county.

- **Child Health, Immunizations, and Employee Health** Child Health and Employee Health clinics visits have been low during May and June, but have started to increase in July. With school starting back, usually the Child Health clinic will increase in visits. Sexually Transmitted Disease visits have decreased slightly, however Family Planning and Maternal Health visits have remained steady. Newborn and Postpartum home visits have been on hold due to COVID-19. Adult Health has started scheduling outreach flu clinics for September with the assisted living facilities and senior nutrition sites.  
Mr. Rouse reported the Employee Clinic saved the county \$28,087.00 in the fourth quarter; this quarter has been low in visits due to COVID-19 and a lot of employees' teleworking from home.
- **Preparedness** Epidemiology Team are continuing to keep up with the COVID-19 outbreak. They been working with OnTarget Preparedness to plan and prepare for our full-scale tabletop exercise however, this event has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. OnTarget Preparedness may use COVID-19 testing events as a preparedness exercise. More to come on this as we move forward.
- **Environmental Health** Oliver Tolkendorf discussed Onsite Wastewater has continued to remain busy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Guidance from the State for Food & Lodging inspections to return to their normal schedule starting July 1, 2020. Environmental Health will continue to follow guidance and changes from the State during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Aging & Case Management** Mary Jane Sauls reported the Harnett County nutrition sites are closed until August 31, 2020 and will be reevaluated at that time. Harnett County has continued to provide home delivered meals to our seniors without interruption throughout COVID-19.  
Medicare open enrollment will be held October 15<sup>th</sup> – December 7<sup>th</sup>. The Division on Aging has been working to establish procedures so they can assist beneficiaries. The county has recently hung plexiglass partitions from the ceiling so Medicare counselors can meet with recipients face to face.

The caregiver support group has been meeting monthly via phone/computer. These interactive calls have allowed caregivers to communicate their needs during the pandemic.

The Division on Aging will have a drive through event for The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren participants on Tuesday July 21, 2020. Staff will provide an activity gift for the grandchildren. Volunteers continue to serve throughout the county. The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) recently completed a drive through appreciation event where volunteers were recognized for their service, and 219 volunteers received a gift bag and gift card for their hard work and dedication. The Division on Aging is continuing to supply fans through operation heat relief.

- **Marketing/Community Outreach** Debra Harris-Hawkins announced Vaping and E-Cigarettes: What Parents Should Know is a virtual session using the Zoom Platform, on July 22, 2020 at 10:00am-10:30am. The focus will provide information on the dangers of vaping for adolescents and talking to your teen about vaping. Staff from the Regional Office will be conducting the session.
- **Retirement** Mr. Rouse announced that Donna Surles, Director of Nursing, would be retiring on August 1, 2020 with twenty-nine years of service. Donna began her public health career in Harnett County in 1989 through 2020. She has worked as a Public Health Nurse for various programs at the Health Department including Child Health, a Jail Nurse and in the Home Health program. In 2013, Donna accepted the position as Director of Nursing at the Health Department. In 2019, Surles received the Distinguished 100 NC Public Health Nurses Award. In 2018, she received the NC Public Health Association All-Star Award from the NC Public Health Association. Donna became a Registered Nurse in 1987 and received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Wake Technical Community College. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Fayetteville State University, and currently pursuing a Master's Degree from Western Governors University. Donna is associated with several professional and community organizations, including, Past President NC Association of Public Health Nurse Administrators, NC Public Health Association, North Carolina Nurses Association, International Nurses Association, and Kiwanis Club of Angier-Board Member. She is a member of Piney Grove Chapel Baptist Church and participates with the North Carolina Baptist on Missions Disaster Relief. Donna will be recognized by her colleagues for her years of service and her high degree of dedication. Public Health colleagues and friends extended their well wishes to Mrs. Surles in her future endeavors.

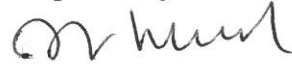
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**Closed Session** – There was no need for closed session.

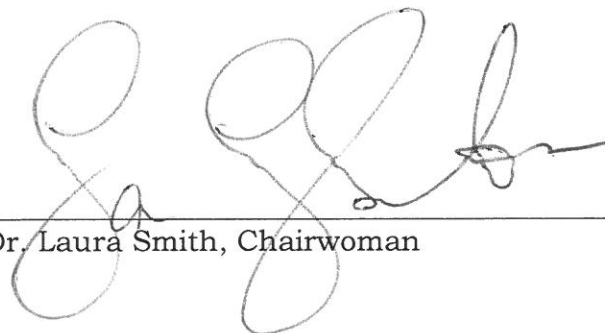
**New Business – Chairwoman Smith** opened the floor for New Business. Being none  
Chairwoman Smith closed New Business.

**Chairwoman Smith adjourned the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,



John Rouse, Jr.  
Health Director



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Dr. Laura Smith, Chairwoman