

Harnett County Board of Health  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
November 19, 2020

The Harnett County Board of Health met in regular session on Thursday, November 19, 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 November 19, 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:** Dr. Amanda Langdon, DVM, Ms. Stacie Hogan, RPH, Ms. Linda Sturdivant, Ms. Gayle Adams, Dr. Kim Fowler, PhD, Dr. Catherine Evans, DDS and Ms. Emily Barefoot.

**Members present:** Dr. Laura Smith, Chairwoman, Ms. Amy Allen, RN, Vice-Chairwoman, and Mr. John Rouse, Jr., Health Director.

**Others present:** Mary Jane Sauls, Oliver Tolksdorf, Debra Harris-Hawkins, Melissa McLamb, and Gail Hobbs.

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

**Announcements – Chairwoman Smith** reported that she and Vice Chairwoman Amy Allen met on November 10, 2020 and performed Mr. Rouse's annual performance evaluation and reviewed his job description with him. We are not making any recommended changes at this time.

**Consent Agenda – Minutes - Motion made by Ms. Gayle Adams, for the September 24, 2020 agenda and minutes to be approved and seconded by Dr. Catherine Evans, DDS. Motion Carried.**

**Consider additions and deletions to the published agenda – None made.**

**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. Public comment made by Rosanne Teniente, she addressed the Board about Health Disparities relating to infant mortality.

**Nomination Committee Report** - Chairwoman Smith asked Ms. Emily Barefoot to give the Nomination Report. Ms. Emily Barefoot submitted on behalf of the nominating committee Dr. Laura Smith will serve as Chairwoman and Ms. Amy

Allen will serve as Vice-Chairwoman. The nominating committee submitted no other nominations to the board. **Chairwoman Smith opened the floor for any other nominations. No other nominations were received. Ms. Emily Barefoot, asked that nominations be closed and accept the slate of officers as presented, seconded by Dr. Catherine Evans. Motion carried.**

**Meeting Schedule for 2021** – Mr. Rouse provided a copy of the Board of Health meeting schedule for 2021, and reminded the Board the March meeting is the first Thursday of the month and all other meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday.

**Debt Setoff** – Gail Hobbs reported we have received an additional \$125.43 since the last Board of Health meeting in September. The total amount of Debt Setoff money received for this calendar year is \$7,445.10.

**2020 Infant Mortality Report** – Debra Harris-Hawkins presented a overview which included 2019 data, and was released on November 16, 2020. Debra provided an abbreviated report tonight and will make a follow-up report in January 2021. Infant mortality is the death of a baby before its first birthday. Infant mortality rates are the number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births within a given time frame, usually a year. The North Carolina 2019 overall rate remains the same as 2018 with a rate of 6.8 per 1,000 live births. Harnett County infant mortality rate for 2019 was 7.0 per 1,000 live births. The rate decreased from 8.1 per 1,000 live births that were reported in 2018. The number of infant deaths reported for 2019 was thirteen (13), in comparison with the 2018 data with fifteen (15) deaths. The number of live births reported from 2019 was approximately 1,860, in comparison to 2018 reports with 1,845 births. The three-year average, 2015-2019 in North Carolina remained about the same at 7.0 per 1,000, for Harnett County the data was 7.3 per 1,000. We will continue to monitor and work with outreach efforts and educate on the importance of early and continuous prenatal care; including promoting the Maternal Health programs and services offered at the Harnett County Health Department.

Debra Harris-Hawkins provided an overview of the county's **Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT)**. The CFPT reviews child fatalities and looks for strategies to prevent future child deaths. Members discuss outcomes of services and circumstances surrounding the child's death. The CFPT team reviews fatalities of Harnett County children 0 through 17 years of age. The number of child deaths in 2019 for Harnett County birth until age 17 was nineteen (19) deaths. This is a decrease compared to last year with twenty-five (25) fatalities were reported in 2018. The largest number of deaths occurring in the under one age group, contributing to 13 of the 19 deaths reported leading cause of death was listed as birth defects/perinatal conditions. Recommendations from the CFPT included; car seat education, proper restraints for children, water safety-swimming education and the importance of swimming lessons,

and expanding traditional driver's education to include over correcting based on the cases reviewed.

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

- **COVID-19 Updates** – Mr. Rouse announced the most recent total of COVID-19 cases in Harnett County, with 3,525 confirmed cases, 267 active cases, 3,075 recovered and 77 deaths. Active cases continue to come in daily. Mr. Rouse discussed the National Guard and the Federal Government COVID-19 test that were distributed to the county, the testing sites started the 1<sup>st</sup> week of November at local public schools throughout the county. The testing event will be held throughout the month of November, until December 3, 2020. This week the event is at Lillington Shawtown Elementary, the sites are averaging 100 test daily being given. Next week, November 23<sup>rd</sup> through November 25<sup>th</sup> the event is at Highland Middle School and the last week of November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 3<sup>rd</sup> will be held at Western Harnett Middle School. The Health Department and Campbell University are continuing to provide testing to the public. When the COVID-19 vaccine is available frontline healthcare workers, law enforcement, along with long-term care residents will be the first to receive the vaccine. More information to follow on the vaccine release date.
- **Financial Report** – Mr. Rouse provided a handout of the first quarter finance report July 2020 through September 2020. Mr. Rouse explained the expenditure and revenue summary reviewing the top half of the revenue summaries is our State and Federal money that comes in by programs. All program money collected is coming in as expected. Staff have continued to monitor their expenditures within the departments. COVID-19 funds that were received have been spent with some remaining to spend through June 30, 2021. With the current COVID-19 funds, the Health Department has purchased four COVID-19 rapid test machines that will arrive by December 31, 2020, also more COVID-19 test have been purchased for additional testing. Environmental Health revenues have increased during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter due to the amount of permits that are coming into the department. Aging revenues are coming in appropriately at this time. Women Infant and Children (WIC) and Case Management programs are continuing to work with clients remotely instead of in person appointments. Currently the Federal Government Declaration has been extended until December 31, 2020; we will wait to see if the date is extended before making a decision to resume face-to-face appointments with WIC patients.

Clinical Report – Melissa McLamb

- **Clinical Report** Clinic numbers are starting to increase and return more to baseline. There was a total of 1,783 clinical visits in October 2020. This was down some from September 2020 with a total of 2,352, but was an increase from July and August.
- **Child Health (CH)** The law requiring immunizations and well visits for school entry has been extended until December. The well child numbers are increasing so most parents are getting their physicals now. The Health Department encourages parents to get well child physicals done on time. Child Health also does the child's immunizations at all well visits to make sure children are compliant with that part of the law as well.
- **Employee Clinic** for County Employees have been continuing to utilize the clinic for acute care visits and immunizations. Clinical staff visited each department in the county and offered flu vaccines, and held an employee flu clinic since the employee health fair was cancelled this year. The response was good, and the employee clinic continues to give employee flu shots in clinic.
- **Adult Health (AH) Family Planning (FP) and Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD)** clinics are remaining stable, and continuing to see clients on a regular schedule. Prenatal numbers have decreased more over the past few months. In July 2020, the clinic saw 225 clients for prenatal visit and this was down to 176 in October 2020.
- **Influenza Vaccine** Due to COVID-19 our process for giving influenza vaccine has changed. The Health Department now offers drive-up flu vaccine. There are three marked parking spots at the Health Department and clients will call a number when they drive up. Management support staff completes registration at the car and a nurse then gives the flu vaccine while the patient remains in their car. The Health Department also hosted a drive-thru flu event on October 5, 2020, from 3pm-7pm. Several community partners participated in the event and 95 flu shots were given. Two contract nurses have been hired to provide flu shots to community churches, businesses, nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Flu vaccine is currently still available.

- **Environmental Health** – Oliver Tolksdorf reported effective October 19, 2020 Mark Osborne is the new Environmental Health Specialist. Mark is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian, and will be working with onsite wastewater. Onsite wastewater has an increase of permits at this time.
- **Aging & Management** – Mary Jane Sauls announced The Division on Aging continues to provide in-person Medicare Counseling. During the period of October 15<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, the Medicare and Seniors Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) served 195 beneficiaries, and helped save a total of \$263,631.00 in prescription drug costs. Open enrollment will end on December 7, 2020. An evening clinic will be held on December 3, 2020, and a Saturday clinic on December 5, 2020.  
The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program will hold a drive through holiday party on December 15, 2020 at 11:00am. The recipients will receive gifts and snacks provided by a local church group. The Harnett County Family Caregiver program will have a drive through holiday party on December 17, 2020 and the event is sponsored by a local business. The Harnett County Health Department will administer the annual Patient/Consumer and Community Satisfaction Survey in December. The survey will be administered throughout the community and to those seeking services through the Health Department. Results will be used for future program planning.
- **Marketing/Community Outreach** – Debra Harris-Hawkins presented the Health Department has several community health and educational events scheduled in the coming month. Harnett County is one of several counties participating in the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' surge COVID-19 testing initiative. Free COVID-19 testing throughout Harnett County is being provided to bring COVID-19 testing directly to the community. Community Outreach Flu Shots will be held at Memorial Baptist Church located in Buies Creek and McLeans Chapel Church in Bunnlevel.  
The Prevent T2 program is a yearlong lifestyle change program from November 2019-November 2020. The goal is to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes, this program is in partnership with First Health. During each session, the lifestyle coach/Health Educator will teach a lesson and lead a group discussion. We had nine participants that completed the program. Program participants had many outcomes such as the class combined weight loss of 118 pounds, greatest individual weight loss was 27 pounds, and eight of the nine participants lost

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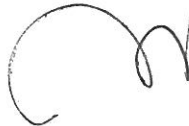
weight. Six of the nine participants lost 10 or more pounds, and three of the nine participants lost 20 or more pounds. Belinda Rayner in the Health Education Division coordinates this program.

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

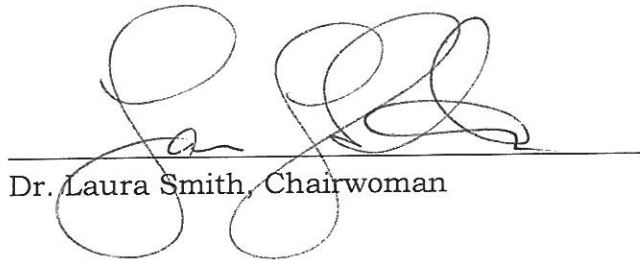
**New Business – Chairwoman Smith** opened the floor for New Business. Being none Chairwoman Smith closed New Business.

**Chairwoman Smith adjourned the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,



John Rouse, Jr.  
Health Director



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Dr. Laura Smith, Chairwoman