

Harnett County Board of Health  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
July 20, 2023

The Harnett County Board of Health met in regular session on Thursday, July 20, 2023 in the Health Department Board Room, Harnett County Governmental Complex, 307 W. Cornelius Harnett Blvd., Lillington, North Carolina.

**Members present:** Dr. Laura Smith, OD, Chairwoman, Dr. Amanda Langdon, DVM, Commissioner Barbara McKoy, Dr. Kim Fowler, PhD, Dr. Brandon Washington, DDS, Dr. Catherine Evans, DDS, Ms. Amy Allen, RN, Ms. Emily Barefoot, Dr. Lori Langdon, M.D. and Mr. John Rouse, Jr., Health Director.

**Others present:** Debra Harris-Hawkins, Mary Jane Sauls, Gail Hobbs, Ainsley Johnson and Natasha Johnson.

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

**Announcements** – Mr. Rouse announced Dr. Lori Langdon, M.D., is the newest member on the Board of Health and was appointed at the Board of Commissioners meeting on May 15, 2023. Dr. Langdon, M.D., has filled the Physician position on the Board. Mr. Rouse announced Senior Staff Attorney, Christopher Appel will also join tonight's meeting.

**Consent Agenda – Minutes - Motion made by Dr. Kim Fowler, PhD, for the May 18, 2023, agenda and minutes to be approved and seconded by Ms. Emily Barefoot 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. Seeing no one, Chairwoman Smith closed the informal comments.

**Debt Setoff** – Gail Hobbs reported that since the last meeting, the Debt Setoff program has collected an additional \$1,229.43 and the collection year to date total is \$4,657.31.

**2022 Strategic Plan Update** - Debra Harris-Hawkins reviewed the 2022 Strategic Plan Status Report, copies of the report were provided to the Board of Health. The objectives and strategies guide our work and will help us achieve our mission to protect and improve the health and well-being of the community. The Strategic Plan Status Report is meant to highlight some of the work that has been completed to advance the Health Department's Strategic Plan. Throughout this report, programs and initiatives were highlighted progress that has been made in addressing health

issues identified in the Strategic Plan. This report provides the annual updates with progress and results achieved. 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 our changing community.

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

- **Accreditation** – Mr. Rouse stated Dr. Laura Smith, OD, Chairwoman signed an Adjudication letter for the period of 2018-2022 that the Board did not have any Adjudications since the previous Accreditation site visit. The Health Department's site visit is scheduled for October 12, 2023. Each Site Visit Team comprises four individuals with expertise or experience in local public health, including experience or expertise in environmental health, public health nursing, public health administration and policy development/governance. The format utilized will be partially virtual site visit, only part of the site visit team will be in the Health Department, and the rest of the team will participate via Zoom.
- **FY 2023-24** - Mr. Rouse stated the county budget has been approved and he will bring the final year-end report to the September 2023 meeting. The state budget has not passed yet and the Health Department is still operating on FY 2022-23 state budget.

#### **Clinical Reports – Ainsley Johnson**

- **Mobile Medical Unit** – The Health Department staff have completed training on the mobile medical unit and have begun community outreach. A Potassium Iodide Dispensing event was held at Northwest Harnett Fire Department on July 12, 2023. We distributed 402 Thyrosafe tablets to 42 households. Another event for those within the 10-mile radius has been planned for the fall 2023. We have also collaborated with Harnett County Schools to offer Kindergarten vaccinations after their summer reading camps. We worked with the schools to visit the top seven schools with the lowest immunizations and highest in need. Kindergarten vaccinations for schools will continue next week we are scheduled to attend four elementary schools.

- **COVID-19 Updates** – The Health Department continues to offer COVID-19 Vaccines every day of the week in our clinical areas. This week we have received correspondence from North Carolina Department of Human Health Services (NCDHHS) about the plan for commercialization transition and planning for the fall season. More information to come. COVID-19 cases are no longer reportable but some labs continue to report. We currently have staff that continue to call positive COVID-19 cases to provide education on preventing spread to others and vaccination. We continue to distribute free COVID-19 tests in the front lobby.
- **Child Health** – The Health Department is working to reach out to clients to come in this summer for physicals and immunizations prior to the start of the school year. We have increased appointment slots for physicals starting in August and we will have walk in vaccination clinics on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>.
- **Adult Health** – Adult Health services continue to remain steady. Family Planning clinic numbers have increased. We had a very successful launch of our after-hours Family Planning clinics that occur on the first Thursday of the month, with 100% of the appointments booked a 75% show rate. The next after-hours Family Planning clinic is scheduled for Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The reportable disease case counts are listed on your summary as well. Sexually transmitted disease rates have increased since June 2023. We have planned to increase availability of appointments in the “Express Sexually Transmitted Disease” clinic this month. These appointments are for asymptomatic individuals who request screening and education.  
We have also worked with Central Carolina Community College to assist in vaccinating their Veterinary Medical Technology students against Rabies prior to the start of the school year. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) committee voted in favor of recommending two Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccines from GSK and Pfizer for age 60 years and older, using clinical decision-making. These vaccines are expected to be available in the fall 2023.
- **Environmental Health** – Mr. Rouse reported Environmental Health pool program passed state review. He discussed Environmental Health bills that have passed in the General Assembly; House Bill 190 includes a provision that modifies the educational requirements for Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS). Several other bills are still in the committees, we will continue to monitor those bills.

- **Aging & Case Management** – Mary Jane Sauls announced the Division on Aging maintains its commitment to providing daily Medicare Counseling sessions for both newcomers to Medicare and beneficiaries facing Medicare-related issues. On July 6, 2023, the third Quarter New to Medicare 101 Class took place at the Harnett County Resource Center/Library, with 12 attendees, including several Harnett County Employees preparing for retirement. Volunteer registration for the Meals on Wheels Program is ongoing throughout the county. Collaborating with volunteers at the Library, the division is devising a training model for new volunteers. In addition, a successful Blood Drive occurred on July 13, 2023 in the Commons, collecting 41 units of blood. The next Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 2023 at the Commons from 1:00 pm to 5:15 pm. The Family Caregiver Program continues to support and enroll Family Caregivers responsible for loved ones age 60 or older with Dementia. They receive supplemental supplies and respite care. The Family Caregiver Support Group and the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group convened on June 21, 2023 at the Commons for lunch, fellowship, and games. In June 2023, the Elderly Nutrition program provided 3,159 meals. Additionally, the program has issued Senior Farmers Market food vouchers worth \$50.00 for eligible clients, redeemable until September 30, 2023. Preparations are underway for the flu season, with flu shots scheduled to be administered during the week of September 11, 2023 at each site. Currently, the Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults (CAP/DA) oversees 112 beneficiaries on its caseload and received three new referrals in the past month. A case manager has submitted a resignation, effective August 2, 2023 and we will be recruiting for this position. Since the end of the Public Health Emergency, case managers have resumed home visits in May 2023. It is mandated that all CAP/DA beneficiaries have face-to-face visits before November 11, 2023.
- **Marketing/Community Outreach** – Debra Hawkins announced upcoming community outreach programs: Catch the Breastfeeding Wave, the Health Department's Women, Infant & Children (WIC) program will sponsor a Breastfeeding health fair on Thursday, August 3, 2023 from 11:00am-1:00pm for expecting parents, pregnant women and new moms interested in learning about breastfeeding. The health fair will be held at the Commons Area. Learn about breastfeeding and the local resources available for you and your baby. We are working to not only support but also encourage women to breastfeed their baby. National Night Out, August 2, 2023 at Brookside Hills, a public housing community located in Spring Lake we will be on site providing information regarding the Health Department's services along with our Integrated Targeting Testing Services (ITTS) will provide access to free human immunodeficiency (HIV) testing for the community.

- “Back to School Event” at the Boys and Girls Club located in Lillington on Saturday, August 12, 2023. We will be onsite as well providing information regarding Health Department’s services along with our Integrated Targeting Testing Services (ITTS) will provide access to free HIV testing for the community. The Health Education staff continues to work with our community partners to coordinate and provide community outreach services. County of Harnett-Community Day event on August 17, 2023 from 4:00-7:00pm, this event is for residents to learn more about resources and services available from the County.

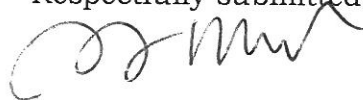
Closed Session – Motion made by Amy Allen, RN, Vice-Chairwoman, I move that the Board go into closed session for the following purpose: To consult with the Health Board’s attorney in order to preserve the attorney – client privilege between the attorney and the Health Board. This motion is made pursuant to the provision of North Carolina General Statute section 143-318.11(a) (3). Seconded by Dr. Catherine Evans, DDS. Motion carried.

**Motion to exit closed session by Ms. Amy Allen, RN, Vice-Chairwoman, and seconded by Dr. Kim Fowler, PhD. Motion carried.**

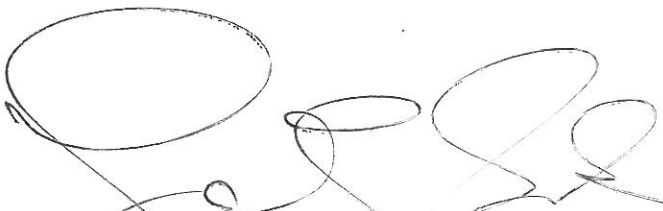
**New Business – Chairwoman Smith** opened the floor for New Business. Being none Chairwoman Smith closed New Business.

**Chairwoman Smith adjourned the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,



John Rouse, Jr.  
Health Director



Dr. Laura Smith, OD, Chairwoman