



**BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
February 3, 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Vera Robinson
Ms. Linda Petrou
Dr. Willard McCloud
Ms. Jane Mosko
Dr. James K. Doub
Dr. Paul (Lee) Salisbury
Dr. Allen S. Hudspeth
Mr. Randall Kale
Dr. Calvert Jeffers
Mr. Beaufort Bailey

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Nancy Hardie

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. C. Timothy Monroe
Ms. Cynthia Jeffries
Ms. Janet English
Ms. Ayotunde Ademoyero
Ms. Jackie Boggs
Ms. Patti Frye
Dr. Javier Lazaro
Ms. Lynne Mitchell
Ms. Suzette Rohrer
Ms. Quintana Stewart
Ms. Lashonda Out
Mr. Robert Whitwam
Mr. Jonathan Vaughters

Call to Order:

On Wednesday, February 3, 2010, the Forsyth County Board of Health held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting in the Conference Room at the Cleveland Avenue Dental Center. Ms. Vera Robinson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Consideration of Minutes:

The minutes of the January 6, 2010, Board of Health Meeting were reviewed by the Board. A motion was made to approve the minutes as written, seconded, and approved.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

No one asked to be recognized.

Annual Election of Officers:

Ms. Linda Petrou was elected as Chair and Dr. James M. Doub as Vice-chair.

Old Business

H1N1 Influenza Update:

Dr. Monroe stated that we are under the same status as was reported in the January Board of Health meeting. The number of cases has gone down and the demand for the vaccine has dropped. Walk-in service is now available for the H1N1 vaccine and the seasonal flu vaccine. There is no evidence of the appearance of a seasonal strain yet. There was a small indication in a report that came out on Thursday, January 28, of a slight increase in the occurrence of H1N1. This may indicate that we are at the beginning of the predicted third wave. Flu season typically goes into March.

The State is encouraging people to get their vaccination. In December, we found that regardless of what we did we did not have an effect on demand. The news media influences demand by talking about cases. On Tuesday, February 9, 2010, the State initiated an effort with Fox South, a sports station, and asked Dr. Monroe to speak about H1N1 during half time at the game between Wake Forest and Boston College. Media seems to have the most influence on getting people to come in. What drove the demand in December was the story by the media about the high demand for the vaccine but there were limited quantities. Over the holidays, there were recalls but they had no consequences on demand. A lot depends on how the media covers the story.

There have been questions about the safety of the vaccine. Dr. Monroe stated that there has been no evidence of any side effects to the vaccine other than expected. He also stated that it is safer to get the vaccine rather than getting sick.

Update on Syphilis outbreak:

Syphilis numbers are on the rise. We streamlined the registration process in the Public Health clinics to reduce the number of clients turned-away. We are also working with the jail to screen for syphilis. Reasons for the high levels of syphilis occurrences in the state and our community include prostitution, trading sex for drugs, and men having sex with men.

Childhood Lead Exposure Prevention Rule Update:

Robert Whitwam, Environmental Health Director, said that an environmental investigation for lead is far more than just looking for lead paint in the home. One example he used is a book that showed recalled candies that contained lead. There were no reported cases of elevated lead blood levels in children in January. The State reported that in 2009 we identified twenty-one confirmed lead cases, poisoning and elevated blood lead levels: two cases of poisoned children, eleven with elevated blood levels between the levels of ten and nineteen micrograms per deciliter, one nine, two seven, two six, and three five.

Mr. Whitwam reported that public health representatives met with the Winston-Salem Neighborhood Services Department for the first partner meeting for the \$2,007,000 HUD grant. This grant began January 15, 2010. The city plans to inspect 150 homes and remediate lead hazards in 100 homes in the city over the next thirty-six months.

Instead of monthly reports, Mr. Whitwam will now do a quarterly report. The next report will be at the April meeting of the Board of Health.

Enforcement of Restaurant Smoking Regulations Update:

In review of the process, complaints are reported to Raleigh to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch which reports the complaints back to the local health departments the following week. Forsyth County has had sixteen complaints lodged against eleven different establishments. Four of these complaints are against one facility that also has a food service permit. This is an odd situation. The facility is a bowling alley in Kernersville that surrounds a walled-off area that contains sweepstakes computers. Another entity is leasing this area; it is not part of the bowling alley. The Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch stated that the tobacco law does not control the sweepstakes area.

Seven of the businesses that we have complaints against were food service establishments that we inspect. Four of the businesses were bars where no food service permits are in existence so we have never been in these facilities until the smoking regulations went into effect. The current protocol from the state is to provide two educational visits by telephone contact, written notification, or in-person notification that there has been a complaint about a violation followed by two notices of violation and if there is a third violation the initiation of an administration penalty up to \$200.

To date, we have sent out seven first educational letters and conducted four site visits.

New Business

County Health Ratings:

The University of Wisconsin received a Robert Wood Johnson grant and is about to publish a ranking, with regard to health, of all the counties in the United States. Every county will be ranked within its own state according to health outcomes and health factors. Dr. Monroe anticipates that Forsyth County will not rank very highly compared to counties of comparable size. The reason is that we have the highest percentage of poverty in relation to the five big counties and the lowest median income. Before publication, we will receive the information and have approximately eight days to review the data. We will take the data and interpret it to the public.

Dr. Monroe stated that he welcomes the dialogue. There are many related issues to discuss such as health care, healthy environment, and health policies. Forsyth County is not far along in looking at the importance of our health environment and the impact it has on people's health. It is hard to get around Winston-Salem with anything other than an automobile. You cannot ride a bicycle, as transportation, very safely. We do not have a lot of good leadership saying that we need to move in this direction. This would be very useful dialogue for us in addressing health issues.

New Positions Request:

As part of the budget process, each year we present to the County Manager a request for new positions. This request for positions is in prioritized order by need. The County is beefing up its employee wellness program so we have a request for a health educator II. The pharmacy continues to grow in volume so we are requesting a new position for a pharmacy technician. This is probably the position we get because the pharmacy generates income.

Division Report:

Due to weather and the lateness of the hour, Cynthia Jeffries, Assistant Health Director of Administration and Finance, proposed to postpone Administration's report until the March 2010 meeting. The Board approved.

Other Business:

Robert Whitwam reminded Board members of a discussion, during his division report in the January 2010 Board of Health meeting, about recycling plastic bottles. Wes Young researched and wrote an article about recycling in Forsyth County. The Division of Environmental Health has been working very hard with the County Manager's Office. On Super Bowl Sunday, Mr. Young's article will be in the paper. On Thursday, February 11, 2010, the commissioners will have their first briefing on recycling and restructuring the solid waste collection system.

Committee Reports:

None at this time.

Adjourn:

Dr. Allen Hudspeth made a motion to adjourn, and Dr. Calvert Jeffers seconded the motion. By majority vote, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Sincerely,

Dr. C. Timothy Monroe
Secretary to the Board

CTM/jee