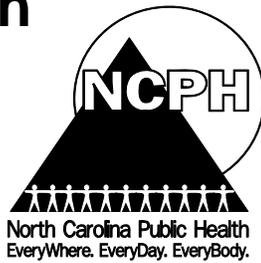


Forsyth County Board of Health



- Vera S. Robinson, OTR, Chair
- Linda Petrou, PhD, Vice-Chair
- Dr. Allen S. Hudspeth
- Beaufort O. Bailey
- Dr. James K. Doub, OD
- Nancy R. Hardie, RPH
- Randall G. Kale, PE
- Dr. P. Lee Salisbury, III., DDS
- Dr. Calvert B. Jeffers, Jr., DVM
- Jane Bradner Mosko, RN, CRNA
- Dr. Willard L. McCloud, Jr., MD

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES September 2, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Vera Robinson

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. C. Timothy Monroe
Ms. Cynthia Jeffries
Ms. Tommie Bowen
Mr. Bob Whitwam
Ms. Ayo Ademoyero
Ms. Lynne Mitchell
Ms. Judy Southern

Call to Order:

On Wednesday, September 2, 2009, the Forsyth County Board of Health held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting in the Board Room at the Forsyth County Department of Public Health. Dr. Lee Salisbury, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Consideration of Minutes:

The minutes of the August 5, 2009, Board of Health Meeting were reviewed by the Board. Upon motion by Mr. Beaufort Bailey, and a second by Dr. Lee Salisbury, the minutes were approved by the Board of Health.

Report of Nominating Committee to fill Vice-Chairperson's seat:

Ms. Linda Petrou reported that she had contacted numerous members of the board to inquire about their interest in being nominated for the Vice-Chair's seat. She stated that nobody had expressed any interest in accepting this position. Therefore the Committee brought the issue back to the floor for consideration of nominations. Dr. Salisbury nominated Ms. Linda Petrou, and Dr. Jeffers and Mr. Bailey, simultaneously seconded the motion. The board voted to have Ms. Linda Petrou to fill the seat of Vice-Chair, and she accepted the nomination.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

No one asked to be recognized.

Old Business:

Novel H1N1 Influenza preparedness plans for Fall:

Dr. Monroe stated that media reports were creating confusion. For example: NBC reported the previous day that there were “hundreds” of cases of H1N1 at Wake Forest University, apparently exaggerated from the local affiliate report of “more than a hundred” cases of the H1N1 at the University. The figures were inaccurate. Dr. Monroe reported that the Health Department Staff is getting ready and preparing for the flu vaccine clinics starting in September. The Seasonal Flu Vaccine Clinics will be held on four consecutive (Tuesday) dates, beginning September 22, September 29, October 6, and October 13, depending on availability of vaccine. The time for all of the flu vaccine clinics will be 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. All of these are walk-in clinics, and the vaccine will be administered free of charge. Sometime in late October, or early November, the department is planning a series of vaccination events for the H1N1 Flu Vaccine Clinics. The plan is to use the Education Building on the Lawrence Joel Coliseum grounds for these events. We might possibly be having two, 8-hour shifts at a time, administering as many as 180,000 doses, and having 18 events in which to do this. Dr. Monroe stated that he is looking into getting overtime pay for the staff. We are looking at having other providers, medical staff, and etc. to assist with these clinics. The department is encouraging as many providers as possible, between the two local hospitals, to vaccinate their patient populations. He also reported that he is in the process of setting up times with other businesses to go talk with them about the H1N1 Flu. Dr. Monroe stated that the county is looking into procedures to keep staff at home when they do have the flu. WFU students are able to do classes online and not have to go to class. Dr. Monroe stated that he would be meeting with Mr. Watts, the County Manager on Thursday, September 3, 2009, to discuss issues related to planning and preparing for the H1N1 Influenza. Ms. Linda Petrou asked if the board could assist the department in any way with the vaccine clinics. Dr. Monroe stated that churches and other volunteers might be needed. Dr. Salisbury said to let the board know how they can participate and assist.

Pandemic Preparedness Video:

Ms. Ado Ademoyero showed a video on “Pandemic Preparedness”. It pointed out the importance of taking the following actions on protecting yourself and others from the flu:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Stay home if you get sick. CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them. Stay at home for at least 24 hours after you no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs.

Update on Syphilis outbreak – RIOT Report:

Dr. Monroe reported on the RIOT (Rapid Intervention Outreach Team) Event that took place at the Health Department the previous weekend. We also had outreach teams that went door to door, educating community members about the signs and symptoms of syphilis, counseling them about behaviors that put them at risk, and providing them with safer sex resource kits. This event helped to raise awareness in the community and encouraged individuals at high risk for acquiring syphilis, to be tested. There were approximately 40 Health Department Staff with about 130 total workers including many Disease

Intervention Specialists from the State that worked at this event. Approximately 603 blood specimens were taken for HIV and Syphilis. This event was very successful, and we received some really good news coverage for it.

Report on Childhood Lead Exposure Prevention Rule:

Mr. Bob Whitwam, the Environmental Health Director, presented the report on Childhood Lead Poisoning Activities for the month of August 2009. Copies of this report were given to each Board member, and a copy is filed in the Board of Health Files in the Administration Division.

New Business:

Report and Discussion of new Infant Mortality Rates:

The annual infant mortality rate (IMR) in Forsyth County increased to a highest level in a decade at 12.0 infant deaths per 1,000 live births for the year 2008, according to information by the N.C. State Center for Health Statistics. Public Health and health care leaders are concerned about the increasing trend in the five year average rates in Forsyth County. Five year average rates are more likely to indicate a true trend than annual rates, especially when analyzing data for a single county. Forsyth County has the highest overall infant mortality rate of the five largest urban counties in North Carolina. He stated that the matter of grave concern was the ratio of infant death for the non-white population as compared to the white population. In 2008, the non-white infant mortality rate in Forsyth County rose to 25.3 from 19.2 in both 2006 and 2007. The white annual infant mortality rate decreased to 6.4 from 7.9 in 2007. The Forsyth County ratio of 4.0 is consistently higher than the same ratio of 2.3 for the state and worsened in our community this past year. Dr. Monroe stated that this means that African American infants in Forsyth County died at nearly four times the rate of white infants in 2008. The most common cause of infant death is premature labor and delivery, which is contributed to greatly by the stresses of living in poverty. "We, as a community, must tackle the difficult issues of wealth disparity, poverty, and the impact racism and chronic stress have on people of color in our community." Dr. Salisbury asked if most of these babies were low income, and if so, how do we know this? He stated that this should be the first thing we were looking at. Ms. Petrou stated that she agreed with Dr. Salisbury's comment, and she would like for the board to obtain more information about this. Copies of the August 21, 2009 Press Release, and the graphs from the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics Report were given to each Board member, and a copy is filed in the Board of Health Files in the Administration Division.

Fees adjustments for Environmental Health Services:

Mr. Bob Whitwam reported on the 2009 recommended Environmental Health Fee Adjustments. Coming in October and November, the division will begin accepting Visa/Master Card payments on-site and online.

Ms. Petrou made a motion to accept the recommended fee adjustments, and Dr. Doub seconded the motion. The board voted to accept the 2009 Environmental Health Fee Adjustments. Copies of the fee adjustments were given to each board member and copies are also in the Board of Health Files, located in the Administration Division.

Step-Up Forsyth County:

Ms. Lynne Mitchell, the Preventive Health Director, presented a report on Step Up Forsyth. This is a free community wide program that will run for eight weeks this fall. It is sponsored by the Be Healthy

Coalition and its many partner organizations throughout the Winston Salem area. The goal is to log 1.5 million minutes of activity during the 2009 Step Up Forsyth Program. Recording of daily exercise time will begin on Sunday, September 13, 2009, after the kick-off ceremony scheduled for September 10, 2009 at Corpening Plaza. Ms. Mitchell encouraged the board members to get involved in this program.

Other Business:

None at this time.

Committee Reports:

None at this time.

Adjourn:

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

Sincerely,

Dr. C. Timothy Monroe
Secretary to the Board

CTM/tjb