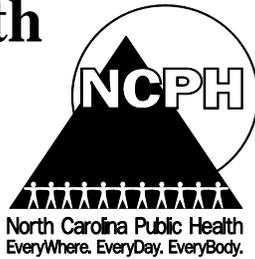


Forsyth County Board of Health



- Dr. Linda L. Petrou, PhD, Chair
- Dr. James K. Doub, OD, Vice Chair
- Mr. John Davenport, Jr., PE
- Ms. Nancy R. Hardie, RPH
- Dr. Allen S. Hudspeth, MD
- Dr. Calvert B. Jeffers, Jr., DVM
- Dr. Willard L. McCloud, Jr., MD
- Ms. Jane Bradner Mosko, RN, CRNA
- Dr. P. Lee Salisbury, III, DDS
- Dr. Ricky Sides, DC
- Ms. Gloria D. Whisenhunt, County Commissioner

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES June 1, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Linda Petrou, Chair
Dr. James K. Doub, Vice Chair
Mr. John Davenport, Jr.
Ms. Nancy R. Hardie
Dr. Allen S. Hudspeth
Dr. Calvert B. Jeffers, Jr.
Dr. Willard McCloud, Jr.
Ms. Jane Bradner Mosko
Dr. Ricky Sides
Dr. P. Lee Salisbury
Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Thomas Arcury, Wake Forest School of Medicine
Dr. Sara Quandt, Wake Forest School of Medicine

Call to Order:

On Wednesday, June 1, 2011, the Forsyth County Board of Health held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting in the Board Room at the Forsyth County Department of Public Health (FCDPH). Dr. Linda Petrou, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and welcomed board members and guests.

Consideration of Minutes:

The minutes of the May 4, 2011, 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:

The Board Members, staff and members of the public introduced themselves.

Old Business:

Drinking Water Well Regulation

In Mr. Bob Whitwam's update, he stated that all but 1 state level drinking water well program position had been eliminated in the Senate budget bill. H 705, the bill to repeal GS 87-88 (a), which requires the permitting and inspection of private drinking water wells by local health departments is in the House Committee on the Environment. It is thought it will not move from committee. The status of the bill will be monitored and if it is passed in the House and makes cross-over June 9th, an email will be sent out to Board members with the proposed local rule. It will be advertised as appropriate and considered for passing at the Board of Health retreat. If the bill does not move from committee, the Board will be notified by email on June 10.

New Business:

Community Gardening/Food Access

Dr. Sara Quandt, PhD, Associate Director for Translation and Education, Wake Forest University School of Medicine gave a presentation on Community Gardening and Food Access. After doing an inventory of community gardens in the county her study group found 43 community gardens in Forsyth County (some in the downtown area and many in the Reynolda Road area). Some of the challenges of growing community gardens included horticultural problems (i.e., pests, bugs, deer, etc.), soil quality (i.e., water), managing volunteers and lack of resources (i.e., costs, tools, machinery to cultivate, etc.). Some of the recommendations are: provide infrastructure to widen the gardening and marketing programs if we want to contribute to people's eating; focus efforts on establishing and mentoring gardeners in low income areas; promote programs to place local produce in neighborhood stores in low income areas (Dr. Quandt noted that Lynne Mitchell and others have worked on this but there are lots of problems such as lack of refrigeration and commitment); establish programs for the use of EBT - this appears to be happening this year; and do something to facilitate the use of city and county owned land (copy of map handouts on file in the Administration binder).

Dr. Quandt gave a snapshot based on per capita income, percent minority and population per sq. mile of the food markets and community gardens in the city. This showed that in the poorer communities, there was little or no access to either food markets or community gardens. Disparities that we see nationally are also in our own community. Disparities exist between income groups and between ethnic groups.

Budget Update – Reduction in Force/Reorganization

Mr. Whitwam reported on staff reductions and planned changes within the department. He reported that the CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Health Educator position in Environmental Health had been funded by a CDC grant. The CDC is facing \$1 billion in grant funding cuts and while the grant had been in place in Forsyth County for 9 years, the term ends June 30, 2011. He stated that CDC funds will not likely be available to start a new term. Funds were depleted as of May 20, 2011 and the incumbent's last day was May 20, 2011.

The Preventive Health School and Youth Tobacco Health Educator position funded by Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) is currently vacant. The Department will have a clearer picture regarding this position with the passing of a State budget and Special Provisions Bill within the week. HB 200 preserves \$22,000,000 of the HWTF for specific programs and initiatives for FY 12. Teen Tobacco Prevention is one of the initiatives proposed to be funded from that \$22,000,000. The impact on the position will be monitored as we move through the state budget process. We will likely lose funding for this position.

Also, as part of Dental Clinic reorganization and to offer more efficient services, two part-time dentist positions will be converted to one full-time dentist position. The two part-time dentist positions are currently filled and the positions will be eliminated with the conversion to a full-time position. It is anticipated that the full-time dentist position will be filled in early July.

Nurse Family Partnership

Nurse Family Partnership is an evidenced based, community health program that helps transform the lives of vulnerable mothers pregnant with their first child. It focuses on low income parents in an effort to achieve three goals: better pregnancy outcomes, improved child health and development and family economic self-sufficiency. The Department has been in discussions with Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust Fund and other community organizations regarding bringing the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) to Forsyth County. The North Carolina Division of Public Health has announced a home visitation grant opportunity for the implementation of evidence based home visitation programs in 30 high risk North Carolina counties. However, Forsyth County is not one of the 30 eligible counties identified in the first round of funding (copy of handout on file in the Administration binder). However, because KBR is interested in starting this program in Forsyth County they are willing to fund the start-up and provide five years of program funding for a core group of one nurse supervisor and four nurse care managers.

A representative from Nurse Family Partnership has been invited to the next retreat to provide more information about the program.

Mr. Whitwam sought the endorsement of the Board to continue discussions to bring the Nurse Family Partnership program to Forsyth County. The Board indicated its support and encouragement to continue discussions and hopefully implement the program here in Forsyth County.

Screening Targeted Populations to Interrupt On-Going Chains of Transmission with Enhanced Partner Notification (STOP Grant)

The Health Department was approached by UNC School of Medicine to determine if the Department was interested in partnering with the School of Medicine on a 2 ½ year study of the 4th generation of the HIV lab test. The study is funded by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and administered by the UNC School of Medicine through the STOP Grant.

The Benefits of the program are: faster turn around of test results (24-72 hours as opposed to 10 – 14 days); increased testing sensitivity to detect early/acute HIV as compared to the 3rd generation test; less expensive testing; and enhanced partner notification with assistance from the State assigned Disease Intervention Specialist.

The Department will brief the Board of County Commissioners on June 2, 2011, in hopes of seeking approval to execute an agreement to receive funds to participate in the 2 ½ year project.

Other Business:

Retreat Update

It was suggested by Dr. Petrou, that the Board have their annual retreat on July 9, 2011 instead of the original date of June 25th, in order to accommodate the group who would be doing the training at the retreat. The retreat will be in lieu of the regular July Board meeting and will start 9:00 am and potentially end around 4:30 pm.

Committee Reports:

None

Executive Session – Review of Health Director Candidate/Interviews – Next Steps

At 7:00 pm, the Board went into Executive Session to discuss the Health Director Candidate interviews.

Adjourn:

A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. By majority vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Robert E. Whitwam
Secretary to the Board
REW/lgc