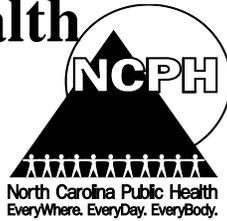


# Forsyth County Board of Health



- Mr. J. Phil Seats, R.Ph., MBA, Chair
- Mr. John Davenport, Jr., PE, Vice Chair
- Dr. B. Keith Cash, OD
- Dr. Calvert Jeffers, DVM
- Ms. Amanda Kistler, RN
- Dr. Charles F. Massler, DDS, M.Ed.
- Ms. Heather Parker
- Dr. Peter Robie, MD
- Dr. Scott E. Schroeder, DVM
- Dr. Ricky Sides, DC
- Ms. Gloria D. Whisenhunt, County Commissioner

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## BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES March 7, 2018

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. J. Phil Seats  
Mr. John Davenport  
Dr. Keith Cash  
Ms. Amanda Kistler  
Dr. Charles Massler  
Ms. Heather Parker  
Dr. Scott Schroeder  
Dr. Ricky Sides

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Calvert Jeffers  
Dr. Peter Robie  
Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt

### GUESTS PRESENT

Ms. Phyllis Russell, County Budget Office  
Ms. Ronda Tatum, Deputy County Manager/Interim Director, Dept. of Social Services

### **Call to Order:**

On Wednesday, March 7, 2018, the Forsyth County Board of Health held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting in the Boardroom at the Forsyth County Department of Public Health (FCDPH). Mr. J. Phil Seats called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

### **Consideration of Minutes:**

The minutes of the February 7, 2018 Board of Health (BOH) meeting were reviewed by the Board. Mr. Seats asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Heather Parker made a motion to approve and Dr. Charles Massler seconded. The minutes were approved.

### **Public Comment Section:**

Everyone introduced themselves. Mr. Seats thanked everyone for their hard work with the accreditation process, with a special thanks to Ms. Denise Price for coordinating everything. Ms. Price thanked Mr. Seats for agreeing to be interviewed.

## **Health Director's Comments – Mr. Marlon Hunter reported the following:**

- Expressed his appreciation to everyone for stepping up for a successful site visit. He will be going to Raleigh in the next month or so to meet with the Accreditation Board for the results.
- Thanked Mr. Robert Jones, Downtown Health Plaza Director and Mr. Larry Vellani, Smart Start Director, who were here to interview with the Accreditation Site Team, as our partners in the community.
- Attended a presentation by Mr. Cansler - County Commissioners voted to put together a timeline to develop a Consolidated Human Services Agency and Board. - The Commissioners will hold a hearing - and will discuss combining Public Health (PH) and Dept. of Social Services (DSS) Boards. Encouraged Board Members to ask questions of the County Commissioners about what this may look like. Asked Ms. Ronda Tatum who is the liaison at the Government Center and also interim Director at DSS if she wanted to speak about the consolidation. Ms. Tatum said to get a plan together for consolidation there has to be at least two agencies within the departments to combine, have to have all of the consolidated parts and more collaboration. The goal is to maximize resources and make them easier. She added they will continue to work on things and told the Board that their role here is very important. Mr. Seats added that Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt, who is not here today, said they were moving ahead with consolidation and if anyone had any concerns/questions, she is available to speak with them.
- We have a Community Health Fair coming up on April 2nd and 3rd. There are three elements involved: 1) private businesses and partners come to Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) - WSSU is offering their space and time for vendors to setup their displays and information - we will also have booths; 2) talk about health in a non-clinical way through the arts. We have a playwright coming in - will focus on infant mortality; and 3) venture cafe model - invite organizations to help us do planning. We want to make the Community Health Fair a meaningful experience for everyone!. We will send flyers to Board members.
- Mr. Blake Pate will be giving a tour of our lab and all the great work they do there.
- Wanted to give an update on the performance measures we spoke about during my performance appraisal: Environmental Health is on track to reach their goals, Internal Health Services is on track to achieve their goals with customer service feedback, and the Community Health Assessment was signed a few days ago. Personal Health Services has improved clinic productivity by adding a walk-in Thursdays. I will email the document to all Board Members. Mr. Seats added the next time we meet, the Health Fair will already have happened.
- Two years ago, we gave a presentation on Power Lab and Johnson Controls - we have had meetings with the State about these two facilities regarding their lead exposure to workers and their families. Johnson Controls has been working with OSHA, and Power Lab has had inspections and fines related to elevated blood lead levels in children. We will assess requiring them to take further action. A Board of Health rule was put in place making childhood lead levels more stringent. We will provide an update at the April Board of Health meeting.

## **New Business:**

**Tour of Public Health Laboratory** - Mr. Blake Pate took Board Members on a very interesting, fact-filled tour of the Public Health Laboratory, showcasing what they do. Mr. Pate started by giving an overview of the Lab and the services they offer:

- currently have 5 FTEs (2 Lab Supervisors, 2 Medical Lab Technologists and 2 Medical Lab Technicians; the Lab Director position was contracted out to Baptist (Dr. Palavecino provides Laboratory oversight).

- we are here to offer specialized testing, service, and support to Internal Clinics, Preventive Health, Environmental Health, Outreach programs and a few outside programs (IHS, NIA, and DCPHD).
- the Lab is a high complexity Lab, fully accredited by CLIA and regulated by COLA. We maintain superior ratings from COLA.
- recent audit was performed in October 2017 - received a score of approximately 99%.

Other areas/stations that Mr. Pate highlighted on his tour included:

- **Syphilis/Serology Bench Testing** - this method uses carbon particles which binds to antibodies to create a clumping effect. Syphilis RPR Method - approximately 1,000 tests/month are completed with a prevalence of approx. 5% (this may include specimens awaiting confirmation testing from the State Lab).
- **Microscopy with Digital Camera** - this tool is used in the lab to view Wet preps and Gram stains. It is also used in training and allows us to quickly bring trainees up to speed.
- **Hematology, Chemistry and UA** - very low volume testing is offered for hematology, chemistry and urinalysis. The testing is to support WomanWise, Family Planning, Well Child, TB clinic and Insight Human Services (an outpatient drug and alcohol treatment facility).
- **N. Gonorrhoeae (Culture Method)** - this is a low tech. method. It utilizes the old candle jar technique for the GC Culture Method.
- **Molecular Testing (DNA) with The Panther** - 21st century technology, the gold standard of testing, our crown jewel, this instrument is a work horse - it allowed the lab and clinics to move light years ahead in testing. The Panther allows testing for GC, CT, HIV (viral load), HPV, FLU, and even Zika - testing can be completed in 3.5 hours verses 72 hours. Enabled the department to expand services by adding the Express Clinic and offers non invasive specimen collection for clients.
- **Recently Added DNA Testing** - T.vaginalis testing may be the most interesting in all of our testing. It is the most common STD often exhibiting no symptoms (in up to 70% of patients) and the CDC says its prevalence is typically around 3% but may range as high as 13% in some demographics.
- **Lagging Salaries for Lab Staff** - some concerns with lagging salaries among lab staff when compared with our counterparts in the field. The gap becomes obvious when taking into account expertise, experience and skill sets. Filling vacant positions and retention will become a problem in the future as very few technicians in the field have experience in this testing.
- **Becoming the Model** - we think our Lab and our Department as a whole is quickly becoming a model for productivity, innovation, unmatched service and leadership in the field in Public Health. Our last COLA Inspectors offered a number of compliments on our innovation. Visitors from Japan were also impressed with our facilities as they toured the department with our Public Health Director a couple of years ago.

Before concluding, Mr. Pate thanked Board Members for their visit and support of our department and extended an open invitation to visit the lab again. He also thanked Mr. Hunter for all of his support (hard copy of complete tour notes on file in the Administrative Binder).

**Old Business:**

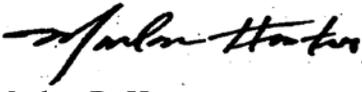
Will conduct swearing in of reinstated members at the next meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Seats asked for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting before going downstairs for the tour of the laboratory. Ms. Amanda Kistler made a motion to adjourn and Dr. Ricky Sides seconded. Everyone agreed and the regular meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

The tour of the laboratory concluded at 6:45pm.



Marlon B. Hunter  
Secretary to the Board  
MBH/lgc