

**Alamance County Board of Health  
Burlington, NC 27217**

**Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 6:30 pm  
Zoom**

**Board of Health Regular Meeting**

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order and Introductions – Ms. Marielena Moreno-Garcia, Chair
- II. Approval of the Agenda- Ms. Marielena Moreno-Garcia, Chair
- III. Approval of February 15, 2022 Minutes- Ms. Marielena Moreno-Garcia, Chair
- IV. N-95 Mask Distribution- Mr. Malik Harrison
- V. New Business
  - A. Budget Amendments- Ms. Janna Elliott
  - B. Third Quarter Financial Update- Ms. Janna Elliott
  - C. Harm Reduction Services- Mr. Tony Lo Giudice
  - D. Draft Letter of Support- Technological Transfer for COVID-19 Vaccine- Dr. Wilson
- VI. Environmental Health Report- Ms. Becky Rosso
- VII. Dental Clinic Report- Dr. George Ackall
- VIII. Personal Health Report- Ms. Gayle Shoffner
- IX. Medical Director Report- Dr. Kimberly Newton
- X. Personnel Report- Mr. Tony Lo Giudice
- XI. Health Director Report- Mr. Tony Lo Giudice
- XII. Board of Health Meetings- Ms. Marielena Moreno-Garcia, Chair
- XIII. Other
- XIV. Adjournment

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**Reminders:**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Health is **Tuesday April 19, 2022 at 6:30 pm**, location to be determined

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# ALAMANCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

## Minutes

### Regular Meeting of the Board of Health

March 15, 2022

The Alamance County Board of Health met at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 via Zoom.

The following board members attended over Zoom: Chair Marielena Moreno-Garcia, Vice Chair Richard Blanchard, Dr. Karin Minter, Dr. Annette Wilson, Ms. Eleanor Rodriguez-Rassi, Dr. Saini Kundapati, Dr. Ann Marie Riley-Caldwell, Commissioner Bill Lashley and Mr. Troy King.

The following staff members and guests attended over Zoom: Mr. Tony Lo Giudice, Ms. Janna Elliott, Ms. Ariana Lawrence, Ms. Gayle Shoffner, Ms. Arlinda Ellison, Ms. Nicole Alston, Dr. Kimberly Newton, Ms. Becky Rosso, Dr. George Ackall, Ms. Moira Beck, Ms. Irene Terrero, Ms. Elizabeth Olloqui and Ms. Joanna Riley.

#### **I. Call to Order and Introductions**

Board of Health Chair, Ms. Moreno-Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. All board members and staff introduced themselves.

#### **II. Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Lo Giudice requested an item to be corrected on the agenda under section V letter B. it should be Second Quarter Financial Update.

*Dr. Minter made a motion to approve the agenda with the requested correction. Commissioner Lashley seconded the motion. The Chair called on each board member for his or her vote. The board approved the agenda unanimously.*

#### **III. Approval of February 15 2022 Minutes**

*Commissioner Lashley made a motion to approve the February 15, 2022 Board of Health minutes. Ms. Rodriguez-Rassi seconded the motion. The Chair called on each board member for his or her vote. The board approved the minutes unanimously.*

#### **IV. N-95 Mask Distribution**

This year's Elon-Alamance Health Partner, Mr. Malik Harrison, presented about his experience with the N-95 mask distribution. The Health Department and Department of Social Services received two distributions of N-95 masks totally 51,200. Mr. Harrison was responsible for distributing masks within the community and to community partners. He shared how much he enjoyed this project and getting these masks to the community when there was a need.

#### **V. New Business**

##### **A. Budget Amendments**

Ms. Elliott presented three budget amendments. Budget Amendment #6 is for the WIC program for \$19,059 to be used for supporting the WIC program. Budget amendment #7 is for Agreement Addenda 620 (ARPA COVID-19 School Health Team Workforce) for \$215,614. These funds will be allocated to

Alamance Burlington School System for school health team workforce positions. Budget amendment #8 is for the Environmental Health Section from the FDA for \$5,000. The funds will be used for developing a comprehensive strategic improvement plan, a project plan that guides the work of the regulatory retail food program toward meeting the requirements of the Standard(s) not met.

***Dr. Riley-Caldwell made a motion to approve all budget amendments. Mr. Blanchard seconded the motion. The Chair called on each board member for his or her vote. The board approved all budget amendments unanimously.***

### **B. Second Quarter Financial Update**

Ms. Elliott provided the board with a second quarter financial report. This report included revenues and expenditures for all line items for the Health, WIC and Dental budgets during the second quarter of the fiscal year.

### **C. Harm Reduction Services**

Mr. Lo Giudice shared that Alamance Cares has been providing harm reduction services. Alamance Cares will be closing down their operations. A non-profit from Orange County will be picking up clients that are currently being served by Alamance Cares, but do not have capacity to take on additional clients. Harm Reduction is typically called Syringe Exchange, and is beneficial in reducing Hepatitis C, HIV and an opportunity to build relationships with clients. Harm Reduction also reduces dirty needle sticks to law enforcement/first responders. Mr. Lo Giudice spoke about an uptick in heart valve replacements with substance abuse that he learned about when speaking with a doctor from Wake Forest. When Harm Reduction services have a peer support contact, an individual is three times more likely to seek treatment for substance abuse and/or mental health services. Mr. Lo Giudice will keep the board updated with how the process is going as the Health Department continues to support these efforts.

### **D. Draft Letter of Support Technological Transfer for COVID-19 Vaccine**

Dr. Wilson reviewed that this letter is encouraging the sharing of technology that was developed using public funds to address the public health issue of SARS-CoV-2 globally. Dr. Riley-Caldwell requested "COVID-19" to be consistently written throughout the letter.

***Dr. Minter made a motion to approve and send the letter of support with recommended changes. Dr. Riley-Caldwell seconded the motion. The Chair called on each board member for his or her vote. The board approved the letter of support unanimously.***

## **VI. Environmental Health Report**

Ms. Rosso shared that the food and lodging section applies for an FDA grant annually. The 2021 FDA grant funding was used to complete a phase 3, 10-year Risk Factor Survey. Ms. Rosso shared that Alamance County is one of only two counties in the entire state that have completed this 10-year study. Year 1 of the survey was considered our baseline survey, subsequent surveys were completed in years 5 & 10. Ms. Rosso explained that each phase food and lodging staff randomly surveyed about 200 facilities. During the surveys staff looked at the occurrence of practices and behaviors of the top five commonly identified risk factors contributing to foodborne illness outbreaks. According to CDC that is proper handwashing and hygiene practices, proper cooking, cooling and reheating, proper frequency and cleaning of equipment, proper food holding temperatures, and food from approved sources. Ms. Rosso shared that with the \$5,000 grant money received this year, staff will develop a comprehensive strategic improvement plan. This plan will identify gaps in standards staff do not meet as well as how to maintain the standards staff currently meet.

Ms. Rosso also shared that two employees have completed state authorizations, which is a 6 to 9 month process.

Ms. Rosso discussed a solid waste complaint. Staff is currently working with the property owner to determine all items considered solid waste and make a plan for cleanup.

Ms. Moreno-Garcia thanked the Environmental Health staff as a consumer and it is great to hear that staff are doing such a detailed job in ensuring food safety in restaurants.

## VII. Dental Report

Dr. Ackall shared that the Dental Clinic have temporarily moved their operations to the Open Door Clinic. He is hoping by mid-May staff will be able to return to their newly renovated space.

## VIII. Personal Health Report

Mr. Lo Giudice shared that there are ten vacant clinic positions. Currently there are minimum appointments available. He shared that they are currently looking to bring in two LPN's, which have limitations in public health. He shared that it takes about six weeks to fully train nurses in clinics. Mr. Lo Giudice discussed contingency planning for worst-case scenario and discussed what services must be provided and what services what must be assured.

## IX. Medical Director Report

Dr. Newton shared that provider schedules are minimal and sometimes providers are seeing clients by themselves because of low nursing availability. Dr. Newton shared that the provider section is fully staffed and the newest advanced practice provider is fully trained. Ms. Moreno-Garcia asked about using LPN's and Medical Assistants. Dr. Newton shared that the biggest challenge with LPN's and MA's is that during a shelter situation, these individuals would not have the ability to dispense medications and have limited scope of practice as compared to a nurse but this is something that she and Ms. Shoffner have been discussing. Dr. Wilson asked how long someone has to wait to schedule an appointment. Dr. Newton shared that STD visits are same-day appointments since this is a mandated service. She shared that family planning visits for contraception is about one week out for appointment times. Maternity appointments are always available for clients and immunizations are 1-2 weeks out. Dr. Minter asked for an update on Centering Pregnancy. Dr. Newton shared that from a COVID perspective, it would be okay to resume sessions, but staffing does not make it possible right now. She shared there would have to be a training and relaunch for staff before Centering could resume.

## X. Personnel Report

Mr. Lo Giudice shared the personnel report.

### Vacant Positions Updates:

Position	Job Announcement Date Open	Job Announcement Date Closed	#Qualified Applications Received	Current Status
Public Health Nurse II Clinical Nurse (4)	<b>9/29/2021</b>	<b>3/22/2022</b>	<b>3</b>	Accepting applications
Public Health Nurse III Communicable Disease	<b>11/2/2021</b>	<b>3/22/2022</b>	<b>1</b>	Accepting applications
Public Health Nurse III – Family Planning				Preparing job announcement for posting
Public Health Nurse III –TB				Preparing job announcement for posting
Public Health Nurse III -STD				Preparing job announcement for posting
Public Health Nurse Supervisor I				Preparing job announcement for posting

Processing Assistant III	<b>3/7/2022</b>	<b>3/20/2022</b>	<b>1</b>	Accepting applications
Registered EHS	<b>11/2/2021</b>	<b>2/28/2022</b>	<b>6</b>	Interviewing candidates

### **Hires/Transfers/Resignations:**

- Irene Terrero selected to fill Processing Assistant III – Clerical effective 3/7/2022.
- Diana Maro Martinez selected to fill Processing Assistant III – Clerical effective 3/7/2022.
- Joanna Riley selected to fill Social Worker II 50% CMARC, 50% CMHRP effective 2/21/2022.
- Michelle Dorminy selected to transfer to Public Health Nurse Child Care Health Consultant effective 4/1/2022.
- Kristy Harris – Processing Assistant III – Clerical – resigned effective 3/18/2022
- Kendra Fennell – Public Health Educator II – Resigned effective 3/18/2022.
- Jasmine Glass – Public Health Nurse III – STD/ HIV Program resigned effective 3/30/2022.
- Melanie Womble – Public Health Nurse – III Family Planning resigned effective 3/25/2022.
- Becky Amash – Public Health Nurse Supervisor I – resigned effective 3/21/2022.

### **XI. Health Director Report**

Mr. Lo Giudice shared that they received notice of funding from the state that \$234,937 for Communicable Disease response. Out of state travel is being requested at the upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting for the two dentists to go to San Diego for a pediatric dentistry conference.

Mr. Lo Giudice discussed the HSC Odor irritant situation that began in February. All staff continue to have open communication about the issue and meet regularly to discuss any items of concern. Mr. Lo Giudice shared the HSC Odor Irritant timeline and all investigations and results of the past month. Mr. Lo Giudice noted outside industrial hygienists and HVAC companies were used to help investigate and evaluate the areas and systems. All testing has come back within normal limits. The report from the second industrial hygienist is forthcoming and will be shared with the board at the next meeting.

Mr. Lo Giudice provided the board with a COVID update. The presentation included case counts, percent positivity, testing efforts and vaccination statistics. He also reported that the NC OSHA ended the COVID Emergency Temporary Standard. This makes masks optional for clients and most staff. Those staff in the clinical settings, staff doing home visits and employees who have not received their flu vaccine must wear a mask.

### **XII. Board of Health Meetings**

Ms. Moreno-Garcia asked for feedback regarding the future of Board of Health meetings. The consensus amongst the board was to allow for in person meetings in the future and allow those who would prefer to attend over Zoom do so. Ms. Moreno-Garcia shared that the April meeting would be held over Zoom and a decision can be made about upcoming meetings then.

### **XIII. Other**

Dr. Kundapati requested to receive the whole packet in advance, including reports with budget items to be able to review those prior to the meetings.

### **XIV. Adjournment**

*Dr. Minter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36pm. Dr. Riley-Caldwell seconded the motion. The Chair called on each board member for his or her vote. The board approved to adjourn the meeting unanimously.*

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Ms. Marielena Moreno-Garcia, Chair

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Mr. Tony Lo Giudice, Secretary