

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

**Tuesday, May 17, 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 April 19, 2022 Minutes- Ms. Marielena Moreno-Garcia, Chair
- IV. New Business
 - A. Request for New Service and New Fee- Ms. Janna Elliott
 - B. Third Quarter Financial Update- Ms. Janna Elliott
 - C. Community Health Assessment (CHA) Update- Ms. Arlinda Ellison
 - D. Child Fatality Update- Ms. Gayle Shoffner
 - E. Strategic Plan- Mr. Tony Lo Giudice
- V. Environmental Health Report- Ms. Becky Rosso
- VI. Dental Clinic Report- Dr. George Ackall
- VII. WIC Report- Ms. Nicole Alston
- 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. Other
- XIII. Adjournment

Reminders:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Health is **Tuesday June 21, 2022 at 6:30 pm**, location to be determined

ALAMANCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Health

May 17, 2022

The Alamance County Board of Health met at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 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, Commissioner Bill Lashley, Dr. Ann Marie Riley-Caldwell, and Mr. Troy King.

The following staff members attended over Zoom: Mr. Tony Lo Giudice, Ms. Janna Elliott, Ms. Ariana Lawrence, Ms. Gayle Shoffner, Dr. Arlinda Ellison, Ms. Nicole Alston, Dr. Kimberly Newton, Ms. Becky Rosso and Dr. George Ackall.

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Board of Health Chair, Ms. Moreno-Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All board members and staff introduced themselves.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. King made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Minter seconded the motion. The Chair called on each board member for his or her vote. The board approved the agenda unanimously.

III. Approval of April 19, 2022 Board of Health Minutes

Mr. King made a motion to approve the April 19, 2022 Board of Health minutes. Dr. Riley-Caldwell seconded the motion. The Chair called on each board member for his or her vote. The board approved the minutes unanimously.

IV. New Business

A. Request for New Service and Fee

Ms. Elliott presented the request for the health department offering a new vaccine, Prevnar 20. This is a pneumococcal conjugate vaccine recommended for adults 65 years or older or adults 19 through 64 years old with certain medical conditions or other risk factors. Ms. Elliott shared the charges that area pharmacies and provider offices are charging for the vaccine. Other health departments that Ms. Elliott contacted have not begun to offer this service so other county comparison was not available at this time. The recommended fee is \$252 based on Medicaid rate of reimbursement and based on what pharmacies in the area are charging. Ms. Moreno-Garcia asked if uninsured clients had to pay the full amount. Ms. Elliott answered yes because this is a flat fee service, but staff are willing to work with clients to be able to get vaccinated.

Commissioner Lashley made a motion to approve the new fee and associated fee. Dr. Minter seconded the motion. The Chair called on each board member for his or her vote. The board approved the request unanimously.

B. Third Quarter Financial Update

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

C. Community Health Assessment Update

Dr. Ellison provided an overview over the 2021 Community Health Assessment. She discussed demographic information in Alamance County, reported on the data collection and community discussions that took place, infant mortality rate, environmental health, and a variety of health statistics and statistics related to social determinants of health.

Dr. Minter thanked everyone involved in this huge undertaking and thanked Dr. Ellison for the presentation. She also suggested that since education shows up a lot in the Community Health Assessment, she would suggest having the Alamance Burlington School System more involved in future assessments.

D. Child Fatality Update

Ms. Shoffner shared a copy of the 2021 Annual Child Fatality Prevention Team report. During 2021, the team reviewed 15 child fatality cases. One case review resulted in recommendations for increased parental monitoring for children on mental health medications. No other preventative system issues were identified. Dr. Wilson asked if there were any geographical similarities among the deaths, and if it would be possible to map this for future reviews. Ms. Shoffner answered that she would look into this for future reports.

E. Strategic Plan

Mr. Lo Giudice provided the Board of Health with an overview of the Alamance County Health Department Strategic Plan. The full plan was emailed to the board so they could review the entire document. Mr. Lo Giudice discussed the overall goals and explained that each goal has specific ways it will be reached and how staff will evaluate if this has been completed.

V. Environmental Health Report

Ms. Rosso shared that Environmental Health (EH) has been very busy this fiscal year and they are exceeding projected revenue. In March and April, EH revenues were \$65,000. In reviewing 10 years of data, these are the two highest revenues ever received. As of May 16th, EH has taken in more than their projected revenue for May. Mid-way through April EH met their annual projected budget revenue. Ms. Rosso explained that with high revenue of course comes an increase in work. For example, during the month of March EH received 97 soil evaluation applications—past March's typically averages 50; April EH received 70 soil evaluation applications; typically average 55; and, EH currently has 5 subdivision, in varying stages of the permitting process.

Ms. Rosso report that the Solid Waste Program is a complaint driven program. On average, EH receives four complaints per month. Most of these are resolved with a Notice of Violation sent by the Program Coordinator and may take 2-3 months to get cleaned up. After the letter is sent, staff give 30 days to get the complaint fixed, but some may have circumstances that need more than 30 days. As long as they are making progress staff will work with them. Staff are seeing an increase in the complexity of these complaints. These complaints require a significant increase in time and resources from the EH department. Many of them are multi-departmental issues, involving ordinances that we regulate or the planning-inspections department regulate. These more complex complaints often require advice and letters from county attorneys to get compliance. A letter from the attorney's office is a newer process, which staff have found to be very successful in getting resolution. Staff will continue to work with our attorneys and other county departments to find a consistent process to ensure violations are abated in a timely manner.

VI. Dental Report

Dr. Ackall shared that dental staff took part in the Dream Center event and provided dental screenings. Dr. Ackall is hopeful that the permanent dental site will be completed in the near future.

VII. WIC Report

Ms. Alston discussed the ongoing formula shortage issue happening across the country. Ms. Alston shared that due to COVID, supply chain issues and the Similac recall, these issues have all contributed to the formula shortage. She shared that all WIC offices in the state are unable to accept donated formula. Ms. Alston reported that this has been a frustrating process for clients and staff. WIC is encouraging clients to go to food pantries and smaller retail stores, advising to not make their own formula and use SNAP benefits for formula. The state is providing some flexibility and is allowing WIC clients to get ready to feed formula. Dr. Tilson sent out a memo to providers detailing where to find formulas, substitute formula options, and information regarding donor breast milk.

VIII. Personal Health Report

Ms. Shoffner shared that staff participated in community health fair targeting school immunizations and health assessments for school aged children at the Dream Center on May 14. Ms. Shoffner gave a huge shout out and thank you to staff that provided care for 50 children and provided 135 vaccines. The health fair was a partnership between ABSS, the Dream Center, Piedmont Health, Burlington/Mebane Pediatrics and the ACHD.

Ms. Shoffner reported that Alamance County and Burlington City Emergency Management, ACHD Environmental Health, Preparedness, and Nursing staff along with staff from Twin Lakes hosted a full scale “Weather Related Emergency Shelter Response” in the beginning of the month. Staff were able to practice response time, shelter set up and walk through patient scenarios for persons displaced from their homes. This allowed all participating agencies the ability to identify areas of strength and plan improvements for areas of needed growth.

Ms. Shoffner discussed that health department staff along with staff from social services are in discussions and the planning phase preparing to host a combined job fair in July to help recruit employees for vacant positions.

IX. Medical Director Report

Dr. Newton discussed the hepatitis cases in children going up. A possible association between pediatric hepatitis and adenovirus 41 infection is currently under investigation. There have not been any cases identified in North Carolina.

Dr. Newton shared that there are two antibiotic medication shortages pertinent to the health department; Rifampin, which is used in active and latent tuberculosis (TB) treatment. Rifampin is currently being prioritized for individuals who have active TB and individuals who are a contact to the person with active TB. Alternative treatments are available for people who have latent TB, but it is a 9-month therapy as compared to 4-month treatment with Rifampin. Gentamicin is another antibiotic that is in short supply, and this is used in the health department to treat gonorrhea. When clients have an allergy to the standard treatment Ceftriaxone, Gentamicin is used. Dr. Newton has reached out to the state for guidance and has instructed providers to do a deeper dive into the allergy to Ceftriaxone with the patient to ensure it is a true allergy.

X. Personnel Report

Mr. LoGiudice shared the personnel report.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Vacant Positions Updates:

Hires/Transfers/Resignations:

- Amanda Alvarez – Processing Assistant III –WIC – resigned effective 5/13/2022.
- Sarah Richardson-Nutritionist III – resigned effective 6/1/2022.

Position	Job Announcement Date Open	Job Announcement Date Closed	#Qualified Applications Received	Current Status
Public Health Nurse II Clinical Nurse (4)	9/29/2021	05/31/2022	4	Accepting applications
Public Health Nurse III Communicable Disease	11/2/2021	05/31/2022	1	Accepting applications
Public Health Nurse III – Family Planning	04/04/2022	05/31/2022	0	Accepting applications
Public Health Nurse III –TB	03/18/2022	05/31/2022	0	Accepting applications
Public Health Nurse III - STD	03/18/2022	05/31/2022	1	Accepting applications
Public Health Nurse Supervisor I	04/04/2022	05/31/2022	2 (1 w/a)	Accepting applications
Processing Assistant III (WIC)	04/01/2022	4/15/2022	14	Offer made –
Public Health Educator II – Community Health Improvement Specialist	03/30/2022	04/15/2022	14 candidates: All work againsts	Supervisor reviewing applications
Medical Office Assistant	03/17/2022	04/15/2022	9	Candidate selected
Administrative Assistant I – Clerical Supervisor	04/11/2022	04/30/2022	36	Interviews being scheduled
Computer Production Specialist II	04/01/2022	5/9/2022	8	Interviews being scheduled
REHS	4/27/2022	5/3/2022	3	Candidate selected
PA III (Clerical)	4/26/2022	5/9/2022	8	Applications being reviewed by supervisor
PHNIII – PostPartum Newborn	4/27/2022	5/9/2022	1 work against	Application being review by supervisor
EPHS – Lead and Healthy Homes	5/11/2022	5/27/2022		Accepting applications
PA III –WIC	05/11/2022	5/17/2022	3	Accepting applications

Frozen Positions:

- Community Health Assistant- WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor (frozen through FY 21-22)
- Processing Assistant IV – WIC (frozen through FY 21-22)
- Processing Assistant III –WIC (frozen through FY 21-22)
- Patient Account Representative IV-Dental (frozen through FY 21-22)
- Physician Extender II (frozen through FY 21-22)

XI. Health Director Report

Mr. Lo Giudice thanked all of the staff and partners involved in the Dream Center event. Mr. Lo Giudice shared that fun orientation is coming back to the health department. Due to COVID, in person orientations amongst a group of new employees has not been able to be done. These will be in person and walking tours around the health department buildings. Eventually Mr. Lo Giudice would like to do orientations around the community. In June, the senior leadership team will be going to the African American Cultural and Arts Center in Burlington.

Mr. Lo Giudice reported that the Healthy Beginnings grant was not awarded when it was time to reapply for the grant. Healthy Beginnings is a case management program designed for women who are not Medicaid eligible and have no private insurance. This program was coordinated by a contract employee who will continue to work on contract until June. Staff are working to see if any clients can be incorporated into existing case management programs at the health department. Unfortunately, there is limited availability for non-Medicaid eligibility clients in these existing case management programs.

Toni Parker will begin as the post-graduate fellow from Elon University in a few weeks, and Malik Harrison will come work for the health department as a contract community health worker with communicable disease funding.

Mr. Lo Giudice shared that COVID cases are increasing. He reviewed the data provided by the CDC and NCDHHS. The FDA has authorized boosters for 5-11 years of age, once full approval is reached the health department will be ready to offer those boosters to 5-11 years of age. The emergency declaration is set to expire mid-July for the state, Mr. Lo Giudice will keep the board updated about the status of the declaration.

Mr. Lo Giudice reported that the Governor released his budget last week and \$10 million is being proposed for local health department for essential services.

Mr. Lo Giudice discussed that Region 5 (nine surrounding health departments) has been working to address seven pillars that the state used to assess local health departments and has received ARPA funds to address the needs. A survey was completed among health departments to select the top three needs for each region. For region 5 the top needs identified were communications, surveillance, assessment, data and the way it is communicated. Region 5 will be using ARPA funds for workforce development specific to these pillars.

Mr. Lo Giudice announced that the health department and DSS are planning a Juneteenth celebration and welcomed board members to attend.

XII. Other

The Chair announced that the June Board of Health meeting will be held over Zoom.

XIII. Adjournment

Dr. Minter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm. Mr. Blanchard seconded the motion. The Chair called on each board member for his or her vote. The board approved to adjourn the meeting unanimously.

Ms. Marielena Moreno-Garcia, Chair

Mr. Tony Lo Giudice, Secretary