Catawba County Board of Health
Minutes
November 09, 2020

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Monday, November 09, 2020 at 7:00 pm via a Zoom meeting and at Catawba County Public Health, 3070 11th Ave Dr. SE, Hickory, NC 28602.

Members Present: Dr. David C. Hamilton, Jr, Chair*
Mr. Dan Hunsucker, County Commissioner*
Ms. Gloria Costin*
Mr. John H. Dollar*
Dr. Dana H. Greene*
Dr. Gale Hamilton-Brandon*
Ms. Susan Knowles*
Mr. William Pitts*
Mr. Brian Potocki*

Members Absent: Dr. Matthew Davis

Staff present: Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Interim Health Director*
Mr. Jason Williams, Assistant Health Director*
Ms. Julie Byrd, Women and Children’s Health Administrator*
Ms. Honey Estrada, Public Health Strategist*
Ms. Emily Killian, Community Engagement Specialist
Ms. Chantae Lail, Medical Lab Manager/Preparedness Coordinator*
Ms. Jennifer Lindsay, WIC Director*
Ms. Megan McBride, Environmental Health Administrator*
Ms. Sarah Rhodes, Clinical Services Nurse Supervisor*
Ms. Kim Spaulding, School Health Nurse Supervisor*
Ms. Rhonda Stikeleather, Children’s Services Nurse Supervisor*
Ms. Debra A. Young, Administrative Assistant II

*Attended via Zoom meeting

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
Dr. David Hamilton, Jr., Chair, called the meeting of the Catawba County Public Health Board to order at 7:00pm. He welcomed Board members, Public Health managers, staff and guests. Dr. Hamilton instructed the Board Members on the virtual meeting roll call and voting process. There were no questions regarding roll call or the voting process instructions.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES
Dr. David Hamilton, Chair, stated that Board members had received the current meeting Agenda and the Board Minutes for October 12, 2020. Dr. Hamilton asked if there were any changes to the Agenda or corrections to the prior meeting Minutes. There being none, a motion was made to accept the Agenda and prior meeting Minutes by Mr. John Dollar and seconded by Ms. Susan Knowles. The agenda and minutes were unanimously approved via a virtual roll call vote of the board members present.
PUBLIC COMMENTS
Dr. Hamilton asked if anyone presented to speak before the Board. Ms. Debra Young, Administrative Assistant II, stated that no one had presented to speak.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS
No report

FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT
Mr. Jason Williams, Assistant Health Director, gave highlights on the 2020-2021 First Quarter Financial Report.

The approved budget is $9,586,901 and the first quarter expenses and revenues should be at or near 25%. Both are tracking at 17.7% which is currently under budget. Revenues are affected by unbudgeted COVID-19 funding received.

The largest source of revenue is Outside Funding for School Nurses. This funding accounted for 31% of the revenue in the first quarter.

Medicaid and fee revenue are tracking below budget in several clinical program areas. Environmental Health fees are at 30.6% - equaling more than $16,000 above budget for first quarter.

Expenses for first quarter were $1,860,525 which is under budget by $646,983.
   - Personnel expenses were $1,391,063 – 19.1% expended
   - Operational expenses were $259,014 – 13.2% expended

Other highlights:
   - Expense timing varies in various categories
   - COVID-10 response expenses (personnel and supplies) – Received $620,000 in COVID funding.
   - Delayed expenses: travel, trainings, meetings, community outreach, Healthy People implementation, Kids in Need fund, PH program income.

The PowerPoint slides and detailed Financial Report are attached to the Minutes.

FLU SEASON KICKOFF
Ms. Sarah Rhodes, Clinical Services Nurse Supervisor, updated the Board regarding the upcoming flu and COVID-19 season. She stated that the annual flu season begins as early as October and can last as late as May. During this time, the flu virus is circulating at higher levels in the population and even healthy people can get very sick from the flu.

Although the flu shot does not cover all strains of the flu, it covers the virus strains that are predicted to be the most common each year. The flu vaccine is based on what circulated in the prior year alongside the strains that more recently circulated in the southern hemisphere.
Each year, seasonal influenza is an illness that can cause serious health complication’s, including death. This year, flu season will look different as COVID-19 will also be circulating. For many people, symptoms of both illnesses are similar and one could be mistaken for the other, or people could have both at the same time.

Ms. Rhodes reiterated the importance of getting a flu shot as those who receive a flu shot are less likely to come down with the flu and those who do become infected are less likely to experience serious complications that may require hospitalization. This helps the medical system avoid becoming overwhelmed with both COVID-19 and flu cases at the same time.

Flu vaccines remain widely available in the community, at many physician offices and pharmacies. For those who do not have a medical provider or who wish to obtain a shot at Public Health, appointments are available in the Immunizations Clinic.

END OF YEAR FARMER’S MARKET UPDATE
Ms. Jennifer Lindsay, WIC Director, provided the End of Year Farmer’s Market/WIC update stating that this was the 7th year for the Farmers Market located at Catawba County Public Health. In comparison to the prior year, this year’s farmers market still served approximately 112 customers per week. There were 14 markets held and 2,191 WIC and Senior Nutrition vouchers were distributed. The current redemption rates were not yet available from the State. An updated report will be given once those numbers are available.

Additional highlights:
- Senior Produce Boxes were distributed this year as seniors were unable to attend the market due to COVID-19. Each month, seniors received a produce box with fruits and vegetables valued at $12.00. This was a huge success and the seniors were very appreciative of the efforts put forth in helping them receive fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers.
- WIC Program paid Catawba County vendors $2.7 million in FY 2019-2020
- There are 33 W/C vendors in Catawba County
- The State extended remote applications for WIC through February 2021
- Catawba County WIC served an average of 3,944 participants per month

The presentation is attached to the Minutes.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE - FY2020-2021 OFFICERS
Dr. Gale Hamilton-Brandon, member of the Nominations and Operating Procedures Subcommittee stated that the committee reconvened via email and the Committee would like to make a motion to accept the nomination for Mr. John Dollar to serve as Vice-Chair of the Catawba County Board of Health for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Dr. Hamilton-Brandon asked if there were any further nominations from the floor. There being none, Dr. Hamilton-Brandon asked for a motion to close the nominations for the Vice-Chair position. Mr. Dan Hunsucker made a motion to close the nominations and accept the nomination as presented by the committee. Dr. Hamilton-Brandon asked for a vote and via a virtual roll call
vote, the Board unanimously voted to accept Mr. John Dollar as Vice-Chair of the Catawba County Board of Health for the fiscal year 2020-2021.

HEALTH DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Director, stated that Ms. Sarah Rhodes had a brief update on the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP).

Ms. Rhodes stated that the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) is allowing women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer to apply for Breast and Cervical Cancer Medicaid (BCCM), a treatment payment option that was previously not available to those women. This is being offered in conjunction with patient navigation services through the BCCCP program at Catawba County Public Health. Women who have already been diagnosed outside of the BCCCP program and who meet all other eligibility requirements will be able to apply for the BCCM coverage. For additional information or to make an appointment, patients should contact Catawba County Public Health and ask to speak with eligibility.

Ms. McCracken stated that she had a few additional brief comments:

COVID-19 Situation Report 11/09/2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catawba County Positive Cases</th>
<th>Currently Hospitalized Positives</th>
<th>Catawba County Deaths</th>
<th>Catawba County Total Tests Completed*</th>
<th>Catawba County Negative</th>
<th>Catawba County Recovered*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5,224</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>37,854</td>
<td>33,017</td>
<td>4,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NC Cases</strong> <em>(per NCDHHS website)</em></td>
<td><strong>NC Deaths</strong> <em>(per NCDHHS website)</em></td>
<td><strong>NC Tests Completed</strong> <em>(per NCDHHS website)</em></td>
<td><strong>NC Currently Hospitalized</strong> <em>(per NCDHHS website)</em></td>
<td><strong>US Cases</strong> <em>(per CDC website)</em></td>
<td><strong>US Deaths</strong> <em>(per CDC website)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>294,860</td>
<td>4,615</td>
<td>4,386,435</td>
<td>1,169</td>
<td>9,808,411</td>
<td>236,547</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numbers current as of noon of the date of this report *Numbers updated weekly on Wednesdays

Last Thursday had all-time high of positive cases reported at 106.

Catawba County has made the White House Task Force report over the past few weeks. Catawba County is one of the counties that is seeing a higher increase than other counties in NC. Catawba County is also a recipient of antigen tests and is working with community partners to distribute the antigen tests (working with ALFA, GHCCM, hospitals, and school districts). Antigen test are supposed to be used with those that are symptomatic. There are false positives and negatives so if the test is negative it should also be followed-up with a PCR test to confirm the patient is truly negative.

COVID-19 Vaccine – Public Health continues to receive brief COVID vaccine updates each week from the State. Tomorrow there will be a whole session dedicated to vaccine updates. Currently holding weekly partner meetings with the team at public health and with local hospitals.

Cases in K-12 schools – not seeing a huge increase in the schools but are continuing to see household and community transmission.
Catawba County Public Health received two Catawba County Team Awards this year - one for the Senior Nutrition produce boxes and one for the COVID-19 Response Team.

Mr. Jason Williams, Assistant Health Director, reported that staff are tired but public health has been able to hire some part-time school nurses and some part-time COVID administrative type support to help with the caseload. Some staff are working weekends and some comp time is available to be paid out. Public health is working on various things to help build morale and provide some encouragement to staff. If the Board of Health members would like, they too could also send some encouraging words (email them to Jennifer) and they could be included in the weekly updates for staff. Ms. McCracken likewise noted that public health has cross-trained a lot of staff and that is a growth opportunity for those employees also. Cross-training is part of our Strategic Plan so it helps there as well.

Mr. Williams shared a line graph representing the drive-through tests conducted at Public Health. There have been 9,490 tests completed in the drive-through to date. The drive-through is averaging about 500 tests per month. The graph also shows that public health is getting the people here that need to be tested, i.e. from contact tracing/investigation referrals. The total tests completed to date in Catawba County are 12,479. Public Health will continue testing into the future as it is needed.

Other notable items:
- As seen in the weekly update, the numbers in Catawba County are continuing to rise. It is state and nationwide though.
- Contact tracers are still referring close contacts to the Public Health drive through so this continues to add to the amount of people being tested.
- Covid-19 fatigue continues to happen with staff
- Public Health continues to work with all 3 local school districts, CVCC and LRU.
- Drive-thru testing is ongoing at Catawba County Public Health on Tuesday and Friday
- The triage line remains active 7 days a week.
- Public Health continues planning for the upcoming COVID-19 vaccine release.
- Reminder that the monthly infographics were included in Board packet.

OTHER BUSINESS
Dr. David Hamilton announced that this is the last Board of Health meeting for Commissioner, Dan Hunsucker whom has been on this Board since 2004. Dr. Hamilton expressed his sincere gratitude to Mr. Hunsucker and wished him all the best in his retirement.

Mr. Hunsucker addressed the Board stating that it has always been a common goal for all of them to work together. He stated that it has been nice to be part of a community where we all work together and it has been nice to be part of a board that works together and appreciates each other.

Ms. McCracken and Mr. Williams both expressed how blessed and thankful Public Health has been to have Mr. Hunsucker on our Board.
Mr. Hunsucker was presented (virtually) with a custom made piece of pottery with the Catawba County Seal hand etched on it. The piece was made by Connections Pottery located in Newton. The piece will be delivered to Mr. Hunsucker at his retirement event on November 16, 2020.

**ADJOURNMENT**
There being no further business, Dr. David Hamilton asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dan Hunsucker so moved and Mr. Bill Pitts seconded the motion. Dr. Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Jennifer F. McCracken
Secretary to the Board of Health
Health Director

JFM: day

*Approved by Board of Health: December 14, 2020*