

MINUTES
North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors
Full Association Meeting
November 17, 2011; 9:00 a.m.
Cardinal Room, Six Forks Rd., Raleigh, NC

Call to Order – Gibbie Harris called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Gibbie stated that at 11:00 a.m. there would be a presentation from Community Care of NC on the new concept for determining who is at risk.

Approval of Minutes - Doug Urland

All association members received a copy of the October, 2011, minutes to review. Doug asked if there were any corrections to note. Hearing none, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Doug Urland

As of November 17, 2011, the financial report was distributed to the association and reviewed. (see attached) The Financial Report for November 17, 2011, was approved.

Doug stated that Association received a Thank You card from Don Yousey for his retirement dinner, gifts, etc.

President's Report – Gibbie Harris

- Officers continue to meet monthly with different groups, including NCACC, Health and Human Services Committee. Beth Lovette and Gibbie met with the legislative goals committee on November 16th. They talked about Senate Bill 433 – which is the original bill about consolidation and this bill has passed the Senate and is currently in the House. It contains both regionalization and consolidation language.

Officers will meet with Senator Hartsell on Monday, November 21st and will allow for follow-up conversation with the Senator on his focus moving forward and what his plans for legislation in the short-session will be.

- **Task Force Report** – feedback has been encouraging about further work on this report. Gibbie stated the report is a framework to have further discussions. There is a need of staffing support to collect information. It is planned to have a document to include clear language about the 10-11 essential services in language that a legislator will understand. In addition, language that Health Directors need in place to do the job of providing health services in our communities regardless of the government structure.
- Gibbie recognized Jill Moore, UNC School of Government.

Jill Moore – Jill spoke to the Association about a grant proposal to do a study on the different forms of health departments in North Carolina. This study would gather data on the different structures that would work best to provide public health services. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has not at this time publicly announced who will receive this funding. However, the School of Government has been encouraged to proceed with planning for the projects. SOG hopes the funding will be in place on December 1, 2011. She stated that SOG will be asking some Health Directors to participate in focus groups. She requested that the health director's hold the morning of January 25, 2011 at the State Health Director's conference. A legal analysis will be completed that will include fact sheets on the different types of health departments in North Carolina. It is hoped that the comparison charts will be helpful in future discussions.

- Lee Dixon, Fiscal Research with General Assembly, has gone to work with Community Care of NC. In the interim Lisa Hollowell will be assisting public health in that capacity.

Lisa Hollowell – **stated** that she is happy to be working with Public Health again. There will be a permanent replacement for Lee Dixon recruited and hired in the next few months.

State Health Director's– Dr. Jeffrey Engel

Dr. Engel introduced Maribeth Wooten who has returned to the Division of Public Health (DPH) after a hiatus in the private sector. She is a special assistant to the State Health Director and helps to complete the core team that works with the State Health Director.

Dr. Engel was attending the ASTHO meeting in October. He stated that there are 32 new State Health officers in the last year. Dr. Engel is the new Region Four Representative on the ASTHO Board. He also attended the Infectious Disease Society of America in Boston.

Dr. Engel shared slides with the Directors that gave data for a decrease in Acute MI Emergency Department visits of 21% in 2010, which is due to reduced exposure to second-hand smoke. North Carolina is the only State in the Southeast with a statewide ban on smoking in restaurants.

Another press release is the lowest Infant Mortality rate on record for NC – down to 7.0 for 1,000 live births in 2010. He stated that this is mainly due to narrowing the gap between African American births and white births. Local Public Health implementing programs across the state has achieved this reduction.

E. coli 0157:H7 – Outbreak at State Fair 2011 – 28 cases in 7 counties, 6 hospitalizations, no deaths. Exposure has been linked to visiting an animal expo building. NCPH is working with Agriculture to make the Fair safer in the future. He commended local public health for their response to the outbreak. This core Public Health response included Epi, Environmental Health, Preparedness and Response and reacting to an emergency situation.

Healthy North Carolina 2020: Moving Forward – Dr. Engel shared goals and objectives help keep our focus on improving the health of the State. The methods listed on the slide (see attached) are the reasons for the reductions in Infant Mortality and the decrease in Acute MI Emergency Department visits.

One System for Health – the Public Health Retreat on November 29 & 30 will focus on Community Prevention, Clinical Prevention Screening and Disease Management. Public Health's focus is preventing disease before it gets started. The retreat will look at the New Division of Prevention, Access and Public Health Services that will be implemented July 1, 2012. Another focus is what will Public Health be in the 21st. Century? Core services and the partnerships in the private healthcare sector. He stated the dollars for healthcare are diminishing, however, how will Public Health deliver the services to the population?

Dr. Engel stated the 21% reduction in Acute MI Emergency Department visits is a statewide average of visits and may be different at the local levels. He also responded to a question regarding the "New Division of Prevention, Access and Public Health Services". Dr. Engel stated that the Governor has merged the Office of Rural Health with the Division of Public Health to create this new division.

There was a question about Mental Health services being part of the discussion at the retreat and Dr. Engel stated that this was an important topic; however, it was not possible at this time to include it in this retreat. However, it can be added to the discussion in the future.

Gibbie introduced a new health director – Colleen Bridger, who has returned as Health Director of Orange County.

Environmental Health Director's Report – Terry Pierce (See Attachments)

Terry stated that a copy of the Environmental Health O-Chart will be attached to the minutes. The Food Code process is on track for July 1, 2012 and this will require a new inspection form.

Food and Lodging Fees Increase – a Proposal for the increase to fees will be presented to the Policy and Planning Committee at their meeting today.

Website updates are being moved to the DPH servers and he announced most links have been restored.

— A motion to approve a survey to be sent to Health Directors pertaining to the Lazarus Project. This project is designed to reduce drug overdoses through community based intervention. Motion requires no second. Motion passed unanimously.

Women & Children’s Health - Bill Smith

Motion to approve Agreement Addenda with minor clarifications that had been requested. Motion needs no second, motion passed unanimously.

Technology – Layton Long

No Action

Epidemiology - Roxanne Holloman

— Motion to approve Agreement Addendas for Communicable Disease/STD/HIV. Motion needs no second. Motion passed unanimously.

— Roxanne stated that regarding Adult Care Homes – a new section was added regarding guidelines. Roxanne stated there is an issue regarding the Adult Care facilities needing a contact number for local health departments in their areas after hours. On the Local Health Director’s website some LHDs list the main agency number and some list the health director’s number. Gibbie suggested that something be sent to directors asking what number they prefer be listed for contact afterhours. This list would be updated on a regular basis – perhaps every six months.

Lynnette Tolson stated that if links and numbers on the website are incorrect for your health department, please notify her so that this can be corrected.

Policy and Planning – Beth Lovette

— Beth introduced Michael Rhodes to give a summary of the Environmental Health Fee Proposal and the County Options (See Attachments). Michael stated that one of the handouts give a County Fee Option and a State Fee Option. He gave a brief history of the process to arrive at the fee changes for Environmental Health. The county fee option is the one that legislation will be drafted for consideration in the General Assembly and is as follows:

- The annual license fee for Food and lodging establishment sin NC will be \$250.00
- There will be a local option to charge more than \$250.00 if the county determines they need additional funding for their food and lodging program.
- The total amount charged by the county will have a cap of \$750.00 making it a total cap of \$1,000 per establishment.
- All fees will be collected by the State Inspection Statistics and fees program.
- 80% of the \$250.00 fee collected will be sent to the counties and 20% to the State.
- 100% of all local option fees collected will go to the appropriate county.
- Aid to County dollars of \$400,000.00 will be distributed to the counties.

The State fee option (see attached) is different in the first item that option shows \$450.00 annual license fee and does not have the optional up to \$750.00 with a cap of \$1,000 for each establishment.

The recommendation from committee is to adopt the county fee option for changes in legislation. No second is needed Motion was approved.

Action Items from the Region - - No items presented

Gibbie stated that there are two vacant region positions one in Region six and Region ten. A new representative needs to be appointed for those regions.

Reports

Reimbursement and Finance – Leonard Wood

— Cost Report - CMS and DMA are still in negotiations they are indicating the decision will happen soon. The BATCH counties and reporting numbers – Leonard thanked Joy Reed for her efforts to assist in getting that information clarified for BATCH counties.

- Medicaid Reimbursement schedule – Good news is that there will not be any Medicaid cuts in reimbursements this year. Fees effective in Nov 2009 are still in place.
- CC4C and PCM – funding will rollover that is earned by end of June. This depends on the County allowing this to occur. Leonard stated information from Danny Staley or Dr. Engel indicating that these funds can rollover will be helpful for local agencies.
- There was a question regarding PMPM audits and Danny Staley stated that if you are audited it is probably due to the Carolina Access care Network. He was unsure how private providers are handled. Gibbie stated that as Medicaid moves a consistent way for oversight needs to be addressed.
Dr. Engel stated that in non-profit when there is a surplus and this is connected to clinical outcomes. The local agency must show that the services to improve pregnancy outcomes were provided. If those services are not being provided there should not be a surplus of funds.
Danny added that the agreement of per member per month is a contractual agreement between DMA and CCMC. DPH does not have control over that contract.

Preparedness – Maggie Dollar

Committee still continues to work on the priorities for 2012, which include communications and Homeland Security. Discussed working on training on statewide trainings and exercises and the regional response approach. In December individual results on the Preparedness survey will be coming out.

Maggie gave a brief update on preparedness training assistance available from Dr. Rachel Wilfert - Dr. Rachel A. Wilfert is a research associate for training and education with the UNC Center for Public Health Preparedness. She is responsible for oversight of several UNC CPHP training and technical projects, including serving as the coordinator of the newly-funded Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center (PERLC). Her email is Rachel.wilfert@unc.edu

The committee is working on the grant application with the CDC for this next year. Another conference call will be scheduled for December.

Health Promotion/Oral Health – Dennis Joyner

- Fire/smoke alarms – will be distributed to high risk counties.
- Project Lazarus there was a presentation by Kay Sanford about the success in Wilkes County with this program that is designed to reduce drug overdoses through community based prevention.
- Tobacco Control – appeals court referred the Guilford County case to the NC Supreme Court. The NC Supreme Court refused to hear the case and determined that the smoking law is constitutional.

Accreditation/QI – John Morrow

- QI “cycle checklist” has been sent out. The list shows what counties should be doing after the accreditation process and before the re-accreditation process occurs.
- PHAB – John stated that it may be wise for NC to adopt the PHAB standards into the local health department accreditation system. This will require approval by the Accreditation Board and by the Commission for Public Health. Dr. Engel is inviting the Director of PHAB to the State Health Director’s conference in January. A one page brief is being prepared for the Association meeting in December.
- NACCHO has grants available to work with central and southern piedmont incubators.
- Six Community Health Performance measures:
 - o Percent of women who smoke during pregnancy
 - o Percent of live births where prenatal care begins in the first trimester
 - o Average number of critical violations by food stand or restaurant
 - o Percent of children age 1-5 enrolled in Medicaid to receive any Dental Service during the previous 12 months
 - o Adolescent pregnancy rate in females ages 17/1,000 population
 - o Cardiovascular disease mortality rate per 100,000 population

Five Health Departments are interested participating in a pilot of these measures: Buncombe, Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell, and Appalachian District. This will begin in January, 2012 and end by April, 2012.

Women & Children's Health Report – Bill Smith

- There were two handouts shared about CC4C and PCM – those updates will be sent out to Directors.
- Family Planning training – will be available in January. He thanked everyone for their staff meeting the requirements of the Title X trainings. However, this will need to be updated on a quarterly basis.
- VFC Program – Agencies need to be careful about the distribution of these vaccines. They should be used for only the children that meet the guidelines for this provided vaccine.
- Dr. Yeo – spoke about physical activity for pregnant women and a subsequent survey. (see attached documents)
- Question regarding OB codes – were delayed until October 1st.

Technology Committee – Layton Long

- ICD-10 Sandie Brooks providing information – implementation team met and are reviewing the information. One issue is for the training to be targeted for health department services. This will prevent time spent on information that does not pertain to health departments. Recommendation is to wait on purchasing the ICD-10 code book at this time.
- NCIR the interface problem with HIS – Division is working on developing the interface.
- Question was asked about price quotes from NetSmart for modules necessary for Meaningful Use for Clients for HIS. Those quotes have not been received by Joy to this date.

Epidemiology Committee – Roxanne Holloman

- Flu update – very little activity. Recently seven cases of Swine origin that have been linked to the 2009 H1N1 virus.
- State Fair E-Coli Update – 28 cases
- Lead Investigation in Buncombe County – Technical College in Asheville in one of their buildings. The College contacted the health department about this issue. There was widespread residue throughout the building. A firing range was housed in the bottom of the building - it was close the heat/air intake that went to the rest of the building. The building is closed at this time – recommendations for cleanup have been made.

Policy and Planning – Beth Lovette

- The NC Alliance for Health gave an update to the committee and shared their legislative priorities for 2012. At the top of the list is the secure full CDC recommended funding of evidence based tobacco prevention and cessation funding in NC. In 2007 that full funding would have been \$106 million dollars. The second priority is to secure at least 25% of maximum settlement agreement funds to fund evidence based tobacco prevention and cessation to improve health save healthcare costs. Next month the committee will discuss the legislative agenda items and look how the division can support some of these goals.
- Community Transformation Grants (see handout) Beth asked Dr. Ruth Peterson, MD, MPH, NC DPH, to report on the grant. The money will go to the Multi-County Collaboratives with an RFA that will be released on December 7th.
Dr. Peterson gave a brief summary of how health departments can participate. Agencies will need to identify the lead health department and the fiscal agent that will handle receipt and accountability for the funds. Letters of intent need to be submitted by mid-January, 2012.
Dr. Peterson questions from Directors about the process and the funding available. Members are encouraged to read the 11 strategic direction items from the CDC. From the discussion that was had a request for formal memorandums of understanding will be made between the counties so that there will be accountability.

Liaisons

NC Institute of Public Health – Dorothy Cilenti

- She asked the directors to be thinking about possible placement for the graduates from the Institute this summer.
- Send training requests through the local AHEC
- The Institute is doing research for the Community Health Assessments

Association of NC Boards of Health – Barbara Ann Hughes (see attached report)

Directors can contact Maura O'Donoghue at the Institute of Public Health to schedule Board of Health trainings at Maura_odonoghue@unc.edu

The 20th Annual NALBOH conference will be in Atlanta, GA August 8-10, 2012. Directors are encouraged to send local board of health members to this conference. Information about the convention is attached with the report.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 9:00 a.m., Cardinal Room, Six Fords, Rd., Raleigh, NC

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Douglas W. Urland
Secretary/Treasurer

DWU: mjk