

North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors
Association Business Meeting
March 16, 2017
NC DPH – Cardinal Room, 5605 Six Forks Road Raleigh, NC

Minutes

Meeting Called To Order – Dennis Joyner

Dennis Joyner called the meeting to order. Dorothy Cilenti is serving as the interim Health Director in Orange County. Denise Michaud is retiring August 1st.

Approval of Minutes – Janet Clayton

Motion to approve minutes of the February 15, 2017, was made and seconded; motion approved.

Treasurer’s/Financial Report – Janet Clayton

Motion to approve Treasurer’s/Financial report as of February 28, 2017, was made and seconded; motion approved.

President’s Report – Dennis Joyner for Jim Bruckner

- Minutes and financials will be emailed; however, the other attachments will be posted on the NCALHD website under the meeting date.
- All committee meeting information, including agendas, call-in number, and other documents, may also be found on the NCALHD website.

NC Division of Public Health Report – Danny Staley

Danny Staley was very excited to announce the completion of the team of section chiefs for the first time in four years. He introduced the following Section Chiefs: Dr. Sarah Tomlinson- Oral Health Section, Dr. Zack Moore- Epidemiology Section Chief and State Epidemiologist, Dr. Susan Kansagra-Chronic Disease and Injury Section, and Dr. Kelly Kimple-Women’s and Children’s Health Section.

- Legislative Update-
 - o Got Natural Milk Bill- Raw Milk Bill has been introduced.
 - o S131 Switches authority of electrical and plumbing inspections for wells to EHS. DPH will need health directors’ help with addressing the ramifications of this bill.
 - o Governor’s budget has been introduced. There are several positive funding items included such as, tobacco program funding, CDSA funding, focus on opioids, etc.
 - o The Legislature has requested information regarding the DPH and LHD relationship.

Danny thanked Marilyn Pearson for hosting Secretary Cohen at the Johnston County Health Department.

DPH is working on documentation for the State accreditation through PHAB. A one page summary of the “Process for State Health Assessment and Improvement Plan” was distributed. The areas that were focused on were obesity, nutrition and physical activity, unintended pregnancy, tobacco use, including e-cigarettes, infant mortality/perinatal health, and access to care. DPH is working with NCIPH on a public health grand rounds regarding opioid addiction. Allison Owen is the acting director of the Office of Rural Health. The jury is still out on Medicaid expansion.

State Environmental Health Report – Danny Staley

Larry Michael is at the Rules Review Commission (RRC) regarding the Engineer Option Permit rules. The permanent engineer option permit rules are being considered by RRC this morning. If approved, the rules will be effective April 1. Temporary rules remain in effect until then.

Legislative Update-

S24--Grill Bill- Sen. McInnins invited comments from us and seemed receptive.

H250--Body Art- This was discussed during policy subcommittee, and we will continue working with stakeholders to address our concerns. Primary issue is the practice of subdermal implantation. It's currently illegal and should remain that way. During the next EH subcommittee, Phil Thompson is going to provide an overview.

S131 Section 1.2 (Regulatory Reform Bill)- This bill includes a provision that makes the local health department the exclusive authority for permitting well systems, including plumbing and electrical. Plumbing and electrical inspection is beyond the scope of EH practice and should remain under local plumbing and electrical inspectors.

H259-Got Natural Milk. Strongly oppose. EH Section and Communicable Disease Branch are working with NCDA, who also oppose, and other stakeholders for unified opposition to this bill.

NC Division of Public Health Report – Phyllis Rocco

- New Catcher's Mitt- The Division is working on an internal solution to collect data. There will be a pilot in July. In the near future, counties will be able to forego uploading through batch interface. DPH will have a vendor meeting to discuss details in April. Cabarrus will be the pilot county. RFP will go out to replace the clinical data gathering system.
- Version 4- Billing and Coding document is available on the DPH website under billing and coding.
- Finance 101 and Billing 101 – There are five regional trainings beginning in May. The dates and locations are: 5/8- Haywood Co., 5/9-Cleveland Co., 5/11-Alamance Co., 5/16- Beaufort Co., and 5/17- Sampson Co. Trainings will be augmented with other monthly webinars.
- Please remember to request reimbursement for Principles and Practice of Public Health Nursing for \$400/nurse and for Management and Supervision training in the amount of \$600/per student per fiscal year. Information is on the NCIPH website. Registration is open for the courses.
- Adult Physical Assessment and STD trainings are offered twice a year. There will be increase in the cost of the courses.

Executive Director's Report – Lynette Tolson

- The Office of Rural Health's Community Health Center grant closes this Friday, March 17th.
- Lynette thanked everyone that has paid dues. If your county name is bolded, your dues have been paid. Please pay dues if you have not.
- Lynette attended the annual SACCHO meeting in Washington, DC. There was a suggestion to discuss opioid response. NACCHO's executive director has resigned. The NACCHO Board is regrouping prior to hiring. She met with staff of Sen. Burr, Sen. Tillis, and Congressman Hudson offices. She expressed concerns regarding the loss of Public Health Prevention funds. We need to follow the NACCHO action items and contact Congress members.
- BCBS of NC and United- If you have tried to contract with a private insurance company and have been denied, send the company name and denial reason to Lynette.
- Safety Net Advocacy Day. Thank you to the health directors that attended. Terrell Davis shared with the group her experience with legislative advocacy.
- The County Health Rankings will be released March 29th.

Government Relations Coordinator Report – Lynette Tolson

- Information will be covered in the Policy and Finance Committee report.

Partner Reports

NCAPHA Report – David Stanley

- All is going well.

NCPHA Report – David Jenkins

- Spring conference is May 16th, in Raleigh, at the North Raleigh Midtown. The capacity is limited to 150 attendees.
- The Spring Newsletter will be released on April 18th.

- The fall conference will be September 27-29 at the Crown Plaza in Asheville.
- NCPHA is creating a PH Leadership training program and is moving forward with the public health history documentation
- Care for Carolina spot- This will be aired during NCSPIN. The nonpartisan strategy is “Covering the Uninsured in North Carolina”.

ANCBH-Barbara Ann Hughes

- “Why Local Health Departments Need to Support and Join ANCBH” by Bob Blackburn was distributed. (See handout)
- Barbara Ann Hughes shared with NCALHD that ANCBH had received a request from Danny Staley, Maribeth Wooten, and Lynette Tolson, for ANCBH to change the location of its annual conference to another venue such as the fall NCPHA conference instead of during the annual State Health Director’s Conference due to time and space constraints. Barbara Ann requested that members let her know their thoughts via email. After discussion and to show support for this potential change, a motion to support ANCBH if it elects to move its conference to coincide with the fall NCPHA conference was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.
- There are four scholarships available for Board of Health members to attend the NALBOH annual conference in Cleveland, Ohio, August 2nd –August 4th. The conference theme is “Celebrating Innovations in Board Governance: The Past, Present, and Future”. There will be two presentations from North Carolina. This is the 25th anniversary year for NALBOH. (See handout)

EDNCPHA Report- Carolyn Moser

- EDNCPHA annual conference is April 26-28 at Atlantic Beach.
- There is a March 20th deadline for award nominations.

Committee Reports

Policy and Finance – Dennis Joyner

Action: Motion from Committee to form a workgroup to work on the Communicable Disease Plan; motion passed. Samantha Ange, Sue Lynn Ledford, and David Howard will serve on the committee along with Dr. Moore, DPH Communicable Disease consultants, and LHD Communicable Disease staff.

Motion from Region X action item presented by Scott Harrelson. Any funding adjustments that occur due to State changes and appropriations regarding Agreement Addendum shall be discussed in the NCALHD’s Policy and Finance committee before any funding changes are implemented. If, due to a demonstrated time constraint, this process would create an adverse situation for either the State or a funding source, then the information must at the minimum be shared with the Policy and Finance chairperson directly and immediately. Motion passed.

Information:

- 2017 Legislative Agenda-

- o **SB74-Update Current Rabies Control Laws in North Carolina-**
Rabies Bill- Sen. Davis from Macon SB74- Has been sent to Rules Committee; the bill is still supported but unsure why the bill has not moved further along, since there is no opposition. We may ask the NC Veterinarian Association to speak with Sen. Rabin to help move the bill along, or we may consider trying to get a companion bill introduced in the House that could give it additional momentum.
- o **Increase funding to PH to Address Rapidly Emerging Infectious Disease-**
See “Talking Points” that Lynette provided; review and provide comments to her ASAP.

Representatives have met with Senators Hise, Pate, and Krawiec, and they are supportive of the concept and funding. They did not foresee any opposition. This will be an appropriations request and not a separate bill. The main issues at this point are: 1) waiting on the budget targets which will be after April 15 (\$1 billion surplus anticipated) 2) Recurring funds will be more challenging to get than non-recurring. They understand the importance of recurring funding since one of the goals is to be able to hire Communicable Disease staff in local health departments. Sen. Hise would like to see a communicable disease plan and how that may be tied to technology (HIE, NC DETECT, NCEDSS, etc.) A full plan may be difficult to complete by the end of the session, but efforts will be made to get an executive summary of Communicable Disease efforts in LHDs prepared soon. When speaking with legislators, include local stories with expenses.

- **Restore all Funding from the Women’s & Children’s Health Block Grant to local public health-**
There are rumblings of more carve outs of the WCH Block Grant. Lynette encouraged contacting legislators to point out the importance of those funds at the local HD level.
- **HB250-Regulation of Body Art Industry-**
There’s a lot of support for this effort among legislators and NCACC; however, there are concerns from DPH primarily regarding 1) sub-dermal implanting which is a surgical procedure and is not within the scope or appropriate for EH regulating; prefer that practice be prohibited; 2) increased penalties should be in the Public Health remedies section and not within the text of the bill/law; 3) funding for such an expanded regulatory function is not included (training, etc.). Questions were raised about the extent of body piercings/body art as a public health concern. There has not been a lot of complaints that DPH is aware of. Concern was also voiced that such regulation and associated permitting costs could drive body artists “underground.” Efforts are underway to slow the bill down to allow improvements to be made and/or possibly study the issue further. Rep. Corbin is open to slowing the bill which goes to the House Finance Committee next.
- There is scheduled to be a LHD presentation to the Joint HHS Appropriations Committee on March 29. Areas that we are asked to address include: 1) what we need 2) what our relationship is with DPH 3) Medicaid Cost Settlement update, and 4) MCH Block grant activity update.
- **SB131- Regulatory Reform Bill** includes requiring EHS to inspect the electrical and plumbing from a well to the storage tank.

- **State and Federal Updates-Danny Staley**

- CDC is in the process of addressing a change in the action level for lead testing.
- A program research study report is being prepared on school nurse programs

- **LHD/DMA Billing group- Carolyn Moser**

- Reminded health directors of an email from Phyllis concerning various agency reports and training series that are available to assist with billing issues, working denials/error reports, etc. This should be given high attention by local departments. DMA is also developing training sessions that can be provided and a final document is in the works.

- The Joint Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee, DHHS- Affordable Care Act Repeal Impact, presentation will be forwarded by Lynette Tolson.

Planning and Innovation – Dennis Joyner

Action: None

Information:

- **“Transformation of NC Medicaid” by Carolina Complete Health Network presentation.**
Franklin Walker and Melanie Phelps, with the NC Medical Society presented an overview of Carolina Complete Health which is in development to be a patient-centered, physician-led, Medicaid managed care option that will compete for Medicaid service delivery under North Carolina’s Medicaid reform efforts. The NCMS is working with the North Carolina Community Health Care Association and Centene Corporation in this endeavor. See slide presentation and website for further details <http://www.ncmedsoc.org/carolina-complete-health/>
- **Safety Net Health System- Tim Gallagher**
Tim Gallagher with the NC Assoc. of Free & Charitable Clinics, followed up from last month’s presentation to request volunteers from the association to assist in the Safety Net Health System development process. Volunteers included: Scott Harrelson – Craven, Layton Long – Chatham, Sue Lynn Ledford – Wake, Dr. Marilyn Pearson – Johnston, Michael Rhodes – Greene, Dolly Clayton – Caswell, David Howard – Bladen, Jim Madson – Beaufort.
- **Health Career Connections Program-Thomas Luten**
Thomas Luten presented an overview of the Health Career Connection program which connects undergraduate students with paid internships in healthcare settings including public health departments. Internships are full time for 10 weeks and are funded at \$6,000 by the host organization. See attached information.
- **LHD Staffing & Services Survey – Eleanor Howell**
Eleanor Howell, with the State Center for Health Statistics, informed health directors that they would soon be receiving a local health department staffing and services survey by mail (hard copy) that will be due by May 1. It has been 4 years since the last survey, and questions will be similar to the NACCHO Profile of Health Departments that many counties completed in 2016. Eleanor will send the most recent NACCHO Profile summary data for N.C.

Preparedness/EPI – Lillian Koontz

Action: None

Information:

- Dr. Zack Moore shared that Hepatitis C testing is available through the end through 2017. Please consider risk factors when choosing patients to offer testing. Individuals with Medicare and private insurance are not eligible.
- Flu- Dr. Moore shared that according to the data from the CDC, individuals who did not have the flu shot are twice as likely to have the flu. Meaning, the flu vaccine is 50% effective. There are avian flu outbreaks in Tennessee and Wisconsin in the poultry population. There has been a genetic change in H7N9 in China.
- Dr. Moore, Evelyn Foust, CD Branch Head, and Chris Hoke share with the group proposed revisions to 10A NCAC 41A .0202 CONTROL MEASURES – HIV. The panel highlighted the embargoed proposal changes and asked for feedback from the group today and in the future.

Maternal & Child Health, Care Management and WIC – Stacie Saunders

Action: Motion from committee for a letter of support to adopt Consensus Statement on Oral Health during Pregnancy. Motion passed.

A motion was made from the floor to support a research study to further investigate the decline in WIC participation in North Carolina and how to improve the participation rates; motion was seconded; motion passed.

Information:

- **Oral Health during Pregnancy: Consensus Statement- Dr. Sarah Tomlinson**

Dr. Sarah Tomlinson stated that a task force had been formed to look at reduction of infant mortality and improving birth outcomes through an oral health lens. Task force, with health director representatives Dr. John Morrow (Pitt) and Gayle Harris (Durham), agreed to adopt the consensus statement with its focus on improving oral health of pregnant women. The Oral Health Section requested a Letter of Support from the Association for the Consensus Statement.

- **Childcare Health Consultant Presentation- Jacqui Simmons**

Ms. Simmons presented an overview and update on the Childcare Health Consultant program in NC. The presentation included various functions of the CCHC and funding models found within the state for the CCHC positions. Ms. Simmons discussed the certification process for CCHC staff. (Slides are attached).

- **WIC Review and Caseload Discussion: Maryanne Burghardt**

- Ms. Burghardt took a moment to recognize National Nutrition Month, March 2017. She also presented the FY 17 goals of the NC WIC program that included decreasing vendor fraud and abuse, assuring effective nutrition services, increases breastfeeding initiation, utilizing eWIC, achieving 90% of caseload in population of risk, etc. The full list of goals may be found in attached presentation.
- Ms. Burghardt discussed the caseload requirements for local health departments. Caseloads are determined based on past performance, and subsequently, WIC funding is determined by caseload compliance. Currently, WIC funding is allocated at a rate of \$15.75 per base caseload participant per month. Ms. Burghardt reported that in FY16 lapsed funds from local agencies totaled more than \$2 million which is roughly 24 out of 82 agencies lapsed > 5% of their total budget, and 9 of those 24 lapsed > 10% of their total budget. She shared that WIC participation levels have been decreasing steadily since 2012, and that this trend is following similar trends seen in the Southeastern region of the US and nationally. Ms. Burghardt reported that the category seeing the greatest reduction in participation and retention is children (i.e. after the 1st birthday).
- WIC has updated and increased outreach materials to support local health departments in reaching populations who are more likely to drop out of service. Following the presentation, there was discussion by WIC staff and members of the Association regarding current staffing requirements and rethinking the staff matrix for local agencies, strategies in meeting the needs of clients, the need for better understanding of the declining participation rates, and the need for exploring its effects on local allocations, etc.
- Bill Smith emphasized that nutritionists are not available in all areas, and during the committee meeting, the Branch committed to looking at different staff options. Stacie Saunders shared a response which she had received from Maryanne Burghardt stating that Ms. Burghardt had consulted the Federal regulations, and a health educator may qualify if they have had an emphasis in nutrition education. She will seek guidance from USDA.

Environmental Health – Dennis Joyner

Action: None

Information:

There were two presentations. Presentations will be posted.

- **Guidelines for Wild Mushroom Sales to Establishments- Pat Muse**
 - **Program Review & Quality Assurance- Teresa Davis**
- The presentation included examples of documentation.

Public Health Prevention & Promotion – Teresa Ellen

Action: The Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch proposed an annual award to be given to a county/city/town or community that has excelled in policy work to protect the public and workers from secondhand smoke. This award is a large picture of Mighty Mouse. The award is in memory of Sally Herndon's sister who passed away from cancer as a result of exposure to second hand smoke. Sally's sister played volleyball and her nickname was mighty mouse. This award has been given in the past to Durham County and they plan is to award it to Bessemer City in Gaston County this year.

The motion from Committee was for the NCALHD to adopt this as an official award to be given annually. The motion passed unanimously.

Information:

- **Controlled Substance Reporting System Presentation - Scott Proescholdbell**
Scott Proescholdbell and Mary Beth Cox from the Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Branch gave a presentation on the data available through the Controlled Substance Reporting System and how that data might be useful to Local Health Departments. (See attached).
- **Tobacco Prevention and Control Funding and Policy Updates- Pam Diggs**
Pam Diggs from the Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch, spoke on behalf of Sally Herndon. She reported the Governor's budget contains \$1 million in addition to the existing \$1.1 million in funds for the Quit Line. This will allocate \$750,000 for the Quit Line and \$250,000 for the You Quit two Quit program.

Pam also reported on HB 276 that was recently introduced in the House. This bill contains \$17 million for FY 17-18 and FY 18-19 for youth tobacco prevention and will include prevention efforts for the use of E-cigarettes. It will also include funding for a Youth Tobacco Prevention Coordinator for each of the Health Director Regions.

In addition, Pam reported the deadline for compliance with Smoke Free laws of the US Housing and Urban Development's Public Housing program is set for July 30, 2018. Pam encouraged all local health departments to have your health educators assist your county public housing program with this transition.

Nomination and Bylaws – Buck Wilson

Action:

Information:

- Did not meet.

Education and Awards – Suzanne Wright

Action:

Information:

- Did not meet.

Technology – Beth Lovette

Action: None

Information:

- **HIS Batch Interface Workgroup Recommendation**
This update was provided during Phyllis Rocco's update.

- **Health Insurance Exchange Update**

At this point, Health Insurance Exchange opt-out requests require a parent/guardian consent which is not consistent with NC law related to minor’s consent for certain healthcare services. The recommendation from DPH for the short-term is that LHDs stop exchanging data. There were several excellent points made about outside lab results exchanging, some vendors require that the patient go on-line to opt out, which doesn’t happen very often, and Dr. Pearson reported that when you are on the exchange, if the provider accesses a patient who is not assigned to that provider, a privacy message is presented. Options may include an IT solution from EHR vendors, or perhaps our public health attorneys and the HIE attorneys may determine that the risk is not significant. We’ll wait for updates from Bob Martin and Chris Hoke.

Other Comments

Public Health Regions

No action items.

Region 1	Elaine Russell	Region 6	Robert Wittman
Region 2	Marianna Daly	Region 7	Lisa Harrison
Region 3	Ann Absher	Region 8	Cris Harrelson
Region 4	Dorothea Wyant	Region 9	Shelia Davies
Region 5	Layton Long	Region 10	Davin Madden

Information:

Region 7- Lisa Harrison

- Information: Region 7 sent a letter to DPH Section Chiefs and Danny regarding managing regional grants such as CTG and MDPP. Lisa will share the letter. Danny and Section Chiefs have been open to suggestions and thoughts on improving the management. There will be training for consultants on roles of locals and state staff.

Liaison Reports

North Carolina Institute for Public Health – Rachel Wilfert

- The Ford Lecture will be held on April 27th at 6:00 pm at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.
- July 24 & 25- There will be an accreditation skills building workshop in Durham.
- There will be a new AAC training with NCPHA in the fall.
- NCIPH is continuing the director search.

County Health Rankings- Sue Lynn Ledford

Sue Lynn Ledford provided a summary of the February 28, 2017 County Health Rankings conference call. The participants were CHR staff- Julie (director), Marjorie Gibbons (Scientific lead), and Allie (community coach), and the NC Team: Phyllis Rocco, Eleanor Howell, Joy Reed, Scott Coleman, and Sue Lynn Ledford. The response to NCALHD 2016 letter: Concerns were shared with the Scientific Advisory Committee which includes 12 members from varied PH background, and the committee examined the concerns from NC (Dr. Bridger), and this is the response. The two primary issues were transparency and data sources.

- **Transparency issue response**
 - o Will be providing a Tool kit with talking points and FAQ’s
 - o Will be providing info on why ranks change. Advisement on focusing on the underlying determinates.
 - o Will be providing clarification on the BRFSS modeled data, how to use, and why caution is advised
- **Data Sources**
 - o Modeled data cautions – again discussed
 - o Establishing and communicating criteria for the methods to better understand the ranking measures
 - o If there’s a new measure, a better explanation will be provided upfront.
 - o Doing their best to find non-modeled data when available (due to variability of modeled data)

- Establishing how to best track progress at the local level
- Website will provide guidance.
- Also, voiced understanding of the implications and of the how communities receive the rankings. This year, methodology will not change from last year. They are working to stabilize measures over time to aid community in long term measures. Health factor measures will continue to change periodically as new knowledge is available on highly impactful factors.

Multi-county needs assessment- John Morrow

There is group in the east that is working on multi-county community health needs assessment. The group has made an alliance with the Foundation for Health Leadership and Innovation. There will be between 20-30 counties in the east participating. If you are interested, contact John Morrow.

Institute of Medicine's Health Analytics Task Force-John Morrow

They are trying to distill health measurements down to what should be reported by providers. The hope is that some measurements will be incentives to improve population health for providers and hospitals. The report should be out this summer.

Pitt County will be celebrating its 100th anniversary, 1917. There will be an open house/reception on April 7th.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting

April 20, 2017 9:30 a.m.

Location: DPH, Cardinal Room, 5605 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC