

**North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors**  
**Full Association Meeting**  
**Date: September 18, 2014**  
**Hilton Wilmington Riverside**  
**Wilmington NC**

**MINUTES**

**Meeting Called To Order:** 2:00 p.m...

**Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Motion to approve minutes of the August 21, 2014 meeting made and seconded; motion carried.

**Approve Treasurer/Financial Report:** Motioned to approve Treasurer/Financial Report made and seconded; motion carried.

**Welcome/Introductions/Departures/Recognition:**

- Welcome Stacy Saunders – Health Director for Alamance County

**President's Report – Buck Wilson for Doug Urland**

- Working with DPH to fine-tune transition within the Division
- Also soliciting information from the Association membership on new committee format. Leadership is going to send out a three to four question survey to let us know how you feel about this new model. There will be a section at the end of the survey for writing comments. We will also be creating an ad-hoc committee to review survey results. If you want to be on the committee please indicate on the survey and /or call one of the Association Officers to get your name on the list.

**NC Division of Public Health Reports**

**Director DPH - Penelope Slade-Sawyer:**

- Everyone in this room is an optimist – relatively kind hearted optimists – I am really honored to stand with you on so many issues.
- Continue to hear how good we are in North Carolina, but as I go to national meetings (i.e. ASTHO) I find we are not the only ones going through significant change
- The Secretary is a big supporter of public health; she wants us to do good things and is standing behind us as we move forward in this changing environment.
- Three dentists on staff now supervising our state regional dental hygienists.
- Hoping we are going to see good things coming out of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner. We will be at the legislature for a full day in the near future to push for continued support of this important office.
- Staff reductions; the Division is trying to take them from places that will do the least harm. We have notified the State Health Director that any further cuts will cause harm.
- Have put out another announcement for the leadership position Office of Minority Health. Belinda Pettiford is still the acting director.
- Close to having a ban on e-cigarettes on the DPH campus. Hope to have good news soon.

### **Administrative, Local, and Community Support - Danny Staley:**

- Thanks to Jill Moore and Chris Hoke as we begin to look at accreditation rules that need to be changed regarding governance structure with the emergence of new service model agencies (e.g. human services models) and drafting any necessary changes as some counties are having difficulties meeting governing structure requirements. Jill Moore commented that the reason for the change is counties where the health department is governed directly by county commissioners are unable to produce the evidence that site visitors were expecting to see based on current rules. This is creating a situation where some people might be saying we need to get rid of these rules if we can't accommodate them; that was what prompted the idea to change the rules... as little as possible and as simply as possible to keep a strong governing board structure and keep the rules intact. An additional comment was made regarding these changes specifically to be sure appropriate changes are made to board of health training materials.
- Thanks to Phyllis Rocco for managing to complete the 2011 Local Health Department Staffing and Services Survey completed and ready for distribution soon.
- Budget reduction exercises which DPH has undergone and will continue to undergo - \$16 mil. reduction is still ongoing and in play. State still does not have a certified budget and part of that includes federal block grant programs... Some of the \$2 mil programmatic reductions in MCG Block Grant funds are starting to show up now - approx. 4% in family planning, maternal health, healthy beginnings, pregnancy care management, genetics services, pediatric primary care are the big hits of that cut to counties - watch your county appropriations in the Aid to County Data Base... the WIRM for changes. There is a small increase in the federal block grant appropriation that DPH is working to finalize a plan for; this increase will hopefully go toward offsetting the legislative reduction by \$300,000 to \$500,000, it won't come close to equaling the reductions, but will hopefully help.
- Beginning to see some of the federal sequestration effects in some of the federal funding – e.g. BRFSS survey - regional data will be data impacted (Dr. Peterson is looking for other means of funding to reduce the impact of this change).
- New Infant Mortality data coming out this week.
- HIS batch county data reporting requirements – things are getting better... significant improvements in data reporting noted. Vendors have stepped up to fix data transfer issues.
- CC4C benchmark data out to individual counties – please review this information as it is there to help you manage your performance. DPH is looking at this information as are the folks at DHHS to determine need for possible realignment of these funds to those performing... could also be designated for cuts... please watch you numbers
- 10% holdback - hold-up is on getting individual claims reviewed by Medicaid (DMA). The Division (Dennis Williams) is pushing DMA hard to get this completed.

### **Local Technical Assistance & Training Branch – Phyllis Rocco:**

- Please call me (919) 707-5131 if you have any issues or concerns around local administration/finance, accreditation, community health assessment or SOTCH.
- Conducted a strategic planning session last week in Raleigh with the nursing and administrative consultants. We plan to make training more effective and use webinars when practical; however, some regional trainings will still need to take place face to face.

### **Environmental Health Section – Larry Michael:**

- Regulatory Reform Act – will become law on September 19 if not signed by the Governor. Once it becomes law EH Section will be sending out info to locals regarding impacts of changes.

- Food and Lodging risk based assessments: Since implementation of these new rules, compliance rates have gone up between 2007 and 2014 from 84% to 94% over the last five years. **See attached slide**
- Positions: Still working on filling regional F&L positions – these positions should be filled sometime in the next three weeks.
- CDC Grant – lead poisoning prevention – 49% of all children live in low-income housing and 31% of housing is still problematic. This year’s grant is about \$500,000 less than we thought it was going to be; however, it will fund two new epi positions, a health educator position under contract from UNC, and provide a small amount of funding for a single county we are working with to do some advanced lead work.
- OSWP – .1900 rules being pulled for review by the EH Section. Along with OSWP Branch staff, they will be inviting local staff to the table to aid in this review. Also, we do have a Commission for Public Health member who is going to lead a subcommittee to study the .1900 rules (George Sweet) this is something that worked out very well when we were looking at the food code adoption. We are hoping this group will help expedite acceptance of any suggested/proposed changes by the Commission for Public Health. This worked out well in adoption of the new food code rules.
- Tim Warren OSWP Branch has resigned and is going back to work for Wake County. In addition to filling Tim’s position we are also add an additional position to this program.
- Randolph County Mexican Grocery released a pesticide bomb in the store on a Friday evening. On return of the staff on Monday morning several were overcome by the pesticide – several were hospitalized. DPH Epi section and NCDA were notified and assessed the store and found levels of the pesticide which were hazardous to humans. The Randolph County Health Director issued an order of abatement of an imminent hazard. The store hired an environmental firm to do clean-up and resampling. The reason I am telling you this is it is a great example of how several major agencies can work together to protect the public’s health.

#### **Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch - Sally Herndon:**

- Federal Funding Announcement from CDC. This opportunity reflects a reduction over last year’s amount (approx. \$48,000 less) using the new formula the CDC wants used to determine state awards. This is a five year grant of \$1,623,000 mil annually. This is what used to fund project assist monies.
- The proposal I would like to put before the health directors today is to fund as many of the regions as possible. In two cases we don’t have sufficient funding to put a position in all regions therefore they will need to share one positions (Regions impacted are 1 & 2, and Regions 9 & 10) and I believe they are willing to do that for this purpose. So in this FFA I am proposing we put one representative in regions 1 & 2 to share, one in each of six regions (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8) and one representative in regions 9 & 10 to share. There is not a lot of funding to go around so this would be approximately \$80,000 for each region. This would leave only about \$70,000 for the state for operating costs which will help maintain most of the state staff, but would involve moving some position under a different funding source. **See attachment**
- Short discussion included a request from Carmine Rocco, Health Director for Haywood County to have further discussion with the Region 1 & 2 Health Directors about the impact of coverage regarding the proposed changes.
- Motion: Motion to support the proposal as presented was made and seconded; motion carried.

- Welcome to Wilmington – covered agenda/announcement
- Reviewed the addenda for this week's conference
- Hope you are registered for the 5K
- Starting a public health worker photo exhibit for next year's conference in – Charles McKenzie assisted by Jimmy Hines is putting it together – as we progress we will be coming to a health department near you soon for photo ops.
- Accreditation invoices went out several weeks ago; please pay as soon as possible if you have not already done so. If you can't find your invoice please call me to get a copy.
- New web site for Association coming soon... we now have a signed contracts
- We will be moving soon to the medical society building – we have to be out of our current location by the end of January – more to come in November, but will keep membership posted with updates about the move... stay tuned
- Legislative Committees: I sent health directors an e-mail about this last week. There are two legislative oversight committees. I had several people contact me for further information regarding the differences between the HHS oversight committee vs. the Health Program Evaluation Committee both are looking at restructuring of DMA.

### **Action/Information Items - Committee Reports**

#### **Nomination and Bylaws – Buck Wilson for John Morrow:**

##### **Action:**

- Presented the slate of officer for next year as per Association Bylaws to the Secretary.
- The nominations committee met September 12, 2014 to finalize the slate of officer for 2015. They are: President Elect – Colleen Bridger, Vice-President – Jim Bruckner, and Secretary/Treasurer – Dennis Joyner.
- If desired, nine active NCALHD members can present to the secretary, via petition, other names for any of the three offices.

##### **Motion: None**

##### **Information: None**

#### **Communications – Colleen Bridger:**

##### **Action/Motion: None**

##### **Information:**

- The NCALHD sent a letter out this past Monday in support of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health supporting tighter regulations on smoking in the workplace.

#### **Best Practice – Sue Lynn Ledford:**

##### **Action/Motion: None**

##### **Information: None**

#### **Core Public Health – Denise Michaud:**

##### **Action/Motion: None**

##### **Information: None**

#### **Nominations & Bylaws – John Morrow:**

##### **Action/Motion: None**

**Information: None**

**Education & Awards – Scott Harrelson:**

**Action/Motion: None**

**Information: None**

**Informatics – Dennis Joyner:**

**Action/Motion: None**

**Information: None**

**Community Health Improvement - Janet Clayton:**

**Action/Motion: None**

**Information: None**

**Partnership Development – Buck Wilson:**

**Action/Motion: None**

**Information: None**

**Policy Analysis & Development – Colleen Bridger for Lisa Harrison:**

**Action:** Presented 2015 legislative agenda for next year which has been e-mailed out to all health directors several time over the last week.

- Support the **expansion of Medicaid** in North Carolina to improve access to care, save lives, and increase funding for health care providers which in turn, saves and adds jobs
- Address local health departments' ability to **charge for well water testing** in migrant housing, childcare centers, and food and lodging facilities as part of the permitting and inspections process. Note: Currently, N.C.G.S. 130A-39(g), states that boards of health can only impose cost-related fees for services performed related to "Wastewater Systems", "Public Swimming Pools", "Tattooing"; and services performed pursuant to N.C.G.S. 87-97 "Permitting, inspection, and testing of private drinking water wells". (Alternatively, the state can continue to provide the water tests at no cost and LHDs can continue to provide the manpower at no cost.)
- Restore all funding from the **Women's & Children's Health Block Grant to local public health** in order to provide intended evidence-based programs in local communities for women and children
- Support the recommendation to **raise state tax on tobacco**, including electronic cigarettes to the national average
- Support the use of **Master Settlement funds** for the purpose of public health improvements in North Carolina, as originally intended.
- Prioritize sustainability of local **AID-to-County** funds for local health departments

**Motion:** Motion made to support the NCALHD 2015 legislative agenda as presented with a change to add Communicable Disease back onto the list made and seconded; motion carried.

**Information: None**

**Action/Information Items - Public Health Regions**

**Region I – Janice Patterson:**

**Action/Motion: None**

**Information: None**

**Region II – Jimmy Hines:**

**Action/Motion: None**

**Information: None**

**Region III - Ann Absher:**

**Action/Motion: None**

**Information: None**

**Region IV – Dorothea Wyant:**

**Action/Motion: None**

**Information: None**

**Region V – Merle Green:**

**Action/Motion: None**

**Information: None**

**Region VI – Tommy Jarrell:**

**Action/Motion: None**

**Information: None**

**Region VII – Chris Szwagiel:**

**Action/Motion: None**

**Information: None**

**Region VIII – Wanda Robinson:**

**Action/Motion: None**

**Information: None**

**Region IX – Jerry Parks:**

**Action/Motion: None**

**Information: None**

**Region X – Davin Madden:**

**Action: None**

**Information:**

- We would like to make a motion regarding the current committee structure. Even though there are successes in the current committee structure there are some critical things that are not happening in the meetings as far as the way information is being conveyed and the inclusion of people and other things that are not part of our discussions.

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**Motions:**

- Motion: Motion was made that the association leadership shall realign the committee structure by December 2014 to consist of no more than six committees in residence and each committee be clearly defined by core public health programs in alignment with

funding criteria; such as, for consideration: Environmental Health, Informatics, Policy/Communications, Best Practices, Health Promotion/Core Public Health, and Women/Child Health.

(This motion does not exclude the development of, or continuation of, additional committees that meet normally by phone conference, on an interval as needed basis; such as Nominations and Bylaws, Preparedness, etc.)

Prior to any discussion an additional motion was made to table the aforementioned motion until a survey of the association membership and its partners is completed and the results of the survey are received, analyzed, and understood. Motion seconded, motion carried.

### **Liaison Reports**

#### **NC Institute of Public Health – Anna Schenck:**

- See attached memo

#### **ANCBH – Barbara Anne Hughes:**

- Thank you to all who paid dues for this year
- See attached comments

#### **Snowden Company, LLC - Terri Snowden:**

- On line risk management tools were added to our renewals, please send Terri the name of your POC for your departments risk program ASAP.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:36 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** October 16, 2014

**Location:** Cardinal Room - DPH, 5605 Six Forks Road, Raleigh.