

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

Minutes

Meeting Called To Order – Jim Bruckner

Mr. Bruckner convened the meeting at 9:30 am. Mr. Bruckner inquired if there were any new or retiring health directors. Emily Naylor of Stokes County, Margaret Brake of Warren County, and Battle Betts of Albemarle Regional Health Services introduced themselves as new health directors. Mr. Bruckner thanked Dr. Colleen Bridger for her leadership and insight over the years and wished her good luck with her new position in San Antonio.

Approval of Minutes – Janet Clayton

Motion to approve minutes of the January 18, 2017, meeting was made and seconded; motion approved.

Treasurer's/Financial Report – Janet Clayton

Motion to approve Treasurer's/Financial report as of January 31, 2017, was made and seconded; motion approved.

President's Report – Jim Bruckner

- Please encourage your Board of Health to send a letter regarding the ACA and the public health dollars which are included in the ACA. The Macon County Board of Health's letter was emailed to everyone.
- Reminder- Send Steven Garner your paid claims report for 2016. He has not received the paid claims report from several counties.
- DMA is still working on 2013 Cost Settlement. Secretary Cohen has asked for this to be expedited and to be resolved. DMA will be directly contacting the health directors of the eight health departments for more information in order to complete cost settlements. Those counties are Forsyth, Alamance, Guilford, MTW, Mecklenburg, Pender, Robeson, and Wake.
- New Committee Appointees-
 - o To review the Health Rankings with DPH and the University of Wisconsin Population Health- Sue Lynn Ledford
 - o NCACC Opioid Meeting in a Box- Lillian Koontz
This is a pilot program that will kick off in Davidson County on 3/31. There will be an actual box sent to the County Manger's office. The idea is to bring local elected officials to the table to discuss the opioid problem in each county.
- NCALHD Officers had a meeting with Secretary Cohen on February 15th. We talked with her about the need of local health departments for the funding of infrastructure for the local communicable and emerging disease response. We asked for her support for our \$7.5 million request to the legislature. We talked about the NC Health Rankings, and what we felt was important to the Association. After meeting with the Secretary, the officers met with Mark Benton to further discuss priorities and concerns.

Secretary of the NC Dept. of Health & Human Services- Dr. Mandy Cohen

- The Department is forming a new team and reviewing values.
 - o Knowing who our boss is and who to focus on, which is the public that we serve. The decisions that are made impact all individuals.
 - o The second focus is "How we work and how we work as a team." We do a lot of problem based teamwork. Communication and transparency are of utmost importance. Communication is a lot more listening rather than talking and taking critical feedback. Transparency includes sharing data even when uncomfortable. Bringing joy to your work. How we can do that for our team?
 - o Also, another priority is being good stewards of resources through prioritization and strategic planning.
- Opioid crisis is not just a crisis in public health, but also, touches our partners as well. Now, there is great universal awareness. You will see major investments in treatment and prevention. Secretary Cohen will be interacting with her colleagues regarding properly prescribing opioids.

- Medicaid- how do we use the payment levers? How are we going to get measurements into Medicaid?
 - o Delivering physical and mental health as a holistic approach.
- Early childhood development and education is a high priority for the Governor and the Department.
- Secretary Cohen asked the health directors, “What can the State do better?” The following concerns/comments were shared:
 - o Concerns were expressed regarding the 2013 Cost Settlement, which was a year of transition. Is there any way that Medicaid dollars could be used to offset the paybacks from locals specific to the 2013 Cost settlement?
 - o In regards to early childhood education, there is a workgroup in Guilford County, which has done extensive research regarding early childhood education. Merle Green will invite Secretary Cohen to attend a workgroup meeting.
 - o New Hanover County will be holding forums the end of March with UNC-W to discuss the state of health in New Hanover County which will include an opioid discussion.
 - o We are very fortunate to have the leadership and the team of DPH available for assistance.
 - o HIS Catcher’s Mitt- NCGS requires data reporting. DPH requires the use of HIS batch interface, and it is not working. A year ago, we were discussing this, and the RFP still has not been released. We are on the same page regarding the importance of data, and it is not from lack of mutual goals.
 - o Are we bound by federal and state restrictions that would prohibit our ability to change our system to truly address population health? We are guilty of chasing reimbursement dollars and forming programs around the dollars instead of being able to make programmatic adjustments to better fit the populations that we serve. Do you think it is possible? Secretary Cohen stated that there is an opportunity to create incentives that will incentivize providers to deliver care that will better address population health.
 - o There is a lack of congruency between mental health and public health initiatives around opioid responses.
 - o The routine CD issues are overwhelming on a daily basis not just when a new disease emerges.
 - o There seems to be feelings that our hands are tied, and innovation is not allowed or is seemingly penalized in regards to the Medicaid Cost Settlement. There needs to be a more cohesive plan in place.
 - o Forsyth County is experiencing the lowest infant mortality rate in recent years through PCM, CC4C, Nurse Family Partnership, and other programs.

NC Division of Public Health Report – Danny Staley

- Asked for each of us to remember Dr. Thad Wester and his work.
- **Vector Control Program Highlight-**
 Evelyn Foust provided an update on the expansion of the Communicable Disease Branch. She expressed appreciation for the support of both Danny Staley and Larry Michael in reestablishing the Vector Control Program.
 - o Dr. Michael Doyle has previous experience in and vast knowledge of mosquito control programs. Contact information: michael.doyle@dhhs.nc.gov, 919-733-3419
 - o Dr. Alexis Barbarin is a resource for bedbug issues, ticks, and other vector issues and will back up Michael. Ticks are #1 in NC for vector borne diseases transmission. One of her initiatives is TICC- Tick Identification and Collection Coalition and hopes to partner with local individuals for tick dragging. Contact information: alexis.barbarin@dhhs.nc.gov, 919-546-1623
 - o Dr. Carl Williams stated the program will strive to bring national recommendations to the local level and assist with control program implementation.
- There will be a letter sent from the Secretary which will model the surgeon’s general letter pertaining to prescriber guidance and opioids that was featured with the MMWR last year.
- Legislation- Helmet bill is active again. S74- Rabies Compendium has been introduced by Senator Davis, and we are waiting on the Governor’s budget.
- Reminder- Review unspent money in the WIRM and draw down as appropriate.
- Scott Zimmerman has sent out a letter regarding lab requisitions. Be sure to include NPI number for payment purposes on all lab requisitions. Please distribute memo to appropriate personnel.
- Leadership Institute is at capacity. The plan is to have at least another round or two due to the interest.
- Recognized Sally Herndon for receiving the UNC Distinguished Alumni Award.

NC Division of Public Health Report – Phyllis Rocco

- There is a plan to have a CHA academy in January 2018, and there will be a cost associated with it. There will be an ad hoc committee formed to revise the model and improve the process of the CHA.
- Kathy Dail will be the champion for the new CHA process. There was a request for at least 2 health directors to volunteer for the committee.
- Reminder- WIRM password reset will not happen after 3:00 pm. Requests received after 3:00 pm will not be addressed until the next day. Multiple users cannot use the WIRM at the same time. Let your administrative consultant know if you are having WIRM issues. There were concerns voiced by health directors about the lack of time between the monthly closeout of counties and the due date of the WIRM. Phyllis suggested adjusting expenditures the next month.

State Environmental Health Report – Larry Michael

- Wild Mushroom Committee Update -trying to make it legal. Foraging rules have been drafted. There are 500 species in NC that can be eaten. Restaurants serving wild mushrooms are increasing tremendously, and the committee has put together guidance and documentation to help ensure that wild mushrooms served in permitted food establishments are from an approved source and are safe. The Committee has:
 - o Developed a verification form for foragers.
 - o Twenty species will be allowed.
 - o A mushroom verification tag (similar to shellfish) must be completed by the forager, and the restaurant must maintain for at least 30 days.
 - o A Position Statement will be released, and this will be added to the next EH Committee agenda for additional overview and discussion.
- At the February 8th Commission for Public Health, the following rules were approved:
 - o Lodging Rules were approved. Changes were made to ensure consistency with the Food Code (e.g., person-in-charge, certified food protection manager, employee health, handwashing) and to update public health protection standards, since the General Assembly passed a law providing that B&B Inns may serve three meals/day. This also combines the Lodging, B&B Inn, and B&B Home rules into a single set of Lodging rules. The rules go to the Rules Review Commission (RRC) in March, and the proposed effective date is April 1.
 - o Engineer Option Permit (EOP) rules were adopted as “permanent rules”. The temporary rules have been in effect since June 1, 2016. Proposed effective date (after RRC review) is April 1. To date, 110 Notices of Intent have been received and only about 12 have completed the process. Most EOP work is associated with subdivisions and primarily within three counties.
- S11- Regulate Pesticide Application in Restaurants. Proposes to require pesticide application only during hours the restaurant is closed. No public health concerns for this bill.
- S24- Allow Restaurants to Use Outdoor Grills. Allows permitted establishments to prepare food on an outdoor grill with a semi-permanent cover. A semi-permanent cover will not effectively prevent the presence of insects and rodents and grills may be used in unsecured areas posing a risk of injury and increased potential for food tampering. The EH Section is hoping to clarify concerns and interpretation issues with amendments to the bill.
- Working on funding to expand the Lead program through CHIP funding.

Executive Director’s Report – Lynette Tolson

- Community Health Center grants are out. Applications are due on March 17th. These grants are for safety net organizations that provide primary care and oral care. The Office of Rural Health receives \$7.5 million in recurring State funds for these grants. There is a request to increase the grant amount to \$15 million. There is a Legislative Advocacy Day scheduled for 2/21 for safety net providers. Representatives from Wilkes, Craven, Edgecombe, and MTW will be present for the 7:30 am breakfast with legislators.
- NCALHD leadership met last week with DPH leadership to discuss the Legislative Agenda of both groups.
- Lynette will attend the annual SACCHO meeting. Let her know if there are topics that you would like for her to share on our behalf. There was a suggestion to discuss opioid response.
- There was a County Listing of State and Federal elected officials sent out last week.

- Invoices were sent out two weeks from NCALHD. If you have not received your invoice, let Lynette know. This is for 6 months. There will be another invoice sent out the end of May for a full year of dues.
- NCPHA Advocacy Meeting is scheduled for 5/16 before regular NCALHD mtgs. The Hilton will honor the conference rate for NCALHD mtgs. The rate is \$139/night.
- Reminder- The UNC School of Government's Annual Health Directors' Legal Conference will now be held June 7-8 at the UNC School of Government. In April, NCALHD will have committee meetings on April 19 and the full association meeting on April 20 in Raleigh.

Government Relations Coordinator Report – Buck Wilson

- S74- Rabies Compendium- Senator Jim Davis has submitted the bill.
- Tobacco 21 will not be pushed this session. There was a suggestion to make information available on the effectiveness of Tobacco 21 in other states.
- There was a recommendation for the legislative priority document to be a living document and update as changes occur. Buck will work with Lynette on updating this document.
- There will be an Opioid Bill. There has been a lot of emphasis on opioid response.
- NCACC is working on the introduction of a bill to address body piercing and enhancement of body art. This is part of the NCACC legislative agenda but is not in their top 5. Jim Bruckner has written part of the bill for NCACC. Language includes making the penalty stronger for illegal tattooing.
- Expansion of Medicaid- We do support.

Partner Reports

NCAPHA Report – David Stanley/Buck Wilson

- There is a meeting after the NCALHD meeting today.

NCPHA Report – Josh Swift, David Jenkins

- Spring conference is on May 16th, in Raleigh. The capacity is limited to 150 attendees.

EDNCPHA Report- Carolyn Moser

- Conference is April 26-28 at Atlantic Beach.

Committee Reports

Technology – Beth Lovette

Action: None

Information:

- A Batch Interface/Reporting update was provided by Phyllis Rocco and Herman Gettes. The new BL202 report is more user friendly for working errors by client. The HL7 interface RFP has not been released after over a year of discussion.
- There was a Security Risk Assessment presentation by Clyde Hewitt of Cynergis Tek. The industry's recommendation is for the risk assessment to be performed prior to budget cycle to allow for budgeting of needed improvements. The largest penalties result from entities not having risk assessments completed.
- Consider putting the use of HIE on hold due to the minor's consent state laws. The HIE opt out for patients is all out or all in which is not best practice for minor's consent.

Policy and Finance – Dennis Joyner

Action: Motion for NCALHD to be a part of the proposed safety-net health system development and for the executive committee to review and vet the system's outcome measures as they are developed. Motion passed.

Motion for NCALHD to make a one-time contribution of \$5,000 to the effort. Motion passed with 2 opposed.

Motion for NCALHD to seek a legislative request for \$7.5 million in new and recurring state funding for local health departments to increase our ability to respond to communicable and emerging infectious diseases. Motion passed.

Information:

- Tim Gallagher and Randy Jordan with the NC Association of Free and Charitable Clinics provided a presentation on the development of a safety-net health system in NC. (See slides.)
- An update on the DMA/NCALHD quarterly technical assistance meeting was provided by Carolyn Moser. (See attached report.)
- In support of the legislative priority to “increase funding to local health departments to address rapidly emerging infectious diseases”, the NCALHD officers recommend to seek a legislative request for \$7.5 million in new and recurring state funding for this purpose.
- Advocacy meetings may be scheduled next month with legislators. If you are interested in attending, let Lynette know.

Planning and Innovation – Steve Smith

Action: None

Information:

- Berkeley Yorkey, Associate Director of NCIOM, provided a presentation on “Public Health and the NCIOM Task Force on All Payer Claims Database”. (See slides.)

Preparedness/EPI – Lillian Koontz

Action: Motion for NCALHD to send a letter of support to the CDC to continue funding grant proposals for emergency preparedness. Motion passed.

Information:

- Cory Roberts shared a presentation regarding “Healthcare Preparedness Coalitions”. (See slides.)

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

Action: None

Information:

- Phyllis Rocco stated that due to a request from the legislature, there was a study of school nurses. The findings will be coming soon. There was a discussion regarding certifications of school nurses hired by LHD, due to the low number that is certified in comparison to those hired by the LEA. DPH is working on a training plan for the school nurses hired through LHDs.
- Leslie de Rosset provided an overview of the “Improving Community Outcomes for Maternal and Child” funding, also known as, MCH2.5. Five entities were awarded these funds- Appalachian Health District, Durham, Mecklenburg, Richmond Collaborative, and Robeson. There are three aims in the grants - Improve birth outcomes, reduce infant mortality, and child health outcomes. All counties involved are working on access and utilization of LARCs to improve birth outcomes. There is some variance in the other two aims as to which strategies the counties are using, but some include tobacco cessation, breastfeeding, and Triple P. They are looking at work works in these counties, and then will help implement in other counties the future since counties get capped at 3 years of funding. (Handout attached.)
- Dr. Sarah Tomlinson provided an Oral Health Section Update. There will be an Oral Health Conference on 5/10-5/12 at Wrightsville Beach. A grant writing workshop will be included. Additionally, the OHS is working on a session at Fall NCPHA that will include a presentation on safety net profitability to help health department dental clinics become more budget neutral or revenue positive. We will be sending out a survey to solicit feedback as to what LHDs would like to hear about in terms of safety net profitability in order to tailor the presentation. Lots of energy in the OHS around new components of their preventative services including new perinatal oral health program - based on the “Into the Mouths of Babes”...OHS will be piloting “Into the Mouths of Moms”. At the March meeting, Dr. Tomlinson will present the National Consensus Statement (attached) as the Oral Health Practice Guidelines for NC.

Environmental Health – Andy Smith

Action: None

Information:

- Sandy Mort, Environmental Toxicologist with the Division of Waste Management presented on the “Short-Term Inhalation Action Levels for Trichloroethylene (TCE)” (See slides.)
- Dean Grantham of DEQ provided information regarding the “Well Permitting Decision Tool”. The tool will be a web based and will rollout midsummer this year.

Public Health Prevention & Promotion – Teresa Ellen

Action: None

Information:

- Sally Herndon of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch reported that a proposal had been submitted to EPA for \$20,000 to provide training for health departments to perform indoor environmental asthma triggers and would like to provide seed money for those health departments who have staff to do the assessments but need funds to get started.
- Survey will be sent out early next by Sally Herndon about current services that are being offered in relation to asthma trigger assessments.
- There will be a social marketing campaign celebrating the 7th anniversary of the NC Smoke Free Law, “Things You Love about NC”. Sally asked health departments to follow DPH on Twitter and to retweet the messages.

Nomination and Bylaws – Buck Wilson

Action:

Information:

- Did not meet.

Education and Awards – Susan Wright

Action:

Information:

- Did not meet.

Other Comments

Public Health Regions

No action items or information.

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

Liaison Reports

North Carolina Institute for Public Health – Amy Belflower Thomas

- NCPH Leadership Institute- There were 48 applications received, and 18 individuals were selected. The program will kick off in Chapel Hill on 3/29.
- An accreditation update webinar was held with over 150 participants. On March 1st, the 90-day notifications will go out for the next cohort of health departments due for reaccreditation. These departments include Anson, Catawba, Craven, Granville-Vance, Harnett, Lenoir, Macon, and Stanley. There has been a training/planning committee formed. There will be a skills building workshop this summer. The Ford Lecture will be held on April 27th at 6:00 pm at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

ANCBH – Barbara Ann Hughes

- There are four scholarships available for Board of Health members to attend the NALBOH 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.
- The *Newsbrief* will be distributed electronically instead of hard copies to reduce costs.
- NALBOH invoices were sent electronically in October and are now being sent via US Mail.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting

March 16, 2017 9:30 a.m.

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