

**North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors**  
**Association Business Meeting**  
**January 17, 2018**  
**Public Health Leaders Conference – Crabtree Marriott, Raleigh, NC**

**Minutes**

**Meeting Called To Order – Dennis Joyner**

President Joyner convened the meeting at 1345.

**Approval of Minutes – Stacie Saunders**

Motion to approve minutes of the December 21, 2017, meeting was made and seconded; motion approved.

**Treasurer's/Financial Report – Stacie Saunders**

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

**President's Report – Dennis Joyner**

It was a cold and snowy afternoon as President Joyner made his way to the podium for his inaugural address to the association. The January chill did not deter the warm welcome to the association and gratitude for those who joined the meeting. President Joyner implored new and retiring health directors alike to make their presence known before the association.

The association recognized Beth Booth in her new role as health director in Graham County. President Joyner mentioned that Joey Huff in Lenoir County is retiring at the end of January 2018 and may continue in an interim capacity until fully appointed replacement is identified.

President Joyner posed to the association a formal statement regarding the Gen X issue. Bill Smith (Robeson County) drafted a resolution statement from NCALHD stating support of DPH and DEQ's efforts to better monitor environmental health risks. President Joyner presented the motion to the association for consideration.

**ACTION: A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Michael Rhodes (Greene County) and second was made by Sheila Davies (Dare County).**

President Joyner called for any discussion. John Rouse (Harnett County) wanted clarity about the language regarding funding and inquired if the statement referred to new funding as opposed to redirecting current funding which would not be optimal. President Joyner confirmed that the language in the statement reads "additional funding".

**President Joyner called the vote and motion passed with no objections.**

After the vote, Beth Lovette inquired if the voted resolution now makes the item a legislative agenda item. President Joyner stated that it will become a legislative support item.

President Joyner shared that he has established the MCO Ad Hoc subcommittee and shared the initial members of the Ad Hoc committee. President Joyner stated that the committee has met twice and shared the primary charge of the committee was to create shared and aligned contract language for pending transition to MCOs. President Joyner then described the evolution of the committee's purpose. President Joyner described the broader scope of the committee which includes three goals: 1. Shared and aligned MCO contract language with a basic template, 2. Communication plan for NCALHD when engaging DHHS particularly in influencing anticipated rules of engagement in transformation, and 3. Strategic advocacy plan for general assembly support of Public Health infrastructure. The primary goal is to have aligned, shared and consistent messaging for all the stakeholders with whom the association must engage in order to sustain public health funding. Sue Lynn Ledford (Wake County) reiterated that this broader plan incorporates how local health departments talk to not only MCOs but also local boards and state legislators. Layton Long (Chatham County) added that NCALHD historically has not defined a shared vision or a consistent need to support public health. Danny Staley (DPH) stated that he is excited to hear of this plan. Danny Staley (DPH) also stated that Medicaid is not interested in paying for the public health infrastructure, rather they are interested in paying for health services to the Medicaid population. Danny Staley (DPH) stated that he and staff are communicating up to the DHHS Secretary about the importance of core Public Health particularly in communicable disease. President Joyner obtained consensus to include the broader scope to the committee.

President Joyner thanked the association committee chairs for serving. Additionally, he informed the association that Janet Clayton (Person County) can navigate items to committees if there is uncertainty regarding the best fit for the item. Beth Lovette (DPH) is working on a DPH liaison list that aligns with each NCALHD committee to improve communication.

**NC Medical Society – Opioid Pilot – Lynette Tolson**

Lynette Tolson introduced Franklin Walker of the NC Medical Society. Franklin Walker described the pilot grant project that is a partnership between NC Medical Society and Centene. Franklin Walker stated that the goal is to begin pilots in February 2018 and

acknowledged the ambitious timeline. Franklin Walker went on to further describe the potential pilot which will vary amongst counties but may include TeleMed occurring in the health department. The goal of the pilot is to utilize a trusted agency, such as the local health department, as an entry point for assessment and treatment. Lynette Tolson provided additional description of the pilot theory including the basic function the health department would play including as a convener, a bridge, and facilitator in the project. Counties with a larger inventory of Behavioral Health services may have a larger role if they so choose. Franklin Walker stated that they are interested in implementing at least five (5) pilot sites. Interested counties can contact Lynette Tolson and will then be connected to NC Medical Society for further discussion.

### **NCDPH Division Director Report- Danny Staley**

Danny Staley introduced Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Fitzgerald stated that public health happens locally and that public health is strongest when there is a coordination between the Federal, State and Local arms. Dr. Fitzgerald informed the association that she spoke with Secretary Cohen earlier about public health concerns in North Carolina. She then implored the audience to provide her with comments and questions regarding the on-the-ground concerns facing local health departments. Sheila Davies (Dare County) inquired about Dr. Fitzgerald's insight on the opioid epidemic. Dr. Fitzgerald stated that the opioid crisis is a federal priority and she talked about the common defense concept that includes the CDC. The CDC published a report detailing the at-risk opioid counties in the nation and Dr. Fitzgerald mentioned two in Kentucky that were experiencing an increase in opioid related deaths as well as an increase in Hepatitis C transmission. Danny Staley mentioned that three at-risk counties were represented today. Sue Lynn Ledford (Wake County) shared another concern regarding the integration of various public health funding streams. Dr. Fitzgerald stated that she is at the "looking at ideas" stage of this. Sue Lynn Ledford (Wake County) voiced the challenges of the various streams and how they contradict the rules of other funding streams. Dr. Fitzgerald stated that she would like to know specific examples and please submit to Danny Staley so that she can share with federal colleagues. Dr. Fitzgerald also stated that she would like to know about best practices that are working in counties. Jim Bruckner (Macon County) invited Dr. Fitzgerald to visit western NC which is only 1.5 hours from CDC to see what rural local health departments look like in NC and observe the magnitude of the various issues and how they affect rural NC (like opioids). After determining that that the rural area of interest was not Cashiers but rather Franklin (please note, that Dr. Fitzgerald stated she had a house in Cashiers and also established that she had offspring in Hendersonville...no mention was made of these aforementioned familiarities in the town of Franklin), Dr. Fitzgerald expressed reciprocated interest in a visit and went on to discuss the interventions in rural Georgia including telehealth, expansion of services specific to workforce population (like dermatology services). Lynette Tolson (Executive Director) stated that the funding of the infrastructure for public health is essentially gone which then hinders the ability to implement evidence based or best practice interventions. Dr. Fitzgerald expressed agreement with that statement and went on to explore the historical use of the Prevention Fund. She also informed the association that she has been talking with legislators not just about saving the Public Health and Prevention Fund but rather to save actual Public Health. She went on to discuss the importance of having competency based principles and approaches to supporting public health. Dr. Fitzgerald provided examples from the recent Zika response in which the CDC faced challenges when they discovered they only had one entomologist when Zika was identified in United States. Danny Staley added that North Carolina had eradicated those positions and the state was faced with reestablishing those positions. Beth Lovette (NC DPH) wanted clarity about what Dr. Fitzgerald meant by competency based. Dr. Fitzgerald clarified that it is based on your ability to function when an intervention is then implemented (this could be workforce capacity, etc). Beth Lovette expressed curiosity regarding if the CDC in the future will fund or support programming. Dr. Fitzgerald replied that the main function for CDC is surveillance and then provided examples of innovation like autism that incorporated the hub and spoke model to better address the issue. She expressed that this is an example of the intersection of providing services and engaging in synergy. Danny Staley then added that uptake of provision of care varies across the state and the benefit of tailoring that comes to decentralization. Davin Madden (Wayne County) shifted and described the preparedness funding where funds expand and shrink based on the current climate and LHDs have a good relationship with emergency management because we have historically have had money at the table and we are more welcomed. Davin Madden asked if there were funding requirements that emergency management partner with LHDs instead of LHDs always coming to Emergency Management. Dr. Fitzgerald was not clear on the answer but was deeply intrigued by the question.

Beth Lovette (DPH) asked the association that if health directors are getting ready to retire, please notify DPH so they can begin qualification dialogue with local staff. This is to reduce the likeliness of LHDs of beginning interviews with folks who are not qualified. Beth Lovette also stated that DPH would like to have a better understanding of the payer mix in local health departments particularly for state lab services. Beth will be asking LHDs to run a report of the state labs performed in the local health department minus the immunizations. Beth Lovette stated she would like for officers to test that survey first and will be sending it out within the next few days to test. Beth Lovette stated that there is urgency as a report will be presented to the General Assembly in March 2018.

### **Presentation by Aetna – Lynette Tolson**

Lynette Tolson introduced Fran Lucivero from Aetna. Fran Lucivero stated that Aetna wants to be part of our Public Health family (cue Sister Sledge, B Side of NCALHD soundtrack, liner note credit to Doug Urland). Fran Lucivero provided an introduction to Aetna. There are four components to Aetna which include Integrity, Excellence, Inspiration and Caring. Also, she shared current map of Aetna Medicaid coverage areas. Fran Lucivero described the Cliff Analogy and the thinking at Aetna around non-health

interventions and their incorporation in order to truly improve a person's life. There is a strong emphasis on Whole Person Care at Aetna which goes beyond the physical health services and incorporates the root causes of poor health outcomes. Fran Lucivero then described the contracting mechanisms at Aetna which includes a (1) non-binding letter of intent and then (2) provider services agreement. Currently, Aetna is in the letter of intent phase of the process. President Joyner described the decentralized nature of public health in North Carolina which allows for local health directors to handle contracting authority (this varies across the state). Lynette Tolson asked about how Aetna addresses the uninsured within a population. Fran Lucivero stated she was not aware of what Aetna is doing for the uninsured. She did express that the company can incorporate other added benefits beyond those required in the RFP if found to be a value added benefit for population.

**NC DHHS Chief Medical Officer/State Health Director Report- Dr. Betsey Tilson**

Not present

**NCDPH Technical Training and Assistance Branch Report- Phyllis Rocco**

Phyllis Rocco (DPH) reported that the Consolidated Agreement and Agreement Addenda packets will be mailed out to local health departments around February 8, 2018. Phyllis Rocco informed the association that the deadline for returning the Consolidated Agreement and Agreement Addenda is April 16, 2018. Phyllis Rocco emphasized that even if a local health department is not accepting funds they must submit the agreements back to the state with signature and language that funds are not being accepted. She also reiterated that until the Consolidated Agreement is signed, DPH cannot act on the subsequent Agreement Addenda. President Joyner inquired as to whether local health departments would get notification of funding amounts for Agreement Addenda earlier. Phyllis Rocco was not aware that earlier notification would occur for funding amounts.

Phyllis Rocco reported that the Health Services Analysis has begun. She reported that about 10 counties have submitted data and she anticipated that she will be able to share preliminary reports back to association at February meeting.

Phyllis Rocco thanked local health directors for sending staff to the recent Community Health Assessment Winter Institute.

**NCDPH Environmental Health Report- Larry Michael**

Not Present

**NC Office of Rural Health- Maggie Sauer**

Not Present

**Executive Director's Report – Lynette Tolson**

See Aetna minutes above

**Committee Reports:** Committees did not meet

**Nomination and Bylaws – Jim Bruckner**

**Action:**

**Information:**

**Education and Awards – Suzanne Wright**

**Action:**

**Information:**

**Technology – Jim Madson**

**Action:**

**Information:**

**Policy and Finance – Steve Smith**

**Action:**

**Information:**

**Planning and Innovation – Janet Clayton**

**Action: None**

**Information:**

**Preparedness/EPI – Lillian Koontz**

**Action: None**

**Information:**

**Maternal & Child Health, Care Management and WIC – Teresa Ellen**

**Action:**

**Information:**

**Environmental Health – Heath Cain**

**Action: None**

**Information:**

**Public Health Prevention & Promotion – Helene Edwards**

**Action:**

**Information:**

**Public Health Regions-** No action or information items

### **Partner Reports**

**NCAPHA Report - Not Present**

**NCPHA Report – Not present**

**NCSOPHE- Not present**

### **Liaison Reports**

**ANCBH/NALBOH – Submitted by Barbara Ann Hughes**

Barbara Ann Hughes informed the association that a teleconference call board meeting was conducted Friday, January 8, 2018. There were 12 board members at present. Barbara Ann Hughes informed the audience that Jane Hinson, RN, BSN, MS is serving as the liaison from NCALHD. Additionally, she reported that ANCBH finances are down by \$2,100 because some counties are not paying their dues. She also reported that the board voted to send \$500 to NALBOH as a means of helping pay off their debt. Barbara Ann Hughes went on to state that the Nominating Committee nominated Dr. Ben W. Tillett, RPH, Pharm D for President-Elect. She also reported that the Secretary position now needs to be filled due to a recent resignation.

Barbara Ann Hughes reported from NALBOH that the Executive Committee met January 10, 2018. She reported that Dr. Andrew Qualstram from IL was appointed to the board. At that time the board encouraged members to submit abstracts for presentation at the national meeting that will occur in Raleigh on August 8 – 10. Barbara Ann Hughes commended Wake County for their submission of several abstracts. Additionally, she informed the association that membership renewals are being received: 262 of 400 boards have renewed to date = \$75,000. She reported that some time was spent in discussion of the Management Services Contract with Badger Bay including that current payables owed to Badger Bay is \$137,000. She reported that in working with Eric Ostermann, owner, the board was presented a change that guarantees lower annual operating expenses for NALBOH through December 31, 2020 and established a reasonable and predictable payment plan to complete all debt owed by the end of the current contract.

Barbara Ann Hughes also announced Bob Blackburn's new book and informed the association it was available on Amazon!

### **NCIPH/SPH Update-**

Amy was unable to attend but sent updates via email. Those updates are as follows:

#### **Training**

- Enrollment is open for the **NC Public Health Leadership Institute 2018**. The deadline has been extended through January 26, 2018. Stop by the NCIPH booth at the conference for more information or visit <https://sph.unc.edu/nciph/ncphli/>.
- The **Spring 2018 Management and Supervision** course is now enrolling. Information can be found at: <https://sphnunc.edu/nciph/nciph-mgmt-supervision/#reg>. This course is designed for local health

department staff who are new to management and supervisory roles and/or experienced managers and supervisors with little previous formal training.

- Save the Date: **Spring 2018 Principles and Practices of Public Health Nursing** course - April 2 –May 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Accreditation**

- **2018 NCLHDA Program Update Webinar:** January 22, 2018 from 9:30-11:30 am. The Webinar is free and the link has been sent to AACs. As log-in's are limited to 100, please encourage your staff to view together if at all possible. The Webinar will also be archived and posted for viewing afterwards.
- Save the Date: **Accreditation 101: New Agency Accreditation Coordinator Training:** April 17, 2018 from 9-4 at the Lida Blalock Hall next to the Wilson County Health Department. Registration will open this Monday, January 22, 2018.

#### **NCIPH/SPH Other**

- Free webinar **Impacts on Local Public Health: Lessons Learned from (Medicaid) Transformation Across the U.S.** hosted by NCIPH at 11:00 on January 25<sup>th</sup>. UNC Gillings Health Policy and Management student Ruchir Karmali will present her research review. Registration is required and will open on Friday, January 18, 2018 and the webinar will be archived and available on the NCIPH Training Website.
- Save the Date: **Going Viral: Impact and Implications of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic.** This interdisciplinary symposium will take place April 4-6, 2018 in Chapel Hill and will include a keynote address by Gina Kolata, New York Times journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner, author of the best seller "Flu: The Story of the Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918 and the Search for the Virus that Caused It." More information at: <http://sph.unc.edu/nciph/1918-flu-symposium/>. Registration will open in January 2018.

#### **UNC-School of Government**

Jill Moore was not present but sent items via email. Those updates are as follows:

- The SOG's biennial course, Legal Basics for Human Services Administrators, is scheduled for March 5 & 6 at the School of Government in Chapel Hill. This course covers legal issues all directors should be aware of, and may be of particular interest to new health directors. Topics include open meetings, public records, liability, and employment law, as well as public health law fundamentals. An email announcement will be sent when registration opens later this week or early next week.
- As a reminder, the dates for the annual Health Directors' Legal Conference have been moved to April 4 & 5 to avoid a conflict with EDNCPHA. An email announcing topics and registration details will go out in early February.

#### **Meeting Adjourned**

Motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 1539

**Next Meeting** –February 15, 2018, @ 9:30 am, Division of Public Health, Cardinal Room, 5605 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC