

**North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors
Association Business Meeting
October 18, 2018
Cardinal Room, Division of Public Health, Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC**

Minutes

Meeting Called To Order – Dennis Joyner

Faces of the familiar and also of the new entered the Cardinal Room filling the space with the rustling of voices. President Joyner reflected that the lives we have lived, and all those yet to be lived, are much like the room in this moment, full of trees and changing leaves. He then convened the meeting at 0933.

Approval of Minutes – Stacie Saunders

Motion to approve minutes of the August 16, 2018 meeting was made and seconded; motion approved.

Treasurer's/Financial Report – Stacie Saunders

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

President's Report – Dennis Joyner

At this time, President Joyner asked if any new health directors were present. Tracey Simmons-Kornegay announced that she is the newly appointed health director in Duplin County. Additionally, retiring health director Michael Rhodes recognized Joy Brock as the health director now representing Greene County. President Joyner then asked if there were any additional retiring health directors at which time John Morrow from Pitt County announced his retirement scheduled for the end of 2018. Beth Lovette reminded the association of Anne Absher's pending retirement from Wilkes County also at the end of the year. Additionally, Josh Swift announced he is leaving his post as health director in Caldwell County as he has accepted the health director position in Forsyth County. He stated that Anna Martin will serve as interim in Caldwell beginning November 10.

President Joyner reminded the membership that NCPHA Fall Conference will occur December 12-14 in Charlotte. He added that NCALHD will have the monthly association meeting on December 20 in Raleigh. He stated DPH Agreement Addenda review will continue in November and December.

President Joyner then recognized Philip Tarte (New Hanover), Lillian Koontz (Davidson) and Layton Long (Chatham) for presenting Emerging Public Health Issues at the NCACC Conference in August.

President Joyner informed the membership that encrypted Medicaid Claims Reports are coming to counties from Joy Hite or Constance Baker. If counties have not received that email, please check SPAM folders then email Jim Flowers for follow-up.

Lastly, Present Joyner stated that current Past-President Jim Bruckner retired from his position in Macon County and took a local health official position in South Carolina. Joyner stated that officers are not filling the past president role since it is so close to the end of year. Doug Urland (Catawba) is available for By-Law requests, if needed. President Joyner then presented the Slate of Officers to the association for consideration and informed members that voting will occur in November. The Slate of Officers has presented included: Steve Smith – President, Janet Clayton – President Elect, Stacie Saunders – Vice-President, and Philip Tarte – Secretary/Treasurer.

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

Tilson expressed gratitude to counties for their work and response in the recent hurricanes that affected North Carolina.

Tilson reported that in August, the Governor issued the executive order to create an Early Childhood Action Plan for NC. Per the executive order, a draft must be completed by November 1. She stated NCALHD would receive information regarding on the plan in November.

Tilson reported Dare County completed field-testing on the Social Determinants of Health screening questions. She reported that food insecurity looks to be the highest need when screened. She stated additional field-testing would occur in the near future.

She then provided an update on NCCARE360 referral platform. Tilson reminded the members that this is a joint venture of United Way, Unite Us, Expound and others. She stated that partners are currently thinking through how to roll out the platform and involve the proper stakeholders including thinking through the governance of the system. Tilson stated that a demo of the platform will occur in December for NCALHD.

Tilson reported that NC DHHS expects approval for the 1115 Waiver from CMS any day. Tilson expressed confidence in achieving a good balance in the 1115 Waiver requests including the regional pilots. Tilson reports that an RFI for regional pilots will go out early 2019 and RFP is planned for Spring 2019 with rollout by end of the 2019.

Tilson then provided a summary of the recent blood and urine testing that took place in Cumberland and Bladen. The press release regarding the results can be found at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/dhhs-receives-results-blood-and-urine-testing-30-residents-near-fayetteville>. She added that the next steps include a community survey.

Sue Lynn Ledford (Wake) asked if OBCM and CC4C contracts are bundled or separate from other Advanced Medical Home (AMH) care management contracts in Medicaid Transformation. Tilson anticipates these to be separate but is unsure at this time. Lovette stated she believed it to be PHP dependent and would anticipate that they would prefer a single contract but each LHD would have a different contract based on their services provided. Ledford expressed concerns about the number of contracts for LHDs. Lovette stated that she and Phyllis Rocco have had conversations with AHEC regarding their potential involvement in assisting LHDs in the contract process. Carmine Rocco (Macon) asked if the contracts would run by fiscal years vs calendar years because that is very important for LHDs. Lovette stated she was unsure at this time.

Bill Smith (Robeson) asked Tilson about the unknown contaminants that were found in the testing that occurred. Tilson stated that there were two chemicals found that did have higher levels than the national average but there are no national standards. She reminded association that this was an exposure study to determine if these compounds could be found in the tested materials, blood and urine. This study did suggest that these compounds did not bio-accumulate. Tarte provided additional information regarding the study now taking place in New Hanover. This study has a more research scope versus exposure only. Tarte reflected that we do not monitor the by-products of these compounds.

NCDPH Acting Division Director Report- Beth Lovette

Lovette stated the DPH posted the Division Director position this week. The position will remain open for three weeks. Lovette stated during this time, DPH is undertaking some restructuring of the organizational chart. Lovette stated Virginia Niehaus is replacing Chris Hoke as the Legislative Affairs position. Niehaus previously worked in public health in New Orleans and at NC DMA.

Lovette asked that during the Agreement Addenda review process to highlight changes that NCALHD suggests. Lovette stated DPH hopes to explain more of the “why” for some of the deliverables LHDs must satisfy. Tilson added there are some things that DPH cannot change while other things that may not be required. Tilson stated the process is to help LHD become more efficient particularly in the move to value added care.

Lovette encouraged health directors to consider NCHICA membership for local IT staff. This association focuses on informatics and information systems for health providers.

Lovette stated she sent a mosquito survey to the 31 affected counties. Lovette stated DPH wants to allocate this money and only do it one time. Lovette urged counties to reply. She said the funding will be allocated by acreage to the counties that reply in the affirmative. She reminded members this funding is tied to FEMA reimbursement. Jim Madson (Beaufort) voiced concern that with weather changing very quickly it may be challenging for counties to spend down these funds.

Smith asked about the requirements for Division Director posting as it includes MSW as eligible yet one cannot be a local health director with a MSW. Lovette provided a summary that two position within the DPH are appointed but can go through the hiring process, these include the Division Director and Deputy Division Director. The Division has chosen to post the position. Lovette stated that the MSW was included many years ago with a past appointment and was never removed.

NCDPH Environmental Health Report- Beth Lovette (on behalf of Larry Michael)

Lovette stated that Larry Michael was currently attending the Public Health Rules Review Commission meeting. She provided the following update on his behalf. Lovette stated that today the Rules Review Commission is currently considering the Onsite Wastewater Rules passed by the Commission for Public Health back in August. The rules are divided into two groups, contentious and non-contentious. Due to this, DPH will return to the Rules Review Commission on November 15 for further action. Additionally, as directed by the session law, some rules bypass the Rules Review Commission all together and will be presented to the legislature. Lovette stated that until all pieces clear the process, DPH will hold off on an effective date until February or March 2019.

Lovette further stated that on November 7, DPH will seek approval from Commission of Public Health to move forward with the following proposed rules:

- 1) To require licensed childcare centers to test water for lead
- 2) Amendments to the frequency of inspection rules including increasing the B7B home inspection to once every six months instead of one per year; adding a frequency for resident camps; and allowing HACCP verification visits in food establishments to county as one of the required annual inspections.

Lovette thanked counties that participated in the World Equestrian Games. Lovette stated this was a great example of the state and local collaboration. She reported that Michael will report of the event at a future NCALHD Environmental Health Committee meeting. She also reported that participating counties will be held harmless for the percent compliance and that DPH plans to use this fiscal year or the previous, whichever is highest, for Aid-to-County disbursement.

Lastly, Lovette expressed thanks to counties for allowing staff deployment to hurricane-affected areas. She stated that counties in the declared disaster areas and counties that deployed would also be held harmless for percent compliance.

Smith inquired if it make more sense to hold all counties harmless in Food & Lodging since so many were involved in either preparedness and/or hurricane response.

Smith made a motion to provide a recommendation to DPH to hold harmless all counties. Davin Madden (Wayne) seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding clarity of which fiscal year would be considered. Lovette clarified that counties would theoretically be able to claim the higher of the fiscal year (i.e. current or previous one, whichever was higher).

Vote called and motion passed.

NCDPH Technical Training and Assistance Branch Report- Phyllis Rocco

Rocco expressed her gratitude to all counties that provided shelters and shelter nurses for affected counties. Rocco asked that counties provide feedback to her regarding three things that went well in the shelter implementation and three things that need to be improved.

Rocco reminded health directors that all public health nurses employed through local health departments must have a BSN or must complete the Public Health Nursing Training Module within six months of the hire date. Rocco stated that she will be issuing a waiver letter for nurses who were unable to complete the modules because of hurricane activities.

Rocco reminded the association that current staffing requirements remain intact for OBCM and CC4C. The staffing requirements that have changed apply only to counties providing care management for primary care (AMH) and require RNs and LCSWs. Lovette then asked representative from Office of Rural Health (ORH) about the number of LCSW in the state and the capability of counties to meet this requirement for AMH due to LCSW availability. ORH was not aware of LCSW capacity but did provide insight into psychiatrist levels, which are very low. Ledford mentioned care management certification and its importance in this talk.

NC Office of Rural Health- Clint Cresawn (on behalf of Maggie Sauer)

Cresawn stated that NCALHD requested a brief presentation on the incentive programs and opportunities for local health departments to recruit and secure provider positions. Cresawn provided a packet (see attachment).

Cresawn stated ORH can help with recruitment in several different ways. ORH participates in Career Fairs where they discuss the work that occurs in safety net providers. Additionally, ORH maintains a Job/Employment Board where local health departments can post positions. Cresawn stated that once a provider is recruited, the best way to pursue incentive opportunities is to first register and achieve certification with the National Health Service Corps. Cresawn stated the Service Corps is stringent in its requirements and ORH can provide assistance in achieving certification.

Cresawn went on to describe several of the incentive programs including the National Scholars, Students to Service Program, and National Service Corps Loan Repayment Program. ORH also has a pot of funds in their office that can help with recruitment, which includes the NC Loan Repayment Program, State Loan Repayment Program, and High Needs Service Bonus.

Executive Director's Report – Lynette Tolson

Tolson thanked members who have paid their dues. She stated that she and Joanne Brassington (NCAPHA) made site visits to the western part of the state. Tolson also reminded members that NCPHA Fall Conference was rescheduled for December in Charlotte.

Committee Reports: Committees did not meet

Nomination and Bylaws – Jim Bruckner

Action:

Information:

Education and Awards – Suzanne Wright

Action:

Information: Tolson stated that new Health Director Orientation just occurred and provided kudos to the organization of the training. President Joyner stated that Suzanne Wright sent out an email regarding nomination for the awards that will be presented in January at Public Health Leaders Conference.

Technology – Jim Madson

Action:

Information: Did not meet

Policy and Finance – Steve Smith

Action: Smith stated that Jon Carr from the ABC Board made a presentation to the committee on Wednesday. Smith stated that Carr is requesting support from NCALHD on a letter of opposition regarding the privatization of ABC (see attachment). Smith inquired if the association desired to take action on this request. Bill Smith inquired if any of the ABC funds come to local public health. Carolyn Moser (Pender) stated that the local ABC Board often determines the distribution of funds and that her county receives funding from ABC Board that supports mosquito abatement. Long stated that, funding aside, NCALHD should consider the public health consequences of the privatization including greater access to alcohol. Sheila Davies (Dare) suggested NCALHD should stand behind it based on the potential increased access of alcohol in neighborhoods. Norma Rife (on behalf of Iredell) stated that locally they have received funds for Underage Substance Abuse Prevention. Ledford stated that NCALHD should not waste this opportunity to leverage the relationship and require a commitment that funding be used in a meaningful way.

Layton made a motion to support the request from ABC Board. Davies seconded the motion. Further discussion ensued.

Madden asked what NCACC's stand on this issue as we do not want to be misaligned in this topic. Their opinion on this issue was unknown at the time. Carmine Rocco (Macon) stated that we should state only the public health reasons why we support this versus focusing on the funds. Bill Smith stated that historically NCALHD have not gone in opposition of NCACC and if they have not taken a stand then NCALHD should proceed. Fred Thompson (Anson) stated there are reasons why states move to a non-control state. Thompson stated that the government should not provide goods that are better provided by private industry.

Call of the question. Vote called. Motion passed.

Tarte then asked if NCALHD would have talking points that would be associated with supporting the letter. Steve Smith stated there is nothing prohibiting NCALHD from adding their public health talking points as a condition of our support.

Tarte made a motion to add talking points to accompany NCALHD support of the ABC letter. Carmine Rocco seconded the motion. Vote called. Motion passed.

Steve Smith stated he would draft the talking points.

Information: The second agenda item of Policy and Finance included a review of the NCALHD legislative agenda: The group discussed ways NCALHD might connect across DPH and LHDs on some things. Smith received good guidance from committee about additional revisions. Committee members expressed that they would hate to lose the opportunity about addressing water quality now with post-hurricane advocacy. There was some discussion regarding the cow-share and raw milk legislation. In addition, committee spent some time discussing the tobacco related legislative items (see attachment). Some of these revisions suggested included eliminating Tier 3, elevating Medicaid Expansion to a higher tier, adding language regarding increased funding for preparedness and post-disaster response, and a slight language change for the communicable disease ask. Smith stated a draft with recommended changes will be presented to NCALHD in November for vote.

Sally Herndon (DPH) had one update regarding Attorney General Josh Stein currently investigating what Juul is doing in the NC market particularly as it related to marketing to youth. She suggested that this issue might have future implications for legislative items.

Planning and Innovation – Janet Clayton

Action: None

Information: Sharon Jackson shared information regarding Medicare DPP. In NC, there have been some difficulties in achieving approval. Currently, only one pharmacy has completed the process. Clayton stated Jackson has offered to provide assistance to local health departments in the process. Jackson also provided a DPP guide (see attached).

Preparedness/EPI – Lillian Koontz

Action: None

Information: Zack Moore provided an update on Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) nationally and statewide. Year-to-date, there have been three cases of AFM in the state. Moore will be sending out updated guidance for community providers in the next few days.

Carl Williams and Evelyn Foust presented on mosquito abatement in post-disaster recovery (see attached presentation). Koontz stated it is very important to continue to advocate for mosquito funding. John Morrow (Pitt) commented that Williams discussed mosquito districts. Morrow commented on drainage districts and its relationship to potential mosquito districts.

Lastly, Pierre Lauffer presented on mold issues particularly with recent hurricanes and post-hurricane flooding (see attached).

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

Action: Lovette reminded committee members that local health departments have been granted 2-3 years of exclusivity for OBCM and CC4C case management under the new Medicaid managed care model. Local health departments will have the right of first refusal to provide the service. If a county chooses not to provide case management then the right of second refusal will be offered to a neighboring county. If no local health department wishes to provide the service, then it reverts to the Prepaid Health Plan. Lovette reminded committee that it is critical to think creatively as to how NCALHD prove their effectiveness over the next two years. She requested that we elevate concerns and solutions to DPH. It is imperative that local health departments can prove their return on investment to ensure sustainability. Lovette also mentioned that DPH can see the need for a common documentation platform and they are willing to provide funding. She stated that Virtual Health seems to be the best documentation system for case management. At this time, NCALHD will need to decide whether to continue the relationship with CCNC for Virtual Health, attempt to contract directly with Virtual Health, or pursue a different platform. Ellen offered to collect the responses from the group with the concerns and solutions and consolidate them into one document to be elevated to DPH and DHHS. Lovette suggested a committee be appointed.

Morrow made the motion for MCH Chair to solicit NCALHD feedback and create a letter/position statement that would then be presented to DPH with a request for a meeting to further discuss. Stacie Saunders (Alamance) seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued. Carmine Rocco stated that DPH is looking for a recommendation and a partner in the process. Many members pondered the data platform needs of local health departments and the workforce burden it may place on departments. Lovette stated NCALHD needs to make a decision regarding the data platform and inform DHHS. Lovette reiterated options the NCALHD could consider including contracting with CCNC, contracting directly with Virtual Health via NCAPHA or seek out another platform.

Vote called. Motion passed.

Information: Holly Watkins from The Arc of NC presented an overview of services they provide (see attachments). The Arc is a non-profit organization that works with individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. They provide advocacy, housing, employment, and link their clients with other needed community resources. They have state and regional offices that are noted on the attached presentation. Contact information is also included in the presentation.

Kim Lovenduski presented some recent changes to the Block Grant. In SFY 17-18, Senate Bill 257 appropriated a significant portion of the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (Title V funds) to special projects. This created a decrease of \$2.2 million of Healthy Mothers Healthy Children funding that was allocated to local health departments. The reductions included: \$523,742 from Women's Health, \$710,684 from Family Planning and \$965,394 from Children and Youth. Lovenduski reported that The Every Week Counts initiative has been removed from the state budget and this funding is being restored in FY18-19 with the intent of it being reoccurring. This is dependent on the General Assembly not designating additional funding for carve outs. The \$2.2 million will be reinstated by the end of October and local health departments will need to submit a brief page outlining how the funds will be used. The money will be reinstated to each health department in the amount it was reduced. In addition to the restoration of the \$2.2 million there is an additional \$1.6 million in non-recurring MCH Block Grant funds available. This is one-year funding that will be available in the form of mini grants. The mini grant applications will be brief and provide a list of activities for local health departments to choose from including such items as:

- Training – Racial Equity Institute (REI) or Motivational Interviewing
- Child Fatality Prevention Project Training
- Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC's)
- Teen Friendly Clinics
- Equipment needs such as audiology or laptops for conversion to electronic medical records – This one will require DPH approval.

If requests exceed the budget available, a committee will prioritize. The mini-grants will be released in November.

Environmental Health – Heath Cain

Action: None

Information: Phil Thompson provided a presentation on pool inspections, pool safety, and liability (see attached presentation). This presentation included a discussion about HB56, which changed the required lighting from 10 foot candles to "sufficient" Lighting to illuminate the pool. Thompson asked the association to provide feedback to Larry Michael regarding Environmental Health's response during and after hurricanes.

Public Health Prevention & Promotion – Helene Edwards

Action:

Information:

NC Minority Diabetes Prevention Program Update

Mr. Cornell Wright

- The NC Minority Diabetes Prevention Program is present in all 10 NCALHD regions.
- The data on the NC Minority Diabetes Prevention Program is currently under review and will be available at a later date.
- Contract Agreement Addendum for CLAS (Culturally and linguistically appropriate services) standards training will be available in November for local health department staff.

CDC Funding for Obesity, Diabetes, Heart Disease

Ms. Cathy Thomas

- The Community and Clinical Connections for Prevention and Health Branch of the Division of Public Health was awarded three CDC grants.
- With the new funding stream, the Diabetes Prevention Programs will be implemented across the state.
- The Diabetes Self-Management Program has been re-aligned with new staff.
- A portal will be available soon for NC providers to find chronic disease resources for their patients.
- An RFA for Obesity Funding was announced on October 15, 2018 for organizations who work with local health departments to apply.
 - The local health departments can't apply for this funding; however, the organizations funded are encourage to work with local health departments.
 - The areas of concentration are as follows: food services, breastfeeding interventions, active routes of transportation, and early childcare education programs working with improving nutrition and physical activity.
 - The awards are \$80,000.00 and there will be 4 to 12 awardees.

Healthy Communities Agreement Addendum

Ms. Sharon Boss-Nelson

- Discussion about the strategies listed in the Healthy Communities Agreement Addendum (see attachment).
- The list of strategies is limited and some health departments may have a hard time choosing 3 strategies.
- Please send any strategies for the Healthy Communities Agreement Addendum to Sharon by October 24, 2018.

Opioid Funding

Mr. Alan Dellapenna

- Opioid funding will be awarded to 22 counties out of 34 counties starting November 1, 2018.
- Total amount of funds awarded was approximately \$1.8 million.
- After October 22, 2018, a press release will come out with more details about the awarded counties.
- The awards were between \$20,000.00 to \$100,000.00 per health department and this funding will be outlined in the Agreement Addendum #490.

Bill Smith asked about why LHD cannot apply for one of the CDC grants. Lovette stated she was unsure and would look into that.

Madden stated he is getting questions about what is public health's role in syringes found in the community. Steve Smith stated that solid waste requirements now allow for personal use sharps to be discarded in regular trash as long as they are enclosed in a puncture proof container.

Public Health Regions- No action or information items

Partner Reports

NCAPHA Report – No report

NCPHA Report – NCPHA Conference rescheduled for December in Charlotte.

NACCHO – Chris Dobbins (Gaston) stated NACCHO is exploring the inclusion of FQHCs as a partner. Dobbins stated that NACCHO has a focus on improving its membership and communicating the benefits of membership. He also reminded members that NACCHO Hill Day will take place in March 2019.

NCSOPHE- Julie Gooding-Hasty (DPH) reminded members that NCSOPHE Conference is November 8-9 in Hickory. She urged health directors to send Health Education staff.

Liaison Reports

ANCBH/NALBOH – Not present

NCIPH/SPH Update- Rachel Wilfert

Trainings & Conferences

- *NC Child Health Conference* November 27-28, 2018
- *35th Annual School Nurse Conference* December 6-7, 2018

- Two *Enhanced Role Nursing* courses (Child Health, STD) are open for registration
- New one day workshops: <https://sph.unc.edu/nciph/workshops/>
- Do you have new members on your Board of Health/consolidated board who need orientation training? NCIPH can provide a trainer free of charge. Visit <https://sph.unc.edu/nciph/boh-train/> to learn more and schedule a training. All current NCIPH course offerings are listed at <https://sph.unc.edu/nciph/nciph-catalog/>.

Accreditation

- *Accreditation 101: New Agency Accreditation Coordinator Training* will be held as part of the re-scheduled NCPHA Fall Educational Conference – registration has been re-opened through Nov. 30.

Other news from NCIPH/SPH

- UNC Gillings partners with the NC AHEC program to provide support to NC public health agencies. Learn more about this service at <https://sph.unc.edu/nciph/partnering-with-ahec/>.
- *Save the date:* 40th Annual Minority Health Conference will take place in Chapel Hill on February 22, 2019. The Minority Health Conference is the largest and longest running student-led health conference in the country.
- UNC Gillings is recruiting adjunct faculty to teach as section instructors in the new MPH@UNC online masters program. They are particularly interested in recruiting public health professionals (MPH required) who have some teaching experience. There is an open job-posting at <https://unc.peopleadmin.com/postings/145273> which provides more details.

The NC Partnership for Excellence in Applied Epidemiology is sponsoring *Stemming the Syndemic of HIV-STDs-Hepatitis and Related Diseases: A North Carolina Public Health Research to Practice Symposium* on November 16th. There is no cost to attend. More information at <https://sph.unc.edu/nciph/nciph-catalog/>

UNC-School of Government – Not present

Meeting Adjourned

Motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 1156.

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