

RANDOLPH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
RANDOLPH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
2222-B South Fayetteville Street, Asheboro, NC
Thursday, March 8, 2018

Members Present

Charles Lee, DVM, Chair
Robert Brown, MD
Stan Haywood, County Commissioner
Marty Trotter, Community Member
Lyn Richardson, Community Member
Marianne Evans, PharmD
Cathy Waddell, Community Member
Julie Mabe, RN
William Walker, OD

Staff Present

Susan Hayes, Health Director
Tara Aker, Assistant Health Director
Arey Rash, RN, Director of Nursing
Brooke Hogan, Assistant Secretary to the Board
Jaron Herring, EH Food & Lodging Supervisor
Kendall Phillips, Public Health Educator
Wendy Kennon, Health Education Supervisor

I. Call to Order

The Randolph County Board of Health met Thursday, March 8, 2018, in the health department conference room. Dr. Lee, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. Public Comment Period

Dr. Lee opened the public comment period. Hearing no requests for public comment, the period was closed.

III. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Lee presented minutes for approval from the January 25, 2018 board meeting. No discrepancies were noted. Mr. Marty Trotter made a motion to *"approve the minutes as presented."* Dr. Robert Brown seconded, and the motion carried.

IV. Legal Presentation/Annual Training for Board Members

Aimee Scotton, Randolph County Staff Attorney, presented board members with annual legal training on powers and authorities for local boards of health. Ms. Scotton referenced NC General Statute 130A-39 stating that local boards of health have the responsibility to protect and promote public health and have the authority to adopt rules necessary for that purpose. Ms. Scotton explained certain restrictions of rulemaking authority for local boards of health according to the NC General Statutes governing that authority (*see NCGS 130A-39, NCGS 130A-18 and NCGS 130A-24 following the minutes*).

Ms. Scotton reminded board members that she is always available to board members for access to legal counsel pertaining to rule adoptions, amendments, repeals, adjudications or any other concerns. There was no further discussion across the board.

V. Opioid Litigation Update

Aimee Scotton, Randolph County Staff Attorney, made a presentation to board members on recent opioid crisis litigation. Ms. Scotton noted that she provided a similar presentation to the

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Randolph County Opioid Council to determine whether or not to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that Randolph County pursue opioid litigation. The Opioid Council voted to make the recommendation. The Randolph County Board of Commissioners, in turn, voted to join the multi-district opioid litigation with representation from the McHugh-Fuller law group. The suit was filed on March 2, 2018. The McHugh-Fuller group has indicated that their significant cause of action is the abatement of a public health nuisance.

Ms. Scotton explained the opioid crisis in terms of cost with an unending ripple effect. Local governments have been forced to spend a significant amount of money due to increased abuse and neglect cases, the psychological toll on EMS staff, law enforcement staff, caseworkers, increased position turnover, post-traumatic stress disorder, etc. The question at hand has been who should be financially responsible for the epidemic. One answer that has gained momentum is the manufacturers and wholesale distributors of the opioids that sparked the crisis.

Multi-district litigation consolidated to proceed on a national basis for much of the pre-trial litigation. If a settlement is reached, then a settlement offer will be presented to Randolph County Board of Commissioners to accept or reject the settlement. If accepted, the case for Randolph County will be finalized. Otherwise, if the settlement is rejected, then the case would continue to move forward and come back individually to be heard in North Carolina. Ms. Scotton stated that McHugh-Fuller law group would still represent the case should it come back to NC.

Stan Haywood also noted that Guilford County has recently joined the multi-district litigation. There was much discussion across the board concerning the opioid crisis, the multi-district litigation, and deaths related to opioid overdose.

VI. Syringe Exchange Presentation

Kendall Phillips, Health Educator, presented board members with information concerning the idea of a safe syringe exchange program.

Ms. Phillips explained benefits of harm reduction practices. She referenced the definition of harm reduction provided by the Harm Reduction Coalition as “a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use. Harm reduction incorporates a spectrum of strategies including safer use, managed use, abstinence and meets drug users where they are while addressing conditions of use and abuse itself” (*see report following the minutes*).

Ms. Phillips provided the most up to date data finalized from the Centers for Disease Control. There were more than 16,000 deaths due to overdose in 2016 with most cases due to fentanyl and fentanyl analog such as carfentanyl. Randolph County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) department began collecting overdose data in April 2017. Between April 2017 and March 2018, Randolph County EMS responded to 274 suspected overdose calls. According to Robert Childs, Executive Director of NC Harm Reduction Coalition, the average overdose case cost is roughly \$17,000 due to workplace cost such as absenteeism, the cost of county resources as well as medical cost. Ms. Phillips presented slides with local statistics concerning drug use, overdose death, and recidivism.

Ms. Phillips explained the details of how a safe syringe exchange program might benefit Randolph County and what a harm reduction kit would include. She gave board members a

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handout from the NC Harm Reduction Coalition containing safe syringe information as well as her contact information should they have any questions (*see handout following the minutes*). Ms. Phillips also recommended looking on the CDC website for beneficial information.

Lyn Richardson thanked Ms. Phillips for presenting harm reduction and safe syringe information. Susan Hayes asked board members to share feedback about beginning a safe syringe exchange program at Randolph County Health Department. Stan Haywood inquired about the cost. Ms. Phillips provided an estimated cost for ordering 1,000 of each item including condoms, cookers, cotton, band-aids, tourniquets and two types of syringes totaling \$617.00 averaging \$1.18 per kit. Marianne Evans expressed concern that people might come and loiter as part of the territory. Ms. Phillips explained that by developing a rapport with clients, maintaining a fixed set of hours, and a security plan with established rules will discourage loitering or use on the property. Mr. Haywood inquired about funding for a safe syringe program. Ms. Hayes stated that the health department is applying for a grant through Blue Cross Blue Shield for \$20,000 and if received, funding could be used for this service. Dr. Lee expressed a concern that the public may have a perception that the health department is promoting drug use so community education regarding disease prevention will be imperative to success. Ms. Phillips noted that the health department has partnered with EMS to provide a paramedicine program to provide client education in the community.

Susan Hayes asked board members if they were interested in entertaining a motion to implement this program. Dr. Brown stated that he needed more time to think on the implementation of a safe syringe program; other board members agreed. Dr. Lee tabled the topic and asked Ms. Phillips to present additional information at the May board meeting.

VII. FDA Program Standards Update

Jaron Herring, Environmental Health Food & Lodging Supervisor provided an update on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Program Standards. Mr. Herring explained that Randolph County Environmental Health Food & Lodging program enrolled in FDA program standards in April 2017. The task given to complete within the first year was a self-assessment of the Food & Lodging program. The assessment has allowed for a comprehensive look at the program focusing on current policies, procedures, and practices to compare how the Randolph County Food & Lodging program stands within this ideal standard set by the FDA. Mr. Herring stated that a grant for \$8,000 was awarded to the Food & Lodging program and has been invested in technology upgrades by purchasing new computers to utilize new CDP software program fully. Cumberland County is the mentor county working with Randolph County Food & Lodging program to systematically focus on each standard, having completed through standard four currently. He stated that Randolph County Food & Lodging program has ideas on where to take program standards moving forward and wants to ensure that Randolph County's Environmental Health program is an elite program of the county.

Mr. Herring also mentioned that he applied for a scholarship that, if received, would allow him to meet with the mentor county at the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) annual education conference in Anaheim, California. There were no further discussions on this topic.

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VIII. Clinical Update

Arey Rash, Director of Nursing reported successful site visits for Immunizations, Preparedness, and Care Coordination for Children (CC4C) programs (*see reports following the minutes*).

Ms. Rash reported two cases of pertussis. Communicable disease nurses have been working with county schools to explain and monitor symptoms through March 22, 2018.

Chlamydia cases comprised a huge portion of reportable communicable diseases in January and February 2018 (*see communicable disease graph following the minutes*). As a result of the consistent and at times increasing STD numbers, communicable staff are reviewing current outreach plans, discussing ways to improve outreach efforts and meeting with partnering agencies to discuss gaps and overlaps.

One tuberculosis (TB) case was detected at Randolph Correctional Facility, the inmate was transferred to Central Prison; the prisons are currently performing contact investigations. Ms. Rash also reported another suspected case of TB in Randolph County. If confirmed positive, this case has the same source case from the outbreak two years ago.

Ms. Rash reported five flu deaths in Randolph County since January 1, 2018, mostly in older adults with comorbidities.

Captain Brown with Asheboro City Police Department reached out to Randolph County Health Department concerning a recent arrestee case having spat into an arresting officer's mouth. Arey Rash, Randolph County Health Department Director of Nursing, met with Captain Brown along with Captain Chris Toriello, Operations Captain for Randolph County Jail and Lynn Barber, RN for Randolph County Jail. Ms. Rash reviewed Asheboro City's infectious control policies stating that Asheboro City has good infection control policies and procedures in place and that Asheboro Police Department followed the policies very well. Ms. Rash was glad that Captain Brown reached out to her and felt like it was an excellent opportunity to talk with partnering agencies about services of the health department. For example, the meeting opened up conversation about bringing inmates to the health department for HIV/STI testing in general. Ms. Barber and Captain Toriello agreed that they would like to take advantage of the health department's resources for testing and treatment of HIV/STI in the jail population.

Ms. Rash stated that the current pharmacist is moving but has been helpful in finding a replacement for pharmacy services. The part-time physician extender position is still vacant. There were no questions or discussions among board members.

IX. Mid-Year Financial Reports

Susan Hayes, Health Director presented board members with mid-year financial reports for review (*see mid-year financial reports following the minutes*). Ms. Hayes reviewed revenues and expenditures with board members. Ms. Hayes stated she was very pleased with the dental program. There were no questions or comments from board members.

Ms. Hayes called attention to bad debt write off amount requiring board approval. She explained that bad debt is written off due to various reasons; debt is essentially uncollectible. Dr. Walker made a motion to "*approve Bad Debt write off in the amount of \$4,114.43 as presented.*" Dr. Brown seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

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X. Health Director's Report

Susan Hayes, Health Director, provided a health director's report to the board. The following items were discussed:

- The Access to Healthcare study facilitated by UNC Institute of Public Health is complete. Ms. Hayes showed board members a copy of the report (*see study following the minutes*) and the report will be provided to Randolph County Commissioners at the next board meeting. The goal of this assessment was to gain an understanding of the healthcare needs and key health disparities in Randolph County and to develop strategies to improve Access to Healthcare and health equity for all residents with a particular emphasis on vulnerable populations. Ms. Hayes highlighted key findings including one-fifth of our population is uninsured, substance abuse and mental health stigma with a lack of resources remain a barrier, children and elderly are two populations identified as particularly vulnerable needing access to care. Ms. Hayes asked study facilitators to include cultural competency as a component of the access to care study.

Marianne Evans asked if there were any surprises; Ms. Hayes responded that no particular surprises came about from the findings of the study. Cathy Waddell asked if the results for cultural competencies were surprising and how prior assessments related to this study. Ms. Hayes replied not really and further explained that this particular component had not been included in prior studies. Ms. Hayes has asked Kendall Phillips, Health Educator to spearhead a cultural competencies and cultural needs assessment within staff at Randolph County Health Department and to engage in more in-depth training for staff other than required annual training.

Ms. Hayes provided that asset mapping is another resource benefit resulting from the study. Asset mapping will be available for online for the public to identify access to care. Ms. Hayes explained that looking at social determinates of health such as safe and affordable housing, access to fresh foods, transportation, safe playgrounds, etc. can have as much impact on a person's overall health as much as simply having access to a physician. Michael Rowland, Randolph County IT Director, informed Ms. Hayes that similar features could be utilized through the county GIS program to allow the citizen to access wellness opportunities within the county such as walking trails, safe playgrounds, local farmer's markets, etc.

Ms. Hayes informed board members that the report would be available on the county website or they can request a full copy. She recognized this study to be used as a companion piece to the Community Health Assessment in partnership with Randolph Health. There was some discussion across the board on this topic.

- The state of NC amended a request in November for permission to change how Medicaid services are delivered. Currently, Medicaid is delivered through a fee for service

system meaning that the state pays providers for Medicaid claims based on the number and type of services provided to a Medicaid beneficiary. The change in the Medicaid model is to a managed care delivery system model by contracting with managed care organizations. Essentially, any service provided to a Medicaid client will require approval from their

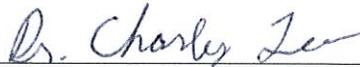
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managed care organization. Timeline consists of contract awards in June 2018 and a target launch date for the new system by July 2019. Ms. Hayes stated that Medicaid Reform will affect Randolph County Health Department, still not clear on how much will change. She also stated that Dental services had been carved out of the model and Family Planning services are possibly being carved of the Medicaid reform.

- Ms. Hayes excitedly announced that Randolph County Health Department received the recommendation for full Reaccreditation with Honors having met all activities. Ms. Hayes recognized staff for a job well done. Some staff will attend an award ceremony on May 18, 2018.
- Ms. Hayes invited board members to a potato bar in the health department conference room on March 14, 2018, to support Randolph County Animal Shelter's Mutt Strut team for Human Race.

Dr. Walker commended Susan Hayes and staff for the recommendation of Reaccreditation with Honors. Marty Trotter inquired about a recent story on the news concerning a rabid fox case in Randolph County. Ms. Hayes explained that a rabid fox could become extremely vicious. She told that animal control staff canvassed the community and informed residents about the possibility of a rabid fox in their neighborhood.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 14, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.



Dr. Charles Lee, Board Chair



Susan D. Hayes, Health Director