

RANDOLPH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
RANDOLPH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
2222-B South Fayetteville Street, Asheboro, NC
Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Members Present

Charles Lee, DVM, Chair
Marianne Evans, PharmD
Mack Summey, PE
Marty Trotter, Community Member
Hope Haywood, County Commissioner
Julie Mabe, RN
William Walker, OD, Vice-Chair
Daryl Hill, DDS
Cathy Waddell, Community Member
Robert Brown, MD

Staff Present

Susan Hayes, Health Director
Tara Aker, Assistant Health Director
Brooke Hogan, Executive Assistant
Laura Lambert, Public Health Educator
Sam Varner, Randolph County Wellness Administrator
Aimee Scotton, Randolph County Staff Attorney

Members Absent

Lyn Richardson, Community Member

Visitors:

Ashley Curtice, Region 6 Tobacco Control Manager
Travis Greer, Cumberland County Dept of Public Health
Dr. Ross Holt, Randolph County Public Library Director

I. Call to Order

The Randolph County Board of Health held a called meeting on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, in Board Rooms A & B of the Randolph County Board of Education building to discuss a rule to prohibit tobacco use in government buildings, vehicles and grounds. Dr. Lee, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Public Comment Period

Dr. Lee opened the public comment period. Randolph County Library Director, Dr. Ross Holt, spoke to board members concerning the need for tobacco-free government grounds from a library perspective. Dr. Holt explained that library systems are a collaborative between county government and municipalities. He stated he receives weekly complaints from frustrated citizens having to walk through a cloud of smoke to enter the libraries. Some of these citizens have chronic diseases such as COPD. Asheboro City recently banned smoking within 50 feet of the library entrance. Dr. Holt voiced his concern that the 50 feet ban will impact the beautiful fountain in front of the Asheboro library location, and rather than being the relaxing area for which it was created, it may now become a smoking stop instead. He noted a multiplicity of tobacco problems

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that library staff encounter such as small fires caused by non-extinguished cigarette butts, second hand smoke drifting in the libraries from entrances, and patron complaints. Due to the issues mentioned, Dr. Holt supported a tobacco-free rule for government grounds. Hearing no further requests, the public comment period was closed.

III. Tobacco-Free Proposal Presentation

Sam Varner, Randolph County Wellness Administrator, presented statistics on tobacco use. The leading cause of death in the United States last year was heart disease, however, in Randolph County the leading cause of death was cancer directly related to tobacco use. Cigarette smoking remains the leading cause of preventable disease, disability and death. Randolph County is in the bottom 20% of counties in North Carolina with proactive tobacco policies and if the tobacco-free rule is passed, Randolph County will be in the top 10% in NC. A number of ways that overall costs are increased for employers that allow smoking on premises include health care costs, smoke breaks, absenteeism, building maintenance cost, risk of fires and injuries. A tobacco-free policy for Randolph County could contribute to economic development by attracting businesses, creating a culture of wellness, providing a healthier workforce, and reduce healthcare costs. Mr. Varner concluded by noting that California implemented statewide policies against tobacco in the 1980's and as of last year, lung cancer death rates in California were 28% lower last year than the rest of the country (*see handout following the minutes*).

Laura Lambert, Randolph County Public Health Educator, and Ashley Curtice, Region 6 Tobacco Control Manager, presented an overview of benefits from tobacco-free grounds (*see power point following the minutes*). They highlighted second and third hand contamination risks from tobacco products especially for vulnerable populations such as children, elderly, and those with chronic health conditions. Four main benefits from a tobacco-free rule were defined as protection from second hand smoke, a model of healthy behavior for kids and youth, health care cost reductions and maintaining a clean and healthy environment. They provided clarification on a common misconception that citizens have a constitutional right to smoke (*see handout following the minutes*). Board members were informed that tobacco cessation programs are offered to county employees and citizens of Randolph County as a resource to aid in their efforts to discontinue the

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use of tobacco products. Ms. Curtice offered to provide staff education to ease the implementation of a tobacco-free rule. Tobacco free environments were also noted as part of the outline of the 2017-19 Strategic Plan for Randolph County Health Department.

The floor was opened for questions and comments across the board. Several board members agreed that most people think that government buildings are already tobacco-free. Other comments from board members included that none of the 14% of county employees using tobacco reached out in opposition. Marijuana usage was discussed among a few members, deciding that the tobacco-free rule can be revisited and amended if necessary to include prohibition of marijuana if legalized in NC in the future. Other board members had concerns which included staff and municipality education, time constraints for notification if the effective date remained as January 1, 2019, adequate signage and providing handouts/fliers as resources. Ms. Curtice and Ms. Lambert noted that handouts, email notifications, tobacco cessation classes, window clings, cards, etc. will be developed to inform county employees and municipalities of the rule if passed.

Susan Hayes, Randolph County Health Director, asked board members to adopt the Rule to Prohibit Tobacco on Local Government Ground and in Local Government Buildings and Vehicles (*see draft rule following the minutes*). Ms. Hayes explained that according to NC law, if a tobacco-free rule is passed by a local board of health, then the rule must also be presented to the board of county commissioners for their adoption as an ordinance. The effective date was discussed in regards to allowing enough time for presentation to county commissioners and notification to staff and municipalities. After some discussion, the board collectively agreed that March 1, 2019 should be the effective date of the rule if it passes a board vote.

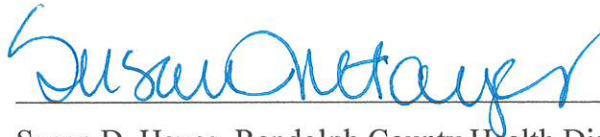
Dr. Hill made a motion to “approve the Rule to Prohibit Tobacco on Local Government Grounds and in Local Government Buildings and Vehicles with an effective date of March 1, 2019.” Ms. Haywood and Dr. Brown seconded the motion and the motion carried. The rule will be presented to the Randolph County Board of Commissioners on December 3, 2018.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm. The next regularly scheduled Board of Health meeting is Wednesday, November 7, 2018, at 6:00 pm in the Randolph County Emergency Services Headquarters meeting room.



Dr. Charles Lee, Randolph County Board of Health Chair



Susan D. Hayes, Randolph County Health Director