

# Columbus County Board of Health

## Minutes

Regular Meeting       Special Meeting

**October 30, 2019 6:00 P.M.**

**Columbus County Health Department, 304 Jefferson Street, Whiteville NC**

<b>Members Present</b>	Dr. Randy Kirby Patty Hobbs Dr. Nicole Martin Pat Ray Drew Cox Dr. Darryl Diefes Dr. Christy Perdue Dr. George Floyd Shane Cartrette,
<b>Members Absent</b>	Franklin Boone, Charles McDowell
<b>Staff Members Present</b>	Kimberly L. Smith, Charlene Bush, Martha Faulk
<b>Guests</b>	Emily Watson with On Target Preparedness, Erica Groff

**Quorum was present.**

**I. Call to Order**

Dr. Randy Kirby called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. Welcome/Invocation**

Dr. Randy Kirby welcomed everyone to the meeting. Invocation was given by Dr. Darryl Diefes.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Kim Smith requested to add two items under the Directors Forum, The Healing Place and the Dental Update. Motion to accept was made by Dr. Darryl Diefes seconded by Pat Ray and carried by the board.

**IV. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to accept was made by Dr. Nicole Martin seconded by Shane Cartrette and carried by the board.

**VI. Preparedness Update**

Emily Watson, of On Target Preparedness, presented a PowerPoint with the following updates:

**A. Review of Preparedness Activities**

*(Benchmark 7, Activity 7.6)*

- We work closely with the Health Director to make sure that the state and CDC requirements are met.
- Some things I will discuss with you today are the following:
  - Preparedness and Response Activities within the past year.
  - Public Health Emergency Preparedness Operational Readiness Review
  - Priorities for 2020-2021
- Right now through June of 2022, the Health Department is required to complete our five-year full-scale exercise. This kind of exercise is used to test all of our medical counter measures plans.
- Last month we did a tabletop exercise that included hospital, emergency management, county finance and the purchasing agent.
- The time to create relationships, with partners, is before an incident, not on scene.
- A month and a half ago we got back our Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Operational Readiness Review (ORR). It is self-submitted data, which was submitted to the state. They returned a 30-page report; we took that report, and compiled the following information from it:
  - Columbus County Health Department completed 81% of an All-Hazards Base Plan. Our goal is to be at 100% of June 2022.
  - Part of our plan is to continue helping the disadvantaged folks in the county.
  - We are part of the Eastern region.
  - The CDC says we should have five partners representing people with disabilities and we currently have two.
  - CDC says we should have this in place by June 1<sup>st</sup> 2022. So compared to the rest of the

	<p>state, we are doing good right now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The next slide shows Results by Focus Area; with the blue line representing where Columbus County Health Department is at, orange representing the Regional average and grey showing the State average. As you can see on this slide, the Health Department is either at, or exceeding, the Regional and State average's right now.</li> <li>● Does anyone have any questions?</li> </ul> <p>Shane Cartrette asked exactly who all would be involved in doing the full-scale exercise. Emily Watson answered that the full-scale exercise requires that you implement your entire plan. So anyone and everyone you have included within your plan, will be involved in it.</p> <p>Kim Smith added that a couple weeks ago, New Hanover was able to successfully receive a thousand doses of flu vaccine, and that is how they did their distribution exercise. They counted that as their full-scale exercise. The only thing is you cannot charge for those flu vaccines. We've met with the organization that provided them with the vaccines, in hopes to receive some ourselves.</p> <p>Shane Cartrette asked how EMS and the rescue squads, within the county, would be involved in that exercise. Emily Watson answered traditionally what other counties have done, is if there were someone who is symptomatic, in exercising, they would need transporting to the hospital. Kim Smith added it was possible to use the paramedics to give the vaccine.</p>
<p><b>VII. Financial Update</b></p>	<p>Charlene Bush, Budget Director stated the following:</p> <p><b>A. Financial Statement July, August</b>  <i>(Benchmark 33, Activity 33.6)(Benchmark 39, Activity 39.2)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● For the Financial Statement, you should have July and August in your packet. Are there any questions?</li> <li>● This shows the beginning of our fiscal year.</li> </ul> <p>Motion to accept Financial Statement for July and August was made by Dr. George Floyd, seconded by Dr. Christy Perdue, carried by the board.</p> <p><b>B. Patient Counts July, August, and September</b>  <i>(Benchmark 33, Activity 33.6)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● You can see where we started giving adult and child flu shots.</li> <li>● Charlene Bush asked if there were any questions. Dr. George Floyd asked if we were giving the flu shot in regular dose, high dose or all. Kim Smith replied we are</li> </ul>

	<p>giving all.</p> <p><b>C. Service Cost Update</b>  <i>(Benchmark 33, Activity 33.5) (Benchmark 39, Activity 39.3)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Service Cost Updates, we have changes that were made on October 1<sup>st</sup> and the other was updated October 14<sup>th</sup>, of 2019.</li> <li>• On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the following changes in price were made:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hep B is gone from \$67 to \$70</li> <li>○ The first flu was \$40 to \$42</li> <li>○ The flu preservative free was \$40 to \$42</li> <li>○ Flu high dose was \$72 to \$90.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• We've tried to set these at the Medicaid rates.</li> <li>• On October 14<sup>th</sup> we had the following changes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adacel \$68 to \$72</li> <li>○ Prevnol \$230 to \$247</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Are there any questions about this, this is our cost to purchase these?</li> </ul> <p>Motion to accept the Service Cost Update was made by Patty Hobbs, seconded by Dr. Darryl Diefes, carried by the board.</p> <p><b>D. Preparedness Financial Report</b>  <i>(Benchmark 33, Activity 33.6)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Preparedness, we get \$35,126 for the program that Emily Watson was talking about.</li> <li>• The things I have listed on your handout, is what we have to do. We have to have a 10% match from the county. With that match, I usually put a percentage towards our security guards' salary.</li> </ul> <p>Kim stated that this year, we will have the tabletop exercise, and we will be able to deduct that amount of time, from this funding, to go towards salaries.</p>
<p><b>VIII. Nursing</b></p>	<p>Kim Smith, Health Director, gave the following updates:</p> <p><b>A. Flu Vaccine Update</b>  <i>(Benchmark 38, Activity 38.1)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patti is not here tonight, she is with her mother who is in the hospital.</li> <li>• As far as the flu, a total of 1,060 doses of flu, have been ordered. We have received 500 doses, and have given all of these doses. The remaining 560 doses, which are on order, should arrive in two shipments; one on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> and the second on November 29<sup>th</sup>. We have pediatric flu, Fluzone, Flublok, and high dose for those 65 &amp; older. Flu clinics have been held at the United Methodist church, here in town, Southeaster</li> </ul>

Community College, Bug Hill Senior Center, Bolton Senior Center, and Tabor Commons. Plans are in the works to hold flu clinics at the Whiteville Senior Center, Chadbourn Senior Center, and East Columbus Senior Center.

- For the state, as of 10/19/19, we currently have had one adult flu death in North Carolina this season.

#### **B. Measles and Mumps Update**

*(Benchmark 38, Activity 38.1)*

- Measels update is as follows: An alert and clinician guidance was sent from Zack Moore, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist, and Wendy Holmes, RN, Head, Immunization Branch at DHHS, regarding an increase in measles cases across the US.
- Oct 11, 2019 -- We received notification of a potential measles exposure
- The Guilford County Health Department, and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, are alerting residents of a potential exposure to measles in the Greensboro area. A patient with laboratory-confirmed measles, traveled through Guilford County while infectious.
- People may have been exposed at the following locations, dates and times:
  - Piedmont Triad International Airport
  - Oct. 2, 11:15 p.m.–1:30 a.m.
  - Oct. 3, 1:45 p.m. –4:45 p.m.
  - Greensboro Wyndham Garden Hotel
  - Oct. 2, 11:30 p.m.–midnight
  - Oct. 3, midnight–4 p.m.
- People who have received at least one dose of measles containing vaccine, or who were born before 1957, are considered protected.
- Measles is a highly contagious disease, which is spread through the air, when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Symptoms begin seven to 14 days after contact with the virus, and typically include high fever, cough, runny nose and red, watery eyes. A rash that typically appears first on the head, and then spreads to the rest of the body, follows these symptoms three to five days later. People with measles are usually contagious four days before and four days after the rash appears.
- The mumps update is as follows: On Sep 24, 2019 an alert was sent from Erica Wilson, MD MPH, Medical Epidemiologist @ DHHS, for an increase

in mumps cases, and clinical guidance for practitioners.

- As of Sept. 26, seven confirmed cases have been reported. State Division of Public Health and local public health professionals are working with student health services at Elon University and High Point University to coordinate response measures, including vaccination of susceptible groups.
- On Sep 27, 2019 – a public notification of mumps cases was released.
- Mumps is a vaccine-preventable, viral illness, best known for causing swelling of the salivary glands below the ears and above the jaw, called parotitis.
- Mumps is spread by droplets from the nose, mouth or throat, of an infected person.

### **C. Vaping**

*(Benchmark 38, Activity 38.1)*

- The number of North Carolina cases of severe lung injury, associated with e-cigarette use or vaping, continues to rise, with 61 cases in people ranging in age from 13 to 72. The North Carolina cases are among a rising outbreak reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of 1,604 cases and 34 deaths, in the United States and the US Virgin Islands, as of Oct. 22. The acute lung injury cases have occurred in the context of a rapid rise of e-cigarette use by young people.
- The acute lung illness outbreak is occurring on top of rapidly rising rates of e-cigarette use, among youth.
- The biennial 2017 North Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey found that although cigarette smoking was the lowest ever recorded, among high school students at 8.9%, e-cigarette use increased 894% since 2011.
- State officials announced the first vaping-related death in North Carolina on Thursday, September 26, 2019.
- Cone Health, in Greensboro, reported that a patient died Wednesday, September 25, 2019 after being admitted to the hospital for vaping-related issues.
- The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) is investigating cases of severe lung disease among people who all reported recent vaping or dabbing (vaping products include nicotine, marijuana oils, extracts, or

	<p>concentrates).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ As of 10/24/2019, 61 cases have been reported in individuals in North Carolina ranging in age from 13 to 72 years</li> <li>○ Patients experienced severe respiratory symptoms including cough and shortness of breath. Patients also reported experiencing fever, fatigue, chest pain, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.</li> <li>○ Most cases have been hospitalized, and have required respiratory support. No deaths have been reported.</li> </ul>
<p><b>IX. Chairman's Forum</b></p>	<p>Dr. Randy Kirby, Chairman, gave the following update:</p> <p><b>A. Health Director's Evaluation</b>  <i>(Benchmark 37, Activity 37.5)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● First of all thank you everyone for everything you've done. I appreciate the kind words and prayers. They are comforting.</li> </ul> <p>Dr. Randy Kirby stated the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The next thing I am going to do is pass out the Health Director's Evaluations. If you could please take one, pass it around and complete these, and mail them back in to the Health Department to Yvonne.</li> <li>● These need to be completed and mailed back by November 29<sup>th</sup>. This will allow us a week, and a couple of days, to get them all together.</li> </ul> <p>Kim Smith gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Patti's mother is in the hospital. She has gone through two surgeries, and has another surgery scheduled for tomorrow. They have found some tumors on her spine. A diagnosis of malignant or benign has not been given. They are trying to make her a bit more comfortable.</li> <li>● Around noon today, Yvonne's mother passed away. They believe it was a massive heart attack. We have not had a good day here at the Health Department.</li> <li>● Lynn Strickland, one of our Pediatric nurses; she walked out of her back door, miss-stepped and broke her heel.</li> <li>● Martha had her rotator cuff repaired and she came back on Tuesday.</li> <li>●</li> </ul>
<p><b>X. Director's Forum</b></p>	<p>Kim Smith, Health Director gave the following updates:</p> <p><b>A. Grant Updates</b></p>

*(Benchmark 39, Activity 39.1, 39.2, 39.4)*

- A couple of months ago, we applied for the Preparedness Bright Ideas Grant. It was right at \$6,000. This was to get our nursing homes, home health and DME agencies together to do a tabletop and full-scale exercise with them. They are Medicare and Medicaid agencies and are required to have tabletop exercises just like we are. Unfortunately, we did not get that grant. The state says that is the agencies' responsibility to do their own tabletop.
- We did get the Sustained Access to Healthcare Project. This is the Hurricane Relief Grant through the Office of Rural Health. We received \$47,612.22. From that we are going to purchase 12 oxygen distribution manifold systems; two for each shelter, one as a backup. We have two from our Regional, from New Hanover, so what we might do is share with the hospital.

Shane Cartrette asked Kim Smith who would be over the oxygen distribution manifold systems. Kim replied the nurses in the shelters.

- We are also going to get five, four cylinder oxygen tank stands. That way we won't have to transfer H tanks back and forth from the shelters.
- We had our old generator, on the Administration Hall, was replaced with a larger one. That way we can have power, as well as AC and heat, throughout the Admin Hall. This will also allow us to be able to house the help we have coming in from other areas. We are going to contact Ashley Electric to come out and hook our old generator up, in Environmental Health, so after a storm, and the roads are passable, they will be able to come in and start inspecting restaurants and nursing homes.
- We are going to purchase 72 bariatric cots. We have a certain amount in the county and could not get anymore. The cots that are provided by the Red Cross will not hold the average person, especially if they are on oxygen. We have been told there will be more Hurricane Relief Grant money to be given out, so we do plan to apply for those.
- We also received \$400 from the Take the Plate Dinner, from the Take the Lake event. We will use this money to administer uninsured flu vaccines.
- We have applied for the Family Planning Grant.

Award notifications will be sent out at the end of November. This is a three year grant that comes out to \$52,000 / per year for three years and then you would have to reapply.

Shane Cartrette asked with the Family Planning Grant, what would you have to do in order to receive that money. Kim answered that it goes along with our contract with the state. They have to put it out for a bid. If Goshen wanted to apply for it, they could have applied for it. Only one entity in the county will be awarded this. We got it back in 2016 and it was right at \$52,000.

### **B. Hurricane Dorian Hot Wash**

*(Benchmark 7, Activity 7.6)*

- Our strengths throughout Dorian were listed as follows:
  - Our staff thought that we were better organized.
  - The Red Cross was very active during Dorian. Brunswick County turned down help from the Red Cross, so this might have attributed to more help on our end.
  - The meals were on time.
  - People were thankful for the communication.
  - Probation officers were in the shelters and not in the parking lots this time. This made the people in the shelter feel safer.
  - We had four nurses from the Western part of the state; they came in pre-storm. To see those four nurses come in, not knowing the situation they were coming in to; I have to applaud them. We were thankful for that. We had put in a Resource Request for 10 nurses ahead of the storm.
- Our weakness were listed as the following:
  - Law enforcement was needed inside West and South Columbus High School's. We had an intoxicated individual, at West Columbus, who brought in alcohol in her cooler. So we are asking about cooler checks.
  - Improved cots.
  - Medicine droppers to go in our totes that we carry out.

### **C. Medicaid Transformation**

*(Benchmark 39, Activity 39.1, 39.2, 39.4)*

- We still do not have a state budget. So the

Medicaid Transformation has been pushed back to February 1, 2020. The whole state will start the managed care Medicaid then. If we do not have a state budget by then, then it will get pushed back, yet again.

- I have word that some hospitals, physician offices and other agencies, have not signed up with any of the prepaid health plans; because they don't think we will go in to managed care Medicaid. There are some that have only signed up with one plan, and they are telling their Medicaid patients they need to sign up with the prepaid health plan that they've chosen, and they are not supposed to do this. All of this information has come from a meeting that Lily Buck and I attended in Wilmington.
- We have signed with everyone but United Healthcare. I've tried numerous times, and numerous ways, to get a contract from them, even speaking with them in person, and as of yet to get one.
- Our state association of local health directors stated that we need to sign up for every health plan, due to the fact that we don't know what's going to walk through the door, and that way, we will be able to bill for it.

#### **D. The Healing Place**

- The Healing Place has been in business for around 32 years. They have agencies located in Kentucky, Virginia and have been in Wake County, NC for 20 years. They are a long-term recovery and short-term detox unit. They have flexible beds they use for the homeless, and have medical clinics attached to their units. They are a social recovery model that is peer driven. Residents do all the work, cleaning and cooking. The cost is around \$45 a day, per individual.
- Around four years ago, they entered into discussions with Trillium, about building a facility in New Hanover County that was going to be for the Trillium region. The state decided that they could not use this excess money for that; but New Hanover county has committed to building this facility. It is an \$18 million dollar facility.
- The Healing Place wanted to meet with our County Manager, DSS Director and myself on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. They gave us some history and explained their

program. They asked us to think about a commitment from our county; where we would sign a commitment letter, or contract, and they would have 10 beds set aside for our residents, in exchange for \$50,000 a year. The County Manager stated that he would have to discuss this with the County Commissioners. One of the program managers is a graduate of this program in Kentucky. He was the first to speak up and state that he had an issue with pain medication. He went on to state, that after going to a couple of different facilities, The Healing Place, is where he was able to fully recover from his addiction.

- I called New Hanover County and spoke with Olivia Herden, over at SEAHHEL. She spoke highly of The Healing Place.

Dr. Christy Perdue asked, with the county paying the \$50,000 per year, does that cover the folks staying there or do they still have to pay. Kim Smith replied that The Healing Place takes insurance, they also take uninsured and underinsured along with fundraisers. They will not turn down anyone.

Dr. Darryl Diefes asked what the average length of stay was. Kim Smith answered she believes the long-term stay is nine to twelve months.

Dr. George Floyd asked if there were any partnerships with hospitals and rehab facilities. Shane Cartrette added that a lot of ER's have two to three beds, for individuals that could benefit from this. Kim Smith replied that she does not know if John Young was asked to go to this meeting, but she does not know how they couldn't be involved. They also help with work placement and job searches. These handouts are for your information. We definitely need something like this in our region.

#### **E. Dental Update**

- We found us a, new to us, bus, for a cost of \$185,000. With that, we get a refurbished Winnebago. It will take 14 to 16 weeks to get it refurbished. I will pass this information around.
- In the price, our budget for last year was \$200,000. We have a little left over. We have some equipment we can move over, and some we'll have to buy new. Some things come with the refurbished bus, so we are looking at spending around \$240,000.
- Depending on the size of the Panorex machine, we might have a spot to place it on this bus, if it meets

	<p>the specifications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Ladner has taken the lead on this. Her and Charlene have sat down and found the company, along with finding what equipment we need, and going through what we have.</li> <li>• With this conversion, we will be going with digital x-rays. So no more developing x-rays.</li> <li>• I have given Dr. Ladner free range on picking out the countertops, paint, and flooring.</li> <li>• Dr. Ladner will be going out on maternity leave in January and coming back in March.</li> <li>• The day she interviewed with us, she wasn't feeling well, and come to find out, she was pregnant.</li> <li>• She has also helped to find her fill-in while she is out on maternity leave.</li> <li>• The company we are buying the bus from, has sent us references, and I have checked with them and they seem to be a reputable company.</li> <li>• Just a quick staffing update, we've had one interview for a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. We had a phone interview with one, and she will be here on November 4<sup>th</sup>. I have a couple other applications as well. The one that is coming in on the 4<sup>th</sup>, she is originally from Kelly, NC. We linked up with her on the HRSA job fair interview. We look forward to meeting with her.</li> <li>• Everyone please remember our December meeting will be on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your spouse's.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Comments-Board of Health</b></p>	<p>Pat Ray, Vice-Chairman stated the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On behalf of Whiteville United Methodist Church, we want to express our appreciation, for the continuation of our flu clinic; to you and your staff, you all are wonderful.</li> </ul> <p>Dr. Randy Kirby sated the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just a reminder to get those evaluations in, and please remember the December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, and your spouse's are invited. If there is nothing else, we will adjourn.</li> </ul>

**Next Meeting Date**  
**December 11, 2019 at 6:00 pm**

**Meeting Adjourned**

Respectfully submitted: *Kimberly K Smith* **Secretary** 12/11/19  
 Signature Date