

Columbus County Board of Health

Minutes

Regular Meeting Special Meeting

October 27, 2021 6:00 P.M.

Columbus County Health Department, 304 Jefferson Street, Whiteville NC

Members Present	Pat Ray Drew Cox Dr. George Floyd Patty Hobbs Dr. Brent Lawson Dr. Nicole Martin
Members Absent	Dr. Randy Kirby, Shane Cartrette, Charles McDowell, Frankye Boone-Newkirk, Dr. Christy Perdue
Staff Members Present	Kimberly L. Smith, Yvonne J. Armstrong, Charlene Bush, Patti Nance

Quorum was present.

I. Call to Order

Pat Ray called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. Welcome/Invocation

Pat Ray welcomed everyone to the meeting. Invocation was given by Pat Ray.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion to accept was made by Dr. George Floyd, seconded by Dr. Brent Lawson, and carried by the board.

IV. Public Comment

There was one public comment, via Facebook. Is the county prepared to give booster vaccines for COVID? Kim Smith answered yes; please call the Health Department for appointments. The number is (910) 640-6615, extensions 7070, 7072, 7074.

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept was made by Dr. Nicole Martin, seconded by Patty Hobbs, and carried by the board.

VI. Preparedness Update

David Hesselmeyer, On Target Preparedness gave the following updates:

A. Review of Preparedness Activities

(Benchmark 7, Activity 7.6)

David Hesselmeyer presented a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted the following:

- The Health Department has been doing preparedness even before the pandemic hit. Some of these trainings were the respiratory protection and the incident command trainings. By staying up to date on these trainings, we have seen a positive impact, as opposed to other places around the state.
- We have an agreement addendum from the state Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control, which sets guidelines on what we should do. We constantly look at what we have done, how we have done it and if we could do better.
- The Health Department has an Emergency Response Plan. This document helps guide us as to what we should do during a disaster or emergency. It is not a step by step. This document is meant to give us the guidance, not step-by-step instructions, because we all know that surely would not have worked with COVID-19.
- The county has an EOP (Emergency Operations Plan) that defines the roles of the different agencies; it is currently under revision. We make sure that the Health Department's (ERP) works and flows with the county's EOP. Where the EOP ends, then our ERP kicks in to give us more direction, depending on the circumstance and situation.
- COVID-19 caused a lot of changes to happen with our N-95's, regarding how long to use them and when to use them. We will be reviewing this policy.
- We maintain training annually. We recently conducted Shelter Training, and had to include information on how to respond to certain scenarios thanks to COVID-19.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We'll be looking at equipment needs. Items that we didn't have during the pandemic, that could have possibly made our response better, if we did have those items in our possession.
<p>VII. Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development</p>	<p>Dr. Jimmy Tate, President of Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development gave the following Power Point presentation:</p> <p>Dr. Tate started off by introducing himself and a little background regarding Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We serve nine counties in southeastern North Carolina. Our number one program at Mt. Calvary Leadership Development is community help. If you go on our website, you can see a list of the programs we offer. • The Executive Director of Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership and Development is Ms. Mary Lisa Robinson. Ms. Robinson, is a longtime native of the rural community of Willard. She also invested the majority of her career achievement in the State of Maryland, where she served in the field of Healthcare Administration Fiscal Services Management. She is a proud graduate of Bowie State University. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Masters Degree in Healthcare Administration. Ms. Robinson, is also a member of the Wallace Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, representing the Business Community. • The Mount Calvary Center for Leadership Development was developed through a group of leaders of Mount Calvary University. Several southeastern North Carolina grassroots community leaders came to the university seeking help to train and promote competent and aggressive local leadership. Historically, many communities have had to address many challenges but lack an abundance of trained leadership aimed at their interests. The university accepted the challenge and immediately began to develop, Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. • The Center serves mostly low income and rural communities with high unemployment and low educational achievement. There are several who desire leadership positions, but most lack the skills for leadership. This is not because of a lack of

aptitude but the lack of training. We believe that training at the grassroots level will enhance the quality of leadership who in turn will enhance the overall status for a community that has been locked out of the equation.

- The Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development mission is to educate, enable, and prepare grassroots persons to become better individuals and advocates for economic, political and social change for the betterment of the community.
- Mt. Calvary launched a Vocational, Industrial, and College (VIC) Preparatory Academy in the Spring of 2021. This academy's focus is on low-income, marginalized, and minority youth with career exploration, industrial trades, and college preparatory skills. Health science will be embedded in the curriculum with a major focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion for underserved, minority populations. VIC will serve both middle school and high school cohorts. VIC will also focus on helping youth better understand their self-worth, interests, and abilities to aid in personal and professional development through the incorporation of technology. Students will learn about various career opportunities and sustainable professions within the region through mentorship opportunities since Mt. Calvary believes positive role models can successfully help high poverty, at-risk students be successful. With that in mind, a major emphasis will be placed on recruiting students from low-income communities.
- The Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development is responding to the urgent needs of the communities by bringing diverse groups together, understanding differences, celebrating commonalities, and uniting as Americans.

OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD (OLP) YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- The primary goal of the At-Risk Youth Leadership Development Program is to help referred participants improve their interpersonal and professional skills and reduce the rate of school dropouts and recidivism. Key components of this program focus on: self-assessment and goal setting, career readiness and entrepreneurship, community

engagement, leadership and management fundamentals, resume creation and employability skills and internship opportunities. Program instructors and facilitators include psychologists, college instructors, faith-based leaders and business entrepreneurs.

ADULT-COMMUNITY CITIZENS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

- The Adult-Community Citizens Leadership Program works to expand and develop emerging leaders to support our local community. Participants receive instruction from highly certified facilitators who come from throughout North Carolina and bring strong experience to the classes that they lead. Program topics include areas such as: leadership and communication, team building and cohesiveness, goal-setting and accountability, personal growth objectives and innovation, and many other emerging topics critical for 21st century leaders. All participants complete a capstone paper that highlights a project or initiative that they would like to see developed to pro-actively impact their community or workplace.

Natural Disaster Relief Outreach Program

- The Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development seeks to connect people with natural disaster relief informational resources to assist people with their restoration efforts. Mt. Calvary partners with several agencies in government, business, education, and other areas to serve as a hub of information for those seeking hurricane relief. Mt. Calvary provides a holistic training that takes serious people and their hurricane related problems. Many Mt. Calvary friends are first responders and emergency personnel and are taught to prevent injury and loss of life. Mt. Calvary trains leaders to provide information about the basic human needs such as shelter, food and water and medical services. Mt. Calvary trains students with smart preparation and direct relief response. This includes work assisting people prior to the hurricane and responses after the hurricane. The training at the Mt. Calvary Leadership Development Center will benefit the first responders and the communities they serve.

Community Health Initiative

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development is pleased to be one of several vendors granted funding from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to hire and employ professionals in Pender, Brunswick, Hoke, New Hanover, Robeson, Scotland, Bladen, Columbus and Sampson to work with local health departments in working with people impacted by COVID-19. Workers will carry out contact tracing and make sure individuals know the resources available if they need things like supplies, housing, transportation, mental health support, and even legal help. We not only want to help folks with temporary solutions, but with long term solutions as well. • In Columbus County this past year, we have done the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Referrals – 2,731 (Emergency Financial Assistance, Food, Covid Supplies etc...) ○ Clients: 1,883 ○ Distribution of Financial Assistance: \$1.1 M ○ Vaccine Clinics: 26 ○ People Served: 2,728 ○ Community Health Worker's: 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shawn Maynor ▪ Albert Smith • Our contact information is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 405 US Hwy 117 South Burgaw, NC 28425 ○ 414 North Norwood St Wallace, NC 28466 ○ (910) 300 - 6322 ○ (910) 665 - 1352 ○ www.mcleadership.org • Thank you so much Kim Smith for your leadership throughout this whole ordeal. <p>Dr. George Floyd thanked Mt. Calvary for their help in helping with vaccines.</p>
<p>VIII. Financial Update</p>	<p>Charlene Bush, Budget Director stated the following:</p> <p>A. Financial Statement July, August <i>(Benchmark 33, Activity 33.6)(Benchmark 39, Activity 39.2)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the Financial Statement, you should have July and August in your packet. Are there any questions? • The other part is the Year to Date Review. As you can see we are at 13% Total Revenue Received,

	<p>13% Appropriations and our total expenses are at 13%.</p> <p>Motion to accept Financial Statement for July and August was made by Dr. Brent Lawson, seconded by Dr. George Floyd, carried by the board.</p> <p>B. Patient Counts July, August <i>(Benchmark 33, Activity 33.6)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charlene Bush asked if there were any questions. Dr. George Floyd noted that numbers were picking back up compared to last year. He also asked about Dental. Kim Smith informed the Board that Dental was back out and going to the different schools now. Charlene stated the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This should start showing up on the next Patient Counts. <p>C. Service Cost Update <i>(Benchmark 33, Activity 33.5) (Benchmark 39, Activity 39.3)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varicella \$154 to \$167 FLU (Preservative Free) Fluzone 3mon-64 year olds is \$46.00 Are there any questions about this, this is our cost to purchase these? <p>Motion to accept Service Cost Update was made by Dr. Nicole Martin, seconded by Patty Hobbs, carried by the board.</p> <p>D. Funding Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is extra money we have received in July and August. We've received some from WIC Peer Counselor. This is a situation where we know we're getting money, but we don't know how much. We have carryover COVID money that we were allowed to rollover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$478,000.00 and the other is \$139,000.00 We have a School Health Liaison \$115,000.00 Medicaid cost funding came in \$352,418.00. This is for the year of 2019-2020. There is still a 10% holdback. But this was our settlement for this year. This money has to be put back into the money where it was earned. <p>E. Preparedness Financial Report <i>(Benchmark 33, Activity 33.6)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David went over with you what this money goes towards. We get \$38,319.00 and then the county does a 10% match, which is \$3,832.00.
<p>IX. Nursing</p>	<p>Patti Nance, Director of Nursing, gave the following updates:</p>

A. COVID-19 Update*(Benchmark 38, Activity 38.1)*

- As of today, for the State:
 - Completed Test: 18,978,535
 - Total Cases: 4,470,495
 - New Cases (Statewide Overnight): 1,340
 - Current Hospitalizations: 1,443 with 95% of hospitals reporting. 419 are ICU patients and 22% are on the vent.
 - COVID Deaths: 17,888
 - Positivity Rate: 6.0% from 6.5%
- Statewide Vaccine Numbers:
 - 71% have had a first dose
 - 66% are fully vaccinated
- As of today, our County numbers are as follows:
 - Completed Test: 79,019
 - Total Case Count: 10,714
 - Post Vaccination Cases: 470
 - COVID Deaths: 229 since the beginning of COVID. 75 of those deaths have occurred since July, when we had a big influx of cases. Eight of those individuals were vaccinated, 67 were not.
 - Recoveries: 10,318
 - Isolation: 212
 - Quarantine: 530
 - Current Hospitalizations: 59 in our region with 86% of hospitals reporting in our region.
 - Positivity Rate: 9.5% up from 8.2%
 - Averaging 322 cases per 100,000 residents per every 14 days.
- Columbus County Vaccine Numbers:
 - 44% of the county residents have received their first dose.
 - 41% have had their second dose.
 - The Health Department has given a total of 11,404 vaccine doses.
- We still have two outbreaks in the county. This includes one correctional facility and a skilled nursing facility.
- Case Counts by Age since March 1st, 2020:
 - 0 to 1 year old: 125
 - 2 to 4 year olds: 144
 - 5 to 9 year olds: 339
 - 10 to 14 year olds: 511

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 to 17 year olds: 438 ● We are expecting approval for the Pfizer vaccine for children from 5 to 11 years of age, as soon as November 3rd. ● Upcoming Vaccine Clinics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dream Center: November 19th, 11am to 3pm. They will be giving Moderna and Pfizer. ○ The Health Department is now giving vaccines every day, including boosters, along with our vaccine clinics we hold every Friday. We ask that people call in and pre-register. We will accept walk-ins, but it helps with a better flow if you call in and make an appointment. We are giving Moderna and Johnson & Johnson. ○ The local pharmacies are still administering COVID vaccines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ McNeil's ▪ Baldwin Woods ▪ Crossroads ▪ Village Prescription Center ▪ Koonce Drug ▪ Family Drug ▪ Medicine Mart ▪ Walgreen's ▪ Wal-Mart ▪ CVS ● Booster vaccine's, if it has been at least six months since you received your second dose of Pfizer or Moderna, and at least two months since you received your first dose of J&J; if you are 65 and older, 18 or older, live or work a nursing home or long term care nursing facility, have high risk health conditions, work in a high risk profession that puts you in contact with a lot of people, and you don't know their vaccination status, or if you live or work in a congregate living facility, you are eligible for a booster vaccine.
<p>X. Chairman's Forum</p>	<p>Pat Ray, Vice-Chairman, gave the following update:</p> <p>A. Health Director's Evaluation <i>(Benchmark 37, Activity 37.5)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is time for Kim's evaluation. Yvonne I understand that you'll be sending everyone copies of these. <p>Yvonne Armstrong stated they would be sent out this week</p>

	<p>and please mail them back by November 30th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim we appreciate you and your staff and all your efforts.
<p>XI. Director's Forum</p>	<p>Kim Smith, Health Director gave the following updates:</p> <p>A. Vital Records Update (Benchmark 2, Activity 2.1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every birth and every death that occurs in Columbus County comes through the Health Department. Back in 2010, birth certificates were done electronically. In September of 2020, the state told us we were going to be in the pilot program for the death certificates. • The States new system NC Database for Vital Events (NCDAVE) replaces the paper process. • Right now the Health Department is online, the hospice facilities in the county, and the medical examiners. Our physicians are not all online, or signing death certificates online. It was up to the NCDAVE system administrators to contact the physicians and hospitals to provide them with the training needed to participate in this system. The states goal is to go all electronic by January of 2022. <p>B. Staff Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Front Office Manager, Donna Best left us and Brandy Burge has taken her place. Brandy has been with us for a number of years, and she is doing an excellent job. Jennifer McPherson went from registration to eligibility. This was a big step for Jennifer, and she too is doing an excellent job. Our Medical Records clerk had resigned as well and our new one will start on November 22nd. I will announce her name, once we get her in place. The money Charlene mentioned earlier for the School Liaison position, Lily Buck has taken that position. We have met with the City School nurses and we meet next week with the County School nurses. Her job consist of any questions they may have about COVID, helping with testing, and anything else she can help them with. We are so glad she is able to help us with this. <p>C. Board of Health Training – Health NC 2030 (Benchmark 36, Activity 36.3, 36.2)</p> <p>The training would not pull up properly via the overhead projector. It was decided and agreed upon that each individual board member would conduct the training on his</p>

	or her own time. Once completed, they will receive a certificate. This certificate is to be given to Yvonne Armstrong, and can be mailed in with the Health Director's evaluation.
XII. Comments-Board of Health	

Next Meeting Date

December 8, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted:

Hamberly L Smith
Signature

Secretary

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Date