

# Columbus County Board of Health

## Minutes

Regular Meeting     Special Meeting

October 26, 2022 6:00 P.M.

Columbus County Health Department, 304 Jefferson Street, Whiteville NC

<b>Members Present</b>	Pat Ray Drew Cox Dr. Brent Lawson Frankye Boone-Newkirk Dr. Christy Perdue Dr. Amy Sessions
<b>Members Absent</b>	Shane Cartrette, Patty Hobbs, Dr. Randy Kirby, Dr. Nicole Martin, Charles McDowell,
<b>Staff Members Present</b>	Kimberly L. Smith, Charlene Bush, Patti Nance, Mitzi Ward

**Quorum was present.**

### I. Call to Order

Pat Ray called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.

### II. Welcome/Invocation

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

### III. Approval of Agenda

Kim Smith notified the board that Mt. Calvary would not be able to attend tonight or Kristie Priest, with Environmental Health. These items needed to be removed from tonight's agenda. Motion to accept the agenda, with the changes mentioned, was made by Drew Cox, seconded by Dr. Christy Perdue, 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. Amy Sessions, seconded by Dr. Brent Lawson, and carried by the board.

## VI. Preparedness Update

Mark Tomeucci, On Target Preparedness, gave the following updates:

### A. Review of Preparedness Activities

*(Benchmark 7, Activity 7.6)*

Mark Tomeucci presented a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted the following:

- The overall preparedness for the State of North Carolina, comes from the CDC and the preparedness program. This is a contract between the CDC and the state. We have an agreement addendum from the state Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which sets guidelines and helps with funding for Emergency Preparedness.
- With COVID, a lot of preparedness requirements were relaxed; since we are coming out of COVID, it is starting to gear back up.
- Every two to three years there is an audit of the Preparedness Program for the county. Kim, myself and Charlie, did this today with the state. You are graded, low, medium or high risk. We feel pretty certain that the county will maintain its low risk status.
- The Health Department has an All Hazard Response Plan. It is superseded by the county's EOP (Emergency Operations Plan) that defines the roles of the different agencies. We make sure that the Health Department's Emergency Response Plan (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. They are due annually and we are currently awaiting instruction from the CDC, OSHA and other departments, following COVID, to get the most up to date knowledge included in the plan.
- We have been working with Emergency Management for identifying a 50 mile, straight line, from any nuclear power plant facility. We are looking for an update on mass dispensing operations for those areas within this zone.
- Respiratory protection, is covered under OSHA. It is one of the requirements for Public Health Preparedness and Response. Respiratory FIT Testing is something we help facilitate. With COVID, the Health Department was able to purchase a new Porta count 8048. The respiratory protection overview, and this ties back in to the overall rating.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and exercises, there have been a couple shelter trainings. The biggest being the Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant that happened in July. Emergency Management and Public Health represented the county in this exercise.</li> <li>• There are going to be updates made for the long and short range training calendars, as we move forward.</li> <li>• Real world events that have taken place over the last six months include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hurricane Ian activation (one shelter was opened)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Currently working through the inventory for Bio-terrorism funding. This is done to make sure we have the supplies and inventory needed, and that they are up to date.</li> </ul> <p>Kim Smith stated the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Hurricane Ian we had two individuals who worked the shelter from the Health Department. I was in the EOC and Patti Nance relieved me. DSS and the Sheriff's department had two individuals from their departments out there as well.</li> </ul>
<b>VII. Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development</b>	Dr. Jimmy Tate, President of Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development was unable to attend tonight's meeting.
<b>VIII. Environmental Health</b>	Kristie Priest, Environmental Health Supervisor, was unable to attend tonight's meeting.
<b>IX. Child Fatality Report</b>	<p>Mitzi Ward, County Child Fatality Team, gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to COVID all the state offices are behind. I've included all the deaths from 2020 and 2021.</li> <li>• The first quarter of 2020 we had eight total deaths. In 2021 we had a 17 year old to die from pneumonia due to complications from COVID. We had a total of nine for 2021. Most of these deaths were under the age of five, with the exception of the 17 year old.</li> <li>• The Child Fatality Team met a couple of weeks ago, at DSS, with the Child Protection Team. Our plans are for 2023 to start back having our prayer vigil, here at the Health Department. We have not set a date as of yet, but it will be sometime in April of 2023. The plan is to do what we did last time, and have a butterfly release.</li> </ul> <p>Motion to accept the Child Fatality Report was made by Drew Cox, seconded by Dr. Christy Perdue, carried by the board.</p>
<b>X. Financial Update</b>	<p>Charlene Bush, Budget Director stated the following:</p> <p><b>A. Financial Statement August, September</b></p>

	<p><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 August and September in your packet. Are there any questions?</li> <li>• The other part is the Year to Date Review. It should read July 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. As you can see we are at 26% Total Revenue Received, 16% Appropriations and our total expenses are at 21%.</li> </ul> <p>Motion to accept Financial Statement for July and August was made by Dr. Brent Lawson, seconded by Dr. Amy Sessions, carried by the board.</p> <p><b>B. Patient Counts August, September</b> <i>(Benchmark 33, Activity 33.6)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You can see we have gone up in numbers July, August and September. Some are flu shots and COVID vaccines. We are still providing those services, along with seeing patients.</li> </ul> <p>Kim Smith stated the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As you can see down at the bottom, it shows the number of COVID patients seen. We have now integrated our COVID vaccines in with our electronic medical record. Before, they were done just with the state system, and did not flow back in to our electronic medical record, but now they do.</li> </ul> <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>• Nothing to report.</li> </ul> <p><b>D. Funding Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19 Vaccination Program has \$125,880.00 during the time period of August 1<sup>st</sup> to September. We also have the reopening of the School Liaison at \$115,000.00 and the Infant Mortality Reduction, we had to decrease to (15,657.00). This was a decision within our health department to do this now, so another health department could utilize this funding.</li> </ul> <p><b>E. Preparedness Financial Report</b> <i>(Benchmark 33, Activity 33.6)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark has already went over all of the deliverables. We get \$38,319.00 for that program. The county has to match it by 10%. Usually I will take and match this amount to cover the cost for our Security Guard, and other things like that we pay out for preparedness.</li> </ul>
<p><b>XI. Nursing</b></p>	<p>Patti Nance, Director of Nursing, gave the following updates:</p> <p><b>A. COVID-19 Update</b> <i>(Benchmark 38, Activity 38.1)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of today, our County numbers are as follows:</li> </ul>

- COVID Deaths: 278
- Total Case Count: 19,216
- Current Hospitalizations: None that we are aware of at this time.
- Isolation: 29
- Quarantine: 58
- We are still doing COVID immunizations and boosters.
- The new variant that is out is the BF.7; 7.5% of cases are of the new variant.
- Our grade currently, according to the state is “Low” community level risk of illness and strain on the health system. Robeson and Bladen are also “Low”; along with Brunswick, Pender and New Hanover. We have one “High” county in the state and that is Stokes County, and twelve “Medium” risk counties.
- Pharmacies are still doing immunizations and there are still testing sites. COVID is still out there.

Kim Smith stated that the Health Department has given away a lot of home test and we still have some available. The shelf life on the ones we have now are January or February of 2023. The shelf life is relatively short.

#### **B. Monkey-Pox Update**

*(Benchmark 38, Activity 38.1)*

- We still have some of the Jynneos vaccine available. In the state we have 615 total cases.
- We’ve only had one in our county.
- 97% of the cases are male and 68% are in the African American population.
- The total number of vaccines administered in the state are 13,374.
- Our contacts for the one case we had, they were polled, and we checked in with them during the period we were required too, and a few did receive the vaccine.
- Full immunization requires two full doses which is administered 28 days apart.
- North Carolina’s vaccine eligibility criteria include anyone who has had any of the following:
  - Anyone who had close contact, in the past two weeks, with someone who has been diagnosed with monkey pox.
  - Gay, bisexual, or other men, who have had sex with men, or transgender individuals, who are sexually active.
  - People who have had sexual contact with gay, bisexual, or other men, who have sex with men, or transgender individuals, in the past 90 days.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ People living with HIV, or taking medication to prevent HIV (PrEP), or who were diagnosed with syphilis in the past 90 days.</li> <li>● The following new criteria was added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ People who have had any of the following in the past six (6) months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sex at a commercial sex venue.</li> <li>▪ Sex in association with a large public event.</li> <li>▪ Sexual partners of people with the above risks; or</li> <li>▪ People who anticipate experiencing the above risks.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Kim (Smith) asked me to speak to you about the flu. We have got our first flu related death in the Western part of the State. Biometrics have not been released. It was reported today.</li> <li>● Kim has also asked me to talk to you about Ebola. On September 20<sup>th</sup>, they declared an outbreak of Ebola due to the Sudan virus strain in a particular district in Uganda. The government at the time stated that if you had been to Uganda, within a 21 day period, you were funneled to one of the five major airport hubs in the United States, and from there, a risk exposure was done upon arrival. The information gathered would then flow to the state and its reporting systems, and then received by the health departments. So far we have not had any calls. As of October 19<sup>th</sup> we've had 60 confirmed cases and 20 probable cases including 44 deaths, related to this outbreak, according to the WHO (World Health Organization). Twenty-five people have recovered. Experimental Ebola vaccines will be sent to Uganda in about two weeks, a WHO official told the Associated Press on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The strain behind the latest outbreak is named Sudan ebolavirus, and existing vaccines are not effective against it. The CDC stated that the risk of the disease being imported in to the U.S. was low.</li> <li>● Some hospitals in the state are listed as frontline. We have nine. There are ten treatment facilities scattered throughout the U.S.</li> </ul>
<b>XII. Chairman's Forum</b>	<p>Pat Ray, Vice-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>● This is a reminder that it is time for the Health Director's evaluation. You should have received it in the mail, along with pre-paid postage.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We would like to have the evaluations back by November 16<sup>th</sup>. This will give us three weeks.</li> </ul>
<p><b>XIII. Director's Forum</b></p>	<p>Kim Smith, Health Director gave the following updates:</p> <p><b>A. Vital Records Update</b> <i>(Benchmark 2, Activity 2.1)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of our physicians are on board with the electronic death certificates. We had two individuals who swore they would never do it; but when they started to receive fines, they sat down and completed their training. All Columbus County physicians are onboard now.</li> </ul> <p><b>B. Staff Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have hired a wonderful Dental Hygienist and a wonderful Processing Assistant. Our Processing Assistant picked up on our electronic medical record system and she has been very receptive in her training. Our Dental Hygienist is learning the Dental electronic medical record system. They are both settling in.</li> <li>We are still in need of a nurse that would like to work with children in our Pediatric clinic. They would also help give COVID vaccines; therefore they would need to feel comfortable giving adult and children's vaccines.</li> <li>We also need a Nutritionist. This position has been open for two years now. If we could find an RN, who would like to work three to four days per week to fit into that Nutritionist position, so be it.</li> </ul> <p><b>C. Chemours Update</b> <i>(Benchmark 37, Activity 37.6)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have emails here where I have gone back and forth with the state regarding an informational session with the residents of Columbus County. On November 29<sup>th</sup>, down at the Riegelwood Community Park, from 6pm to 8pm, the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will be down giving an informational session. We have already started advertising and sending out information on the meeting. Usually we have one to two officers at public meetings, and I've spoken with Justin Worley at the Sheriff's Department, and we will have two deputies out there. We are using the community center, which is county owned. The fee is waived and Julie Strickland and her folks, from Parks and Recreation, are going to make sure everything is cleaned up and setup for us. I have three staff members that will be attending with me: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kristie Priest</li> <li>○ Jamika Lynch</li> <li>○ Daniel Buck</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell everyone you know about this meeting. You do not have to live just in this area of the county to attend. It's the people that eat the fish, drink the water, and have been in this area for years and who might have possibly, at some point, been exposed. That way our citizens can listen for themselves and hear what's going on, so they can make good decisions for themselves and their families, as well as ask questions to the experts on this matter.</li> </ul> <p>Pat Ray added if any of the Board Members would like to go, please do so.</p> <p>Drew Cox asked how about advertising. Kim Smith replied that once we get the flyer from the state, we will put it out on Social Media and possibly in the newspaper; as well as contact associates at that end of the county, to get these flyers passed out.</p> <p>Kim Smith continued to state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't know if any of the Leland and Wilmington citizens will come this way, but I know that our folks did not attend neither of those meetings that they had. I hope to have a building full of people.</li> <li>• Our next meeting is December 14<sup>th</sup> 2022.</li> </ul>
<p><b>XIV. Comments-Board of Health</b></p>	<p>Pat Ray asked if anyone from the Board had any comments. Dr. Christy Perdue stated the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the NCDAVE we need a little more information from the funeral homes; this is from a physician's standpoint. We get the email that we need to fill it out, which is great, but then we do not have any of the information we need to fill it out. We need the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Place of Death</li> <li>○ Time of Death</li> <li>○ Time of Pronouncement of Death</li> <li>○ Any situational information needed to complete.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If the funeral home would just give us basic information, it would not be as time consuming.</li> </ul> <p>Kim Smith stated she would see what she could do.</p>

**Next Meeting Date**  
**December 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm**

**Meeting Adjourned**

Respectfully submitted: Kimberly Smith Secretary 12/14/22  
 Signature Date