**PENDER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**Minutes**

**December 3, 2020**

The Pender County Advisory Board of Health held a regular meeting on Thursday,

December 3rd at 5:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Pender County Annex, Hampstead

**Board Members Attending:**

* Kim Collins, Chair
* Shannon Jennings, Vice Chair
* George Brown
* Denise Houghton
* Samenthia Jones
* Samantha Murphy, by phone

**Board Members Absent:**

* Jan Dawson

**Health Department Staff Attending:**

* Carolyn Moser, HHS Director
* Vence Dodge, Environmental Health Supervisor
* Shirley Steele, Director of Nursing
* Casey LaFleur, Public Health Nurse
* **Meeting called to order by:** Kim Collins, Chair

**Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Collins welcomed everyone. New member, Denise Houghton, was introduced. She is a resident of Surf City. Ms. Houghton worked as a public health educator and later as a regional consultant for the Division of Public Health. She has experience with the Community Health Assessment process also.

Ms. Moser noted the loss of board member, Pammela Baker, FNP, who died from COVID-19.

The board expressed their sympathy and the great loss for our board and most importantly, the community.

**Public comment:** None

**Action Items:**

* **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes from the January 9, 2020, board meeting were presented for approval by Shannon Jennings. Samenthia Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Program Updates**

* **Environmental Health**

Environmental Health Supervisor, Vence Dodge, discussed the handout provided in the Board packet. Conversation was held about the activities and COVID impacts

* **2019 Annual Report**

Ms. Moser shared the report enclosed in their board packet. COVID will impact the health department visits and health education numbers for upcoming reports.

**Discussion/Information**

**Re-Accreditation 202 Process**

The health department’s re-accreditation status was extended to 2021 due to COVID. The year 2020 will be exempt from required benchmarks. At this time, re-accreditation will be in August 2021.

**Capital Improvement Planning**

The county is awaiting an evaluation by the Corp of Engineers regarding possible wetlands and terrestrial waters. They are behind schedule due to COVID but it is expected the assessment would be completed in the coming months.

 **Update**

Shannon Jennings updated the board on the COVID situation at the House of Raeford. There had been approximately 500 cases to date with no fatalities. COVID has not been found in poultry or swine. It is possible transmission can occur in dogs through human contact. Discussion was held.

***A Day in the Life of COVID-19 and Update***

Shirley Steele reviewed the latest information regarding COVID-19 in Pender County. She also referenced the handout in the board packet. She and Casey LaFleur presented various scenarios they have faced as they work to contact those testing positive for COVID as well as those that were named as contacts. It was an enlightening presentation for board members as to the issues health department staff face daily as they try to manage the spread of infection.

**Other**

Mr. Brown mentioned concerns about the recent release of the county tier-rankings. Pender County remained as a Tier 3 county while Brunswick and New Hanover counties were ranked as Tier 2. This ranking system often impacts how grant funding is distributed as well as other funding opportunities. He has asked Representative Carson Smith to explore the state’s decision.

**Adjourned meeting:** Meeting adjourned 6:15 p.m.

**Next meeting: January 14, 2021** at 5:00p.m. in Burgaw