

**PENDER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**Minutes
April 8, 2021**

The Pender County Advisory Board of Health held a regular meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in board room of the Pender County Annex, Hampstead.

Board Members Attending:

- Kim Collins, Chair
- Shannon Jennings, Vice Chair
- Jan Dawson
- Angela Livingood
- Denise Houghton, by phone
- Samenthia Jones

Board Members Absent:

- George Brown
- Samantha Murphy

Health Department Staff Attending:

- Carolyn Moser, HHS Director
- Vence Dodge, Environmental Health Supervisor
- Shirley Steele, Director of Nursing

Meeting called to order by: Kim Collins, Chair

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Collins welcomed everyone.

Public comment: None

Action Items:

➤ **Approval of the Agenda**

Motion was made by Shannon Jennings to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Samenthia Jones. Motion passed.

➤ **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes from the December 3, 2020 board meeting were presented for approval by Shannon Jennings. Samenthia Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Program Updates

➤ **COVID-19 Update**

Carolyn Moser referred to the COVID update provided to the members in their packet. She stated Pender was averaging 8-9 positive cases a day and that our positivity rate has been higher than the state average for quite some time. She continued stating the clinic had scaled back on COVID testing, to two half days a week, Monday afternoon and Friday mornings. COVID deaths have remained stable at 69. At the time of this meeting, Moser stated 32% of Pender residents have been partially vaccinated and 22 % have been fully vaccinated. Angela Livingood shared Pender Hospital is going to hold a vaccination clinic with the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Ms. Moser

stated many surrounding counties are refusing vaccine due to difficulties related with finding enough people who want to take it. Shirley Steele explained to the board how the vaccination clinics are run and how we have been vaccinating on both sides of the county as well as manufacturing companies and businesses. Angela Livingood thanked the health clinic for all the help and support given to Pender Memorial throughout the vaccination process. Kim Collins shared feedback from the teachers regarding how organized and efficient the vaccination process was for them. Discussion was made.

➤ **2021 National County Health Rankings**

Ms. Moser referred to the handout in the packets and stated the county health rankings came out at the end of March and Pender had improved. Discussion was made.

➤ **FY21/22 Budget**

Ms. Moser explained to the board the budget process and the next step for the health department was to meet with the commissioners for budget work sessions. Ms. Moser stated the county completed a salary study and the manager's office was hoping to implement the changes within the new budget. She continued with saying the health department has already received \$840,000 of federal COVID money, which has been used for salaries. Discussion was made.

➤ **Medicaid Managed Care**

Ms. Moser stated Medicaid Managed Care had been delayed but people are now signing up for the healthcare provider of their choice. The health department has contracted with all five health plans that serve our region. Ms. Moser expressed her concern with the process of Medical transportation under Medicaid Managed Care. She stated the patient will need to contact their health plan to schedule medical transportation on their behalf. DSS will no longer arrange transportation. Discussion was made.

➤ **Health Education Activities**

Shirley Steele shared the activities health educators have worked: the Diabetes Empowerment Education Program virtually once a week, shared COVID information with Moore's Creek Baptist Church, shared the Empowering Families Healthy Eating presentation with local schools and families, participated in a resource health fair drive through and the second Wednesday of every month, they continue to hold the Reproductive Life Planning virtual class. Ms. Steele stated the health educators are going to be a vendor at the Burgaw Bike Rodeo the upcoming Saturday sharing messages about COVID and sun and mosquito safety information. Angela Livingood stated April 24th will be the "medication take back day" at ED North and the Medical Mall in Wilmington. No events will be held in the Burgaw area due to lack of manpower. She did remind the board that there is a permanent drop off location at Rocky Point Pharmacy. Discussion was made.

➤ **Environmental Health**

Vence Dodge referred the board to the Environmental Health handout provided. He stated Vector Control has already been out in the community larvaciding and spraying ditches. Pools are fully open with no social distancing. Mr. Dodge stated food trucks have become very popular and are keeping his department busy with permitting.

Discussion/Information

Re-Accreditation Update

The health department's re-accreditation status was extended to 2022 due to COVID.

Staffing Update

Ms. Moser stated the health department is short several hard to fill positions including two Registered Nurses, a Nutritionist II, and a WIC Director.

2020 SOTCH

The 2020 State of the County Health Report due date has been extended to June 2021.

Capital Project Update

Ms. Moser shared the Army Corps of Engineers has determined only a very small portion of the land set aside for a new DHHS building is unbuildable. Therefore, the next step is to have the architects complete a design for the property.

Other

Ms. Moser shared we were awarded a grant for the School Based Health Centers, unfortunately the SBHC have decided not to renew their contract with the health department and the grant money will be returned. Kim Collins shared the school nurses were under a different Medical Director than the School Based Health Centers and made it very difficult for families. The SBHC decided to change providers and join the same Medical Director, Dr. North, as the school nurses.

Shannon Jennings shared the Duplin Health Department had several vaccination clinics at processing plants throughout Duplin County.

Mr. Jennings shared information regarding concern for a high path avian influenza overseas (H5N8). He stated there have been a couple of documented cases of the virus in humans. Discussion was made.

Kim Collins questioned if the Mobile Dental van was going to be parked in the Hampstead area over the summer. Ms. Moser stated she was uncertain of where the mobile unit would be during the summer months.

Adjourned meeting: Motion to adjourn was made by Jan Dawson. Angela Livingood seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Next meeting: July 8, 2021 at 5:00p.m. in Burgaw