**PENDER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**Minutes**

**October 14, 2021**

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

October 14, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Pender County Government Annex in Hampstead, NC.

**Board Members Attending:**

* Shannon Jennings, Vice-Chair
* Samenthia Jones
* Frank Perez
* Denise Houghton

**Board Members Absent:**

* Jan Dawson
* Kim Collins, Chair
* George Brown

**Health Department Staff Attending:**

* Vence Dodge, Environmental Health Supervisor
* Jo Hill, Environmental Health Specialist
* Pam Dibiase, WIC Director
* Shirley Steele, Director of Nursing

**Minutes taken by:** Marti Smith, Administrative Assistant

* **Meeting called to order by:** Shannon Jennings, Vice-Chair

**Welcome and Introductions**

* Shannon Jennings, Vice-Chair acknowledged our new member, Frank Perez, and had everyone introduce themselves.

**Public comment:** None

**Action Items:**

* **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes from the April 8, 2021board meeting were presented for approval. Samenthia Jones made a motion to approve. Frank Perez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

* **Program Updates:**

**COVID-19 Update**

Shirley Steele shared dashboard information with the board, stating total Pender County COVID-19 cases thus far are 8,552 with 5 currently hospitalized and 96 deaths. Mrs. Steele continued saying 60% of the county has received the first dose of vaccine and 56% have received the second dose in comparison to the state at 69% for the first and 65% for the second dose. The FDA is meeting to discuss approving booster vaccines for the Moderna and J&J vaccine as well as discussing those that received the J&J vaccine to get the Moderna or Pfizer booster. Mrs. Steele stated a meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2021 with the FDA and partners to discuss the emergency authorization of the Pfizer vaccination in children ages 5-11. Mrs. Steele informed the board that a state contracted agency has taken over all Pender County COVID-19 testing and is set up in the old dental trailer behind the health department. The state has also contracted with two nurses to administer COVID-19 vaccinations, with one working at the annex and one at the main clinic. Discussion was made.

**Flu Update**

Shirley Steele stated the flu season started off slow with 165 flu shots given and they started in September. Frank Perez asked the price of the flu vaccine and if it was available free of charge to Pender residents who do not have insurance. Mrs. Steele stated we do not have a paying source for our flu vaccine and therefore we have not offered the flu vaccine free of charge to uninsured adults. She continued saying, it costs the county to purchase the vaccine from the state, however it is available to children and pregnant women who do not have insurance. Discussion was made.

**Environmental Health Update**

Vence Dodge referred the members to the Environmental Health hand out. He explained the mandatory water testing for lead in daycares has started. All daycares in the county have registered with half already having been tested. None of those tested have come back positive for lead remediation. After initial testing, retests are every three years.

A revised food code book has been introduced with changes in cook temperatures and storage. On site numbers are consistent with last year.

Mosquito control spraying will end at the end of the month. Larviciding will start back up in the spring.

All staff have completed their continuing education hours.

Mr. Dodge introduced Jo Hill as new Environmental Health staff member and stated he also has an opening he would like to fill. Discussion was made.

**Discussion Items:**

* **Re-Accreditation**

Mrs. Steele stated due to COVID re-accreditation was postponed, therefore this re-accreditation will cover the past six years. Also a few changes are expected including a virtual site visit. Discussion was made.

* **Staffing**

Mrs. Steele stressed how difficult it is to fill positions due to salary requirements, having two nurse vacancies in the clinic, one vacancy at the front desk, and one nutritionist position available in WIC. Discussion was made.

* **Capital Project**

Mrs. Steele deferred to Mrs. Moser for an update at a future meeting.

**Closed Session:** No

**Adjourned meeting:** Motion was made to adjourn by Denise Houghton. Samenthia Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 6:00 p.m.

**Next meeting: January 13, 2022** at 5:00 p.m. in the **Burgaw Health Department**.