

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

**Minutes
October 13, 2022**

The Pender County Advisory Board of Health held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the board room of the Hampstead Annex.

Board Members Attending:

- Kim Collins, Chair
- Samenthia Jones
- Frank Perez
- Beth Caveness
- George Brown

Board Members Absent:

- Jan Dawson
- Shannon Jennings
- Denise Houghton

Health Department Staff Attending:

- Carolyn Moser, HHS Director
- Vence Dodge, Environmental Health Supervisor
- Shirley Steele, Director of Nursing
- Teresa Ham , Administrative Officer
- Vencent Dodge, Environmental Health Supervisor III
- Ben Kane, Environmental Health, Vector Control
- Hyla Price, Environmental Health, Staff
- Aimee Fedoronko, Environmental Health, Staff

Meeting called to order by: Kim Collins, Chair

Welcome and Introductions

Vence Dodge introduced two new employees in the Environmental Health Department. The first employee was Hyla Price. Hyla has been with the Health Department for two months now. She has a Biology Major from Campbell University. She is originally from Wadesboro. The second one was Aimee Fedoronko was with Pender County permitting until she joined our department just recently. Aimee is from Maple Hill and attended college in Hickory, NC. She majored in Environmental Studies.

Public comment: None

Action Items:

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the April 14, 2022 meeting were presented for approval. The motion passed unanimously. There was no meeting in July.

Program Updates

Mosquito Control Program

Ben Kane shared an update on the Vector Control program for the year. In March /April larvaciding is conducted using Deltaguard. This is around 95% effective and has gone up in price from \$94 gallon to \$294 gallon. It is usually done twice a year. Spraying for Mosquitos is starting to slow down. November is usually the last month that spraying occurs. There were 48 complaints regarding the spraying of Mosquitos by county residents. Most of these complaints were people that did not want their yard to be sprayed. Seven complaints were from the same man. Ben shared with the group Mosquito dunks which can be used around birdfeeders or other areas that may have standing water. The mosquito control program puts these in ditches where there is standing water. On the Preventive side, citizens can call Environmental Health to have areas sprayed for an event in the Pender County area. For example, the Spot Festival that is happening on Nov. 4th; ballfields and gun ranges are usually sprayed 2x week during the season.

Environmental Health Update

Environmental Health Supervisor, Vence Dodge, stated there were Environmental Health was short staffed previously but now almost 100% staffed with one vacancy. Mr. Dodge provided the board members with an Environmental Health handout and reviewed the numbers with the board.

Budget Update

Ms. Moser referred to the FY 2022- 2023 Financial Budget handout given to the board in their packet . In 21/22 all county money was not spent since there were additional Covid dollars, State/ Federal dollar are spent before the county dollars. She noted that the budget looks good and there will be some Covid money that will carry over for another year.

Chemours/Gen X Update

Carolyn Moser shared that county residents are receiving letters regarding free water samples. PFOAs are the concern. Fourteen homes in Pender County have tested above the set parameters.. Some were provided bottled water. Ms. Moser provided a map to the Board that showed cases that were high. Ms. Moser provided a second map to the Board showing Gen X Water Treatment labeled Map 2. Test results are low in Gen X & PFOAS. Pender County uses the GAC (Granulated Active Carbon) which has been successful in water treatment.

COVID-19/ Flu/Monkeypox Update

Shirley Steele shared that Covid is underreported because of all the home tests. Residents can obtain free Covid test kits at the health department and at the Annex. The Annex is seeing a lot of people. Vaccinations for flu have begun and Pender County is offering high dose flu vaccines. All vaccines are available Monday- Friday at the Annex.. Thirty-four cases were reported this week and 24 cases reported last week. Ninety-seven patients were administered COVID vaccines last week at Hampstead Annex. We are also are now offering immunizations full time at the annex . Two cases of possible monkeypox were reported. Monkeypox can be more than a sexually transmitted disease. It may have pustules similar to smallpox and chicken pox.

Opioid Settlement Funding

Carolyn Moser noted that settlement funds have been received. More to come on this topic. New ADA laws will require on-going treatment if someone is arrested and in jail and they have been in a treatment prior to their arrest .

2022 Community Health Assessment (CHA)

The Health Department is working with the NC Public Health Institute to complete the 2022 CHA. In past, surveys were completed door- to- door but since Covid, surveys are collected using the Convenience Method. Board members were provided a copy of the survey as well as an extra copy for an eligible family member. They were encouraged to ask residents to complete the survey. A QR code is posted on the Health Department's website .

Discussion/Information

Re-Accreditation Update

Pender County Health Department passed with honors which will be formally awarded on Nov 14 in Raleigh. Evidence for six years instead of four were required because of a delay due to Covid. There were 41 benchmarks and 147 activities, many which required back-up annual evidence of information since the last re-accreditation in 2016.

Staffing Update

Environmental had four out of seven positions available. Three of these were filled. There were five nurse vacancies. Currently there is one position available.

Capital Project Update

Ms. Moser stated that there have been delays due to USDA requirements in order to receive funding. The county manager is assisting to keep this project on track.

Breast Cancer Awareness

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and members received information in their packets.

Other

It was shared that there was a three year old that was severely bitten by a pitbull and the child is hospitalized. DSS is involved while the health department staff are required to follow up animal bites for possible rabies exposure.

This meeting was George Brown's last meeting as Commissioner. Carolyn Moser thanked him for his service and all that he has done while on the Board. He has been a great voice for Public Health employees.

The 2023 Meeting dates were shared.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Jan. 12, 2023, in Board Room of the Health Department in Burgaw at 5:00p.m.