**PENDER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**Minutes**

**January 12, 2023**

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

January 12,2023 at 5:00 p.m. in Board Room of the Pender County Health Department, Burgaw.

**Board Members Attending:**

* Kim Collins, Chair
* Shannon Jennings, Vice Chair
* Jan Dawson
* Beth Caveness
* Jackie Newton, Commissioner
* Denise Houghton
* Samenthia Jones
* Frank Perez

**Health Department Staff Attending:**

* Carolyn Moser, HHS Director
* Vence Dodge, Environmental Health Supervisor
* Shirley Steele, Director of Nursing
* Teresa Ham, Administrative Office

**Meeting called to order by:** Kim Collins, Chair

**Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Moser welcomed commissioner representative, Jackie Newton. Introductions were made by everyone. There are three vacant positions on the Board. These vacancies are advertised in the local Newspaper on a regular basis.

**Public comment:** None

**Action Items:**

 **Election of Officers**

Kim Collins was re-elected to continue as Chair. Shannon Jennings was re-elected as Vice Chair. The agenda was presented for approval by Shannon Jennings and passed unanimously.

 **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes from the October 13, 2022 board meeting were presented for approval by Shannon Jennings. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Activity**

The Community Health Assessment has been a priority for the Health Department over the past few months. Staff collected 1,245 surveys for the assessment. The Health Educators have been meeting with groups and asking residents to weigh in on their concerns. Shirley Steele passed out a score sheet to board members and asked that they score the top three issues they see as a concern in Pender County. A topic for discussion was the homeless population and no available services in Pender county with commissioner Newton expressing concerns. Members voiced they would like to see more affordable housing. It was also pointed out that there are no soup kitchens in Pender County. Score sheets were completed and returned to Shirley Steele. Ms. Steele indicated that she hoped to have a hard copy of the Community Health Assessment by March.

**Program Updates**

 **Environmental Health**

Environmental Health Supervisor, Vence Dodge, stated were there new Environmental Health interns. A Environmental Health Report was provided to the Board in their packet. Mosquito Control crew will return in April, 2023, to start larvicing and prepping for the spraying season. They have nine trucks that will be taking care of Mosquito control this year .

 **Covid-19/ Flu /Monkeypox/ Syphilis**

Shirley Steele spoke on these topics. There is a new Covid variant XBB1.5. To date the Health Department staff have given 1459 Covid Vaccines. Staff have given 1,260 Flu shots in November and December. Monkey Pox is currently under control. 25,000 vaccines have been given in North Carolina. Discussion was held. Syphilis has risen since 2021.

 **Opioid Settlement Funding**

A core group of stakeholders in the community are meeting monthly. Members are learning about current resources and treatment options for Pender County residents. Funding recommendations will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for final comment and approval.

**Discussion/Information**

 **Gen X Update**

 A map was included in the packet . This map identified those Pender County wells that have

 been tested and those that have high levels of PFAS. Chemours provides bottled water to

 homes that exceed recommended PFAS levels.

 **Staffing Update**

Currently there are two vacant positions. One in Environmental and one Diabetes Nurse.

**Capital Project Update**

This project is a top priority for commissioners. A committee has been meeting monthly to hear project updates and to assure USDA requirements are met.

**February Heart Health Month**

The first Friday in February, staff wore red for National Heart Day. The Tourism Department and the Parks and Rec Department teamed up with the Health Department to hold a heart health walk. Health Educators from the Health Department helped lead this.

**Other**

Shannon Jennings shared information on the Bird Flu and passed out information regarding this topic along with African Swine Fever, and the Avian Flu. Discussion was held.

**Adjourned meeting:** Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

**Next meeting: April 13, 2023,** at 5:00p.m. in Hampstead