



Public Health
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**Transylvania County
Department of Public Health**

Transylvania County Board of Health

To improve and protect the health of all people in Transylvania County

**MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
June 14, 2011**

Meeting Location: Public Safety Center – Emergency Operations Center

Board Members Present: Mr. Allen, Mr. Becker, Dr. Boatwright, Dr. Cozart, Mr. Creasman, Ms. Deppe, Dr. Folger and Ms. Schieve.

Board Members Absent: Ms. Byrne, Mr. Phillips and Dr. Wells.

Staff Members and Guests Present: Mr. Smith, Ms. Pepinsky, Ms. Hyatt (WIC/Nutrition) and Ms. Lowe (Emergency Services) were present as staff.

Welcome and Announcements: Mr. Creasman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Mr. Creasman acknowledged the presence of Ms. Hyatt and Ms. Lowe and noted their support of the board meeting with information components.

Amendments to Agenda/Adoption of Agenda: Mr. Creasman asked if there were any amendments or necessary changes to the agenda. Hearing none, Mr. Becker made a motion to adopt the agenda as proposed and Ms. Schieve seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Consent Agenda Items/Approval of Minutes & Health Director's Report: Board members reviewed and discussed the minutes for the April 12, 2011 meeting and the Health Director's report. Mr. Allen made a motion to approve the consent agenda items and Ms. Deppe seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Public Hearings: None.

Committee Reports: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

- A. Overview of Emergency Services/Emergency Operations Center: Ms. Lowe provided a general description of the role of Emergency Services in the county including its relationship with public health. She also provided examples of the benefits of the enhanced Emergency Operations Center and how it would benefit any large scale response effort in the community. Board members asked a variety of questions about types of scenarios and how that would influence our local response effort. Board members thanked Ms. Lowe for the information and the work she had accomplished for public health preparedness.

- B. World Breastfeeding Week: Ms. Hyatt provided the basic details of the recent art contest that WIC had initiated with local students to portray the positive aspects of breastfeeding. Breastfeeding has always been an important part of nutrition strategies and is an integral part of our obesity prevention efforts. Board members were asked to rank (by virtue of voting with their "dots") the submissions based on their message and creativity. After voting for their preferences, Ms. Hyatt informed the board that WIC staff would calculate the votes and the highest ranked piece of art would be featured on a local billboard with a reference to the artist. This will take place in conjunction with World Breastfeeding Month (August).
- C. Senate Bill 552 – Regionalization/Consolidation of Public Health: Mr. Smith referenced several legislative bills (House and Senate) that were discussed in the NC General Assembly during the past session. Although none had been approved to date, Mr. Smith stated that it was important for the board to be aware of these efforts since it was likely that some form of regionalization and/or consolidation would be revisited for public health and human services in the near term. This has been a common theme among many government services with the underlying premise that it would be more effective and efficient. Board members asked about the delivery of services with concerns about citizens having to travel elsewhere to receive public health services. Mr. Smith responded that most services would still have to be delivered locally, but it was impossible to anticipate many of the details that might be associated with the final implementation guidance. Board members agreed to remain vigilant about these issues and to evaluate the impact of any legislation once it is passed. It was noted that mental health reform incorporated similar initiatives and that effort has created chaos and inefficiency over a ten year period.
- D. Budget update: Mr. Smith informed the board that the Board of Commissioners had approved a final budget for FY 12 in June. Even though that action has occurred, the department was still facing uncertainty with some funding levels because state and federal legislative guidance was still being processed by the NC Division of Public Health and funding formulas and other decisions about how to achieve mandated reductions weren't yet finalized. Mr. Smith indicated that the board would be updated about funding amounts as soon as a final determination was made by the involved agencies.
- E. Consent Agenda – Agenda Format: Mr. Creasman reviewed this issue with board members. Dr. Folger had mentioned the issue at a previous meeting and expressed a preference for a format which segregated the approval of minutes and the health director's report. Mr. Creasman stipulated that the format change for the board agenda was based on a desire to focus more time on direct business matters, but agreed that discussion was important. Mr. Creasman solicited the opinions of board members for their preference. After further discussion, Dr. Folger made a motion to revert to the previous format and Ms. Schieve seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
- F. July meeting: Mr. Smith informed the board that there was no substantive business anticipated for the July meeting. Given that circumstance, board members were asked if they wanted to proceed with a July meeting. After discussion, Dr. Boatwright made a motion to cancel the July meeting and Dr. Cozart seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Mr. Smith commented that the typical legal notices for the cancellation would be distributed to the community.

Informal Discussion and Public Comment: Board members discussed a variety of issues including the increasing complexity of the budget process, hardships evidenced in the community due to economic pressures and the specific challenges for public health.

Adjournment: Mr. Allen made a motion to adjourn and Dr. Boatwright seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.



Mark Creasman, Chairperson



Date



Steve Smith, Secretary



Date

[June minutes approved 8/9/2011](#)