

February 02, 2022 (Regular)

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING

The Burke County Board of Health met in a regular session on Wednesday, February 02, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. and had previously declared a state of emergency which is ongoing due to the global Covid – 19 pandemics. The meeting was held via Zoom. Zoom provides video, phone, and chat service through a cloud-base and peer-to-peer software platform. All meeting participants could hear and see one another for the duration of the meeting. Any citizens that joined the meeting by telephone could only hear the meeting. The meeting was held in the DHHS Conference Room located at 700 East Parker Road in Morganton, North Carolina. Members present were:

PRESENT: Isaac Crouch, Chair
Dr. Anthony Frank, Vice Chair
Barry Nelson
Gwen Stephens
Dr. Joel Welch
Johnnie Carswell
Dr. Nicholas Thomas

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Danny Scalise, Health Director
Chia Yang, Administrative Assistant III
Jennifer Sharpe, Nursing Director
Taylor Wellborn, PHN Supervisor I

CALL TO ORDER

Isaac Crouch called the regular meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Swearing in Board of Health member

Barry Nelson was sworn in by Chia Yang, Public Notary

APPROVAL OF THE REVISED AGENDA

Dr. Anthony Frank made the motion to approve the agenda and it stands approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Johnny Carswell made the motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on Dec 1, 2021 and the Special Meeting on January 21, 2022.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

AYES: Dr. Anthony Frank, Barry Nelson, Gwen Stephens, Isaac Crouch, Dr. Joel Welch, Johnnie Carswell, and Dr. Nicolas Thomas

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

PRESENTATION:

Taylor Wellborn said to Board members, she is the supervisor over Pregnancy Care Management and Caring for Child Care Management programs at BCHD. The two programs are Care Management for at risk children and Care Management for high-risk pregnancies. The care risk for children is from age 0 – 5 years old and we receive referrals to these programs. When a woman goes to the hospital and is at high risk, the hospital is required to report to DSS then referred to CMARK. Children with special health care needs can be referred and there are a lot of things that make a child at risk. One of our terms that we use is called, toxic stress and a parent that needs assistance within the community can be referred to the program. We have a social worker, a nurse, and they reach out and offer community resources where they can go for shelter, food, and clothing. Sometimes we act as a barrier between Dr.'s offices because some children have been removed from their pediatric office; we can work with the parent to have their child be seen in different offices and assess the issues why the child is missing so many appointments. We work with children that do and don't have Medicaid, private insurance, or complete uninsured. Children do graduate from the program at age 5 and we can link them to other NC resource programs. We do home visits, go to Dr.'s offices, make phone calls, and following up to things that they need.

The High-Risk Pregnancy program is only for Medicaid mothers. When a patient comes in and lives within Burke County, a score is generated, and an assessment is done on the patient. The case manager assesses the patient and sees what to do to help the patient. Then we link them with resources within the community if they are deemed high risk pregnancies. It could be medical issues, substance abuse, or multiple pregnancies. We work with OB/GYN offices in Burke County and out of counties. We also help with medication assistant programs if there are substance issues in the home and those programs are voluntary. There are about 50 to 60 children on caseloads for the nurses. The program has changed its name from CC4C to CMARK for Medicaid transformation purposes.

BOARD DECISION ITEMS

Board members agreed to elect a Vice Chair should the Chair be unavailable. Dr. Joel Welch nominated Dr. Anthony Frank as Vice Chair of the BOH. There were no other nominations.

Chairman Crouch made a motion to appoint Dr. Anthony Frank as Vice Chair of Board of Health and the motion passed.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

AYES: Dr. Anthony Frank, Barry Nelson, Gwen Stephens, Isaac Crouch, Dr. Joel Welch, Johnnie Carswell, and Dr. Nicolas Thomas

BOARD DISCUSSION

Mr. Scalise mentioned Section 7.14 of the personnel policy and how shutting down facilities on snow days affected some people at BCHD. There is a policy that allows people to telecommute from home. Some of the people at BCHD don't have that availability and there are some disparities, and mainly with the lower income employees. They had to use their earned vacation time during the shutdown of the building. Mr. Fisher-Welmon with Burke County DSS and Mr. Scalise drafted a letter to the County Manager to reconsider the policy for employees who could not telecommute, not to force employees to use their vacation time or asked to use leave without pay. We don't get a lot of weather conditions that causes this type of issue, and the cost would be very minimum in terms to the health department. Mr. Fisher-Welmon and Mr. Scalise would like to see change and take care of their employees.

Dr. Thomas suggested, if he paid some of his staff to work from home and paid some to stay home; there could be some issues. Ms. Stephens previously worked for BCHD and commented, in 1994 they were given inclement weather days and those days were specifically used for bad weather only. A commissioner came on board and wanted people to use their vacation time.

Mr. Carswell mentioned, Section 7.14 of the personnel policy says, The County Manager has the authority to close the county. There is not a word in the policy that the County employee is to use their own personal time. The policy is vague and Dr. Scalise will need to draft another letter. Dr. Welch mentioned the letter applies to the entire county. You shouldn't have the sheriffs dept staying home during shutdown. You could say we disagree with the interpretation of the policy. Mr. Carswell advised Danny to also consider what Dr. Thomas previously suggested.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Scalise met with the Burke County Education Leadership multiple times and discussed contract tracing, mask, and quarantine & isolation. He met with other counties' LHD and NC student of medicine and calls with DHHS. Chae, health educator for BCHD and Mr. Scalise finished up with the BEAM certification from Miami; it's an executive education course for Local Health Dept staffs. BCHD was one of eight health dept chosen and received the training. Mr. Fisher-Welmon and Mr. Scalise are coaching the Child Fatality Prevention team and has changed the structure of the meeting. They will be recommending things to the County Commissioners and how to avoid child injuries and fatalities that are outside of the DSS structures. We are working with the Board of Education and DSS in the event there is a fire and how to communicate with each other. Mr. Scalise had multiple meetings about the large Covid testing with the hospital however, the State has come in and provided testing. The State is prepared to do 600 Covid test per day and open from 9am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. They are scheduled to do Covid testing at BCHD through the month of February. Mr. Scalise attended the new Health Director orientation and will be done in March. Jennifer Sharpe, Nurse Director met with a researcher from Duke University and applied toward a grant. The grant will be used towards people that are overdosing themselves. We are concerned about syringe sharing and how the nurses can work on this process. Mr. Scalise talked to the Burke Sunrise Rotary Club. He

gave members the Covid updates, they were not wearing their mask at the time. After presentation, members wore their mask and two men cried.

Dr. Laura Grattan is a potential candidate for the BOH. She is an osteopathic physician at Burke Primary Care and has public health experience. Mr. Scalise hopes BOH members will consider her as part of the team.

Mr. Scalise asked Human Resources to review the Administrative Policy and Procedures for the Health Department. Some of the policies are outdated and members will get a chance to review them. The SharePoint folder is operational, and members have access to the folder. The financial sheet was given to members and the fiscal year starts July 1st to June 30th. Mr. Scalise shared a Covid briefing and encourage members to go to the website for current numbers.

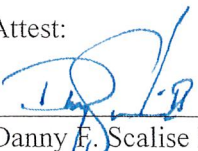
ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Board, Isaac, Chairman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All in favor of the vote. Isaac adjourned the meeting at 5:50pm.

Approved this the 6th day of April 2022.

Vice 
Chairman
Burke County Board of Health

Attest:



Danny E. Scalise II, MBA, MPH, CPH, FACHE
Health Director
Burke County Health Department