

## Wilkes County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2020

The Wilkes County Board of Health held a regular business meeting Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. through Web Ex due to COVID-19. Board of Health members in attendance were:

Mr. Carl Page  
Ms. Teana Compeau  
Ms. Deborah Britton  
Dr. Robbins Miller  
Ms. Susan Bachmeier  
Dr. Gary Nash  
Ms. Marcia Reynolds  
Dr. Keaton Mash  
Dr. Joe Fesperman

Ms. Rachel Willard and Mr. Chad Shore were also in attendance. Prior to the June meeting, packets containing the materials to be discussed were mailed to each Wilkes County Board of Health member for review and sent via email.

**Meeting Called to Order:** Ms. Susan Bachmeier, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**Adoption of Agenda:** Ms. Susan Bachmeier made the motion to adopt the agenda for the Board of Health meeting for June 8, 2020; the motion was seconded by Ms. Deborah Britton, and unanimously approved.

**Approval of Minutes for April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting:** Dr. Joe Fesperman made the motion to approve the Minutes from April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020; the motion was seconded by Ms. Teana Compeau and unanimously approved.

**Old Business:** None

### **Administrative Reports: Ms. Rachel Willard**

A moment of silence was held for the passing of Sylvia Robinson. Ms. Willard informed the board that a card and flowers would be sent on behalf of the board.

- Updates on Grants: Ms. Willard- We did receive two Health Foundation Grants this cycle. The first is for MESH in the amount of \$19,305 to provide mental health counseling services to middle and high school students. Most of these funds are used to continue care through the summer months while school is out. The second grant is for Market Bucks in the amount of \$10,000. This is an increase from the previous years of \$7,000. We will be sending out the market bucks this week. This program allows low income families to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at the farmers market or Wilkes Fresh Veggie Van. Ms. Willard did inform the board of Wilkes Fresh launch Wednesday Jun 10<sup>th</sup>, with full operations starting the following week. The Health Department will be hosting Wilkes Fresh on Friday's in the lower lot. Ms. Willard also stated that the health department has received a total of \$789,382 to help fight the coronavirus in our community. To date we have purchased a vehicle to be utilized for the COVID response. With the funds a new mobile unit has been requested as well as a new EMR. The grant will also cover staff time, personal protective equipment, and testing supplies. Ms. Willard stated we also received \$82,793 in state funding to fight coronavirus. All of these funds are being used to cover nurse and environmental health staff time.

- WCHC Site Visit Update: Ms. Willard – Currently our 2020 HRSA site visit has been postponed due to the COVID-19. At this time it is unclear when a new date will be scheduled. Ms. Willard also stated that she was not sure if they would go back to the initial sites that needed a visit, or if they would start with sites who were scheduled for that time frame. As soon as a new is scheduled, Ms. Willard will inform the board. Ms. Susan Bachmeier asked if this was for our accreditation. Ms. Willard stated no. This was with the federal government and not the state. Ms. Willard also informed the board that our Local Health Department Accreditation Status had been extended a year due to COVID-19. Our next site visit will be in 2023 instead of 2022.
- COVID-19 Update: Mr. Chad Shore provided an update to the Board regarding our response to COVID-19. Mr. Shore stated that the health department had completed 456 test; total tested today at the Health Department was 10; total pending tests pending results were 20; and total positive cases for Wilkes County were at 511 cases. We do have 2 clusters (business/industry/churches) that are being monitored, one with 6 cases and the other with 599 cases. Also, 2 outbreaks (congregate living facilities) that we are working with, Wilkes Correctional Center with 7 cases and Rose Glen Villages with 3 cases. We are partnering with CCNC for our contact tracing which should begin as early as next week. We have 6 dedicated to Wilkes County. We are working with Wilkes Community College and the Wilkes County School System as they develop plans for the next school year. This may depend on which route the state with regards to different options. Sports Physicals have been extended for another year so we foresee participation being lower this summer when we offer those. The state will also be updating information regarding outbreaks at daycares and schools. This update will be released starting June 22<sup>nd</sup> and updated twice a week, and if there were to be clusters in the county, the health department would release that information. Dr. Joe Fesperman questioned whether or not we already had an outbreak in a Child Care Center. Ms. Willard responded that Wilkes had not had an outbreak, now a cluster, at a child care center. She reported that Double Trouble did have positive cases, however the state did not consider it to be cluster at that time. Ms. Willard reported that the center did close for two weeks voluntarily. Dr. Fesperman also asked how the prison was managing positive cases and communication with the health department. Mr. Chad Shore stated that Diane had communication with the Warden and the nurse daily. Ms. Rachel Willard stated that the guards had been tested at Fast Med, and those in a specific bunker were all tested due to potential exposure. Ms. Willard also reported that positive cases were being transported out to other facilities since the health of the inmates couldn't be manage in Wilkes. Ms. Willard noted this was to the facility safety measures, not the severity of the virus. Ms. Susan Bachmeier offered support from the hospital to help with managing patients in a congregate living facility. Ms. Teana Comepeau ask for clarification on the cluster numbers, stating her call was dropping in and out. Mr. Chad Shore responded that one cluster was reporting 599 cases and the other was reporting 6 cases.
- Board of Health Annual Policy Review: Ms. Rachel Willard stated that not a lot of changes were made this year due to us revamping them for accreditation and the Family Planning Audit.

  - i. BOH Overall Operations – No changes were made.
  - ii. BOH Operating Procedures – No changes, other than date of approval.
  - iii. Policies on Policies – No changes were made
  - iv. Community Health Improvement – Removed one of the old links and the plans on the last page because it was no longer active due to our policies and procedures at the state level for doing the Community Health Assessment have changed.

- v. Fee Policy – No changes were made
- vi. Internal Controls for Cash Receipts - No changes were made.
- vii. Patient Eligibility Determination Guidelines - No changes were made.
- viii. Organizational /Strategic Planning – No changes were made.
- ix. Replacement of Equipment – No changes were made.
- x. Tobacco-Free Policy – No changes were made.
- xi. Immunization Policy for Wilkes Health Employees – No changes were made. Ms. Willard reminded the board that we did add Hepatitis A vaccine for Environmental Health last year. Dr. Joe Fesperman asked who all received the Meningococcal vaccine. Ms. Willard stated that it is offered to all employees, however all clinical staff had to have it.

**Approval of Board of Health Annual Policy Review:** Dr. Joe Fesperman made the motion to approve the BOH Annual Policy changes; the motion was seconded by Ms. Susan Bachmeier and unanimously approved the BOH Annual Policy Review noting requested changes to be made.

**Committee Reports:** None.

**New Business:**

- Public Board Member Nomination: Ms. Willard stated that since Sylvia had passed we would need to find a board member to replace her. Sylvia was a public board member, so they did not have to have any specific credentials to serve on the board. Ms. Willard noted that Deborah did have a nomination to bring to the floor. Ms. Willard noted that she needed to determine whether or not it had to be posted on the webpage or not. Ms. Deborah Britton put forward Adina Watkins for consideration as a member of the board. She has a BS in Middle School Education and a Master of Library Science from ASU. She teaches at Wilkes Early College High School and has been awarded Teacher of the Year for her work there, and previously for her teaching at Central Wilkes Middle. She currently serves on the Habitat Board of Directors and the Wilkesboro Town Planning Board. She is an active civic participant and has affiliations, awards, and honors too numerous to mention. She is African American, which I think is important and appropriate, stated Ms. Britton. I know her to be intelligent, responsible, and invested in the good of the Wilkes community. I've spoken with her and she would be happy to be of service on the Board of Health, noted Ms. Britton. Dr. Fesperman thanked Ms. Deborah for her nomination, and thought it was a wonderful nomination. Ms. Willard asked for her contact information and stated she would reach out to her tomorrow.
- Ms. Willard did provide a quick department update to the board. She stated that they had lost three providers, with two already being hired and starting in the fall. Ms. Deborah Britton asked if we could announce who they were. Ms. Willard stated that they have not been cleared through pre-employment so could not release that information. Ms. Willard also mentioned that they had offered a position to a RD and were awaiting a response. Ms. Willard was hopeful, but noted that it is a difficult role to fill. She also stated that it continued to be a need in the community and that Marie Parker had a referral list of about eight pages.

**Public Concerns:** None

**Next Meeting Date:** The next board of health meeting will be on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room pending COVID-19.

**Adjournment:** Dr. Joe Fesperman made the motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Ms. Deborah Britton; all members approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by,

April Edwards, Administrative Assistant  
Secretary to Board of Health

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Mr. Carl Page, Chair