

**Iredell County Health Department
Board of Health
Minutes**

Regular Meeting **Special Meeting**

April 8, 2021

318 Turnersburg Hwy, Statesville, NC 28625

Board Members Physically Present	Commissioner James B. Mallory, III; Sylvia Chapman, Ben Loftis, Dr. Candace Reeves, Andrea Sherrill, Lisa Warren, and Dr. Amanda Whitener
Board Members Absent	Dr. Tim Burgiss, Dr. Rob Bundy, Suzanne Corwin, Dr. Raphael Weeks
Staff Members Present	Renee Holland, Executive Officer; Brady Freeman, Director of Environmental Health; Susan Johnson, Director of Nursing and Clinical Services; Jessica Ridgway, Director of Finance & Operations; Laura Johnson, Social Work Supervisor; Gabriella Borden, COVID-19 Epidemiologist;
Others Present	Susan Robertson, Deputy County Manager

I. Call to Order, Invocation, and Introductions

Lisa Warren called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and Commissioner James Mallory, III provided the invocation. Lisa then welcomed everyone and expressed her appreciation to the Board for being flexible over the past year with meeting restrictions. She emphasized that it is great to see everyone in-person as we try to resume our regularly scheduled meetings going forward. Lisa then introduced Susan Johnson, Director of Nursing and Clinical Services and informed that she is filling in for Jane Hinson while she is on vacation.

II. Public Comment

Lisa Warren asked if there were any citizens or representatives of the community scheduled to speak during the public comments time period. Susan Johnson, Director of Nursing & Clinical Services informed there were none scheduled. It was noted there were no public comments.

III. Consent Agenda Items for Action (Attachment 1)

Lisa Warren asked the board members if they had reviewed the consent agenda items for approval. She referred to the item labeled as Attachment 1 (*Minutes of the February 25, 2021 BOH Meeting*) Lisa asked if there were any questions or concerns with regards to this item.

There were no questions or comments noted. Lisa then asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda items was made by Sylvia Chapman and seconded by Dr. Candace Reeves.

Voting: Ayes- 7 ; Nays- 0

IV. Board Education: Covid -19 Data and Outreach Update (*Presentation by Gabriella Borden, COVID-19 Epidemiologist*)

Susan Johnson introduced Gabriella Borden, COVID-19 Epidemiologist. Susan informed that through COVID-19 funding, the Health Department was able to hire Gabriella using these funds for a contracted position to assist with COVID-19 activities. Gabriella then shared details of her educational credentials along with her previous work experience in the specialized area of epidemiology. She then provided the Board with a presentation on COVID-19 data and outreach activities for Iredell County (*see the attached slides*). She briefly highlighted objectives and defined epidemiology and how it pertains specifically to COVID-19. She provided a break-down of the data related to the work being done by the Health Department staff. She also reported on the process for analyzing the data to identify control measures and solutions on how we can do more to help educate the community with regards to vaccination and prevention of COVID-19. Gabriella then shared detailed information as reported on the NC DHHS COVID-19 Dashboard statistical data as it relates to Iredell County. She reported that as of today's date, the State website reflects a total number of positive cases for Iredell County at 17,644; total number of deaths at 211; and 11 hospitalized. She noted these numbers are not live data and are approximately 2 days behind. Next, Gabriella reported on COVID Vaccination data for Iredell County based on the graphs from DHHS website. She reported that approximately 36,742 people have been partially vaccinated in Iredell County. She then discussed the percentages of those partially vaccinated based on race, ethnicity and location of where they were vaccinated. Lastly, Gabriella reported on the data based on the site location from previous vaccine clinics held throughout the county. She referred to the map provided and emphasized the importance of this data is very helpful and pertinent for future planning phases to target marginalized communities.

Gabriella then asked if there were any questions regarding her presentation. Commissioner James Mallory commented on the importance of collecting data to assist with future vaccine planning. He added that ultimately this data will allow us to target those marginalized areas but emphasized the toughest group to reach is not going to be the marginalized communities, it's going to be the 50% of white Republican males who don't want to get vaccinated. He stated that the key to that is not government because they don't trust government. He added that the key to reaching this select group is going to be doctors and healthcare professionals who advise them to take the vaccine against whatever conspiracy theory they may have against government. He then emphasized that all the data collected will certainly assist with the coordination of other community outreach activities to promote COVID-19 vaccinations and educate the citizens about the importance of these preventative measures. Mr. Mallory then publicly commended the Health Department staff for the work they have done this past year with their outreach and prevention efforts related to COVID-19 as well as their continued work in administering the vaccine to citizens throughout the community. Board members also conveyed their words of support and appreciation to staff members as well.

There were no other questions or comments noted.

V. Items for Discussion and Action

a. Request Approval of the Annual Child Fatality Prevention (CFPT) Report (Attachment 2 – Laura Johnson)

Laura Johnson, CFPT Chair informed that the North Carolina Statute, Article 14, 7B-1406 and the CFPT Agreement Addenda with local health departments requires Local Child Fatality Prevention Teams to advocate for system improvements and needed resources where gaps and deficiencies may exist. As a result of this agreement, they are required to submit a report annually to their local Board of County Commissioners and Board of Health. She continued by stating there are 3 main purposes of the local CFPTs and those are to identify deficiencies in the delivery of services to children and families by public agencies; make and carry out recommendations for changes that will prevent future child deaths; and promote understanding of the causes of child deaths. She then referred to the document labeled as attachment 2, noting that in 2020, the Iredell County CFPT reviewed 23 child deaths that occurred in 2019. She reported that the team identified one (1) system problem specifically related to lack of knowledge concerning agriculture injuries. A recommendation for future prevention efforts related to this problem is to increase patient knowledge to prevent accidental injuries while working or living on a farm. She also referred to the graph that outlined cause of death as well as age of death in these children.

Laura then asked if there were any questions related to the annual CFPT Report. She added that she will be sharing this with the BOC at their April 20, 2021 Meeting. Sylvia Chapman questioned the number related to perinatal conditions.

Commissioner Mallory noted the age of those numbers associated with suicide. He stated these are school-aged children and recommended the team focus on this specific area to educate and prevent potential suicide related incidents. Laura reminded this was an area that the team had been focusing on primarily within the schools but as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, their work was halted last April due to schools being closed. She reported that as schools begin to re-open, they will once again shift their attention to focus on this area of prevention within the school system.

There were no other questions or comments noted.

Lisa Warren then asked for a motion to approve the Annual Child Fatality Prevention Team Report.

A motion to approve the Annual Child Fatality Prevention Team(CFPT) Report was made by Ben Loftis and seconded by Sylvia Chapman.

Voting: Ayes- 7; Nays- 0

b. Request Approval of Annual Fee & Eligibility Policy and Fee Schedules (Attachment 3, 3A, 4, 5, 6 – Susan Johnson & Brady Freeman)

Susan Johnson, Director of Nursing & Clinical Services Division presented the Annual Fee Policy along with the proposed FY 2021-22 Clinical Fee and Dental Fee Schedules. Susan reminded that the BOH approves policies in compliance with the health department's policy on policy management. She stated the Fee and eligibility Policy had been reviewed and no changes were made to the Policy.

Next, Susan presented the Clinical Services proposed Fee Schedule for FY 2021-22 (**Attachment 4**) and noted that Fees for services provided in clinical and dental programs are based on direct costs, current Medicaid rates, and/or the most current Medicaid Administrative cost information provided by NC DHHS DMA (42 CFR 59.5 (a) (8); 8.8.4). In addition, rates set by other agencies in the area and surrounding counties are considered when setting fees as well. Susan highlighted a few of the changes and referred to page 6 of the Clinical Fee Schedule regarding select birth control method fees. She explained that through the 340B Purchasing Discount Program for Birth Control, we cannot bill Medicaid more than our cost. She emphasized these select fees for birth control measures would be implemented immediately upon approval of the Board of Health and Board of County Commissioners while all other fees would become effective July 1, 2021.

Susan then referred to the Dental Services Fee Schedule noted as **Attachment 4A**. She stated there had been no adjustments made to the Dental Fees for FY 2021-22

Susan then asked if there were any questions or comments with regards to the ICHD Fee & Eligibility Policy or the fee schedule for Clinical Services or Dental Services for FY 2021-22. Sylvia Chapman questioned if a physician's order was required to get the Shingles Vaccine. Susan responded that a physician order was not required, however the individual must qualify to receive the vaccine based on the specific criteria and requirements. Commissioner James Mallory questioned the process and fees for mailing attorney letters for delinquent accounts. He recommended that an increase of at least \$50.00 be made due to the various costs associated with the delinquent account process to collect an outstanding debt rather than the \$3.00 that is currently listed. Susan Johnson responded that leadership staff would certainly discuss this increase and make the necessary changes as recommended. There were no other questions regarding the proposed Clinical Services and Dental Fee schedules. This recommendation was noted and a revision will be made to the Policy in "**Section F. Delinquent Accounts**".

Next, Brady Freeman referred to the Environmental Health Services Fee Schedule labeled as **Attachment 5** and stated that fees are based on manpower hours, equipment, vehicle fuel and maintenance. He reported there are no fee changes proposed for FY 2021-22.

Brady then asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the fees for Environmental Health Services. There were no questions or comments noted in regards to the Environmental Health fees.

Lisa Warren then asked for a motion to approve the Annual ICHD Fee & Eligibility Policy, with the recommended increase from \$3.00 to \$50.00 in regards to mailing delinquent account notice of debt letters, along with the Fee Schedules for Clinical Services, Dental and Environmental Health for FY 2021-2022.

A motion to approve the Annual ICHD Fee & Eligibility Policy, with the recommended increase from \$3.00 to \$50.00 in regards to mailing delinquent account notice of debt letters, along with the Fee Schedules for Clinical Services, Dental and Environmental Health for FY 2021-2022 was made by Sylvia Chapman and seconded by Commissioner James Mallory.

Voting: Ayes- 7; Nays- 0.

c. **Request Approval of Budget Amendment for Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity Enhancing Detection Activities Grant** (*Handout A presented by Jessica Ridgway*)

Jessica Ridgway informed that on March 29, 2021, the Health Department received a revised Agreement Addendum from the NC Division of Epidemiology, Communicable Disease Branch with associated funding of \$1,456,100. These funds are to be used to further enhance Local Health Department's ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 by carrying out surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, infection control, mitigation, communications, and other preparedness and response activities. She noted that funds will be used to cover the salary, supplies, travel and IT equipment needed for an additional six contracted nurses to help with COVID-19 vaccine clinics and four additional contracted administrative staff to assist with CVMS data entry and COVID-19 vaccine claim billing. We would like to hire one contracted community coordinator to plan testing and vaccine clinics and one contracted health educator to work within Iredell County's vulnerable communities to carry out health risk reduction campaigns for the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant will also cover the cost of traffic control, an on-site sheriff's deputy, and ICATS to be present at all our COVID-19 vaccine clinics. Jessica also added that in this request we are planning to purchase a portable, digital road sign that can be used to advertise our COVID-19 vaccine clinics or at other large community events. Additional expenses are added to this request that cover the cost of COVID-19 testing for local long-term care facilities, a mask order, and miscellaneous printing needs for COVID-19 vaccine clinics. Lastly, we will be purchasing a mobile medical van and associated equipment, to provide public health services within our community. Any remaining funds will be used as needed in accordance with guidelines set forth in the agreement.

Jessica then asked if there were any questions regarding the budget amendment for Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity Enhancing Detection Activities in the amount of \$1,456,100. There were no comments or questions noted.

Lisa Warren then asked for a motion to approve the budget amendment for Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity Enhancing Detection Activities in the amount of \$1,456,100.

A motion to approve the Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity Enhancing Detection Activities Grant in the amount of \$1,456,100 was made by Ben Loftis and seconded by Dr. Candace Reeves.

Voting: Ayes- 7; Nays- 0.

VI. Items for Discussion and Action as Needed

a. Semi-Annual Statistical Data Report

- 1) **Clinical Services** – Susan Johnson provided the Semi-Annual Statistical report for Clinical Services, referring to Attachment 6. She stated that as you can see by the graphs, most of our clinical numbers have been down for the last six months. She did note that there are currently no active TB cases. She also reported that due to COVID-19, the Federal Government issued a Physical Presence Waiver, therefore all appointments for the WIC program have been completed by phone. To date, we haven't received an update on the status of when this will be lifted. Susan also noted an increase in immunizations during the fall which is due to administering the Flu Vaccine as well as completing the required School Immunizations. She stated that overall the numbers for clinical services have remained well in spite of the circumstances related to COVID-19. Susan reminded that since our Clinics opened back up for services, we are beginning to see an increase in the number of client

visits. She noted this is in addition to all of the COVID-19 work being done to administer vaccines to citizens throughout the county at scheduled point of vaccination sites.

Susan then asked if there were any questions related to the semi-annual statistical report for Clinical Services. Commissioner Mallory encouraged the continued use of the graphs but recommended starting with a baseline of zero if possible. Susan responded that she would look at making this change on future statistical reports going forward. There were no additional comments or questions noted.

- 2) **Environmental Health** – Brady Freeman provided the Semi-Annual Statistical report for Environmental Health, referring to Attachments 7 & 8. He briefly highlighted data for both the On-Site Water Protection Program (OSWP) and the Food Protection & Facilities Program (FP&P). He noted there has not been any significant change in activity related to visits, inspections and samples collected by staff in the OSWP Program in comparison with previous reporting periods but did report a decrease in manpower which has resulted in a 3-week back-log at present. He stated that while inspections in the FP&F Program have shown a decrease, the number of visits has increased tremendously. He states the staff have been very active from July – December 2020, making visits to establishments to educate them on disinfecting properly as a result of COVID-19.

Brady then asked if there were any questions related to the semi-annual statistical reports for Environmental Health. There were no questions or comments noted.

b. **Financial Report** (*Attachment 9 & Handout B – presented by Jessica Ridgway*)

Jessica Ridgway referred to the financial reports labeled as Attachment 9 and Handout A highlighting the financials for both February 2021 and March 2021. She stated the revenue and expenditure report reflects the essential services that are being provided at this agency. She noted the essential services include, but are not limited to, the provision of communicable disease services, health education/promotion, environmental health services, workforce development, program evaluation and policy development. For the month ending February 2021 the Revenue was 63.4% and the Expenditures were 55.4%. Next, she reported on the financials for the month ending March 2021, referring to Handout A, highlighting the Revenues were 70.2% and the Expenditures were 62.15%. Jessica explained that expenditures are way down because all spending is mostly COVID related therefore we are using funds from State COVID dollars for purchases.

Jessica then asked if there were any questions for discussion related to the financial report given. There was no additional discussion or questions noted.

c. **Health Director's Report** (*Handout C – Susan Johnson*)

COVID-19

- **Vaccination Clinics:** We have coordinated 35 mass drive through vaccination clinics and partnered with ICATS, Statesville Senior Center, Mooresville Senior Center, Ag. Extension (farm workers) and an Assisted Living Facility to offer vaccines to at risk or underserved populations in smaller clinics. We are planning future vaccination clinics with farm workers, landscape workers and Fifth Street Ministries.

General Data

	December BOH	February BOH	April BOH
Total COVID-19 Cases	6898	16191	17,609
Hospitalized	59	19	11
Deaths	80	196	212

Vaccinations

	Iredell County	Iredell County Health Dept.
Initial Dose	36,277	9,344
Fully Vaccinated	28,045	6,218
% Initial Dose	20%	N/A
% Fully Vaccinated	15.4%	N/A

Race/Ethnicity Vaccinated By Percentage

	% Population	% Vaccinated
White	15.7%	84.8%
Black	11%	9.3%
Asian or Pacific Islander	10.6%	2%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	5.8%	.2%
Other	N/A	2.7%
Hispanic Ethnicity	5.3%	2.8%
Non-Hispanic Ethnicity	15.8%	94.4%

Outbreaks in Congregate Living Facilities

	Staff+	Residents +	Deaths	Total +
Maple Leaf Health Care	5	1	0	6

Clusters

	Staff +	Children +	Total +
 Mooresville High	0	11	11
Woodland Heights Elementary	1	4	5

Public Information

	January	February	March
Presentations & Events	1	2	2
Call Center Calls	3945	2700	3577
Community Calls to Health Dept.	2153	386	459
Community emails	3930	506	328
Media Inquiries	36	30	11
Guidance Forwarded	14	15	9
Press Releases	2	1	3
Facebook		71000	7230

Executive/Finance & Operations

- **Medicaid Managed Care:** Medicaid Managed Care is still set to go live on July 1st. We have signed the following Prepaid Health Plan agreements: United Healthcare, BCBS, Wellcare and AmeriHealth.

- **Vital Records:** Staff have started training on the NC Database for Vital Records system. This is a web-based system that will be utilized for electronic registration of deaths across North Carolina. A go live date has not been set.

Clinical

- **Maternal Health:** Car seat distribution was completed in January. A total of 109 car seats were distributed. Davis Regional Hospital is coming to clinic to do 20-week ultrasounds for our prenatal clients.
- **Family Planning:** Despite reduced clinic hours, we administered 83 more Depo Provera injections in 2020 than 2019. Since adding new Intrauterine Devices and Nexplanon to contraceptive options, we have inserted/implanted 39 more devices in 2020 than in 2019. These are the most effective contraceptive methods.

Public Health Development & Promotion

- **Public Health Accreditation:** The NC Local Health Department Accreditation Board approved the second one-year extension for audits which will shift the re-accreditation cycle to a six-year cycle. The next audit will capture evidence from October 13, 2018 thru October 2024. A revised health department self-assessment tool is being released in April of 2021 and will go into effect in January of 2022. Norma Rife helped review the document for enhancement opportunities. She also provided content for the E-learning module that will be released soon.
- **Health Risk Reduction:** Mosquito-borne, tick-borne and rabies health risk reduction notecards and pamphlets are being mailed to local veterinarian offices, medical providers, hardware stores and community partners.
- **Safe Kids Coalition:** Partnered with DACI for 3 take back events in March where Safe Kids offered car seat checks and distributed Operation Medicine Drop and poison prevention materials. Partnered with ISS to host 3 booster seat display events (Third Creek Elementary, Cloverleaf Elementary and Harmony Elementary) in car rider pick-up lines. Will be hosting 2 hot car display events in April (1 in Statesville and 1 in Mooresville). Partnering with Iredell County Parks & Recreation to provide funding for 24 children enrolled at the Boys & Girls Club to take swimming classes.
- **Public Health Week Proclamation:** The Board of Commissioners read a proclamation at their April 6, 2021 meeting related to Public Health Week which is April 5-12.

Environmental Health

- **Onsite:** The in-training environmental health specialist is now fully authorized. One vacant environmental health specialist has been filled and has completed the necessary centralized training. He is currently working towards authorization. Interviews have been conducted for the other vacant environmental health specialist position. We are waiting for transcripts to make an offer. The environmental health technician position has been filled.
- **Food Protection:** The in-training environmental health specialist is authorized in pools, tattoos and food & lodging. The newly hired environmental health specialist has completed the necessary centralized training session and will be working toward authorization.

d. Activities Summary (Handout D– Susan Johnson)

Susan Johnson referred to the Activities Summary labeled as Handout D. She briefly highlighted specific program areas that reflected an increase in the number of contacts for February and March 2021. She noted that the number of lab tests performed had increased as well as the number of lab patients served had also increased for the Walk-In Lab Services. She also explained that the significant decrease in the number of COVID-19 tests processed from 1039 (January) to only 10 in March is due to testing now being done mainly through StarMed as the Health Department focus shifted from testing to administering vaccinations. Susan then referred to the Environmental Health data and reported an increase in site visits as well as applications received for OSWP. She also noted an increase in the number of inspections in the Food & Lodging program.

Susan then asked if there were any specific questions with regard to the data reported on the Activity Summary report. There were no questions or comments noted.

e. BOH By-Laws and Operating Procedures (Attachment 10 - Draft Copy)

Lisa Warren, BOH Chair informed that a draft copy of the proposed by-laws and operating procedures was included in the packets and is labeled as Attachment 10. She asked board members to please review this document prior to the next meeting. She stated discussion and action on this item will occur at our June 10, 2021 Board of Health Meeting.

VII. Other Discussion

Lisa Warren asked if there were any additional items for discussion. Ben Loftis commented that he had heard discussions in the community of Law Enforcement Officers receiving hazard pay and questioned if this was true. Commissioner Mallory responded that he can only speak of local government employees employed by Iredell County and they do not receive hazard pay. Lisa Warren reported that just recently, Iredell Health System implemented hazard pay to frontline employees working directly with COVID-19 patients. Commissioner Mallory did inform that the Board of Commissioners had discussed this topic previously but was unable to justify hazard pay for all departmental employees county-wide. Therefore, a decision was made to not offer hazard pay. Susan Johnson recommended that perhaps the Board of Commissioners revisit this topic. Commissioner Mallory suggested that perhaps a one-time bonus to all county employees may be an option but stated that he would discuss this topic further with fellow members of the Board of Commissioner's and county management staff. Susan Johnson responded that making some type of good faith effort would be meaningful to all.

There were no additional items for discussion.

VIII. Adjournment

Lisa Warren asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sylvia Chapman and seconded by Ben Loftis at 8:40 p.m.

Voting: Ayes –7 ; Nays – 0.

