

Warren County Health Department
Board of Health
November 21, 2023

The Warren County Board of Health held its meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at the Warren County Health Department.

Members present: Dr. Elton Brown (Chairman), Dr. James Crenshaw, Mrs. Candice White, Dr. Christian O'Malley, Mrs. Eva Brown and Mrs. Kaye Hall

Others present: Dr. Margaret Brake, Andrea Goode, Tanisha Lyons and Wenona Mills.

The Board Chair requested roll call for members that were on conference call. There were no attendees.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dr. Elton Brown and a moment of silence was observed.

Mrs. Hall moved to waive the Conflict-Of- Interest Statement and seconded by Mrs. Brown. There being no further discussion the motion unanimously passed.

No public comment

The September 2023 minutes were reviewed. Mrs. White moved to accept the minutes and seconded by Dr. O'Malley. There was no further discussion the motion unanimously passed.

Dr. Brake presented the Finance Report which included a Master Revenue Funding Summary from July 1- September 1, 2023. Also, for the 2023/2024 Adopted/Revised Budget \$1,666,210.18, \$193,345.25 has been collected year to date, \$1,472,864.93 is the remaining balance to collected. Dr. Crenshaw moved to accept the Finance Report as presented and seconded by Mrs. White. There being no further discussion the motion unanimously passed.

The Board accepted the statements of Interest to Serve from Ms. Cheryl Coffman (Member at Large) and Dr. Elton Brown (Optometrist). Mr. Michael Kilian (Engineer) has decided to resign his term which ends December 2023 but has given a recommendation for his replacement. Dr. O'Malley moved to accept the said two names and seconded by Mrs. Eva Brown. After some discussion of Mr. Kilian's replacement, the motion passed unanimously. Dr. Brake will send a memo to Paula Pulley, Clerk to Board of Commissioners and they will be voted for reappointment at their January 2024 meeting.

Wenona Mills, Nursing Director gave the Flu/Communicable Disease Update from 7/1/23-11/21-23

Chlamydia Cases 46

Gonorrhea Cases 20

Syphilis Cases 2

Shigellosis 1

Campylobacter 2

Cyclosporiasis 1

Latent TB Infection 1

Hepatitis B 1

The COVID-19 hospital admission rate for Warren County continues to be low.

Flu, COVID, and RSV emergency room visits are not as high as this time last year. We hope that this stays this way for the respiratory virus season. The state is now grouping these three together and tracking them this way on a respiratory dashboard on the Department of Health and Human Services website.

We are doing COVID and Flu Vaccines on Fridays. We do not have the RSV vaccine. This vaccine is for age groups 60 and over along with babies and pregnant women that meet certain criteria.

Mrs. Eva Brown attended the NALBOH Conference in August. She thanked the Board for allowing her to attend. She further stated it was nice to be able to meet other BOH members from other states and realizing each state has similar problems with public health issues especially just coming out of a pandemic. Considering everything, Mrs. Brown felt that the NALBOH Conference was very well executed and would encourage any public health official to attend if the chance present itself. The officers of NALBOH had not made a decision on the location for 2024, but she's sure we will hear her soon, since the new president of NALBOH is from North Carolina.

Mrs. Brown gave a summary of her experience:

- The conference opened with a presentation by Jaime Bodden, Managing Director for Washington State. Two things that stood out; they have a lot of tribal Health Departments and they did not have a problem getting funds for public health from their local and state officials.
- The next day there was an interesting presentation on recruitment and retention of the public health workforce given by the Public Health Foundation. There were some discussions as to why public health workers stay and why they leave.
- A session on "Understanding Advocacy vs. Lobbying" highlighted that advocacy is the act of supporting a cause or proposal, while lobbying is attempting to influence a lawmaker, executive agency, or decision-maker on a public policy matter.
- The presentation "Stand up! Speak up! Was refreshing because it demonstrated how to talk to our official, whether local, state or federal to get their attention. The presenter demonstrated how we need to use the art of storytelling to get the attention of the person or group we are talking to by making it personal.
- There was a presentation by NACCHO about the power of public health advocacy which basically talked about structural discrimination and equality vs. equity. This presentation was basically about things we are already aware of.
- There was a session titled "I used the law and the law defend public health power" to me was confusing because the presenter talked about how local officials in her county basically replace health official that did not agree with their ideology. According to her the case is still on going, but since she had a good lawyer, she still had her job. There was a commissioner seated beside me that stated she was not telling the whole story.

- In summary, there were several central themes that resonated. Included in these were:
 1. A feeling of getting back to normal by re-establishing in-person professional meetings.
 2. The importance of refreshing our professional skills related to health program management.
 3. Networking and advocating with colleagues locally and nationwide.
 4. Sharing successful new approaches to public health issues and receiving constructive feedback as other states try to emulate each other's successes.

Health Director's Report

Staff Updates

Currently recruiting for vacant nursing positions in clinic and home health; Hired Accounting Clerk IV (billing) in Home Health and the General Utility Worker. We have started a recruitment campaign for nursing positions (i.e. sign-on bonuses, Facebook ads, added employment page to our website, employee referral program, newspaper ads, promotional materials and a video).

Program Updates

Health Director and six staff attended the NC Public Health Association Fall Educational Conference on September 27-29, 2023 in Concord, NC. This year's theme was *Remodeling Public Health: Tearing Down Stigma and Building Resilience for a Healthy NC*. The health department received the Sarah T. Morrow Health Department of the Year Award. Since the conference, the department has received recognition and acknowledgments by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), articles in area newspapers and a reception honoring our staff.

The health department continues to support planning meetings with our County Manager and partners to identify strategies that can be implemented in the county using Opioid Settlement Funds. I presented along with County Manager Jones at the BOCC October 18th work session highlighting the evidence-based strategies recommended for funding. They are Early Intervention, Evidence-based Addiction Treatment, Recovery Support Service, and Criminal Justice Diversion Programs. The BOCC at their November 6th meeting approved the recommended strategies and a resolution for funding for the next 2 years.

Health Department in partnership with On Target Preparedness, Warren County Emergency Services, Warren County Sheriff's Office and the Warrenton Police Department held a Drive Thru Flu Clinic on October 6, 2023 from 2pm-6pm in the health department's parking lot. 30 individuals were vaccinated.

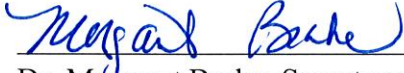
Health Department has received the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Anyone can call to schedule an appointment to receive the vaccine.

On December 1st, the health department and HOPE Regional Medical Clinic will host a Warren County World AIDS Day event at the courthouse from 5:15pm-6:15pm. Various speakers will participate to raise awareness of the AIDS pandemic and to remember the lives lost to this disease. The public is invited to attend. We will also provide free Home HIV Test Kits.

The meeting adjourned. The next meeting is January 16, 2024 @6:00 pm.

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Dr. Elton Brown, Board Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Margaret Brake", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Margaret Brake, Secretary