

Warren County Health Department

Board of Health

January 17, 2023

The Warren County Board of Health held its meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at the Warren County Health Department.

Members present: Dr. Elton Brown, Commissioner Bertadean Baker, Ms. Linda Baker, Ms. Cheryl Coffman, Mr. Michael Kilian, Dr. James Crenshaw, Dr. Christian O'Malley (to be sworn in March 2023) and Eva Brown

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

Dr. Brake requested roll call for members that were on conference call. Conference call attendees were Dr. Merwin Dieckmann, Candice White.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Margaret Brake, Health Director and a moment of silence was observed.

Dr. Brake also read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement.

There was no public comment.

Dr. Crenshaw nominated Dr. Elton Brown as Chairman and seconded by Ms. Coffman. There were no other nominations. The motion closed with the said name and passed unanimously.

Ms. Cheryl Coffman nominated Dr. James Crenshaw as Vice Chairman and seconded by Commissioner Baker. There were no other nominations. The motion closed with the said name and passed unanimously.

Following the elections Dr. Brake turned meeting over to Dr. Brown, Chairman.

The November 2022 minutes were reviewed. Mrs. Eva Brown moved to accept the minutes as read and seconded by Commissioner Baker. There being no further discussion the motion unanimously passed.

Dr. Brake presented the Finance Report which is a summary of Master Revenues through November. The Health Department has collected 58% in State Grants. Health Department Medicaid is 17% but will merge with the MCO line item in future reports. Home Health fees are down because the department has scaled back on services due to staffing shortages and three months of revenue has not been reflected. Ms. Coffman moved to accept the Financial Report as presented and seconded by Mrs. Eva Brown. There being no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

The Board adopted the 2023 meeting schedule. Mrs. Eva Brown moved to accept the 2023 meeting dates and seconded by Commissioner Baker. There being no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Three Statements of Interest were presented to the board for approval. Kaye Hall (nurse vacancy), Melissa Richardson (member-at-large) and Thomas Hans (Veterinarian). Ms. Linda Baker moved to accept Kaye Hall and Melissa Richardson and seconded by Ms. Cheryl Coffman. There being no further discussion the motion closed on the said two names. The board has already filled the veterinarian position. There being no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

At end of meeting noted that the action to approve Melissa Richardson would have members at 12 instead of 11 so the action taken to approve Mrs. Richardson is reversed. Mrs. Richardson's Statement of Interest to serve will be kept on file for 6 months in the event that a vacancy occurs. There was discussion about the need to adopt additional rules. Mrs. Eva Brown moved that there is no need to adopt additional rules and seconded by Ms. Linda Baker. There being no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Health Director's Report

01/17/23

Staff Updates

Currently seeking applicants for an Environmental Health Specialist, Community Health Technician (CAN-clinic) and nine vacant nursing positions.

Wenona Mills, Nursing Director and I met with the County Manager today to discuss the challenges of hiring nurses and CNAs to fill vacant positions. We discussed the strategies currently used to expand recruitment such as Indeed, NC Nurse Update, social media, etc.) AND the impact vacancies have had on our agency (i.e. reduction in services, outsourcing and contracting with other agencies). We also discussed offering sign on bonuses for nursing and possibly CNA positions as both have been identified as critical shortage positions in public health. Halifax County Health Department has used sign on bonuses successfully to hire clinical nurses.

COVID-19 Case Counts

NC DHHS Data as of Jan 11th:

Total Cases = 5638 (Sept Report = 5,197)

of Cases Last Year = 2,730

of Cases Last 3 months = 348

Total Deaths = 51 (Last Year =15)

CDC Tracker: 7-Day COVID-19 Level of Transmission in Warren County is High (Red).

January 11, 2023	
Cases	53
Tests Performed	172
% Positivity	18.12%

Vaccinations Update

COVID-19 Vaccines: The Warren County Health Department is currently administering the Moderna and Pfizer new Fall booster vaccines by appointment. Moderna boosters are for those 18 years and older and Pfizer is for those 12 years and older. In order to be eligible for this booster, it must have been at least 2 months since their last COVID-19 vaccine. We are still providing vaccinations (initial series) for anyone 6 months of age and older. Vaccination clinics are held twice a week at the health department on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Warren County Total Population Vaccination Status:

People Vaccinated with at Least One Dose: **11,686**
People Vaccinated with Initial Series Complete: **11,003**
People Vaccinated with at Least One Original Booster Dose: **6,655**
People Vaccinated with Updated Booster Dose: **2,114**

Percent of Population Vaccinated with at Least One Dose: **59%**
Percent of Population Vaccinated with Initial Series Complete: **56%**
Percent of Population Vaccinated with at Least One Original Booster Dose: **60%**
Percent of Population Vaccinated with Updated Booster Dose: **19%**

Flu Vaccines: Flu shots are administered on Fridays. Health Department also held special clinic days in October for county employees to receive flu vaccines.

Other Updates

OptumServe, an NC DHHS state vendor is still conducting weekly COVID-19 testing at the Warren County Armory Civic Center. Optum continues to provide both COVID and flu antigen tests. NC DHHS has extended the dates for this site to be open until March 31, 2023.

Community Health Assessment planning has started. The committee has been meeting led by our Health Education Team and is finalizing the survey questions. The team expects to release the survey later this month.

There are no changes to the Health Director's job description.

The Health Director's Performance committee (Dr. Brown, Dr. Crenshaw, Ms. Coffman) will meet after they have gathered information from staff and will bring to the Board for final

approval before submitting to County Manager's Office.

Mrs. Eva moved there is not a need for a closed session at this meeting and seconded by Commissioner Baker. There being no further discussion the motion unanimously passed.

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 21, 2023 @ 6:00 pm. The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:



Dr. Elton Brown, Board Chair



Dr. Margaret Brake, Secretary