

Warren County Health Department

Board of Health

March 16, 2021

The Warren County Board of Health held its meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 in the Conference Room of the Health Department.

Members present: Dr. Elton Brown and Candice White

Others present: Dr. Margaret Brake, Sharon Bartholomew, and Tanisha Lyons

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

The Board Chair requested roll call for members that are on the conference call. Conference call attendees: Commissioner Baker, Ms. Linda Baker, Dr. James Crenshaw, Mrs. Eva Brown, Ms. Vivian Loyd, and Ms. Cheryl Coffman.

Mrs. Candice White was sworn in by Clerk of Court Lisa Blaylock.

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

Public comment: Dr. Brown read a letter from Ms. Rose Auman and Susan Tillotson who are citizens of Warren County highlighting their experiences with COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinics. Ms. Auman expressed her gratitude to Dr. Brake and the Health Department in conjunction with Dr. Russell and H.O.P.E. Regional Medical Clinic for their leadership and the kindness of their staff.

The January 2021 minutes were reviewed. Mrs. Eva Brown moved that the minutes be approved as presented and seconded by Ms. Linda Baker. There being no further discussion the motion unanimously passed.

Dr. Brake presented the Finance Report for FY 21/22 Budget. At this time, we do not have a final budget. We have submitted the expenditures and revenues to the Finance Office as well as County Manager. The next step is to meet with them to review our budget needs for expenditures and projected revenue. Our requested budget is \$3,340,192.00. There are no capital expenses. Revenues - we are expected to receive mini grants, state health grants, Medicaid reimbursement, Medicaid cost settlement, and Health Department fees the projected budget is \$1,403,072.

Dr. Brake mentioned some accomplishments for FY20/21. The Health Department received grants from NC Division of Public Health Preparedness and Response for \$15,000, NC Central University ACCORD program for COVID-19 Testing for \$20,000 and UNC Chapel Hill's Medsouth Program for \$9,000 for partnership with Rural Health Group to improve health outcomes for patients with chronic health conditions. The Health Department received recognition and awards from the Association of NC Boards of Health for Eva Brown (BOH member) Carl Durham award and Ed Strother Partnership Award to H.O.P.E. Regional Medical

Clinic and Warren County Health Department for COVID-19 testing in communities across the county. The Health Department partnered with H.O.P.E. Regional Medical Clinic, MAKO, churches, fire departments, WARR, Green Rural Redevelopment Organization, Vidant Health, and other local organizations to hold 14 community testing events resulting in 1,724 individuals tested.

Ms. Baker moved to approve the Finance Report for FY 21/22 budget and seconded by Ms. Loyd. There being no further discussion the motion unanimously passed.

Dr. Brown, Board Chair wanted a letter sent to volunteers to thank them for their service in helping with the vaccination clinics.

Dr. Brake presented a memo for COVID-19 response pay to the Board for review and approval. The County Board of Commissioners approved hazard pay for county employees. The Health Department has 8 employees that are not eligible. Dr. Brake wants the employees to receive COVID-19 response pay. It's a one-time payment. The cost will be \$5,400 and the funds are available in the Health Department's budget. Dr. Brake has discussed with Mr. Jones, County Manager and he supports the request with Board of Health approval. Mrs. Eva Brown moved to approve the COVID-19 Response Pay for those 8 employees and seconded by Ms. Coffman. Commissioner Baker abstained from voting. There being no further discussion the motion unanimously passed.

Health Director's Report:

#### Staff Updates

Kaye Hall, Director of Nursing retired March 1, 2021. This position is posted along with 4 nursing positions. They also interviewed this week for the Environmental Health Specialist position.

#### COVID-19 Case Counts

The COVID-19 daily report for Warren County as of 5:05 pm on 03/16/2021:

- 33 Active Cases
- 1,633 Recovered Cases
- 1 Hospitalized cases
- 18 Deaths
- 1,684 Total Cases

Similar to what is occurring across the state, we continue to see positive cases however, the number of active cases is declining.

#### COVID-19 Vaccinations Update

The Warren County Health Department is still administering the Moderna vaccine by appointment only. It is administered in two doses with the second dose occurring 28 days after

the first dose. Individuals may call the health department at (252) 257-1185 to make an appointment.

We are currently vaccinating the following groups:

- Group 1 Health Care Workers and Long Term Care Staff and Residents
- Group 2 Older Adults (65 years and older)
- Group 3 Frontline Essential Workers
- Group 4 Adults at High Risk for Exposure and Increased Risk of Severe Illness

People vaccinated in Warren County:

First Dose = 4,536

Second Dose = 2,120 (fully vaccinated)

Vaccination clinics are going well with partnerships that include Warren County administration, EMS, school nurses, sheriff's office, churches and volunteers. Special thanks to Ms. Cheryl Coffman who has been a stellar volunteer and also helped to provide lunch at our clinics held off-site.