

Forsyth County Board of Health



- Dr. Linda L. Petrou, PhD, Chair
- Dr. James K. Doub, OD, Vice Chair
- Mr. John Davenport, Jr., PE
- Dr. Allen S. Hudspeth, MD
- Dr. Calvert B. Jeffers, Jr., DVM
- Dr. Charles F. Massler, DDS, M.Ed.
- Dr. Willard L. McCloud, Jr., MD
- Ms. Jane Bradner Mosko, RN, CRNA
- Mr. J. Phil Seats, R.Ph., MBA
- Dr. P. Lee Salisbury, III, DDS
- Dr. Ricky Sides, DC
- Ms. Gloria D. Whisenhunt, County Commissioner

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES April 4, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Linda Petrou, Chair
Dr. James Doub
Mr. John Davenport, Jr.
Dr. Allen S. Hudspeth
Dr. Charles Massler
Ms. Jane Bradner Mosko
Mr. J. Phil Seats
Dr. Ricky Sides
Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Marlon Hunter
Ms. Cynthia Jeffries
Ms. Ayo Ademoyero
Ms. Sandra Clodfelter
Ms. Lynne Mitchell
Ms. Quintana Stewart
Mr. Robert Whitwam
Ms. Lorrie Christie
Mr. Ken Bowyer
Ms. Sheryl Emory
Mr. Ryan Harrison
Mr. Daniel Lemons
Ms. Amber Simmons
Mr. Brock Turner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Calvert Jeffers
Dr. Willard McCloud

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Jamey Horton, Qdoba Mexican Grill Restaurant

Call to Order:

On Wednesday, April 4, 2012, the Forsyth County Board of Health held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting in the Board Room at the Forsyth County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) following the 100th Anniversary of the Forsyth County Board of Health and National Public Health Week Celebrations. Dr. Linda Petrou, called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. and welcomed Board members and guests.

Consideration of Minutes:

The minutes of the March 7, 2012 Board of Health Meeting were reviewed by the Board. A motion was made by Dr. James Doub to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. J. Phil Seats. The rest of the Board agreed and the minutes were approved.

Public Comment Section:

Board Members, staff and members of the public introduced themselves.

Mr. Jamey Horton is the owner of two Qdoba Mexican Grill Restaurants in Forsyth County. Mr. Horton stated he was there to advocate for fair treatment of local restaurants in Forsyth County. He addressed the Board regarding his perceived mistreatment from staff of the Health Department's Environmental Health Division while going through the transitional permit process in trying to get his transitional restaurant permits issued here in Forsyth County after buying two Qdoba restaurants. Mr. Horton spoke about the great treatment he received during the process from Orange, Alamance and Guilford Counties, where his other restaurants are located. In stated he had a totally different experience in Forsyth County, one of total confrontation and disrespect. Dr. Allen Hudspeth asked Mr. Horton if he knew of others who had the same experience as he did. Mr. Horton responded that he had spoken with other restaurant owners and colleagues and they had experienced the same treatment in Forsyth County. He stated the transitional permits in Forsyth County had cost him in excess of \$5,000 in repairs and in the other three counties it had cost \$1,500 for the three together. In concluding, Mr. Horton said he understands the interpretation of the health codes in North Carolina but felt that a decision needed to be made if they were going to be pro-business or anti-business in Forsyth County. He thanked the Board for listening and stated that Mr. Marlon Hunter assured him that he would look into the issue.

Dr. Petrou suggested that a sub-committee of the Board of Health be set up to look into the issue brought to the Board by Mr. Horton. Mr. John Davenport, Mr. J. Phil Seats, Dr. Ricky Sides and Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt were appointed as the committee to work with Mr. Hunter and Environmental Health staff in resolving this issue with Mr. Horton. Mr. John Davenport asked the question, is this systemic of how we operate and if it is, it is very serious. Dr. Petrou reiterated this is why the committee was being put together, to investigate. She asked Mr. Davenport and Mr. Seats if they would work on contacting people that Mr. Horton listed on his notes to get feedback. Mr. Seats asked Mr. Horton during what time period this had been going on and Mr. Horton responded over a period of 6 – 7 years. The committee will keep the Board informed.

Ms. Whisenhunt explained further how Mr. Horton's issue had come up at one of the recent Commissioner's Meetings and said that this issue was not an isolated case. She expressed that the Commissioner's Office and the County Manager's Office get phone calls regularly and when they go out into the public they are the ones who get the complaints about these types of issues. She believes that after repeatedly hearing these complaints, there has to be some truth in some of it.

Mr. Hunter acknowledged that he has heard some complaints and stated that after being an Environmental Health Inspector in the past, first and foremost, you have a responsibility to enforce the law and also to educate business owners about the laws. He realizes it is about how business owners perceive they are being treated and that is the problem. Mr. Hunter said he understands what it means to be a health inspector and to be on the front line. Dr. Sides asked Mr. Hunter if he got the feeling that other counties were being too lax and Mr. Hunter responded he didn't know but he was going to have discussions with the County Health Directors in the other counties and get their thoughts about the issue particularly their Environmental Health staff. He mentioned that Mr. Bob Whitwam, Environmental Health Director and his staff would be speaking about the new FDA food adoption that evening. Because of these new changes, he feels there will be another stir from restaurant owners. The new process will take place across the entire State, not just Forsyth. Board Members felt that since these changes were coming, it is even more important to address these current issues in order to make the transition smoother.

Resolution Recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the Forsyth County BOH and Observing National Public Health Week

Ms. Whisenhunt read the resolution, recognizing and observing April 2 – 8th, 2012 as National Public Health Week and April 4th, 2012 as the 100th year anniversary of the Forsyth County Board of Health (copy on file in Administration Binder).

After reading the resolution, Ms. Whisenhunt added another bit of good news, she announced that she has been a non-smoker for three months.

Health Director's Comments:

Mr. Hunter congratulated Ms. Whisenhunt on her accomplishment and congratulated the Board on the 100th year anniversary. He also thanked Ms. Lynne Mitchell, her staff and others who helped out, for all the work they did in arranging the celebrations.

He announced that Mr. Whitwam presented at the Commissioner's Meeting and the department is now approved to implement a Nurse/Family Partnership (NFP) program. All of the Division Directors worked hard to get the program in place and he thanked them for all the work they put in. He stated that he is expecting good things out of the NFP, once we get people hired.

Mr. Hunter acknowledged Mr. Whitwam for all the work he does other than being the Environmental Health Director. He was one of the project managers for NFP and has the ability to manage projects outside of our general scope to do things for Public Health and the community. He wants to make sure the Environmental Health staff get the recognition they deserve more so than they did in the past. Mr. Hunter stated that is the direction he wants to move in and Mr. Whitwam does give them a good example.

- County Health Rankings

In Mr. Hunter's update on the County Health Rankings, he noted this was the third and final year of rankings to come out. States are based on the number of counties they have. North Carolina has 100 counties, with a number one ranking being the best of the 100. Forsyth County is ranked #25 among the 100 counties. Last year we ranked #22. Out of the five large counties last year, Forsyth County ranked 4th. Mr. Hunter noted that Forsyth County went down in ranking because of new indicators that were added but thought we were still relatively good overall. Ms. Whisenhunt asked if other larger county rankings went down and Mr. Hunter responded yes they did, specifically in the area of physical environment, all the top five counties ranked the worse in that area (copy of handout on file in Administration Binder).

Mr. Hunter also met with Novant and had a chance to meet with Ms. Doris Paez last Thursday and they met with a group of Ministers, who are also working on a strategic planning process. Mr. Hunter's suggests working on one issue on the strategic plan at a time in order to change our health outcomes and the Ministers all agreed that approach would probably work better. They are all on the same page about what needs to be done but need to reach out to the larger masses as well. Dr. Petrou added that the department is looking for other community partners to join in on the strategic planning process so if the Board knows anyone, please encourage them to participate.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- Clinical Pricing Changes

Ms. Cynthia Jeffries, Assistant Health Director - Finance and Administration presented the Board with a list of proposed clinical price changes. In the process of moving to new electronic health records system, the Clinic Manager identified some procedures for which we currently do not have fees. The Board's approval is required for the proposed fee changes/charges before being presented to the Board of County Commissioners Mr. Davenport moved to approve the price changes and Dr. Massler and Ms. Whisenhunt seconded. The price changes were approved by the Board (copy of handout on file in Administrative Binder)

After Ms. Jeffries' presentation, because of the added celebration, Ms. Whisenhunt suggested carrying the remaining agenda items over to the next Board Meeting. It was decided to go ahead with Sheryl Emory's presentation because it was regarding the new food adoption and is tied to the earlier Public Comments.

Theme – Environmental Health Services

Mr. Robert Whitwam, Director, Environmental Health Division, introduced Ms. Sheryl Emory, who would be giving a presentation on the FDA Food Code Adoption.

- FDA Food Code Adoption

Ms. Sheryl Emory gave a presentation to the Board regarding the Food, Lodging and Institutions and spoke about the recommendation that the State move forward with the adoption of the new food code in North Carolina. The proposed rules to adopt the new food code and all other information relating to it has been published (copy of handout on file in Administration Binder).

Other Business:

None

Committee Reports:

None

Adjourn:

A request for a motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Petrou. A motion was made by the Board Members and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Marlon B. Hunter
Secretary to the Board
MBH/lgc