

**ORANGE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT:** *To enhance the quality of life, promote the health, and preserve the environment for all people in the Orange County community.*

**THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MET ON** January 26, 2022 virtually via Zoom.

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bruce Baldwin – Chair, Brian Crandell, Jessica Frega, Commissioner Jean Hamilton, Aparna Jonnal, Sam Lasris, Lee Pickett, Shielda Rodgers, Alison Stuebe, and Tony Whitaker.

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS ABSENT:** Keith Bagby.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Quintana Stewart, Health Director; Dana Crews, Community Services Director; Micah Guindon, Financial and Administrative Services Director; Victoria Hudson, Environmental Health Director; Carla Julian, Compliance Manager; Alvina Long, Public Health Nursing Director; Dr. Monica Meng-Haggerty, Dental Director; Kristin Prelipp, Communications Manager; Kimberlee Quatrone, Business Officer; and La Toya Strange, Administrative Support I.

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Kimberly Davis and various University students

**I. Welcome New Employees:** Ms. Stewart introduced the new employees in attendance: Sequoia Albright, Melissa Childers, Heidi Lopez Parra, Destiny Simmons, Maria Powell, Sarah Snipes, Sharon Swipes, Charles Taylor, and Valerie Zephyr.

**II. Public Comment for Items NOT on Printed Agenda:** None.

**III. Approval of the January 26, 2022 Agenda**

***Motion was made by Jessica Frega to approve the agenda, seconded by Alison Stuebe and carried without dissent.***

**III. Action Items (Consent)**

A. Minutes of November 17, 2021 Meeting

***Motion was made by Alison Stuebe to approve the minutes of November 2021, seconded by Shielda Rodgers and carried without dissent.***

**IV. Educational Sessions**

A. Zoning for Equity

Dr. Andrew Whittemore, Associate Professor, City and Regional Planning, UNC at Chapel Hill, along with Jo Kwon, Eve Lettau, Lauren Prunkl and Henry Read, provided an excellent presentation on barriers to wider housing access, actions taken to expand housing access to date, and possible future actions to expand housing access in Carrboro. Last semester,

graduate students at UNC's Department of City and Regional Planning researched the relationship between zoning and housing affordability in Carrboro.

The link to the presentation is below.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5bf9817ec5a041d1904291bc22b095b3>

***The BOH had questions and comments that were addressed by Dr. Whittemore and the graduate students.***

B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Reports & Billing Dashboard

Micah Guindon, Finance and Administrative Services Director, gave a report on the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter revenue and billing accuracy. Her report is as follows:

- Total Health Department Budget vs. Actuals:  
Average YTD monthly revenue in FY21-22 after the second quarter is \$267K/month or \$1.6M YTD, representing 37% of our overall budgeted revenue for the year. Due to the timing of this report and State funds being reimbursed, another \$114K in State revenue is expected for December expenditures. Revenues are comparable to this point last fiscal year (FY 20-21 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter YTD: \$1.6M). Given that State funds have not yet been received for December, expenses are slightly higher than revenues, at 40% of the overall budget.
- Dental Earned Revenue by Source:  
The FY 21-22 average monthly revenue (\$46.4K/month) for the second quarter is above our budget projection (\$41K/month) and our FY 20-21 average of \$37.1K/month. FY 21-22 dental earned revenue totaled \$279K at the end of the second quarter compared \$188K at the end of the FY 20-21 first quarter. The dental clinic is also open under the regular schedule of Monday to Friday whereas they were at a reduced schedule this time last year. Additionally, the clinic has changed children's cleaning appointment times from 1 hour to 45 minutes, allowing additional patients to be seen each day. Lastly, the clinic is working to reduce no show appointments by confirming all appointments at least 24 hours in advance.
- Medical Earned Revenue by Source:  
Medical earned revenue is currently above the budgeted projection for FY 21-22 (\$33K/month) at \$55.4K/month due to greater than anticipated revenue during the pandemic. Telehealth visits have been very successful and allowed the clinic to continue to see patients and bill for services even as in-person visits were limited. Medical clinic revenue totals \$333K for second quarter FY 21-22 compared to \$253K in second quarter FY 20-21.
- Environmental Health Earned Revenue by Source:  
Environmental Health earned revenue is slightly below the budgeted projection for FY 21-22 (\$53K/month) at \$49.1K/month. There tends to be less demand in November and December due to clients not starting new projects during these holiday months. Nonetheless, Environmental Health revenue totals \$295K for second quarter FY 21-22 compared to \$264K in second quarter FY 20-21 as service demand in all onsite water protection programs has increased.

- **Grants Fund Revenue:**  
Last fiscal year FSA was given the final installment of the \$300k for the multi-year Kenan grant. The Foundation has allowed us to roll the remaining \$53k to this fiscal year where it will be used towards sub-grants and community-based events promoting health and well-being, interpreter costs, and printing materials.
- Additionally, we have been awarded approximately \$26k for NC Integrated Care for Kids (NCInCK) program which will be used towards staff personnel costs to implement the InCK model in Orange County.

***The BOH had questions and comments that were addressed by Ms. Guindon and Ms. Quatrone.***

C. Salmonella Outbreak

Victoria Hudson, Environmental Health Director, provided a brief summary about the investigation and monitoring process of the Salmonella outbreak that occurred at the UNC Hospital Main Campus. Below are some highlights.

- This was a coordinated effort involving approximately 50 people including the OCHD EPI team, UNC Occupational Health, UNC Nutrition, and NCDHHS staff.
- Salmonella is a foodborne illness associated with gastroenteritis.
- Salmonella Javiana is a Salmonella serotype that is restricted to the Southeastern US.
- Symptoms develop 12-72 hours after the contaminated item has been consumed and include diarrhea, fever, abdominal cramps, and headaches.
- For most people, symptoms generally last for 4-7 days.
- On November 5<sup>th</sup>, a case of salmonella was reported to the OCHD CD team. The CD team then contacted Ms. Hudson. A patient at UNC Medical, who had been an in-patient since October 18<sup>th</sup>, became symptomatic on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The hospital knew it was Salmonella due to a culture; however, they were unaware of the subspecies at that time.
- By November 6<sup>th</sup>, there were 7 suspected cases.
- On November 6<sup>th</sup>, the OCHD Epi Team, which consists of certain administrative, Environmental Health, CD and clinical staff, was activated. They reviewed policies, notified the state epidemiologist and along with the assistance of Dr. Pettigrew, notices were sent to the providers.
- By November 7<sup>th</sup>, there were 9 suspected cases.
- The patients' food diaries were requested. Directives were given to stop serving the fruit cups.
- By November 16<sup>th</sup>, there were up to 15 suspected cases.
- On November 16<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Agriculture performed environmental swabs of the area in which the fruit cups were made. All of the environmental samples were negative. The exact source of the outbreak had not been determined.
- Lessons learned included to not make assumptions and to understand traceability. Companies need to know where their food is outsourced from when their vendor runs out.

***The BOH had questions and comments that were addressed by Ms. Hudson.***

**D. Outside Agency Review Process**

La Toya Strange, Administrative Support I, summarized the Outside Agency Review process and what is required of Board of Health members for evaluating applications. The Health Department will receive applications to review. Board members are to review the applications assigned to them, record scores on the appropriate scoring cards, and send the completed scoring cards back to Ms. Strange by Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**VI. Action Items (Non-Consent)**

**A. Updated BOH Policy Manual**

The Board was presented with the updated BOH policy manual. The Board members are to update their binders with the updated BOH policy. They were reminded to sign the Signature Page for Receipt of Board of Health Policy and Procedure Manual that was previously emailed to them.

**VII. Reports and Discussion with Possible Action**

**A. Health Director Report**

Ms. Stewart began by introducing Alvina Long, Public Health Nursing Director, as this is her first Board of Health meeting since being hired. She also gave Kudos to Bruce Baldwin for his actions regarding alerting Victoria Hudson upon seeing water spurt from the parking lot near the shelter at the Farmer's Market. Some of the items Ms. Stewart briefly highlighted are below.

- The Preventing Underage & High-Risk Drinking Town Hall was held on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Local data was shared. Vice-Chair, Keith Bagby, also attended. Ashley Rawlinson facilitated the event as well as completed a lot of the background work.
- Some of the members from the multi-agency Partner Information Sharing Group have temporarily reconvened to meet monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday for the next few months to discuss needs identified to the COVID response. Those members include representation from UNC, UNC Hospitals, law enforcement and public health.
- The Budget Kickoff with county finance was held on January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Last Thursday, we had our 1<sup>st</sup> Opioid Task Force meeting since the pandemic. Vice-Chair, Keith Bagby, also attended the meeting. The Task Force is working to identify what priorities and strategies they'll address in OC and how best to disperse the Opioid Settlement funding that will be received in the upcoming months. They will also be working closely with the BOCC once funds are received to ensure compliance with how the funds are spent and with reporting requirements.
- Governor Cooper extended Executive Order 245 through April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Stewart and her assistant, Ms. Strange, have been discussing schedule changes. Ms. Stewart will have some time blocked on her schedule to be more responsive to non-COVID related tasks and to get back to some of the pre-COVID public health duties. As Ms. Stewart will continue to handle COVID tasks, she's hoping this new schedule will also ensure she's able to be more responsive and engaged with the Board as well as provide more administrative time.
- Accreditation – OCHD staff will be presenting on Accreditation. Documentation is due this fall. The Site Visit will occur in spring 2023.

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- Ms. Stewart will be reaching out to the Board regarding getting back on track with BOH Subcommittee meetings so that the Strategic Plan can be finalized.

A. COVID-19 Update

Quintana Stewart, Health Director, gave an update on the COVID-19 status in Orange County (OC) as well as took questions from the Board. Some highlights are below.

- In OC, there were 3 new deaths in the last 2 weeks, which equals a total of 115 deaths.
- There are 21,774 cases COVID cases in OC.
- There's still a surge with Omicron in our community.
- In the last 7 days, there's been 1610 new cases and 4087 new cases in the last 14 days.
- During the week of 12/9-12/15, 33% of new cases were of those fully vaccinated.
- The vaccine is working and is still reducing severe illness and death.
- There have been 116,070 people (78%) who have received at least their 1<sup>st</sup> dose. There are 111,324 people (75%) that are considered fully vaccinated.
- The DHHS website has added new data regarding vaccinations. It provides data on those that have received an additional dose; however, it doesn't differentiate whether it's a booster or simply an additional dose due to being immunocomprised. There have been 64,757 people that have received a 3<sup>rd</sup> shot.
- The guidance has changed on when a booster shot should be given. For Moderna and Pfizer, it's 5 months. For those that received the J & J vaccine, they should get their booster after 2 months.
- For the general public, the state is no longer conducting case investigations and contact tracing. Leadership from DHHS has stated that only 1/3 of those called for contact tracing answered and only 1/10 of those called for case investigations were answered. Contact tracing and case investigations will continue for high-risk communities such as LTCF, K-12 schools and daycares.
- There had been many complaints and issues with the Hillsborough state testing vendor StarMed. Those concerns were made known to the state. StarMed will be exiting the end of this month. Mako will be the new state vendor beginning Jan 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Optum, the state testing vendor in Chapel Hill, is performing satisfactorily as it seems to have a better registration process than StarMed. There is still high demand and volume.
- The CDC guidance has changed as only 5 days of isolation are required regardless of vaccination status. After those 5 days, an individual can go back to work/school if symptoms have resolved but they will need to wear a mask.
- OCHD sent a press release about high quality masks. Ms. Stewart thanked Ms. Prelipp for getting out the messaging. Ms. Stewart stated that the goal is to have a well-fitted mask.
- OCHD received a shipment of Makrite N95 masks (approx. 14k) from the state. Dana Crews volunteered to assist with getting the distribution plan underway. Town & community partners will get masks to distribute to those that in need. Allowing our partners to get the masks and distribute them amongst their community members is best, as they'll be able to provide them to those families in need. The partners did not want this publicized as this may prevent those in their communities from getting the masks due to others attempting to obtain masks designated for their community members in need.
- The Hillsborough Library will serve as a public site for mask distribution. The Inter-Faith Council for Social Service (IFC) will do the same in Carrboro. Local pharmacies will be receiving masks from the federal government.

***The BOH had questions and comments that were addressed by Ms. Stewart.***

E. Media Items

Kristin Prelipp, Communications Manager, briefly mentioned some of the articles in the Board packet including articles on the NC FIT program in which OCHD staff, Tommy Green, was interviewed, OC having the fewest COVID-19 cases per capita in NC, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> rabies case reported in OC in 2021.

***Media items were in the packet which focused on Orange County's events and our involvement in various efforts.***

**VII. Board Comments**

Earlier in the meeting, Chair Bruce Baldwin welcomed back Commissioner Jean Hamilton for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term as our BOCC representative.

Commissioner Jean Hamilton wanted to follow up on a previous conversation regarding trying to help our community understand the indicators used for some of the COVID policy decisions. The BOCC looks to the health department and the Board of Health for guidance. Many of the conversations are held between Ms. Stewart, the BOCC Chair and the mayors. Commissioner Hamilton would like the Board of Health to bring more ideas to Ms. Stewart and to think more broadly about how we stay safe even in an environment where enforcement is going to be a challenge.

Commissioner Hamilton would also like the Board of Health to work on water and sewer issues as a follow up to the presentation given by a UNC Greensboro student last year. The BOH is able to make recommendations to the BOCC about what should be done. She thinks that this would be a good issue for one of the BOH subcommittees to tackle.

Discussion was held by Board members about possibly posting restaurants that require proof of vaccination on our website. Points made included the consultation of the county attorney and defining "fully vaccinated".

Mr. Baldwin officially congratulated Ms. Stewart on becoming the Secretary of the NC Association of Health Directors (NCALHD). Mr. Baldwin also requested to be contacted if anyone knows Tom Donahue, the person that placed a comment in the chat mid-way through the Board meeting, as he would like to reach out to him.

As an awareness point, Brian Crandell brought up the topic of radon in OC. This is Radon Action Month and this week is Radon Week. He's spoken with Ms. Prelipp and is aware that the OCHD website does provide links regarding radon. The EPA also has an excellent citizens' guide.

**VIII. Adjournment**

***Jessica Frega moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:57pm and Alison Stuebe seconded.***

**The next Board of Health Meeting will be held February 23, 2022 at 7:00pm via Zoom.**

Respectfully submitted,

Quintana Stewart, MPA  
Orange County Health Director  
Secretary to the Board