

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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Transylvania County Board of Health

To improve and protect the health of all people in Transylvania County

June 11, 2024 – Regular Meeting
Community Services Building First Floor Large Meeting Room
6:00 pm

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Quorum was reached with eight members present.
 Dr. Lamm called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Members Present	Dr. Ben Lamm, Dawn Kauffman, PJ Boatwright, DVM, Christina Mahoney, Elizabeth Privette, Teesie Stanton, Wiley Sim Cozart, III, Thomas Fuller, OD.
Members Absent	Teresa McCall, Sandra McNeill
Staff Members Present	Elaine Russell, Health Director / Secretary to the Board Laura Petit, Business Officer Jim Boyer, Environmental Health Supervisor Tara Rybka, Community Health Coordinator & PIO Sabrina Griffin, Clinical Planner/Evaluator Krystal Raines, WIC Director Heather Bradley, Personal Health Director Alisa Corn, Administrative Services Supervisor Cheyanne Gilbert, Preparedness & Accreditation Coordinator
Others Present	

Welcome, Announcements, and Public Comment/Public Hearing

Thomas Fuller, D.O. took the oath of office and was sworn in as a new member of the Board of Health.

II. Agenda Modifications

None.

III. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Minutes – April 9, 2024

The agenda and minutes from April 9, 2024, were approved with a motion from Dr. Boatwright and second by Dr. Cozart. Approval was unanimous.

IV. Administrative or Committee Reports

A. Health Director's Report

1. The agency is in the period of closing out FY23-24, preparing to open FY24-25, and working in staff summer vacations. It's a busy time, with multiple timelines and requests!
2. The CARE Coalition was given approval by the BOC to apply for the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) site-based, "enhancement" grant, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The purpose of this grant is to continue to build upon the successes and identified opportunities within the jail-based treatment and reentry program. This grant program funds up to \$200,000 per year for up to 3 years. This grant program would allow CARE and TCSO to continue to provide jail-based reentry and SUD treatment services, but also fill in some gaps in the continuum of care. These include peer support services, additional evidence-based treatment modalities, and overdose prevention strategies. The grant would also provide continued support for rigorous evaluation and possible contribution to emerging best practices in rural, local jail settings. The grant opportunity was released last month and is due in early July. A start date in the fall of 2024 is projected, which coincides with the end of the currently funded COSSUP grant cycle. CARE received the support of the Dogwood Health Trust's Leverage Fund for grant-writing support.
3. The "Annual Summer Camp Training" was held on April 25, 2024, at the Rogow Room. This is an annual offering to support dialogue and rapport with our summer camps for routine inspection requirements and emerging communicable diseases. The training was well attended, with 11 of 13 camps participating. Numerous camps sent multiple staff. As a follow-up to the camp training, the agency later issued pertussis guidance to help camps navigate some of the intake and housing dynamics unique to their situation.
4. The Region 1 Workforce Development Project's HRSA Planning grant was selected for funding, with a score of 96/100. The grant award is \$100,000 from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. The grant will support planning related to the continuation of the communications, Environmental Health internships with WCU, and strategies to offset other professional shortages in the 8 most western rural health departments.
5. Senator Corbin has been a great support for the 8 western Health Departments! On Thursday, May 30th, I submitted a regional Public Health Workforce Proposal to Senator Corbin's Office,

should there ever be any discretionary funds he could consider for the request. On Friday, May 31st, Senator Corbin called to discuss the proposal. He was able and very willing to authorize a \$150,000 directed grant from the Southwestern Commission. A match is required, but the continued good news is the regional \$100,000 HRSA planning grant we just received, and the \$107,000 continuation of Division of Public Health Workforce Development Regional funds easily meet the match requirement.

6. The Environmental Health section has concluded dealing with a complex septic failure situation. The situation required multiple engagements with Teague Campbell. The property has been vacated. The residents in the home were able to secure temporary housing through The Haven and a network of family/friends.

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

A. FY24-25 Budget Outcome

The proposed FY24-25 budget for the Health Department included several new requests related to personnel and services. A summary of the request status follows:

1. Two positions were requested for reclassification - Planner/Evaluator II to Assistant Health Director and Environmental Health Processing Assistant IV to Administrative Assistant I. No reclassifications or new position requests were approved for any department in the FY24-25 approved budget. The agency reclassifications will be presented again for the next budget cycle.
2. The Environmental Health Basic Water Lab request for supplies and training were approved. This will allow a service that ceased during COVID to restart with current Environmental Health staff.
3. The requested increase in the medical supply and vaccine lines was approved.
4. The requested increases in Clinical and Environmental Health fees were approved.

B. Epi Update – Pertussis Outbreak

The PowerPoint slide presentation for the Epi Update – Pertussis Outbreak is attached to the meeting minutes. (See Attachment #1)

Ms. Russell noted that the DTaP vaccine does not seem to be holding as well as in the past. The presentation of these recent cases included runny nose and watery eyes rather than a cough. Fortunately, there have been no hospitalizations or fatalities reported in our county. The health department staff has done an amazing job in response to the outbreak.

C. Upcoming Legal Trainings for BOH

A requirement of North Carolina Public Health Accreditation is to provide the Board of Health with access to legal counsel and training over the 4-year accreditation cycle. Transylvania County is very fortunate to have Teague Campbell Dennis and Gorham of Raleigh and Asheville to fulfill their legal needs. Transylvania Public Health benefits from the knowledge and career experience of numerous members of the legal team. Key legal support to the agency is provided by Debra Bechtel, Megan Silver, Julie Hooten, and Bill Bulfer. Additional legal expertise exists at the firm if needed.

At the August 2024 BOH meeting, Debra Bechtel will provide a review of the key points from the 2024 NC Public Health Legal Conference. The review will cite recent legal questions, trends, and legislative changes impacting local public health.

At the December 2024 BOH meeting, Debra Bechtel will provide a review of her recommended updates to the Board of Health Operating Procedures. During the February 2024 accreditation site visit, the agency received a recommendation to elaborate on the language in the Operating Procedures related to the adjudication process.

VII. Public Comment or Public Hearing

None

VIII. Adjournment

Dr. Boatwright made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by Dr. Cozart. There was unanimous approval and the meeting concluded at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


J. Elaine Russell
Secretary, Board of Health

Date

Dr. Ben Lamm
Chair, Board of Health

Approved Date

Attachment 1. Epi Update – Pertussis Outbreak (Double-Click to see entire file.)




TRANSYLVANIA
P U B L I C
HEALTH

EVERYDAY.
EVERYWHERE.
EVERYONE.

Epi Update – Pertussis Outbreak


Presented to Transylvania County Board of Health
June 11, 2024



1

Pertussis

- *Bordetella pertussis* (*B. pertussis*)
- Commonly referred to as Whooping Cough
- Long-standing mandatory reportable communicable disease
- Highly contagious and easily spread
- Close contacts are defined as
 - Direct face to face contact
 - Shared a confined space for greater than 1 hour
 - Direct contact with secretions from a symptomatic person



2