

The Fayette County Board of Health met on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 in the Public Meeting Room of the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

Board of Health Members Present:

Thomas Faulkner, MD
Don Haddix
Robert Horgan
Lynette Peterson
Michael Strain, MD
Lyn Redwood

Staff Members Present:

Glenda Bryant, RN, MN, FNP
Merle Crowe, BA, CCFO
John Darden
Rick Fehr, BS
Nicole Haynes, MD
Debbi Heard
Rodney Hilley
Robert Kurbes
Wendy LeVan
Brigid Smith

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Strain called the meeting to order at 7:32 AM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM October 10, 2011: Ms. Redwood made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Horgan. The minutes were approved as written.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Election of Officers: The board re-elected the current slate of officers: Ms. Redwood nominated Dr. Strain as Chair, seconded by Mr. Horgan. Ms. Peterson nominated Ms. Redwood as Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Haddix. Both motions passed unanimously.

Ms. Redwood requested follow-up information regarding the acquisition of a grant for a new or renovated building to house the health department. She said she and Dr. Haynes had met with County Manager Jack Krakeel to address that issue. It was decided that a task force was needed to research grant opportunities and to identify a grant writer to assist in the effort to fund re-housing the health department. The move will not take place until a number of changes occur in the county offices; for example, several people will have to be moved before Mr. Krakeel feels the county will be able to move forward. Board member Robert Horgan volunteered to serve on the task force and Dr. Haynes will later identify a representative from the district to serve on that task force.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Dennis Chase, Aquatic Biologist and President of the *Line Creek Association*, discussed his concerns about water that was being sprayed on playing fields in Fayette County. He was especially concerned about contaminants he found when he went to Line Creek. He said that water from the creek was being redistributed on ball fields where children play.

He said he had been concerned enough to get his blood checked after he visited Line Creek, and when the results of that test that were reported to the Red Cross, further blood donations from Mr. Chase were declined by the Red Cross.

Mayor Haddix said he had previously addressed the sprayed water issue because of his own concerns. He found that the water being sprayed was treated nearly to the level of drinking water prior to being sprayed. Mr. Chase said he wanted the Board of Health to be aware of his concern with this issue, and that was why he was bringing it to their attention. He asked that the board take up the issue with the proper authorities.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

STAFF REPORTS:

Financial/Budget:

Brigid Smith, Budget Analyst from the District Office, addressed the board about state funding the budget for the previous six months. She said that expenses were down due in part a decrease in staffing levels, and she said that fees have increased. Ms. Smith said that there was great concern at this time about the future of the budget, because revenue remains less than expenses. Ms. Redwood requested several reports and budget updates for review, and Ms. Smith agreed to send those by email.

Environmental Health (EH):

Mr. Fehr reported that he had met with Rodney Hilley and John Darden regarding the possibility of increasing EH fees. They discussed the importance of bringing EH charges closer to the cost of providing services in that meeting. Time studies of EH activities are currently being done, in order to better judge the true cost of providing services. As soon as the study is completed, results will be presented to the Board of Commissioners as requested by that board.

Mr. Haddix commented on the massive amount of documents necessary for gathering and delivering information. He said it was time consuming and costly to gather that information and deliver it for signatures.

Nursing:

Dr. Haynes reported that the health department will be receiving *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (ARRA) funding in the amount of \$13,000. She stated that even though it was reported that reimbursement for the immunizations given during the local school project would not be received, the latest word was that the money would be coming.

Fayette County Nursing staff has been reduced to four nurses, but the workload remains the same as when there were six nurses on staff. It is possible two of those nurses will be leaving; if that happens, the open positions will be posted.

District 4/Public Health:

Dr. Haynes reported on the District Four Open House of January sixth and seventh. She thanked Dr. Faulkner and Lynette Peterson, the board members who were able to attend. Ms. Peterson commented that the open house was excellent and needed to be more than two hours, due to all the information that needed to be shared. She also commented that it was presented in a very professional manner; it was not boring and the information was easy to understand. The next open house is planned to be an annual event, with the next one scheduled for March 2nd.

Dr. Haynes said that budget cuts remain a constant worry. Cuts come from the Federal level, to the State level and then down to the county. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds have been cut, which affects the Children 1st program and the three teen centers in District Four as well as the HIV Prevention Grant. The HIV Program will refocus their efforts on infected clients and preventing the spread of the disease.

The District Office will provide a Customer Service Workshop for all employees.

The Governmental Accounting Standard Board (GASB) 54 Statement was briefly reviewed by the board, and a statement acknowledging the mandated change was approved and signed by the Chairman.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The board adjourned for an executive session at 8:15 AM, and reconvened at 9:05 AM.

Dr. Strain reopened the Board of Health meeting. Motion was made to approve proposed personnel changes by Mr. Horgan and seconded by Mr. Haddix. Ms. Redwood asked it be noted that all personnel decisions were not being turned over based on the budget, only those which were discussed during the executive session. The motion was approved as stated, with Ms. Redwood dissenting.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Horgan. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 AM.

The next Fayette County Board of Health meeting is scheduled for April 10th at 7:30 AM in the Public Meeting Room at the Fayette County Administrative Complex.