

The Fayette County Board of Health met on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 in the Public Meeting Room of the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

**Board of Health Members Present:**

Thomas Faulkner, MD  
Lynette Peterson  
Lyn Redwood  
Michael Strain, MD  
Sam Sweat  
David Barlow

**Staff Members Present:**

Glenda Bryant, RN, MN, FNP  
Merle Crowe, BA, CCFO  
Michelle Dunn  
Rick Fehr, BS  
Robert Kurbes  
Deborah Straight

**District Members Present:**

Alpha Bryan, MD  
Duane Fields  
Debbi Heard  
Wendy LeVan, RN, BSN  
Blanche D. Moreman  
Pam Rock  
Brigid Smith

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Strain called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM. He welcomed the two new members, Mr. Sweat and Mr. Barlow.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 10, 2012:** Motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Redwood. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no old business or public comment.

**NEW BUSINESS: ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Motion was made by Ms. Redwood, seconded by Mr. Sweat to re-appoint Dr. Strain Chair. Motion was made by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Faulkner to re-appoint Ms. Redwood as Vice Chair. Both motions carried unanimously with no further discussion.

**STAFF REPORTS: Women, Infants and Children (WIC):** Ms. Pam Rock, Regional WIC Manager for Fayette County WIC, reviewed WIC caseload statistics for Fayette County for both October and November (attachment #1). She said they were working with four interns from Life University or Southern Regional Medical Center; those interns work with special projects to get nutritional information out to clients. WIC requirements recently changed to once a year certification rather than every six months for infants and

breastfeeding mothers, which relieved the administration burden for both clients and staff. A decision was recently made at the state level to only allow dispensing of infant formulas in the state contract, because formula not on the contract list for infants was very expensive. Clients accepted the change after some nutritional counseling.

**Nursing Report:** Ms. Glenda Bryant discussed a handout of clinical visits for the previous quarter (Attachment #2). WIC visits were included in the totals. Her next handout covered the *Breast Cancer Awareness* campaign done in conjunction with the school system APPLES project (attachment #3). Ms. Bryant thanked Ms. Amessia Chapman for her help with that handout. She said this campaign was a first effort and very minimal, and that the plan was to expand the campaign's reach for the next year. The majority of respondents were female, and it was hoped there would be responses from males next year, since all people can get breast cancer. The goal of the *Breast Cancer Awareness* campaign will be to get a better grasp of educational needs of the community; to help people understand the risk factors for breast cancer. Ms. Redwood suggested beginning now to place newspaper articles to increase awareness.

Fayette County Health Department staff participated in *World AIDS Day* on the first Saturday in December, giving free AIDS tests to respondents. Plans were being considered to expand that outreach during normal clinic hours over the next months. Ms. Bryant said she was participating in the Wellness Committee through the school system. That committee will advise the school system on physical activity levels, nutritional education, etc. in order to help meet new Federal guidelines. She also plans to participate in a faith-based emergency preparedness seminar in February. That seminar will be sponsored by the public health emergency preparedness division; will be spearheaded by Fayette County Emergency management, and will address the role that faith based organizations will play in the event of a disaster.

Ms. Redwood requested that a monthly Nursing Activity Report be sent to the board. Ms. LeVan said she would provide that information to Ms. Bryant to send to Ms. Redwood. Ms. Bryant volunteered to send the report on a monthly basis.

**Environmental Health (EH):** Mr. Fehr reported that the Board of Commissioners had approved the Body Art Studio fee schedule that the BOH had previously adopted. He said he would be retiring at the end of this month; that he had served for 32.5 years of the 50 years that there had been a health department in Fayette County. Duane Fields, District EH Director commended Mr. Fehr for his years of service. There will be a retirement reception on February 1, 2013 and Mr. Fields invited all the board members to attend. Jeff Kilgore will assume the interim director position until an EH County Manager can be hired. He gave the board some information (attachment #4) regarding the future position of public health. He mentioned the ongoing staff shortage and the difficulty faced by staff to fulfill ever-growing responsibilities. The board thanked Mr. Fehr for his service over the years. Mr. Fehr said that his outstanding staff had made his job much easier.

**Financial:** District Administrator Ms. Brigid Smith reviewed the current fiscal standing of Fayette County Health Department. She said that although revenue was down, expenses were down as well. She mentioned that it had been necessary to use current year fees for only one month of this fiscal year. She also said that the Employer portion of health

insurance had been reduced for the remainder of the fiscal year, which should save about \$28,000 and help keep expenses down. At the end of six months of this fiscal year, expenses were nearly five points under budget. The budget had been divided to better account for Family Planning expenses and revenue. Overall, the budget looked much better than at this time last year.

**District 4/Public Health:** Dr. Alpha Bryan discussed changes in the *Babies Can't Wait* program for developmentally delayed children. Funding was cut, due partly to the failure of the "pay and chase" method of billing. Roughly one-tenth of reimbursement was received after the "pay and chase" method was put in place, leading to a tremendous funding shortfall and realignment of the billing method. Dr. Bryan said that the bottom line was that there was tremendous confusion about this program at the state level, and she wanted the board to be aware of this confusion in case they received questions from local consumers or providers.

Ms. Redwood felt it was a tremendous shame that babies or children in need of speech or language therapy would not receive early intervention. She said that failure to provide services would put a tremendous burden on the educational system later. Dr. Bryan said that other states had a much better grasp of this program and Georgia would need to realign the program to do a better job. She mentioned that Children's Medical Services would also be realigned to allow parents to choose a provider, rather than having a free standing clinic, due to the tremendous cost of that clinic.

Dr. Bryan discussed the benefits of training for Board of Health members, and gave the board information on an upcoming training opportunity on April 22 and 23 (attachment #5). She commended the training and encouraged a board member or two to participate. She mentioned a press release from the National Associations of Boards of Health (attachment #6).

She said that on January 31, 2013 there were interviews scheduled for a permanent Medical Director for District 4. There will be four to six candidates to be interviewed, some with extensive public health experience. She asked that at least one BOH member from each board be appointed for the panel. One of the two final candidates will be chosen by Dr. Fitzgerald for the permanent position, with board approval. The board hoped that Dr. Faulkner would be willing to sit on the interview panel; he said he would check his calendar. Ms. Peterson was willing to serve but felt that a medical person would be best.

Ms. Redwood updated the board on the QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Program for suicide prevention. She wanted Dr. Bryan to be aware of the opportunity.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Redwood. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 AM.