

**Foothills Health District
District Board of Health Open Session
Meeting Minutes
Rutherford County Health Department
January 10, 2023**

- **Board of Health Members Present:** Dr. Christopher Buchanan, Kim Warner, Becky Young, Shirley Garcia, Gina Harrill, Greg Lovelace, Dr. Jerald DeLaGarza, Martha Robinson, Susie Bostic
- **Board of Health Members Absent:** Amy Jenkins, Leon Godlock, Julie Harris, Chris Allison, Dr. James Gaskill
- **Foothills Health District Staff/Guests/ Counsel Present:** Karen Powell, Health Director; Nancy Marshall, Finance Director; Dottie Wilson, Assistant Finance Officer; Jason Masters, Environmental Health Supervisor; Jennifer Jarrett, Board Clerk

The Foothills Health District Board of Health met at 6:30pm on Tuesday, January 10, 2023.

I. Call To Order- Dr. Jerald DeLaGarza, Chairperson:

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Dr. Jerald DeLaGarza at 6:30pm and announced a quorum was present.

II. Public Comment Period- Dr. Jerald DeLaGarza, Chairperson:

No public members were present for comment.

III. Health Director's Report- Karen Powell, Health Director:

A. Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support Program

The agency is preparing to start offering a new diabetes education program in the next few weeks. There is no other agency offering diabetes education in either county. It is a massive undertaking for an agency to become eligible to offer diabetes education. Kim Kever, WIC Director, oversaw the project and we have just signed the agreement to become an official site for diabetes education. The program is officially called Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support. It is recognized by the American Diabetes Association and the American Association of Diabetes Educators. We will be offering individual education as well as classes. It will be a great thing for the community, and it is a billable service for the health department. We get a lot of calls from the hospital and local physician practices asking if we can offer this service. There is really nowhere for them to refer to locally. This will be offered at the Rutherford County Health Department initially.

B. School Initiative Funding

We have received funding for School Health Initiatives. This is an addendum to our funding to develop health initiatives in the schools. We sent out the information to both superintendents, the principals, and the school nurses letting them know about this. Our employee, Penny Martinez, is overseeing these projects and working with the

schools to develop them and then get approval from the state. Once the state approves the project, we release the money. One of the projects is called “The Tall Cop”. This is done by a law enforcement officer who, as the name implies, is very tall. He comes in and scans the communities to get an idea of their drug culture. Then he teaches what to look for, such as stash compartments that are used to hide weapons or drugs in common looking items. He is already scheduled in both counties. Other school health initiatives that we have funded include a 2 year curriculum for guidance counselors to work with students, an after school program for health and wellness, funding for bikes for a project involving the rail trail near a school, the fire department asked for funding to do a fire extinguisher class in the schools, and a Stop The Bleed program to train staff how to deal with injuries. We are still trying to get more projects from the schools as there is still money to be used.

C. McDowell County Health Department Water Damage

The McDowell County Health Department had a pipe burst while we were closed for the Christmas holidays. The water damage was substantial as it reached almost every area of the health department. It was estimated the water had been leaking for 2-3 days. The water was ankle deep throughout the building. We closed the entire week of December 26, 2022. We have opened back up for limited clinical services in a small area of the clinic that was not damaged. McDowell County owns the building and has had restoration crews working. We are responsible for the contents of the building and have had our property and liability insurance provider there to make claims. It is estimated the restoration work will not be completed until mid-March.

D. Advancing Equity

Penny Martinez also heads up our Advancing Equity program. She and other staff are taking our Suburban and going out to different communities to see what their needs are and offer our services. We have taken vaccines out to the people in their community, promote WIC, help them find the resources they need, etc. We are trying to be more visible and let people know what we do, what we offer.

E. Health & Wellness Clinic at ICC

We are still in the process of trying to hire a provider for the Clinic at ICC. It has been a slow process. We have interviewed multiple applicants, but none have panned out for various reasons.

IV. Finance Report- Nancy Marshall, CFO:

F. 2021-2022 Audit Report Presentation- *Action Item*

Steven Blanton, CPA, with Elliott & Painter Certified Public Accountants presented the audit report for year ended June 30, 2022. A copy of the 2021-2022 Audit Report had been emailed to Board of Health members prior to the meeting. In the auditor’s opinion our agency had a clean audit in compliance over both federal and state programs as noted in the letters to management in the audit report. Steven then presented some of the major points of the audit report. No material weaknesses were identified during the audit. Overall, the audit was clean and in

compliance. A motion to accept the 2021-2022 Audit Report as presented was made by Greg Lovelace; Kim Warner seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

G. Finance Reports & Budget Amendments-**Action Item**

Nancy Marshall, CFO, presented the Profit & Loss Report from July through November 2022. The Medicaid Cost Settlement has been submitted for this year. We still have not received our 2020-2021 Medicaid Cost Settlement payment from the prior year. Other health departments are reporting they have not received theirs either. The Budget Amendments for this time equaled \$612,953.00. The Budget Amendments were presented by Nancy Marshall, CFO. A motion to approve the Budget Amendments as presented was made by Kim Warner; Greg Lovelace seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

V. **Environmental Health Report- Jason Masters, Environmental Health Supervisor:**

H. On Site Wastewater Management

As of 5:00pm today, Environmental Health has brought in \$264,807.00 since the start of the fiscal year. There about 42 applications in the stack between the two counties and about a 3 week backlog. There are around 7 RV park applications, ranging between 2-12 RVs per park and a potential 100 site RV park in Rutherford County. All OSWW inspectors now have iPads thanks to ARPA funding. These will help make the permitting process quicker, which in turn can reduce the backlog. The State has asked Environmental Health to review all the large IPWW systems in McDowell and Rutherford Counties in order to update their own files. These are systems that utilizing greater than 3,000 gpd. Altogether about 33 facilities. Environmental Health has another case where the owner will be taken to court over a failing septic system. The owner has either refused or been unable to repair the system.

I. Food and Lodging

The Foothills Health District Food and Lodging section achieved the 100% inspection compliance for the last fiscal year, for the third year in a row. We are on track to do the same thing again this fiscal year. Foothills Health District represents 2 of only 11 counties of the 50 western counties in NC that have achieved the 100% compliance standard. Jason reviewed the difference between required inspections and regular inspections with the members present. Environmental Health is also preparing for the upcoming swimming pool season.

VI. **Closed Session- Dr. Jerald DeLaGarza, Chairperson:**

No Closed Session was held.

VII. **Adjournment- Dr. Jerald DeLaGarza, Chairperson:**

At 7:37pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Christopher Buchanan; Kim Warner seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by all members present. The meeting was adjourned.

Signatures:

Karen E. Powell, Health Director
Foothills Health District

Dr. Jerald Delagarza, Board Chair
Foothills Health District