



Public Health Authority of Cabarrus County  
Board Meeting Minutes  
October 13, 2020

A regular meeting of The Public Health Authority of Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman James T. Mack, Jr., conducted the meeting from the Board Room. Board members participated electronically via Microsoft TEAMS.

Members Present: James T. Mack, Jr., Chairman

Members Present: Dr. Chip Buckwell  
Dan Hagler, MD  
Kimberly Dehler, DDS  
Lara Pons, MD, Vice-Chair  
Mark Spitzer  
Steve Morris  
Tom Kincaid

Members Absent: Chris Bowe

Staff Present: Dianne Berry, Dr. Bonnie Coyle, Erin Shoe, Sue Yates  
(TEAMS) Betty Foh, Janie Woodie Ryan McGhee Suzanne Knight  
Guest: Dr. Valerie Sakach

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mack called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm, and offered the invocation.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Erin Shoe requested a change to the agenda, moving Recognition of Dr. Valerie Sakach (F. Business Agenda) to Item C. Dr. Chip Buckwell made a motion to approve the revised agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Lara Pons. Approved 8:0.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Tom Kincaid made the motion to approve the September 8, 2020 regular meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mark Spitzer. Approved 8:0.

#### **Recognition of Dr. Valerie Sakach**

Dr. Bonnie Coyle welcomed Dr. Sakach to the meeting and announced that retirement effective October 1, 2020. Her last day worked was September 15, 2020. Dr. Coyle shared with the Board her professional background included seven years in private practice and how in 2020 an identified need for ADHD services brought her to Cabarrus Health Alliance. Dr. Sakach was later named CHA's Pediatrics Medical Director. Dr. Coyle thanked Dr. Sakach for helping the children of Cabarrus County for the past 19 years.

## REPORTS

### Employee Separations Report (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY 21)

Erin Shoe noted that although there was an increase in the number of employee separations, the total separation rate for the quarter was only 4.65%. The separations included two retirees. Erin stated that these reports will continue to be monitored, but due to COVID and school/remote learning schedules, CHA respects employee decisions made for their family situations.

### Financial Summary Report / CHA Snapshot

Sue Yates discussed the CHA Snapshot and gave a summary of the 2 other financial reports. She noted that Dental Health is still a red dot as several Dentists are on leave which affects patient service. Communicable Disease is orange, January – June had concerns, however a grant was just received to help fund this program.

Dr. Dehler asked again about Dental scheduling. Janie Woodie explained that 2 Dentists are on leave. 1 recently resigned. And we are keeping Dental support in line with the Dentists available.

Tom Kincaid asked if RN's are the ones leaving. Erin Shoe responded that some have been RN's but not all. The list has included Social Workers, Environmental Health Specialists, Health Educators. But the positions we are having the most difficulty right now in recruiting is RN's.

Tom Kincaid expressed concerns about community COVID testing. He asked if it's still being done 1-2 days per week now. He stated that it's hard for the public to find testing availability and it takes a long time to confirm results. He asked how we could fund more to CHA to add COVID testing 3 days per week. He stated that he fears we will see an uptick real soon. He stated that the City of Kannapolis will contribute funding to increase testing. Erin stated that CHA currently tests Tuesdays and Thursdays, but we talk to partners weekly. She noted that she is meeting with Star Med this week to bring more testing to Cabarrus County, and they are very flexible, and that our Atrium partners and Star Med will help us meet all our testing needs.

Tom Kincaid added that he's not sure how the COVID rapid test compares to the regular testing. Erin explain they have different levels of sensitivity and protocols.

Tom asked that testing be ramped up in nursing homes, and noted that false negatives are a problem.

### Budget Variance Analysis Year-To-Date

Sue Yates also revised the Variance Analysis Year-To-Date report and explained that it backs up the CHA Snapshot report.

### Dental Health Presentation: Strategic Plan, Data & Metrics

Janie Woodie, Dental Director, presented a PowerPoint on the CHA Dental Program, including goals, data and metrics. She explained that we have two fixed locations, Concord and Kannapolis, and two portable units with two rooms of dental equipment in each truck. She discussed staffing numbers and Dental Financials, explaining that 1<sup>st</sup> quarter FY 21 decreased quite significantly due to COVID and a decrease in services. Janie also explained COVID's impact on Dentistry, including the extra procedures that had to be put into place. Then in mid-March 2020, CDC recommended to postpone all elective/non-emergency Dental procedures. As a result, only emergency care was offered March – mid-May 2020. Full-comprehensive Dental care was reinstated June 2020, and Preventative care in August 2020. During all this time patient numbers were reduced. All Community Dental services were halted. Tele-Dentistry was implemented, including virtual triage, but this also further reduced in-person visits. Additional challenges included losing a Dentist April 2020, 2 Dentists on medical leave, but one will return to work October 19<sup>th</sup> full-time, and the second Dentist will return to work January 2021. Janie stated that she is extremely proud of the Dental staff for adapting to our 'new normal.' She presented an overview of the reassignments/furlough list, and shared the Strategic Plan for Dental which included a Public Facing Data Repository, and Use of an equity lens for data collection. Goals are to address the number of children in kindergarten with untreated dental decay

and number of emergency room patients with oral health complaints. She stated that we have major work on us as a program moving forward but we are also looking at all opportunities.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Budget Revisions**

Sue Yates reviewed budget revisions with the Board. Dr. Kim Dehler made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Tom Kincaid. Approved 8:0.

## **BUSINESS AGENDA**

### **Strategic Goals**

Betty Foh noted that Supervisors were invited to participate in a Strategic Planning Retreat to define Strategic goals that align with Board-approved Strategic priorities. Once goals were agreed on by the Leadership Team and Supervisors, each department completed their department strategic plan. Betty presented Strategic Priority areas and goals to the Board. She noted that these priorities and goals will be CHA's focus for the next five years. Betty presented to the Board the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Update which included the framework and process, and explained how data would be used to improve health. She also reviewed the goals for developing internal and external practices, programs and policies that achieve equity; building and sustaining collaborative systems that address social determinants of health, and transforming agency capacity, culture and practices to achieve excellence. Dr. Coyle added that moving forward, each month we will bring a Department to the Board to review their metrics and strategic plan.

### **Health Director's Report**

Dr. Bonnie Coyle presented the Health Director's Report for October 13, 2020. She noted that this included the main highlights from September, which provided a brief overview of each department.

She

noted that CHA hosted a recent visit from Congressman Richard Hudson to learn about the SUN and Syringe Exchange Programs (SEP). She noted that Congressman Hudson and his team were very impressed for both programs as a model for others.

Dr. Coyle noted that WIC enrollment has increased, and they recently received a Virtual Model Award from Glaxo-Smith Kline, which they will receive on November 20, 2020.

She also noted that the Racism Public Health Crisis proclamation was signed on September 24<sup>th</sup>, and the videoed event is on the CHA website. That same day, Chairman James Mack visited CHA to chat with staff, which was very well-received. She noted that it would be nice to have each CHA Board member here with staff just one time per year. She stated that she would be reaching out to Board Members in the near future with an invitation. She noted that a main goal for FY 2021 would be to increase Board of Health engagement, for which we would be able to measure outcomes.

### **COVID Update**

Erin Shoe provided an update for Cabarrus County. She thanked CHS's Senior Epidemiologist, Isaiah Omerhi, for the PowerPoint and data. Erin walked the Board through the dashboard review of 4387 cases to date in Cabarrus County. She noted that on 9/21/20 there were 47 cases, and that we saw an increase in cases after Labor Day.

Dr. Coyle noted that since our first county case of COVID 3/11/20, we have seen surge, slow down, surge. She noted that one analytical strategy allows you to predict the next few months. Dr. Coyle stated that NC is starting to see a real uptick in cases. But this is not a predictor for Cabarrus County, but with colder moths and flu ahead, an uptick is likely. Erin Shoe reviewed data of COVID cases by race, age group, and zip code. Mark Spitzer asked with all this data, what are your conclusions? Do you have answers on where more work needs to be done? Dr. Coyle responded that a lot of cases

have been with the Latino population and added that we have been working with staff to get messages and education out on the importance of quarantine and isolation. She noted that COVID cases are highest in the younger age groups.

Erin Shoe added that after CHA has a point-of-contact regarding COVID, they are identifying close contacts. The team has developed a weekend rotation format.

Tom Kincaid asked about Long-Term Care facilities. How are you protecting another surge? How can we get residents and staff re-tested? Erin responded that we will continue to work with CHA Environmental Health, and the state has released new resources.

Erin concluded that CHA is the point agency for an 11 county region for long-term agencies. We will need to focus there the longest. We have a team of 8 staff and are excited about this new opportunity. She noted that an update on this program will be presented to the Board in January.

### **Metrics/Report Cards**

Dr. Coyle noted that this is county data from a population health prospective. She noted that we are trying to move the needle on these county-wide metrics. Cabarrus County is 11<sup>th</sup>, and one of the healthiest counties in North Carolina according to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She noted that we have work to do on preventable hospital stays, Dentist to patient ratios, social associations, air pollution, and driving alone to work. She also reviewed the Healthy NC Metrics, noting that yellow means better than the state but goals not met; red: lower than the state and green: goals already hit. Dr. Coyle stated that these metrics will show how progress is being made in Cabarrus County and each month the Board can see how the 'needles' are going in the right direction

### **INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Chairman Mack called for public comments from the floor. There were none. Ryan McGhee, Chief Technology Officer, stated that an e-mail box is set up for the public comments period, and Dianne Berry, Clerk to the Board, has access.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Mack stated he had an opportunity to meet CHA employees last month. He encouraged other CHA Board Members stop by and visit, noting that it was a great opportunity to touch base and for employees to get to know their Board.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Chip Buckwell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Tom Kincaid and approved 8:0.

  
James T. Mack, Jr., Chairman  
Public Health Authority Board of Commissioners

ATTEST

  
Dianne P. Berry, CMC, NCCMC  
Clerk to the Board