

**DeKalb County Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2013
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Bohan Auditorium**

Board Members Present

Arlene Parker Goldson, Chair
Jacqueline Davis, Vice Chair
Daniel Salinas, M.D., Parliamentarian
The Honorable Jeff Rader
Vasanne Tinsley, Ed.D.

Guests and Staff Present

S. Elizabeth Ford, M.D., M.B.A., District Health Dir.
Maris Brokovic
Greg French
Nakija Benjamin
Brenda K. Smith
Tom Keating
Demetria Patton
Beth Ruddiman
Tesi Gillispie
Keir Sims
Ryan Cira
Letha Baines
Alicia Cardwell Alston
Stefani Carter
Mia Young
Katrina Green

Guests and Staff Present

Sandra Piñeyro, Recording Secretary
Sybil O’Neal
Althea Otuata
Jessica Grippo
Les Richmond, M.D., M.B.A.
Vickie Elisa
Mandy Seaman
Danika Fanner
Tiffany Ballard
Roger L. Mottley
Bernard Hicks
Jewell Martin
Sentayehu Bedane, M.D.
Alexis Alexander
Deborah Jackson
Dwayne Turner, D.D.S.

The regular meeting of the DeKalb County Board of Health was called to order by Board Chair Goldson at 3:05 p.m. Chair Goldson welcomed Dr. Vasanne Tinsley, Director of Student Assignment and Support for the DeKalb County School District. As of today, Dr. Tinsley will be Superintendent Michael Thurmond’s representative on the Board of Directors.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Goldson made a motion for approval of the September 26, 2013 Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Selection of Nominating Committee for 2014 Election of Officers

The Board selected Vice Chair Davis and Parliamentarian Salinas as the nominating committee for the 2014 election of officers.

Director's Board Report

The Office of Emergency Preparedness finalized the closed points of dispensing partnership with the Internal Revenue Service, which increases our capacity to dispense medical countermeasures. As a result of receiving a score of 99 on the 2012 City Readiness Initiative and Strategic National Stockpile review, the Board of Health is not required to undergo a review for 2013-2014.

The Marketing and Business Development Division is moving ahead with public health accreditation, with ten percent of the documents uploaded. The division is working on marketing plans for the DeKalb/Fulton High Impact HIV/AIDS program.

The Administration Division completed a request for proposal for the enterprise resource planning software.

In support of the public health accreditation effort, the Quality Improvement Sub-committee received a grant to participate in the Kaizen program. The grant provides for 48 hours of quality improvement training and an onsite, five-day coaching session to co-lead a Kaizen event for the Board of Health's quality improvement project. It also includes a sponsorship to attend the Open Forum for Quality Improvement meeting in Memphis, TN, from November 18 to November 22, where we have two staff members in attendance.

Robert Baker and Associates conducted an on-site audit in October, in preparation for the annual audit.

Human Resources facilitated the annual benefits open enrollment period for 2014. The state has contracted exclusively with Blue Cross/Blue Shield as its provider for all employees.

The Policy and Procedures Committee is reviewing the HIPAA Policy 200-6, Political Activity Policy 10-3, and Probationary Period Policy 10-4.

The wellness initiative continued yoga classes through September and October. Line dancing classes are planned for November and December.

Information Technology implemented independent, secure Internet access at each of the health centers. This will facilitate operations in the event of a Georgia Technology Authority circuit failure.

The Facilities office processed 119 work orders, of which 55 were sent to the county. Fire drills occurred in several health centers.

Purchasing processed 228 purchase orders and the Office of Contracts processed 23 contracts.

During September and October, Vital Records issued 2,151 birth certificates and 5,642 death certificates. In FY2013, the office issued 15,626 birth certificates and 37,740 death certificates.

Environmental Health Division

There were no cases of West Nile virus reported in DeKalb County residents this year. There were 735 calls requesting mosquito control action; 241 priority facilities were visited, larvacided, and educated on eliminating mosquitoes breeding sites; 9,748 total mosquitoes were counted and identified; and 5,280 homes were visited in door-to-door educational efforts.

There were four restaurant closures as a result of receiving consecutive U grades on inspection reports.

Community Health and Prevention Division

The Ryan White Early Care Clinic provided services to 505 unduplicated clients.

The Tuberculosis Clinic conducted one large-scale contact investigation at a business. The clinic has an agreement with Your DeKalb Farmers Market to conduct pre-employment TB tests for new staff. The TB program, Ryan White Early Care Clinic, and HIV Linkage to Care staff met to discuss coordinating of services for TB and HIV co-infected patients. The TB Clinic hosted visitors from Uzbekistan who were interested in our TB healthcare system.

Refugee Health Services screened 390 newly-arrived clients. The Refugee Pediatric Clinic provided 350 primary care visits.

The HIV High Impact Prevention Program has been busy with a number of events. They created a regional planning group to address HIV, focusing on metro Atlanta, as opposed to individual counties. They participated in the Hispanic Health Fair, the Atlanta Gay Pride Parade, and the Martin Luther King Health Fair.

October was National Dental Hygiene Month and a number of special events were featured. The program also participated in the Hispanic Health Fair held at the North DeKalb Health Center. There were 6,300 participants at all of the events combined and of these, 4,519 received dental screenings and 531 were referred to the Board of Health dental clinics.

The Adolescent Health and Youth Development's Personal Responsibility Education Program held a community event that provided parents and organizations an overview of the program.

The Babies Can't Wait program is currently servicing 493 children, the Children 1st program has 129 children enrolled, and Children's Medical Services (CMS) is servicing 296 clients. Dr. Ford asked CMS staff if we are no longer taking care of foster children under this program, since a lot of changes have taken place under Medicaid. Letha Baines responded that foster children normally are not in a care management organization (CMO) and the new rules will now place them under a CMO. The state has contracted with Amerigroup. Parliamentarian Salinas stated that there will not be a gap in service and that a team has been created to ensure this. The change will not impact the Board of Health financially. CMS does not have a waiting list for services and the change will impact only seven of our clients.

The Mothers Offering Resources and Education program has 125 active clients.

The immunization program is conducting assessments at various facilities. Childcare immunization assessments are in progress and, thus far, staff have visited 283 childcare facilities and assessed 9,263 immunization records. Staff have visited 96 kindergarten programs and assessed 7,083 immunization records. They also visited 38 sixth grade programs where 6,120 immunization records were assessed.

The school-based flu program began on September 1 and the Board of Health has been working with the DeKalb County School District, as well as with the City of Decatur Schools, to provide immunizations.

The Women, Infants and Children program caseload is 26,970 participants. The 2014 target caseload set forth by the state is 27,462.

Clifton Springs Health Center administered flu vaccines at the Apples for Teachers event at Flat Shoals Elementary School. The DeKalb County Board of Commissioners presented a proclamation in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October.

East DeKalb Health Center has a new heating and air conditioning unit.

Vinson Health Center has registered 1,925 clients for back-to-school services and provided 2,213 immunizations.

Health Assessment and Promotion (HAP) is working on a project to expand their Public Health Information for Teens magazine. They are looking for support to continue the publication. HAP is partnering with the Governor's SHAPE project to help promote childhood obesity awareness. Dr. Ford stated that there is funding available through the state to partner with schools on obesity awareness. Although we have made advances in childhood obesity (Georgia was once #2 and now we are #12), we still have a lot of work to do. Two years ago, SHAPE found that some children could not pass any of the five parameters of the SHAPE Act. Because of this, the state is offering more resources for obesity. We received a Delta Dental Care Community Foundation grant in the amount of \$10,000 through HAP, in collaboration with Dental Health Services. We are continuing to pursue all funding opportunities available to us.

Office of Epidemiology and Statistics

There was a shigella outbreak in October at a daycare center. Staff conducted all of the appropriate exclusionary procedures and investigation. There was also a case of chicken pox in a 55-year-old man.

Office of Injury Prevention

The staff has provided a number of different passenger safety classes. They also held some outreach events for National Child Passenger Safety Week. The Injury Prevention Coalition was

re-launched with 35 individuals attending their first open house. Safe Communities hosted an International Walk to School Day event at Woodward and Jolly elementary schools. Safe Kids participated in the Dunwoody Children's Bicycle Safety Rodeo at Brook Run Park and a safety seat clinic was hosted at the Babies-R-Us in Dunwoody. Staff attended the Governor's Red Ribbon Week kickoff at the Omni CNN Center. It was a huge event with 37 schools and 1,600 participants.

Announcements

Emergency Preparedness welcomes Brittany Luckey, Alexis Alexander, and Roger Mottley to the staff.

Human Resources issued 11 faithful service awards. One employee received their 30-year service award, one received their 15-year service award, five received their 10-year service award and four received their five-year service award. Dr. Ford stated that one of the strengths of public health is that there is longevity with the staff.

The immunization program was recognized at the 20th Annual Immunize Georgia Conference for entering one of the highest amounts of immunizations (12,940) in the Georgia Registry of Immunization Transaction and Services system.

North DeKalb Health Center welcomes Deborah Rosenberg, Mahlet Meknonnen, Jennifer Tucker, and Arianna Lopez as new staff members.

At this point, Board member Rader asked if we are contingency planning due to Grady Health Services' pending cut in services. Dr. Ford responded that we have tried working on a partnership, particularly on acute care services. She has also been trying for the past few years to work on a men's initiative with The Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority. Board member Rader is concerned that if Grady Hospital does cut services, our health centers will most likely be inundated. He stated that we may have to anticipate an increased demand in services. Board member Rader continued by saying that it is important for us to assess the impact to figure out a way to respond to it. Dr. Ford stated that we are planning for that, not necessarily the volume that is coming through Grady Hospital, but we have been trying to figure out what sort of services we can provide without too much change in our personnel. Dr. Ford stated that most of the services needed from Grady Hospital are not acute and could easily be provided here at the Board of Health. She further stated that staff is looking at ZIP codes to determine where the clients are coming from and then we can determine what health centers to focus on. Board member Rader stated that he has the expectation that we are going to see a spike in demand for services.

Dr. Ford thanked everyone for a magnificent job during the shutdown of the federal government in October. We did not encounter a shortage of services, everyone got what they needed and it was as if it were happening someplace else.

Financial Status Report

Brenda K. Smith, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the report for the period ending October 31, 2013 (see attached memo).

Dr. Ford asked Ms. Smith to talk about the fringe rate, which is supposed to go up again. Ms. Smith stated that the fringe rate is now at 56 percent. Health benefits are at 30 percent and the retirement rate is going to increase by three percent. Therefore our fringe rate will be at approximately 60 percent, which is extremely high. Dr. Ford stated that this impacts our ability to hire if we have to factor in such a high fringe rate. Parliamentarian Salinas asked for the industry benchmark. Ms. Smith will investigate. The high fringe benefit rate affects us because the state bills us for every salaried employee, regardless if the employee receives medical benefits from us or not. It was stated that there is no option, since the state has to legally offer insurance to every salaried employee. Georgia is a self-insured state. The DeKalb County government is migrating to onsite medical services.

Public Comments

Dr. Tom Keating introduced himself and reminded everyone that the United Nations' World Toilet Day was November 19. He stated that 2,000 children die every day of diarrhea, due to sanitation problems. Dr. Keating reported that he ensured that two locks were replaced in the men's room in the Richardson building. He congratulated the county and the school board for working together.

Board Comments

Chair Goldson thanked the staff for maintaining services during the shutdown. She stated that the Board appreciates the staff's efforts and loyalty to DeKalb County residents.

Chair Goldson and Dr. Ford wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Adjournment

Chair Goldson asked for a motion to adjourn. Board member Rader so moved and the motion was seconded by Parliamentarian Salinas. All voted in favor.

The next regular meeting of the DeKalb County Board of Health will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2014, at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Piñeyro
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

Arlene Parker Goldson, Chair
Jacqueline Davis, Vice Chair
Daniel Salinas, M.D., Parliamentarian