

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met in special session in the Council Chambers of the Administrative Building, located in Danbury, North Carolina, on Monday, March 15, 2004, at 7:00 pm for a Joint Meeting with the Stokes County Board of Health. The following were in attendance:

Stokes County Board of Commissioners

Chairman Sandy McHugh
 Commissioner Howard Mabe
 Commissioner Leon Inman
 Commissioner Joe Turpin
 Vice-Chairman John Turpin (absent)

County Manager Richard Morris
 County Attorney Jonathan Jordan
 Darlene Bullins, Clerk to the Board

Stokes County Board of Health

Chairman Dr. Nick Chalfa
 Vice Chairman Dr. Sam Simmons
 Dr. Debbie Cowan
 Greg Collins
 Keith Lawson
 Barbara Watkins
 Brenda Hall

Health Director Steve Smith
 Wanda Hicks, Office Support IV

Chairman McHugh called the meeting to order and welcomed the Board of Health members in attendance.

Greg Collins, Health Board member, delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman McHugh opened the meeting by inviting the citizens in attendance to join the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Purpose of Meeting

The meeting targeted toward a consensus on the scope of public health programs in Stokes County and discussions involving the direction of health care for Stokes County.

Director Steve Smith prepared booklets with backup information for each member in attendance with the following inserts for future reference:

County Health Report

Statutes

Program Worksheets and Charts

Salary Allocation

Environmental Health F/Y 04/05

State Contracts

Miscellaneous

County Health Report Card

Health Director Steve Smith briefed those in attendance on the 2002-03 Public Health Report Card. Director Smith noted that this report highlights areas of concern and areas of strength for Stokes County in terms of public health indicators. Director Smith briefed the members in attendance in the following priority health concerns for Stokes County:

- heart disease/stroke
- suicide
- pneumonia/flu
- overweight/obesity
- smoking during pregnancy
- health care access.

Director Smith included graphs detailing the following:

- overview of health data
- progress and accomplishments 2002-03

- emerging issues
- other changes affecting health in Stokes County

Commissioner Joe Turpin noted the major issue of transportation for access to health services in the County.

Director Smith led the discussion in the following areas:

State Contracts

Agreements signed by Director Smith on behalf of the Health Department.

Program Reviews

Environmental Health – Being separated as a separate department in the upcoming fiscal year 2004/05 budget.

Mostly local funding.

Discussion of services provided by Environmental Health Staff.

Home Health – Established in 1978. Successful track record generating \$80 to \$90 thousand range of revenue. Great source for rural areas.

Good response from clients receiving services from Home Health. No local funding, self supporting.

Discussion of home health services in Stokes County.

Adult Health Care – Began in 98/99 fiscal year. Upcoming fiscal year will cease services in the King Clinic. Sliding scale for payment.

Discussion of set fees for services to be considered by the Board of Health, better process of income screening.

Discussion of poverty level. Services to help clients with no insurance with prescription services.

Breast, Cervical, Cancer, Control Program – Contracted with Novant Health to provide screenings such as mammogram, etc.

Discussion of immunizations given at the Health Department

Discussion of obtaining physicians for Stokes County

Dr. Nick Chalfa noted the problems with family practice physicians starting a practice with high mal-practice insurance cost, cost of setting up a practice, etc. Hospitals are buying out family practices in order to get referrals.

Discussion of preventive care provided by the Health Department.

Chairman McHugh requested an outline of services mandated, non-mandated but ensured services are available within the County.

Mandated Services:

Communicable Disease

Environmental Health-Food and Lodging

Immunizations

Not mandated, but high priority

Home Health

Can be provided by Health Department or ensure the provision of service to the citizens.

Adult Care

BCCCP

Child Health

Child Service Coordinator

Family Planning

General

Health Promotion

Maternal Health

Prenatal Care

WIC/Nutrition

Director Smith noted that several of the above services would have difficulties in obtaining private sector providers.

Discussion of Family Planning specifications, guidelines, and services being provided by outside providers.

Discussion of General Statutes as relates to the Health Department.

Discussion of services provided by the Health Department versus what can be provided by the private sector.

Discussion of WIC Program.

Provides income for local grocery stores.

Commissioner Joe Turpin questioned the advertisement of “Free” WIC Services in local papers.

Janelle Kent, Nutritionist-Health Department, stated that the advertisement to offer services is mandated by the Federal Government.

Commissioner Joe Turpin suggested the possibility including a disclaimer stating advertisement is mandated by the Federal Government.

Discussion of Community Health Center for the future.

Discussion of Health Department Salary allocation as related to the Stokes County Budget.

Discussion of revenue charts provided by Director Smith.

Discussion of better software to enhance the State System in order to retrieve refined data for specific programs, gender, age, etc.

Discussion of State mandated programs included in the State Administrative Code.

Discussion of drafting a flat rate fee for services.

The Board of Health has already approved the concept, currently drafting procedures to implement the fee.

Discussion of responsibilities concerning Health services for the citizens of Stokes County.

Chairman McHugh entertained open discussion from members in attendance concerning the following:

- Educating the public concerning criteria of public health programs
- Educating the public via web page
- Possible Retreat for Board of Health members-road map for the future
- Customer service-Environmental Health
- Communicable Disease – need for more emphasis
- Addressing the need for Dentistry for citizens
- Preventive Health Care to help reduce cost
- Impact of local funding
- Joint meeting – a start for the future needs of Health Care for the future
- Moral and ethical obligation to provide health care to those in needs
- Need for qualified physicians in the rural areas

Dr. Chalfa thanked those in attendance.

Chairman McHugh thanked those in attendance for taking the time to start the dialogue of getting items on the table and starting the challenge to make those items work.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Inman moved to adjourn the joint meeting.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Sandy McHugh
Chairman