

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AND
THE DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Monday, April 26, 2004

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Place: Commissioners' Room, second, floor, Durham County Government Administrative Complex, 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC

Present: Board of Public Health Chairman William T. Small and members Robin W. Blanton, William C. Bordley, Lorraine S. Saloris Deane, Dr. Mary D. Jacobs, Sue E. Mclaurin, and John B. Zatti

Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow, Vice-Chairman Joe W. Bowser, and Commissioners Philip R. Cousin Jr., Becky M. Heron, and Dr. Mary D. Jacobs

Absent: Board of Health members Philip D. McHugh, Sandra A. Peele, James M. Shade, and Ronald D. Spain

Presider: Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow

Staff Present: Several staff members from the Public Health Department and the County Administration were present.

Call to Order and Welcome

Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Chairman Reckhow recognized Board of Health Chairman William T. Small for opening remarks. He asked Public Health Board members to introduce themselves.

Agenda

William T. Small, Board of Health Chairman, said an agenda was not prepared for this meeting.

Introduction

Board of Health members introduced themselves and spoke about their experiences as they relate to public health. They also spoke about their interest in public health.

General Remarks

Brian Letourneau, Public Health Director, commented that Commissioner Jacobs asked him to set up this meeting so everyone could meet each other.

The Public Health Board members asked about grants and how they are identified and the procedure the Public Health Department has established to receive a grant.

Public Health Director Brian Letourneau explained to the members the procedure the Public Health Department and the Public Health Board utilizes to get grants before the grants are carried to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval and acceptance.

The Board of Health members and the Board of County Commissioners asked several questions and made comments about the Public Health Department that would be beneficial to all parties involved in public health.

Commissioner Heron commented that when a grant is presented to the Board of County Commissioners a copy of the grant should be given to the Commissioners in the agenda and some one from the Public Health Department should be present to answer questions.

Brian Letourneau agreed with Commissioner Heron that someone should be present when an agenda item is on the agenda from the Health Department.

Commissioner Jacobs asked what the expectation as to continuance is if the grant is not approved.

Brian Letourneau said an amendment could be added to the grant stating what would happen if the grant is not approved.

Budget Ordinance Amendment No.04BCC0000491 – Public Health

Vice Chairman Joe W. Bowser brought up the concern about the Commissioners not approving a budget ordinance amendment for \$20,100 to recognize the North Carolina Sterilization Fund Grant and allow the department to contract with the Raleigh Women's Health to provide the service.

Commissioner Bowser said that a provider health clinic in Durham should provide the service. The state office should not tell us in Durham that we will have to go to Raleigh for the procedure, although the cost would be cheaper in Raleigh.

Commissioner Bowser made several remarks about the budget ordinance amendment.

Public Health Director Letourneau said that the Public Health Department is working with the different interest groups that are associated with this mini project. We are trying

to get contracts finalized and patients scheduled. We are having trouble with one provider because of the language that Durham County requires.

The Public Health Board discussed the concerns of Commissioner Bowser relative to the sterilization grant.

Commissioner Heron said the Durham providers should learn to be more competitive. We should have some conversation with our health care providers.

Brian Letourneau said work is being done to get the problem solved.

Commissioner Bowser said the Public Health Board should write a letter to the State health and human services telling them what happened with the sterilization Fund Grant and request that more flexibility be built into the program.

Chairman Reckhow requested Brian Letourneau to update the Commissioners on the resolution of the problems associated with the grant.

Obesity

Brian Letourneau said the Public Health Department has taken an initiative to development a program on obesity. Obesity is a concern that should be made aware to the citizens.

Restaurant and Hotel Inspections

Brian Letourneau said another issue that the Health Department has to deal with is the number of restaurants and hotels that are being built. That puts a burden on the Environmental Division to complete the yearly inspections that are required. The Environmental Division needs additional help to do the inspections. Inspections can not be charged for.

A lengthy discussion was held about the inspections.

Child Health Care

Brian Letourneau reported on the child health care program.

Jail Health Care Program

Brian Letourneau spoke briefly about the Jail Health Care program and the cost to Durham County.

Appreciation

Commissioner Heron thanked the members of the Durham County Public Health Board for their service.

Personnel Issues

Vice-Chairman Joe W. Bowser spoke about his tenure on the Board of County Commissioners since his first appointment in 1996. During my course of tenure as a County Commissioner, I receive a lot of complaints from employees in County Government. During the first five years of my tenure I never received any employee complaints from the Public Health Department. For the last two years, it seems like things have broken down in Public Health as far as relationships between management and personnel. A review of five exit interviews revealed that the former employees said that management needed to take training. I wanted to say this to the Health Board members so you will be aware that this is happening in the Public Health Department.

Appreciation

Chairman Reckhow thanked everyone for coming.

Motion to Go Into Closed Session

Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Cousin, to adjourn to closed session to instruct the staff concerning the position to be taken in negotiating the material terms for the acquisition of real property adjacent to 3605 Shannon Road owned by Patty Watson pursuant to G.S 143-318.11(a)(5).

The motion carried unanimously.

No official action was taken at this meeting except to go into closed session.

Adjournment

Chairman Reckhow adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garry E. Umstead, CMC
Clerk to the Board